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TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1872.

TO OUR READERS.

The non-appearance of the PRESBYTERIAN for the past two weeks, was due to the Printers "Strike".

The report of Synod of Toronto proceedings will appear next week, along with several articles and communications which should have been published before now but for the reason above mentioned.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The past week has been one of great general quiet. The one agitating question in Canada, as in many other places, has been that of how many hours should constitute a standard days labour.

In the States, the Presidential struggle is almost the only thing thought of; while in Britain, the discussion of the Cabinet about the Washington Treaty has been most eagerly expected and speculated upon.

In the religious world there has been the same uneventful news. Churches have been formed, soirees held, presentations made, and quiet church work proceeded with.

What the Presbyterians of Canada need is information about what is well called the "home field," and information, not in the shape of dry statistics merely, though these are good in their place, but of picturesque well written accounts of the various districts, their material progress, their diverse population, their general prospects and their spiritual position and necessities.

No one can be expected to have an interest in undertakings about which he knows next to nothing; and at present the most of our churches are in this condition with reference to what is needed and what has been done in the newer portions of our country.

THE KEITH CASE.

A good deal of interest has been awakened in both Protestant and Roman Catholic circles, by a case at present pending before the Court of Common Pleas in Toronto; in which the father of a family who is a Presbyterian, seeks to recover three of his children who have been removed from under his roof and authority by their Roman Catholic mother and so securely hid away that for nearly a year the father has been unable to discover where they are secreted.

Unable by any other means to discover where his children are and to educate them in the way he thinks best, Mr. Keith has called in the assistance of law, and has sued out a writ of Habeas Corpus against his wife and others who, he alleges he has good reason to believe have been aiding and abetting her in this very reprehensible course.

From the affidavits lodged it appears that Mr. and Mrs. Keith were somewhere about twenty years ago, married by a Roman Catholic priest in Dundee, Scotland; but without any understanding or bargain either expressed or implied as to the faith in which the children who might be born of the marriage were to be educated.

As a zealous Roman Catholic Mrs. Keith has used every means in her power to counteract any religious instruction imparted by her husband or at his request; and has so far been successful that the two eldest children have become Roman Catholics in feeling and by profession.

Well aware that as the father of the family, her husband had a right according to the laws both of God and man to regulate his household and to determine the extent and character of his childrens education Mrs. Keith has for years done her very utmost to thwart him in all his efforts, and in the carrying out of all his plans for the religious upbringing of their children.

This she accomplished some time in April last, and, as Mr. Keith alleges, assisted and abetted in her proceedings by Archbishop Lynch and Father Jamot of this city.

Diligent enquiry has been made for the children at all the Roman Catholic institutions of Toronto, but without success although traces were found of their having been in one or other of them during part of the time.

Shortly after these children had been spirited away Archbishop Lynch sent for Mr. Keith and told him that if he would consent to allow their mothers influence and instruction to continue they should be immediately restored to his jurisdiction.

Mr. Keith alleges upon oath his conviction that his children are hidden away in some of the Roman Catholic Institutions of Toronto or at least, of Ontario, though to all his enquiries he has only received evasive answers or insulting abuse and scorn.

None of the children, Mr. Keith avers, were ever with his consent baptized by Roman Catholic priests; and while Mrs.

Keith now expresses her willingness to allow her children to attend Protestant places of worship and Protestant schools she has all along opposed their doing so in every possible way, while she put them into Roman Catholic institution without her husbands knowledge or consent, and endeavoured systematically to prevent anything that might have been heard in Protestant Churches and Schools producing any effect.

Without her husbands knowledge she induced her sons to go to confession and carefully concealed this and kindred facts; she encouraged them in intercourse with Roman Catholic priests though she knew this was contrary to her husbands wishes, and was done clandestinely; she often locked the doors of the house to prevent her husband taking the children to a Presbyterian place of worship; and in short acting in such a way as to set her husbands authority completely at defiance, and to make it appear to her children that she was determined to have things entirely in accordance with her own wishes.

Of course, from her non-production of the children in court, Mrs. Keith is liable to be committed for contempt. The Archbishop and Father Jamot have filed short general affidavits that they have not the custody or charge of the children nor ever had; that it was not by their connivance or advice that they had been removed from their fathers house, not answering the particular charges in Mr. Keiths affidavit of actual interference by them in the matter of the children after their removal and not denying the charges of knowledge on their part of the place of concealment.

When the Archbishop and his colleague had given the affidavits to the effect mentioned, Mr. Keiths lawyer moved for permission to controvert the return to the writ and to examine them on oath as he deemed their answers insufficient. This application has been refused and so this curious case is we suppose for the present at an end. Of course it is not by any means likely but that the father whose rights have been thus interfered with will make further efforts to obtain redress.

It is not alleged that Mr. Keith has been an unkind husband and father. The notorious fact has all been in the opposite direction. It has been well known that he was always a Presbyterian. Mrs. Keith knew that when they were married, she made no bargain about the training of the children and that very fact left the matter in her husbands hands. Had the bargain been that the boys were to be educated as Protestants and the girls as Roman Catholics it would have been a breach of honour and honesty in the wife to have covertly sought to counter-work all her husbands instructions to the boys.

We shall not now say what we think of the conduct of Archbishop Lynch and Father Jamot in this matter as well as others whose names will come up by and-by. We only record the statements of parties as the case is still sub judice.

In due time we shall be able to treat it fully and with perfect freedom. In the meanwhile, we doubt not, Protestants will watch the various turns in the proceedings with great care, and with very strange feelings.

