

The Presbyterian Review.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21
22, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be
addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 3464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line
per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line;
1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines.
None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, September 27, 1894.

Men and Methods.

DEALING with the Methodist Quadrennial Conference, the well-known and able Ontario correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* thus muses on annual as against Quadrennial meetings of the supreme courts of churches: "The Methodists were, so far as experience has shown, wise in deciding at the time of their union to hold a meeting of the General Conference only once in four years. The intervening blank serves two good purposes—it brings some questions into mature prominence and thus secures for them a decisive settlement and it side tracks others, and thus puts them out of the way. It would probably have been better for the Presbyterian Church had it adopted a similar policy and decided to hold meetings of its General Assembly at intervals longer than a year. It would probably be found good policy for that church to make such a change now, and to enlarge the sphere of the local Synods so as to hand over to them some of the functions of the Assembly, making the latter, as the Methodist General Conference is, for all practical purposes an ecclesiastical legislature."

The advantage which the annual meetings of the General Assembly has over the Quadrennial meetings of General Conference is that the church as a whole is kept in closer touch with the supreme court. Frequent meetings in which the interests of the whole church, extending from Newfoundland to the Pacific coast, are discussed and questions pertaining to the various departments of church work in which the church as such is concerned, are a source of strength, not weakness. It is true the Synods ought to be made more useful but it is questionable if it would be a gain to the church were they to be placed on a par with the Methodist Conferences. The Presbyterian Church is more democratic in its constitution than the Methodist Church and its highest court wisely keeps in fresh touch with the membership. Its arrangement of courts has stood the practical test of years and has been found to work well.

The same correspondent is even less to the point when he institutes a comparison of the personnel of both bodies. He says: "The General Conference is noted for the great and varied ability displayed by its members. One reason for this is that owing to the elimination of the minor questions relegated to the annual conferences it has to deal almost exclusively with those of greater importance. Another is that the method of selecting the delegates is admirably calculated to secure the appointment of the ablest clergymen and laymen in the whole denomination. Unfortunately for the Presbyterian Assembly it is practically an assembly

of clergymen, and if it is ever to become anything else some different mode of securing lay representation will have to be adopted. The number of Presbyterian laymen who rise to prominence in the General Assembly is insignificant; the number of Methodist laymen who become influential in the legislation of the Church is quite as great as the number of the clergy of whom the same thing may be said."

It is not necessary to draw attention to the prominence and ability of the lay representation in the General Assembly nor to place it side by side with that in the General Conference, but as to the system of appointment of lay and clerical members we certainly prefer our own, viz., the system of rotation. Our leading ministers are seldom left at home, as their duties on the standing committees require their presence, and it is only to have justice that all ministers (their standing being equal), should have an opportunity of taking part in the business of the church when their turn comes. The church, indeed, the country, has always taken no little pride on the high character of the General Assembly, from every standpoint, the calibre of the ministers and laymen, the business methods pursued, and the great importance of the business transacted, and both church and country will not think the less of it, because an upward tendency is to be observed in the supreme body of a sister church, whose prosperity we delight in and whose zeal we admire.

Knox College Jubilee.

In the last number of "Knox College Monthly," A. L. B., writes:—"We sing of our Alma Mater, but some of us use her like an old nag, very far from like a mother. Some never spent a dime on her yet. Her old dress, her old hat, her old laurels seem good enough. Sons of Knox be ashamed! To-day is the Jubilee, let every man bring a present! Let us make her glad for once even if it costs us a little!"

This must be of necessity the last appeal that we can make on behalf of the Jubilee Fund, for before our next issue the Jubilee will have come and gone. We are glad to know that a number of the graduates are making strenuous efforts to remove the incubus of debt, and make Knox College glad indeed. Should not everyone of the graduates especially, but also every friend of Knox, do something at once to accomplish the very desirable object in view?

There are very many who are perhaps waiting to be called upon, a moment's thought will suggest the impossibility of making a personal call upon everyone who is desirous of doing anything, and the simple matter of enclosing the amount would accomplish the object, as well as a personal call. It is true that some may be disposed to do more if a personal appeal were made to them, would that for once true-hearted voluntarism would pour such a gift into the treasury as would remove the necessity for the laborious work of personal canvass. We would suggest, also, that promptitude would be a valuable factor in the contribution, as it would make it possible to intimate at the time of the Jubilee what had been accomplished. To one and all we say, be up and doing. Actions speak much louder than words.

On Tuesday afternoon there will be a special meeting of the Alumni of the College, in connection with their special work in Honan. The missionary, Mr. Goforth, who is now in Canada on furlough, will address