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British American Presbyterian TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1873.

In order that we may deliver the paper at the residence of Toronto subscribers, they will oblige by furnishing number and street.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Parliament of Ontario still continues its meetings, and has at last finished the debate on the sale of the 5000 square miles of timber berths. The ministry was fully sustained, but after all in such a way as to be virtually—"Not wrong, but don't do it again."

The Credit Mobilier scandal still gives occasion to much discussion in the States. A large number of the more prominent and, as usually thought, high-minded and incorruptible Senators at Washington, have been found to have taken bribes in the shape of paid up shares in stock that was yielding enormous dividends, in order to pass large land grants and give enormous privileges to the Pacific Railway.

DR. GUTHRIE.

We deeply regret to announce that the Rev. Dr. Guthrie has passed to his rest and reward. Few men of the present day were more widely known than the eloquent pleader for ragged schools and every good philanthropic enterprise, and none more generally loved.

PROGRESS OF PUBLIC OPINION ON INTEMPERANCE.

Nothing could more strikingly show the progress of public opinion on the evils of intemperance and the necessity for taking very stringent measures to suppress the liquor traffic, than the debate in the Ontario Legislature, on Tuesday last, in reference to the institution of an Inebriate Asylum for this Province. On the evils of intemperance, and the necessity for the suppression of the liquor traffic at the earliest possible day, there really was no difference of opinion at all.

Monday and his colleagues show their wisdom. It may be somewhat inconsistent and illogical, but it is a step in the right direction and its very transparent inconsistency will be a means for teaching many to go a step farther. We don't however see why the community should be burdened with the support of this inebriate asylum. Ought an extra tax not to be laid upon all distillers, brewers, liquor dealers and tavern keepers distinctly for the support of such an institution as rendered necessary by their occupation? We most emphatically think so.

REV. DR. WALLACE OF EDINBURGH.

Quite an excitement has been raised in Scotland over the appointment, by the Crown of the Rev. Dr. Wallace, of Greyfriars Church, to the Chair of Church History in Edinburgh University. The very unusual course of calling an extraordinary meeting of the Commission of the General Assembly to consider the matter was adopted.

The Commission having heard from the Moderator a statement of his reasons for summoning a special meeting of the Commission, in compliance with a requisition presented to him, approve of his having convened the Commission, inasmuch as the subject brought under its notice is one deeply interesting to and requiring the immediate attention of the Church; and having proceeded to take into consideration the appointment recently made or understood to be in contemplation, though not yet gazetted, of the Rev. Robert Wallace, D. D., minister of the Old Greyfriars Church in this city, to the Chair of Divinity and Church History in the University of Edinburgh; Resolve, That in the opinion of this Commission the said appointment is one against which it behoves this Church to protest, as likely to be prejudicial to the interests of religion in Scotland—Because 1st. The presentee having been publicly represented to have made doctrinal statements fitted to shake, rather than to confirm faith in the system of religious truth held by this Church and the great majority of the Christian people of Scotland, and being generally believed to have made such statements, and having never disavowed the same, ought not to be selected as instructor of young men preparing for the Christian ministry, who should be carefully taught to hold fast the form of sound words contained in the Bible, and in the other recognised standards of the Church.

This is to be followed by a judicial enquiry into the truth of the various rumours in circulation in reference to the orthodoxy of Dr. Wallace, which is to be conducted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh. Dr. Wallace himself urged the propriety of this course, and was entirely confident that he would come out of the trial perfectly unscathed.

The general feeling both within and without the Church of Scotland seems to be that the appointment is an exceedingly unfortunate one. Dr. Wallace is a very clever and comparatively young man of the very

broadest type of Churchmen as yet known in the Scottish Establishment. He is more distinguished for the very clever though somewhat unscrupulous articles on Ecclesiastical matters which he has for some years past been in the habit of writing for the Edinburgh Scotsman, than for his abundant Evangelistic labours. He proposes to retain his position as minister of Greyfriars and to discharge the duties of both his offices. We cannot see the consistency of making so great an ado over the "unsoundness" of Dr. Wallace as soon as he was nominated Professor, though nothing was said against him continuing for an indefinite period as a minister on good standing in the Church, without, as he himself declared, his being once seriously talked with or warned by one of his ministerial brethren. We fear it is only too frequently the case that Christians instead of taking the scriptural plan and speaking about what may seriously affect the standing and usefulness of a Christian brother, in the first place to himself alone, discuss it with every other person, and never say a single word to him who is thought to be ready to fall into the snare of the devil, if he has not already fallen.

