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The Canada Presbyterian.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 1894.

IN a review of the meeting of the American General Assembly the *Interior* says, "a fine feeling of self-restraint was visible from the opening sermon to the final benediction." That is just the right kind of feeling for a man or a meeting to show. Self-restraint is absolutely indispensable to self government.

A HUMOROUS Irishman in this way described the conditions of a dissatisfied congregation that had recently changed pastors: "Our last pastor had not enough of religion to please some of them; this one has too much. I don't know what kind of a man would suit them." A good many people in England seem to be in the same difficulty. Gladstone had too much religion to suit some of them; and Rosebery has not enough. Perhaps the next man may strike the happy medium for an English Premier.

AFTER ten years of futile attempts at co-operation with other denominations in the Home Mission field, the American Assembly dismissed its committee on ecclesiastical comity and resolved to go on with its own work. The principal ground on which this action was taken was that it cost less money to work alone than it cost to work on the union plan and the work was not so well done. That would be exactly our experience in Canada were the experiment tried. Presbyterians always have to furnish the heavy end of the money.

THE *Herald and Presbyter* makes this true and timely observation:

It is a most unfortunate thing to get into a position of antagonism to the pastor. The parent who finds fault with church or pastor is almost certain to sow the seeds of indifference in the hearts of his children. Where parents love their pastor and their church, the children are easily won to Christ.

True every word of it. The young people in many a home take their first step down the incline plane where they hear their father and mother carp at the pastor and find fault with people who are doing the work of the church. The leaders in a church quarrel often do one thing—drive their own children to destruction.

THE calamity which has befallen the sister Province of British Columbia is simply appalling. By the overflow of the waters of the Frazer and other rivers, life and property have been destroyed to an extent that makes the visitation one of the most terrible that has ever come upon any part of the Dominion. Sympathy the sufferers have, but they must have more than sympathy from their fellow Canadians. The Dominion and Provincial Governments should come promptly and liberally to the assistance of the sufferers. British Columbia is

a thinly populated Province, and all that the people, who have escaped can do to help the sufferers, will not go far in alleviating the suffering. Sir Oliver Mowat should see that whatever others may do, Ontario is not behind in this hour of extreme need, which has come upon the youngest member of the confederation family. Decent people without regard to party, will sustain the Government in lending a generous helping hand to our fellow subjects in the Pacific Province.

IT has long been the pride and boast of Presbyterians that there has never been any such thing as a corporate vote in the Presbyterian Church. Our people take an active, prominent, and influential and, we believe, useful part in public affairs, but they do so and have always done as citizens, not as Presbyterians. In view, however, of the recent attacks upon Principal Grant by a section of the press, and in view of the fact that most of the public men that have been attacked and are now being attacked by a recently formed secret society are Presbyterians, it may become necessary for Presbyterians to revise their historic policy. Principal Grant is charged with taking a bribe simply because he had the manliness to say that he supported Sir Oliver Mowat's Government and to give his reasons for thinking that other people should do so. If Principal Grant has taken a bribe in his capacity as Principal of Queen's then the whole Presbyterian church are participators in the bribe. If the Principal has been libelled the whole church has been libelled with him. The vast majority of the Presbyterians of this Province may easily be trusted to say what they think about it. As regards the P. P. A., their opposition is the brightest compliment that can be paid to Presbyterians as public men. The Presbyterian church never was guilty of doing anything to win their approval.

SEVENTY-TWO thousand persons united with the American Presbyterian Church last year by profession of faith. That is thirteen thousand more than in any former year and twenty per cent. more than in any year of the last ten. Neither the financial depression nor the famous heresy trials hindered the spiritual progress of the church. Indeed it may be true that the financial condition of the country helped rather than hindered. Men are more thoughtful during business depression than during a period of business inflation. Driven almost to despair by actual or threatened disaster if they believe in God at all they instinctively call upon Him for help in the day of trouble. In their dark hours they need sympathy and help and are more likely to get it in the church than in any other place. As regards heresy trials, so far as this church and last year are concerned, the popular belief that trials of that kind stop the growth of the church, is met by a direct negative. The church never grew faster than it did last year. Would it have grown as fast if the Briggs-Smith school had been allowed to unite and teach just what they pleased. We do not for a moment believe that it would. Apart altogether from the merits of the case, sensible people have no respect for a church that allows or even seems to allow individual men to trample over its Standards. Churches, like men, are respected when they respect themselves.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