"Be not unqually yoked" is still a very wise and much needed direction, as a good many are finding ever and anon to their sorrow and their cost.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION IN PRUSSIA.

Every one who has given much attention to the movements in Germany during the last few years, has felt quite convinced that though absolutism apparently was all powerful, as soon as external difficulties and quarrels were settled, the demand for a larger amount of internal freedom and popular influence would be put forward, and would speedily be successful.

Of all the curious things, however, that are transpiring in that land, perhaps the most remarkable is that Prince Bismarck is putting himself at the head of the party of progress, though he has been looked upon always as the very incarnation of conservative and tyrannical ideas.

When he used to brave the popular indignation and scoff at the weakness and absurdity of constitutionalism, he once and again predicted that he would be the most popular man in Germany. How he has made this prophecy good, has been shown during the past few years. He has been his country's representative man, and with a fearless indomitable energy has gathered the scattered members of the Fatherland into one united whole.

Bismarck has become the popular standard bearer, and cities and towns are showing their appreciation by presenting him with the freedom of their various corporations. Not only so, they find another subject for remark and glorying for they have discovered that one of the chancellor's ancestors, about five hundred years ago was expelled from Mendal by an enraged mob incited and led on by the clergy, because that gentleman had established a school from which he excluded all clerical interference.

THE ILLINOIS TEMPERANCE LAW.

The General Assembly of the State of Illinois passed, and the Governor approved, in January of the present year, a law for the regulation of the sale of ardent spirits, which seems to us to be so eminently wise that we regret that a lack of space forbids us to present more than an abstract of it. The essential provisions are these: (1.) No man may sell liquor without a license, and no man shall have a license who will not give a bond in the penal sum of \$8,000, with two good securities, to repay all damages that may arise from either selling or giving away such liquor.

There is in this law the fullest recognition of the right of men to sell ardent spirits, and of other men to buy and drink them. The law insists, however, that only proper persons shall drink and that they shall drink only in moder-

ate quantities. No minor shall have the privilege of buying an article whose dangers he does not understand, and no man who is moved, by getting drunk that he can take liquors with safety to himself and others, shall have the privilege of buying again. Ardent spirits are fully recognized as dangerous articles whose sale cannot be intrusted to irresponsible parties; and as those who sell them make all the money there is to be made on them, and as all experience has proved that they will sell unless restricted, without reference to the damage they inflict upon the community, the law declares that not only they, but the owners of the buildings they occupy with their traffic, shall be held responsible for all the evil consequences that follow a disregard of its requirements; and that they may be proceeded against by any husband, wife, child parent, guardian, employer, or other person who shall be injured in person or property or means of support.

We are not sufficiently familiar with the temperance legislation of the different States to know whether this law is a transcript of others already in existence, though we believe a law like this has been enacted in Ohio. It is, however, worthy of a fair and full trial. Of course, all the low elements of society will go against it, as they would against the Maine law; but it ought to command the firm support of every respectable and responsible member of society, of all political parties. The good people, and the people who do not even pretend to be good, but who do pretend to be lovers of order and of the public prosperity, ought to agree to leave this question out of politics entirely, and unite upon it for an experiment that shall last at least ten years. Let no obstacles be thrown in the way of its fullest execution. There is no oppression in it. No man for whom two good men are not willing to be responsible has any right to deal out intoxicating liquors. It oppresses nobody to keep such men out of business; and it oppresses no landlord to deprive him of tenants who are pests to the community. "The people of the State of Illinois" simply say to dealers: "We will license you to sell liquors, but you shall not sell to our boys, or our unfortunates whom you have already ruined; and you shall make no man drunk. If you do, we will hold you and your and your landlords responsible for all the damages, of every possible kind; and if you cannot find bondsmen who will be responsible for your loyalty to the law, then you are not good enough to sell liquors at all trample on no man's rights and we purpose to maintain our own."

Let the people of Illinois stand squarely up to the position they have assumed in this case, and it will drive liquor out of every small town in the State, and confine its sale in large towns to quarters that will give very little inconvenience to the public. It will take pluck and persistence to do this, but the law is thoroughly defensible on every ground, and ought to be maintained. If the good and respectable people of the State unite to stand by it, it will be maintained.—Dr. J. G. Holland, in Scribner's for April.

MANITOBA.

The work of the church in the town of Winnipeg seems to be in a most flourishing condition. The congregation is getting fairly established. The attendance is up to 100, a large proportion in a population of about 500. An active church feeling is showing itself and a creditable liberality, some even speak of a new church. Since Professor Bryce took charge of the congregation the debt of \$225 has been paid off; \$250 have been paid for improvements and current expenses and it is expected that \$400 will be raised during the year for the Pastors salary. A higher school for Ladies; though not in connection with the church, is projected, the expense of which will fall largely on our people. The College prospers. Since January seventeen students have been in attendance. The fees are set at \$15 per ann. and from this source about \$225 will be realized, from which expenses are to be deducted. The prospects for next year are very much better as many promises of support have been given. Churches will be erected this year at Little Britain, Mr. McNabbs station; Portage La Prairie, and High Bluff in which place Mr. Fletcher labours. The expense of building will be a great and a heavy burden on these new settlements, still they enter on the work with spirit. Contributions for church purposes are something new for the natives as the Church of England missionaries have hitherto required nothing and time will be needed to educate the people in this direction. The brethren in the far west are anxiously and hopefully looking for accessions to their numbers. Two labourers are imperatively required and a Franco-English Presbyterian to labour at Pembina is earnestly desired. Members of the Church who feel interested in these operations may aid materially by contributing to this end. All contributions should be sent to Rev. W. Reid, office of Presbyterian Church Toronto.