Ministers and Churches.

On Monday the 17th inst. the Presbyterian congregation of Mitchell held their anniversary tea meeting in the Town Hall, and as far as numbers, eatables, and singing are concerned, the affair was a complete success. The speeches were interesting. The choir acquitted themselves with their accustomed ability, reflecting much credit on Mr. McInnis, their leader. The Hall was crowded to the very door, and the amount realized, after deducting expenses, reached \$112.00.

The annual soiree of the Nissouri West South Presbyterian Church was held on Thursday evening, February 18th. The night was cold and threatening, still the building was filled—seats and passages The Pastor of the Church presided. After tea, which was served quickly and quietly addresses of a solid and seasonable kind were given by the Rev. Hislop of Avonton, Rev. Hamilton of Fullarton, and Dr. Waters of St. Mary's. The choir of the St. Mary's Church was present, and added greatly to the interest of the occasion. On the following evening the children's soiree was held. After a bountiful repast, addresses admirably adapted to the young were given by Messrs. Hamilton and Drummond. In addition to pecuniary results, not to be despised, it is hoped that great good both to mind and heart may result from these gatherings.—Com.

The Annual Soiree of the C. P. Congregation, Ancaster, was held in the village on the evening of Friday, the 14th ult. As this Congregation is noted for its liberal provision of the good things that make up a feast for such an occasion, a large crowd was expected and provided for. And the display on the tables in the Town Hall showed that on this occasion the people were determined not to fall behind the expectations that were formed. The tables groaned under the weight of every kind of eatable, and the view they presented before the meeting drew forth the admiration of all who were capable of judging of such matters. The generosity of the people who provided them deserves the highest commendation, and it may safely be stated that at no meeting of a similar kind could the richness and liberality of the repast be surpassed. The tables looked as if spread for some great marriage festival and certainly spoke volumes for the skill, industry and liberality of the ladies, who loaded them with such elaborate and substantial specimens of the culinary and confectionary art. According to expectations a great crowd assembled and had it been possible to accommodate them as many as a hundred more tickets might have been sold, though the price of them was much higher than usual on such occasions. After the first table was served the people adjourned to the church and were there addressed by various clergymen, who, after speaking in the church, had to return to the Hall and address the people there who still crowded every available inch of space, so that two meetings, both crowded to the utmost, were carried on at the same time. J. Rymal, Esq., M. P., kindly acted as Chairman in the Hall after speaking in the Church. The only drawback felt was the very inadequate size of the buildings for the comfortable entertainment of so many people. The congregation is to be congratulated on the great success of the meeting, and has succeeded in realizing the very handsome sum of two hundred and fifty dollars towards their Manse Fund from it. The congregation shows signs of reviving life, and ere long hopes not only to see its minister in a comfortable manse, but itself more commodiously provided for in a larger church. On the Saturday the children of the congregation and village were entertained in the Town Hall, where a substantial dinner was spread for them, after which they were addressed by the Rev. D. D. McLeod, pastor of the congregation.—Com.

On Thursday eve, 7, 16th February, the Rev. J. L. Murray, Woodville, and four others, made a visit to the Rev. James R. Scott, Cambridge, and in the name of the congregation presented him with one hundred dollars, expressive of the gratitude of the congregation for his attention to them, and appreciation of his services during their vacancy. Mr. Scott made a feeling and suitable reply, speaking, not only of the value of the gift in itself, but also of the encouragement a minister received in his work from such a manifestation of kindness, even while his services, however feeble, are chiefly done from love to Jesus and under the energizing power of God's grace.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.—The Home Mission Committee of the Canada Presbyterian Church will meet in Knox College on Monday evening, 31st March, at half-past seven o'clock. It is desirable that every member of the Committee be present as early as possible. Presbytery clerks are requested to transit to the Convener without delay their claims for Mission work performed in their respective Presbyteries during the past half-year, and also their claims for supplemented congregations within their bounds. Congregations are reminded that contributions to the Home Mission Fund should be in the hands of the Treasurer (Rev. William Reid, M. A., Toronto) not later than the 31st March. Appropriations to new fields will depend upon the state of the funds at the above date.

