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The Canada Presbyterian

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9TH, 1895.

MODERN political revolutions in Great Britain are not very serious things after all. Statistical men show quite clearly that the utter defeat of the Liberal party was simply the transference of one-thirteenth of the electorate from one side to the other.

THE circular appearing in another column in connection with the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, signed by Mr. Thos. Kirkland, as convener, will we hope receive that attention in all our congregations, and from all our ministers, which both the needs of the fund and the excellence of its objects deserve.

THE *British Weekly* is moved to say that it never saw the name of one of the newly elected Irish professors in print. That may all be, and it may be a point in the new man's favor. We see the names of ministers in print every day whose presence in a lecture room would be a burlesque on theological education.

THE late Dr. Shedd was of the opinion that the "demoralisation in society and in politics in the city of New York was due mainly to a disbelief of the doctrine of future punishment." There is not any doubt about the truth of this view. A hoodlum who believes that he can dodge the sheriff in this world and go unpunished in the next is ready for anything.

A PASTOR taking his vacation can view his work from the outside. At home his view is from the inside. His time is so much taken up with sermon making, pastoral visitation and various other duties, that he perhaps has little time to take a view of his work as a whole from any side. After vacation is a good time to correct any faulty methods of work that may have been made apparent from an outside view.

THE first of a series of leaflets intended to be a connecting link between the young people of our church and the foreign mission field has been published. It is in the form of question and answer, and cannot but be very useful in stirring up, keeping alive and increasing interest in the foreign mission operations of the church. "Besides letters from China," it says, "other information about China will be contributed in such form as will, it is hoped, be intelligible and interesting to the youngest in these societies." It can be had from Rev. R. P. Mackay, 63 Confederation Life Buildings, Toronto.

THE Rev. Dr. Cochrane gave us a pleasant call, though a brief one, at this office on Monday last. The Doctor and other members of the Home Mission Committee are at present in the city to attend to the large amount of important business which at this season falls to be transacted by that Committee.

THE brilliant paragraph writer of the *Telegram* has this to say:—

"When the average man is able to scent the flaws of his own week day life as readily as he can spot the faults of his minister's Sunday sermon the world will be better than it is now."

True, but the man who makes a speciality of spotting the faults in sermons rarely believes that there are any flaws in his own week day life. It is usually his self-righteousness and invincible self-conceit that lead him to look out for the faults.

THE shallowness of the goody goody criticism which is sure to follow an expensive entertainment of any kind would be laughable if it were not so pitiable. Mrs. Croesus gives an "at home" or something that cost a lot of money and a score of voices shout "Oh, if that money had only been given to the poor." As a matter of fact nine out of every ten dollars of the expenditure was paid to working people. Extravagance of course is wrong, but it ought not to be condemned on grounds that bring a smile of mingled pity and contempt to the countenance of every thoughtful man.

CONSIDERABLE difficulty was felt in selecting a jury to try a criminal case in one of the Quebec counties last week. The difficulty arose from the fact that a large number of the jurors admitted they had made up their minds before hearing the evidence. Their position was described with brutal frankness by one of their number who said, "Sane or insane, I think he should swing." Had these men been allowed to take the oath and serve the prisoner, "sane or insane," would have been found guilty as a matter of course. Then there would have been the usual number of homilies about the prisoner having had a "fair trial by a jury of his peers."

THE Y.M.C.A. is one of the most widely useful of our religious institutions and is therefore deserving of hearty support. Its headquarters is Association Hall, which, after being decorated anew, will be re-opened on Monday evening next by a new Musical-Picture Lecture by Mr. Frank Yeigh. The subject of lecture is "The Highways of Europe," and will consist of accounts, with splendidly illustrated views, of some of the principal countries and cities of Europe and objects of interest in them, together with music by Cornish's orchestra and solos by Miss Leona James. Both the object and the entertainment will we hope draw a large attendance. Reserved seats may be obtained at Gourlay, Winter & Leeming's.

