

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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Edited by Rev. Wm. Inglis.

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THE HOME MISSION FUND.

IN our issue of the 16th inst. the attention of all congregations and stations was called to the fact that according to the resolution of the Assembly the annual collection in aid of the Home Mission Fund was to be made on the second Sabbath or 9th day of October, and that all congregations and mission stations which had no missionary society in regular operation were expected and enjoined to make that collection, if possible, on the day specified, and if not, on as early a subsequent Sabbath as practicable. We repeat the notice, and remind all of the urgent necessity for a prompt and liberal response. The extent of the field under the care of the western section of the Committee is very large, and always becoming more so. There are 533 congregations and preaching stations more or less dependent upon the Fund for the supply of Gospel ordinances. These have a membership of 11,862, with an average attendance of 29,912. In all likelihood there will be a great increase in the demands made on the funds at the coming meeting of the Committee, and it is not to be forgotten that the financial year was closed with a deficit of \$862, as well as that the injunction of the Assembly is to the effect that the Committee must not go into debt. Such a direction is a wise and righteous one, and ought to be—nay, we presume is—applied to all the schemes of the Church, for there does not seem any reason in the world why debt should be incurred in the support of the professors in our colleges or in the payment of the salaries of our foreign missionaries while such a course is forbidden in connection with the operations in our Home Field. But let the members of our churches try to realize what is implied in the necessary curtailment of operations, both at home and abroad, if the requisite funds are not forthcoming; or at the very least let them consider the amount of suffering to be endured by the active, earnest agents of the Church if these are only paid a certain portion of the very moderate salaries promised them. It is altogether in vain to think of the Church going on in its course of borrowing money to meet current expenses. The Assembly has condemned this and has forbidden its continuance, not only in reference, we presume, to the Home but to all its other schemes of missionary and educational work. Let the wealthy and well-to-do members in all the congregations and stations of the Church consider this, and as a consequence let them respond so liberally and so promptly that the year's work in every department of Church enterprise shall be fully met by the year's income, without any of the devoted men who are labouring for the advancement of Christ's cause either in our colleges or in the home or foreign fields being deprived of a larger or smaller percentage of their promised incomes even for a single year. Income and expenditure must be equalized some way or other, but if the members of the Church are true to the trust committed to them, this will be done not by the curtailment of operations or the reduction of salaries, but by a large and permanent, though by no means burdensome, addition to the educational and missionary funds. Extraordinary efforts cannot be made each year, but the ordinary ones can be made of such a character that they will be more productive than the extraordinary ones of other days have ever been.

THE DEAD AND LIVING PRESIDENTS.

THE one event of the week has been the "great mourning" made over the late President of the United States, culminating and closing as that did in the final expression of affectionate respect on Mon-

day last at Cleveland. One might search all past history in vain for a case, in any good measure, parallel with it—one in which the expression of sorrow was so tender, so strong, and so universal. Even the great lamentation made over the Prince Consort was not by any means so universal, though it might be equally unfeigned, and the mighty grief that was so strongly and so generally felt and expressed when Lincoln went down to his bloody grave, was lacking in certain elements specially manifest in this case—elements which were peculiarly calculated to give it much of its strange tenderness and wondrous intensity.

And so James Garfield has been laid away in his last resting place amid many tears (and these as unfeigned as were ever shed over an open grave), with profound respect and, we must add, in the midst of not a few unpleasant forebodings which every lover of the race may well pray shall never be realized. Garfield was a strong man, who did his work with all honesty and with all his might. Some may think that that work was left sadly incomplete. Not so. We are, to be sure, not yet in a position to form a full and adequate idea of what that work essentially was, but even already it is not difficult to make out very unmistakable indications of the fact that James Garfield dead promises to be even a mightier factor in the politics of the future of the United States than James Garfield living might ever by any possibility have become. Men fear lest his successor, with the very best intentions, should allow himself to fall under the influence of selfish and unscrupulous politicians to more than the undoing of all Garfield's work, and the thwarting of all the people's hopes. Have these tremblers sufficiently calculated the mighty directing and strengthening influences for good which have been exerted by these past weeks of pain and sympathy on both the present President and all his possible advisers, whether they be "Stalwarts" or otherwise? We scarcely think so. Even though Arthur were as plastic as he is said to be, he will naturally come under the influence of the greater force; and who will say that the so far discounted and discredited power of Conkling, Grant, Cameron, etc., will prevail over the policy which has been an ever gathering power since Garfield was shot down, and which has now been accepted by all that is best and noblest in the country as a sacred legacy from one whom they have learned to venerate as at once the good, the unselfish, and the wise.

