

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

— PUBLISHED BY THE —

Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Company

(C. BLACKETT ROBINSON).

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TERMS: \$2 per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISING TERMS.—Under 1 month, 10 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1 per line; 6 months, \$1 50 per line; 1 year, \$2.50. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11th, 1888.

THE Christian at Work says:

We are glad to see THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN taking grounds against the reproduction of gallows scenes and the printing of any details of a capital execution: it is the only course for a religious journal to take. Two of the daily press of this city seem to be in a very perturbed state of mind, judging from their editorial columns, lest the bill providing for the carrying out of the death penalty by electricity, with its prohibition of any public account of the execution, becomes a law, which would suppress quite an important department of the paper. The loss of this department would seem to stand second only to one other—the prohibition of printing scandal. A recent Sunday daily has just one item of religious news and seven columns of scandal. And we still ask the question, "How shall we bring up our youth?" For one thing, keep the *Daily Star* and *Evening* from them.

If parents would shut the *Daily Star* and *Evening* out of their homes, and respectable business men would stop advertising in its columns, the *Star* and *Evening* would soon be compelled to mend its ways or stop publication. There is no use in scolding the *Star* and *Evening*. The fault lies mainly with the people who buy and read it. The demand creates the supply. If in any paper you find just one item of religious news and seven columns of scandal, the proportion is fixed that way simply because the publisher thinks he has seven readers who want the scandal for every one that wants the religious items.

EVERY man in Ontario who is not a pauper, a criminal or a lunatic has a vote. Every man who can write anything worth reading can find half a dozen newspapers willing to lay his thoughts before the public. Every man who can speak coherently, and a large number who cannot, can find a platform and people quite willing to listen to him if he has anything to say worth listening to. Indeed, too many why have nothing to say worth hearing find willing auditors. All this being true, is there any reason why anybody should want to deflect the Church of Christ from its true spiritual work to take part in the discussion of questions which, however important, are less important than the salvation of souls? Any question that is worth discussing can be discussed in a dozen ways without making it displace the worship of God on Sabbath. Any man who is worth hearing can find ample opportunities to address his fellow-men without crowding anybody out of the pulpit. If a man is so intellectually or morally weak that he cannot help on any good cause without calling upon the Church to go out of its own proper sphere and help him, he had better let some one else try to do the work. Any man who can influence the public for good can in these days find ample opportunities to do so on his own merits without aid from the Church or any other body.

THE Home Mission Committee at its late meeting, gave appointments to nearly 200 preachers. Their fields of labour extend from the Lower St. Lawrence to the Pacific Ocean. Middle aged men can easily remember when a student thought he was sent almost out of civilization if appointments were given him in the Presbyteries of London or Huron or Bruce. A goodly number of ministers who read these lines can recall the sensations they experienced when ordered

into some remote corner of one of the far west Presbyteries of those days. Going to the shores of Lake Huron thirty or forty years ago seemed as great an undertaking as going to Calgary or the Pacific Ocean seems at the present time. So far as the travelling was concerned it was a more difficult undertaking. There were many mission stations in those days that even the old stage coach could not come near. The student went on horseback, or by the independent line that nature built and equipped for him. If the Church had grown in grace as quickly as its Home Mission field has grown, the millennium of Presbyterianism would be at hand. If the Christian activity of the present exceeded the activity of the past as far as the Canadian Pacific Railroad train exceeds the old stage coach, ours would be a wonderful Church. But there is no change in the essential part of the work. Sin is still sin. Human nature is still the same. The only remedy for fallen man is the Gospel, and preaching the Gospel is the same work that it has always been.

THE atmosphere of a college, especially on opening and closing days, is very likely to produce the impression on some minds that a college can do almost anything for young men and that without what is called a college education a young man can do nothing. The presence and address of the Hon. G. W. Ross at the closing exercises in Knox College the other day should do away with any such impression. Mr. Ross is not what is called a college-bred man. He is largely self-educated, and by real ability and untiring industry has won the high position which he so worthily fills. He is, as many of our readers know, one of the most graceful and polished speakers in the Dominion. There were college men of all grades around him on the platform at Knox the other day, and we are sure no one will feel the least offended when we say that in the matter of oratory the Minister of Education was the peer of the best of them. Every live Canadian will feel proud and grateful that Ontario is a country in which a worthy young man without money or influential friends can work himself up to the highest position in the land. It would be a good thing for the authorities of all colleges to have a speaker like Mr. Ross on the platform on all public occasions to show the young men that their success in life depends mainly on their own exertions. If they do not learn this lesson at college, they will learn it very soon after they leave. The college of experience is a good one but the fees are often fearfully high. The more one can learn before entering it, the less costly will be the course when he does enter.