IN Peterborough, the other day, when Chancellor Boyd, than whom there is no more learned and upright judge in the Dominion, was putting a summary end to the so-called criminal trial, he said: "Of course the province of the crown is not to unduly press for a conviction. The crown officer is here, as I am, simply to see that justice is done." These are timely and much needed words. The crown officer is not sent to assize to hang prisoners, guilty or innocent, "sane or insane," as the Beauharnois juror would say. Much less is he sent to use the resources of the Province in gaining a personal and professional victory over professional rivals. The money of the Province and the detectives who are anxious to find every accused man guilty give crown counsel a tremendous advantage over the counsel of a prisoner without the necessary means for defence. No honourable counsel would use these advantages for personal purposes when human life is at stake.

IF our friends who think that at least one of the professors for Knox College should come from across the water have no good reason to hope that Gibson, Stalker or Denny could be induced to enter upon professorial work why not try Dr. McCheyne Edgar, of Dublin. Dr. Edgar has literally and professionally a name that commands

attention on both sides of the Atlantic. At the recent election in the Irish Assembly he had a majority of the clerical votes and failed to become successor to the famous Dr. Watts because he is not opposed to hymns and organs. If the worthy Doctor has a liking for college work, as he probably has, he might be induced to come to Canada. No one who knows anything of the man and his work will doubt that he would be a valuable acquisition to Knox College. It should be remembered that there are two chairs to fill in Knox College, and that the time to fill them will soon be here. Large bodies move slowly and the sooner the Presbyteries begin to move in this matter the better.

THE Rev. T. M. Hamil, who was lately appointed to the Theological Chair in the Assembly's College, Belfast, it is said, owed his election mainly to the facts that he is a "safe man," that he is opposed to hymns and organs; and that the elders voted for him in a body. At this distance it does seem rather strange that a successor to Dr. Watts should be elected mainly because he is opposed to so-called innovations. The surprise is not lessened when we remember that one of his opponents was Dr. McCheyne Edgar. One of the features of the election was the open canvassing in which some of the candidates and their friends engaged. This feature has been strongly condemned in several quarters. Of one thing we are certain, if there is to be any canvassing at all it is much better that it should be open and avowed. Secret canvassing and intrigue are much more discreditable than any reasonable way of laying one's claims before the church, and in a fair way soliciting support. We earnestly hope that the new professors may prove a blessing to the Irish Church.

THE following action of Knox College Board, taken at an important meeting held on the second of this month, will be read with a sad and yet grateful interest:—

It took up a minute in reference to the resignation of Rev. Dr. Reid of the Secretaryship. By the direction of the Board the following minute was entered:—"In accepting the resignation by Dr. Reid of his office of secretary of the Board of Management, the Board desires to put on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the Board and the College during the long period of his secretaryship. The deep and constant interest which Dr. Reid has taken in the work of the College, his intimate knowledge of all its affairs and the soundness of judgment which he has applied to these affairs, as to the entire circle of his duties in the Church, have contributed in no small degree to the measure of prosperity which the College has enjoyed. We wish to assure our venerable father of the strength of esteem and affection with which he is regarded by the members of this Board, and our prayer is that, though advancing years make abatement of labor necessary, he may, in the evening of life, increasingly enjoy the comfort of the Master's presence, even until he enters upon the full reward which awaits the faithful servant."

It has not been given to many to serve the Church, and through it the cause of Christ, as Dr. Reid has done through a long period of time, and to render this service so faithfully, with such unflinching courtesy and good judgment as to have won universal confidence and esteem. At the same meeting of the Board, upon the motion of Dr. Fletcher of Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Caven, Rev. William Burns was appointed secretary of the Board. Nothing better could be wished for Mr. Burns than that, in the discharge of his duties, it may be said of him, when he shall retire, that he proved himself a worthy successor of a good and greatly beloved man.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OPENINGS.

MONTREAL.

THE opening exercises of this college were held in the David Morrice Hall, on the evening of Tuesday the first inst., with a large attendance of the public. Rev. Principal McVicar occupied the chair, and with him on the platform were the Rev. Professors Ross, Coussirat and Campbell, the Rev. Dr. Barclay, the Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, the Rev. J. M. Crombie, the Rev. James Patterson, the Rev. J. R. McLeod, Three Rivers, and the Rev. J. H. Beatt, Rockburn.

The opening lecture was delivered by the Rev. Professor Scrimger, who chose for his subject "The Minister's Working Theology," which he defined to mean the theology that is of chief practical importance to the preacher. After referring to the high educational standard, both in general literature and theology required by our Church of its ministers, and stating that Montreal College presented to its students thirteen departments of learning with corresponding professors, and that