WILLIAM COCHRANE, Convener, Home Mission Committee. Brantford, March 1st, 1873.

OPENING OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HARROWSMITH.—A new church erected by the congregation of Harrowsmith in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church and under the pastorate of the Rev. John Gallaher, was opened for divine service on Tuesday the 4th of February. Although the day commenced somewhat unpromising the weather took a favorable turn before the hour for the first service. The building presents an imposing appearance, and is constructed after the Gothic style. It is a commodious edifice, being in size 56 feet by 84, with a ceiling 22 feet in height, and a gallery at one end. The finish inside is very chaste and neat, displaying on the part of the persons concerned not a little taste. It is seated in a comfortable manner and is capable of accommodating 850 persons. The pulpit, which is of black walnut, is low, and more like a platform with a desk in front, a style of things that is deservedly becoming more generally adopted. Suspended from the centre of the ceiling is a beautiful chandelier having a number of lamps, which, with the lamps in the gallery and near the pulpit, illumine every part of the edifice. A tower surmounted by a spire rises from the entrance to the building to the height of 101 feet, and in it is hung a bell weighing 750 lbs., whose pealing tones are loud and distinct. It is heated with hot air, and in most respects a model for a country church. The cost of it is about \$4,000. Of this amount \$2,700 were subscribed prior to the day of opening. The collections on that occasion amounted to \$100, and the subscriptions to \$25. The erection of this building is largely due to the painstaking exertions and liberality of the two elders of the congregation, namely—Messrs. Samuel Stewart and Charles Shibley, who, with their families, have borne the burden and assumed the responsibility. The congregation is comparatively small, but they have continued steadfast to their principles and church connection for many a long year, and now in the good providence of God they are favored with the services of a pastor to whom they are strongly attached. There were three meetings on the occasion of the opening, and at each the church was filled to its utmost capacity, especially in the evening, when many could not secure accommodation. Dr. Burns, of Montreal, preached in the forenoon from Isaiah xxxiii. 16-17, and Rev. Andrew Wilson of Kingston, in the afternoon, from Acts ii. 47. Both sermons were instructive, interesting and impressive. They were listened to with rapt attention. In the evening appropriate addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Short, W. M., of Harrowsmith; Scott, of Napanee; Rupert, W. M., of Wilton; Chambers, of Storrington; Dr. Burns, of Montreal, and A. Wilson of Kingston, the pastor, Mr. Gallaher, presiding. A number of young people from the Brock Street Presbyterian Congregation, Kingston, took charge of the singing at all the meetings. Their services were highly appreciated. The hospitality of the friends in Harrowsmith and neighborhood of different denominations is deserving of commendatory notice. The proceedings of this day are not likely to be soon forgotten. It was a season of unwonted interest and pleasure to all parties, but especially to those who had in the face of difficulties and discouragements persevered in their devoted attachment to the church of their fathers. It may be well in this connection to state that church improvement has of late engaged a considerable degree of attention in the Kingston Presbytery. Creditable changes have been effected in our houses of worship in Gananoque, Kingston, Belleville, Picton, and Storrington.—Com.

PRESENTATION.—On Monday, 17th inst., a deputation from the Craigville, Lefroy, and Central branches of the Innisfil Canada Presbyterian Church, called upon Mrs. Wightman, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Wightman, who had been pastor of said church in Innisfil for some thirteen years; and Mr. Jenkins, after having delivered a feeling and interesting address, referring to the faithful and indefatigable labors of this esteemed and beloved Pastor whose memory is still dear in the minds and hearts of the people of Innisfil, and also to the willing and able assistance rendered by Mrs. Wightman in the Sabbath School as on all other occasions where an opportunity occurred to either speak or do for the Master's Kingdom, presented her with a purse of money containing eighty-five dollars as a token of esteem and duty. Mrs. Wightman accepted the address and purse with thanks, remarking that the people of Innisfil were always kind and liberal, and wishing that the Congregation might be blessed by Him who only can make a church prosperous and a people happy.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION WORK IN THE STATES.