AS we go to press, the supreme court of our church is just about to meet in St. John, New Brunswick. Its meetings are always looked forward to with much interest by the whole church and are the subjects of many prayers, as its deliberations and the results arrived at affect so deeply the entire body in all its interests. It is, as it were, the time of our annual review of work done, of money spent, and ascertaining with some degree of definiteness how we stand, and in view of this inspection of laying plans for another year. We hope that the journey, which, for much the greater part of the commissioners was necessarily a long and fatiguing one, was made in safety, and that all arrived at their destination with as much comfort and in as good spirits and readiness for work as could in the circumstances be expected. The veteran senior clerk of the Assembly, notwithstanding his now advanced age, is, we understand, determined to be at the post he has filled so long and with such satisfaction and benefit to the whole church. The Rev. Mr. Burns has, we know, been indefatigable and thoughtful in as far as lay in his power to secure for the commissioners every comfort and accommodation as to the way

and expense of getting to St. John, and much is due to him for his labors in this respect.

Happily, the Assembly is meeting under such circumstances as will enable it to devote its time and attention steadily to the study and promotion of the great practical work of the church upon which the spiritual welfare of such great numbers depends, and which affect vitally all the best interests of the Dominion. Rarely has the Assembly met when it was more necessary that it should be free to attend to this very thing. Suffering as the country has been, even though in God's goodness to a less degree than some others, from very general commercial and agricultural depression, deficits, or if not in some cases actual deficits, at least great stringency in every one of our chief departments of work, have to be dealt with by the Assembly. The wisest and most skilful administrators and financiers in the court will get an excellent opportunity for the exercise of their skill in devising ways and means whereby the next Assembly may meet with accounts at least squared if not with much of a balance on the right side.

If there cannot be retrenchment in our expenditure next year, and actual curtailment in our work, necessity will compel the utmost economy and the most studious care how to use every dollar in the coming year to the very best advantage. Our Home and Foreign missionary committees and French Evangelization have each one of them already begun the work of cutting down, or calling a halt in extending our operations for the present. This, though discouraging, at a time especially when calls and openings for work are multiplying on every hand, does not necessarily mean standing still. A vast amount of aggressive work remains to be done within the circle of our present operations, and a halt in the work of extension may afford an opportunity for better organization and consolidation in the work begun. The arrest put upon the extension of our work for want of funds, while the call is rising even louder, "Come over and help us!" may lead many to whom God has given the means, to ask if they have been rendering to the Lord as they ought, and quicken to greater things in the time to come.

Many other matters of great importance to the well-being of the church are calling loudly for consideration, and will require for their deliberation all the time, aye, and more than the Assembly can give to them, and overtake and deal fully with them. To name but one or two: there is the new hymnal, which, though at first sight, not perhaps so important, is really second to none, almost, as regards the spiritual life of the church, for its hymnology silently but most powerfully affects its spiritual life. The relation of the various colleges in their governing bodies to the church, in which, as it appears to us, there has been shown throughout the church eminently a spirit of mutual confidence and loyalty, will come up for consideration, and we do not fear, for happy and satisfactory settlement.

Then there are, as usual, overtures on a variety of important subjects, chief among which we might mention those for enlarging the powers of Synods, putting upon a new basis the whole of our Home Mission work, and the mode of dealing with vacant congregations in the matter of hearing and settling ministers. Our condition at present in this last respect is, all feel, a reproach to us and a constant source of friction, if not even of danger. The Assembly has an ample amount of work before it, and let it be made, as no doubt it will be made throughout the whole church, the subject of most earnest prayer in all our congregations, at the family altar, and in the closet, that the Holy Spirit may be bestowed abundantly on all its members, and so guide all its deliberations and decisions that they may mightily redound to the glory of God in the extension and building up of His Kingdom both at home and abroad.

SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

THIS Synod met this year in Regent Square, London. The retiring Moderator, Rev. Dr. Morrison, preached and Rev. Dr. Muir, of F. emont, Birkenhead, was elected Moderator.

The report of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches was given in by Rev. Dr. Matthews. Reference was specially made to Robert College at Constantinople and the influence for good it was exercising, particularly over Bulgaria, also to Synods visited on the continent and to the fact of their becoming more and more evangelical.

A communication from the Alliance of British Christians on behalf of International Arbitration was received and its object commended. Deputations were received