We do not think that there is a man who has more need of the sympathy and prayers of the civilized world than President Arthur; for never was one placed in a more trying position, never one more likely to be gauged by an exceptionally high standard, never one so sure to receive harsher treatment if he shall even seem to fail, and perhaps none to be less heartily thanked if he do only moderately well. He runs a tremendous risk, but he has also a mighty stimulus to put and keep him in the right way, seeing that for him there will be an exceptionally mighty reward if he triumphantly disappoint all those fears and more than realize the sort of half-hearted hopes which seem intended rather as intimations of the general desire, than as sober expressions of the settled and fervent expectation. All thoughtful, enlightened well-wishers of the United States ought surely to take the brighter side of the dread alternative, and if prayers for the sick and dying President were thought to be at once becoming and urgent, as they were, similar petitions for a sorely burdened and keenly watched living one, ought to be regarded as not less evidently proper, and their urgency none the less manifest and pressing, if not greatly more so. If, then, the people of the United States are prepared to pray as heartily for President Arthur as they have done for President Garfield, and are resolved to give him the benefit of that generous and considerate support which a praying spirit would suggest, so long as he shows himself in any good measure anxious to find and follow the right, we see no reason why there should be any difficulty in believing that the next four years may be all that they would have been even had Guitau's bullet never been fired, and Arthur's capabilities and principles never put to the terribly crucial test which now inevitably lies before them. Under the discipline of sorrow and bereavement, the best features of the best portion of the people of the United States have come into marked prominence and power. Let this continue to be the case, and there will be the best guarantee that

Arthur will be both put right and kept right in his plans and proceedings for the best interests of that great nation of which every enlightened Christian must believe that more than the assassin's bullet has made him the influential and, let us hope, eventually the universally honoured first magistrate and leader.

THE COLOUR PREJUDICE.

VERY many of our readers last year heard and admired the performances of the Jubilee Singers from Fisk University, and many more who have not been so privileged have heard of these performances at any rate, and of their remarkable and unique character. As will be seen from the advertisement in THE PRESBYTERIAN and other papers, these singers are about to make another visit to Canada, and for the same purpose, viz., to provide for the completion of the buildings of Fisk University, and for its full equipment as a seat of higher education for the coloured people of the South. The members of the company are cultivated Christian men and women who make no appeal to charity and ask nothing but the ordinary treatment accorded to all peaceable and respectable people who happen to be engaged in a lawful work, and to be doing that work in a modest, becoming fashion. The prejudice against their colour has shewn itself in some few cases in the States, and once or twice also in Canada. Sometimes hotel-keepers have refused them accommodation, and once or twice railway officials have insisted, though unsuccessfully, upon their travelling in smoking cars. A few months ago they were treated in this way by the hotel-keepers of Springfield, Ill., but as might have been expected, this only drew forth the counter feeling more unmistakably, and gave the late lamented Garfield an opportunity of expressing his sympathy, and at the same time of assuring them that when they came to Washington there would be no difficulty, because if all the hotels should be closed the White House would be always open for them.

We scarcely expected that any difficulty of this kind would have been raised in Toronto. Unfortunately it has been, and in the frankest way, on the colour line exclusively. It could not be urged by our Toronto Bonifaces that these men and women were persons of questionable character, for the very opposite is notorious, and at any rate it would ill have become any of the hotel fraternity to have boggled on that subject, considering the many more than questionable personages in white skins whom they have received with open arms, nay, with the most abject enthusiasm. It was simply, however, because they were "niggers," according to the refined phraseology current in certain quarters, that these Christian men and women were refused the accommodation for which they were willing to pay the very highest rates usually charged by those men to whom the municipality has granted certain privileges for the very purpose of providing such accommodation. We do not blame the hotel-keepers especially, for naturally they are an abject, stolid, time-serving race, who are anxious to please those from whom they look for most patronage and support, and they must have fancied that the great mass of those who frequent their places of entertainment are still animated by that bitter and unreasoning colour hatred, which, in Canada at any rate, might have been thought all but extinct. In this it is to be hoped they have been greatly mistaken, and that they will now receive a lesson on the subject which they will remember all their days. Though that prejudice may still linger among the lower and less cultivated classes of hotel frequenters, as well as among some others whose outward circumstances have improved without any corresponding change having taken place in either their intellects or their hearts, with all that is best and noblest in Canada "mine host" may be quite sure it is entirely different.

We are accordingly glad that some of our most prominent and respected citizens—among the rest Mayor McMurrich and the Hon. Edward Blake—at once offered the needed accommodation, but we believe their friendly hospitality will now not be required, as the proprietor of the "American" with a truer appreciation of what is due to himself and still more to his business than the party left in charge during his absence, has intimated that he is quite willing to give all the accommodation required. "The Queen's," though Sarah Bernhardt and others of the "same ilk" were received there with enthusiasm, had no welcome for singers who, in the estima-