The Mission work in the Presbyterian Church of the United States is divided into eight departments. 1st, Foreign Missions, prosecuted in very many regions of the earth. There are 710 Missionary Agents supported by this department. The number of communicants in native churches is 4,208, and the number of scholars in Mission Schools 10,581.

2nd, Home Missions. The work of this Board covers 36 States and Territories.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Number of Churches and Stations wholly or partly supplied by our Missionaries, 3,500; Number of Churches organized last year, 123; Number of Members received last year on Examination, 5,676; Number of Members in the Churches connected with this Board, 64,700; Number of Sabbath Schools under the care of the Missionaries of the Board, 1,282; Number of Teachers and Scholars in the Schools, 100,000; Number of Schools organized last year, 307; Number of Stations that have become self-sustaining during the year, 47.

3rd, Church erection. This Board encourages, by financial aid, poor congregations to build houses of worship by giving a certain proportion when the people raise the rest.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Number of Churches making applications for aid last year, 255; The amount called for assistance to the amount of, \$102,540.

These 255 churches are scattered over 26 States and Territories.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Aid was granted to Churches, in number, 211; Amount of aid granted, \$113,753; By this aid church property was secured during the year to the amount of, \$1,078,500; Number of persons thus provided with Church Accommodations, 65,000; Number of organized Presbyterian Churches with Houses of Worship, 630.

4th, Education. This Board aids in part those that desire to enter the Ministry whose means are not sufficient to carry them through the long years of study.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Number of Students aided last year, 722; Amount of aid granted for their studies and entered upon their work, 63; Maximum aid granted to Theological Students, \$200; " " " Collegiate " " \$100; " " " Academical " " \$120.

5. Sustentation Committee. This Committee assists and stimulates feeble Churches so that every settled Pastor shall receive a salary of \$1,000. To obtain this the Committee require:

- 1. That each church so aided shall raise a minimum amount equal to \$750 on each reported communicant.
2. That such churches shall make systematic contributions to all the eight Boards and Committees of the Presbyterian Church.

For example, a feeble church with 60 Communicants asks for aid. They report that they have in accordance with the 1st condition, raised at least \$750 for each of the 60 Communicants.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: The Committee asks, \$438.00; The salary of the settled Pastor, \$1,000.00.

This being secured, regular reports are required, that there shall be no failure in the 2nd condition.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: During the year the number of applications were, 156; Number of these applications granted, 111; The amount of obligations assumed to cover these applications, \$45,237.

6. Ministerial Relief. This fund assists the disabled and the aged Ministers, and the destitute families of deceased Ministers.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Number of Ministers aided last year, 145; " Widows of deceased Ministers aided last year, 174; Average aid granted to each, about \$200.

7. Freedmen. Seeks the elevation of the colored race in the South, by supplying them with ministers and education.

8. Board of Publication. This board has two branches:

- 1st, Branch of Publication, Printing of Books, Tracts, Papers, &c. This Branch is so conducted that it is SELF-SUSTAINING.
2nd, Branch of Colportage, carrying religious reading and Christian influence into poor and settled laboring neighborhoods, often before the doors of the colored people, and before the doors of the colored people, and before the doors of the colored people, and before the doors of the colored people.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: Number employed as Colporteurs last year by this Branch, 126; Number of volumes given away by the Colporteurs and the Missionary count, 71,884; Number of tracts gratuitously distributed, 3,538,311; " " families visited, 116,235.

To carry on all these schemes requires a large sum. For the current year the Assembly have called upon the churches to raise the following sums at least:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes: 1. Foreign Missions, \$800,000; 2. Home " " " 475,000; 3. Church Erection, 200,000; 4. Education, 150,000; 5. Sustentation, 150,000; 6. Ministerial Relief, 100,000; 7. Freedmen, 90,000; 8. Publication (Colportage Department), 85,000; Total, \$1,850,000.

The total number of Presbyterian communicants reported to the Assembly was 463,164. The average sum required from each communicant to raise the \$1,850,000, is nearly \$4.00.