THE Southern Presbyterian Church says to the North in the Union negotiations now pending. "You took part in politics during and before the war. You gave deliverances in political questions and as a corporate body went into the political arena." The Northern Church cannot deny the impeachment and simply replies "so did you." Perhaps both are wondering whether the Republic would not be quite as prosperous and the churches united and more prosperous had Presbyterian Church Courts, North and South, confined their attention to spiritual matters. It requires no special knowledge of the future to see that this question must soon be discussed and settled in Canada, so far as a question of such a nature can be settled. Should the Church as a corporate spiritual body, with spiritual work to do, interfere in political and semi political matters? If so, how far should he interference go? Who is to draw the line? There is every variety of opinion from the high ground taken and long and consistently held by our friend Dr. Laing and others and the low ground taken by those who think that the Church of Christ should be run as a mere donkey engine to help on every public movement, in which they for the time being happen for various reasons to have an interest. One thing is certain: If Protestant Churches are to have the respect of thinking people, they must stop denouncing the corporate vote of the Catholic Church, or stop trying to organize a corporate vote of their own. If the Methodists of Toronto have a right to form a corporate vote, the Catholics of Montreal have an equal right. If a preacher in Toronto has a right to use his pulpit on Sabbath to promote the election of a mayor, the priests of Montreal have an equal right to use their pulpits for the same or similar purposes.

KNOX COLLEGE CLOSING EXERCISES.

KNOX COLLEGE is coming to be a venerable institution. In a few years more it will have existed for half-a-century, and no doubt a semi-centennial celebration befitting the occasion will be duly arranged for. Last week another session ended, its work was completed; the meritorious students were rewarded and released from the routine of college work; the professors set free for a season from their arduous and responsible tasks, and the busy animation of Knox College is for the time subdued. From the uniformly large attendance of ministers from a distance and people from all the city congregations at the opening and closing exercises of the college it is seen that much interest is taken in its work and prosperity.

The esteemed Principal was able to report most satisfactorily as to the attendance and the work accomplished during the session. The endowment fund may now be regarded as an assured success, though it has taken a long time to achieve. He announced that the sum of \$207,583 had been subscribed, and \$165,235 paid up. The better equipment of the library is now to receive attention. The need for this will be apparent to most people. There is no absolute necessity why Knox or any other college should have as a mere matter of boasting a magnificent library, but it is essentially necessary that the best and most recent works of theology, philosophy, science and literature should be easily accessible to the students. It is to be hoped that the gentle hint thrown out by the learned Principal to those whom in worldly things the Lord hath prospered will not be permitted to die away in silence. The friendly challenge of the gentleman who offers \$500 on condition that \$5,000 be raised this summer ought to be taken up. Perhaps the generous individual, whoever he is, might extend the time and make it a year.

The giving of diplomas and conferring degrees is always an interesting part of the closing ceremonies. Twelve students graduated in theology. They had acquitted themselves with distinction in their course, and it speaks well for their spiritual earnestness and consecration that several have devoted themselves to mission work at home and abroad. Two of the young gentlemen who have been most diligent and successful students give promise, if spared, of doing excellent service, the one in British Columbia, the other in China, one of these was the recipient of the degree of B.D. The three who attained to this honour were the Rev. W. A. Duncan, of Churchill, Mr. Donald McGillivray, who goes as a missionary to China, and Mr. Donald McKenzie. The higher distinction of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. C. Forman, a missionary of the American Presbyterian Church at Lahore in India, a son of whom recently visited the Canadian colleges, and pled most earnestly and successfully for personal devotion to Foreign Mission work. The like honour was also conferred on the Rev. John Stewart, of Dennistown Free Church, Glasgow, who went to Winnipeg last June bearing fraternal greetings from his Church to ours. The third recipient of this honorary distinction was the popular and laborious pastor of Knox Church, Toronto. May they be long spared to wear the honours they have won.

The evening meeting on the closing day of the college in one of the city churches is an excellent idea. It has been most successful hitherto, and the one on Thursday evening, held in Cooke's Church, Toronto, which has been so tastefully and handsomely renovated, was no exception, unless it may be said that it was unexceptionally excellent. The attendance was good, the speaking sustained, decidedly superior and not unduly prolonged. Dr. Gregg with his accustomed earnestness and directness of speech gave the graduating class some valuable counsels which they will no doubt highly prize and long remember. As the representative of the graduating class, Mr. H. R. Fraser, B.A., delivered a neat, thoughtful and scholarly valedictory in which he strongly urged the importance and need of a thoroughly trained ministry. Mr. Fraser is evidently a young man of great natural endowment, and afforded an excellent example of the benefit of availing himself of all possible study and culture for the arduous and responsible work to which he has devoted himself. He goes to British Columbia with splendid equipment and high hopes. By a curious coincidence, the subject of Dr. Kellogg's masterly address was the same as that on which Mr.