British Zwerican Bresbyterian

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT TORONTO, CANADA.

TERMS: \$2 e year, 'n advance. Posrac by vall, 'n cent per year, payable at the office of delivery

inb Rates and List of Promiums furnished on dication. All who are desirous to aid in extend-the circulation of the Parenyrrana, should d for the List of Promiums at once, as now is age the direction of the List of Premiums at once, as now is the time to secure new names. Choques and Post Office Orders should be drawn n favor of the Publishor.

Address
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, P.O. Drawe 268t Publisher and Proprietor

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BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN

ur friends in Hamilton may find it more conveni-nt to pay Mr. O. than tor mit their subscriptions o this odice.

Toronto, 12th March, 1874.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES.

Blank Marriage Cortificates neatly printed in blue end carmino, can be furnished from this office at 60 cents per dozen. We will send 25 captes to any address, and propay postage, on receipt of 81.00.

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British American Bresbyterian.

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1874.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have again to ask our correspondents to culti vate brevity. Other things being nearly equathe short communications will always have th preference over the more lengthy. We have recently had to read some disquisitions so pain fully long and which, after all, amounted to so little, that we are greatly tempted to make it henceforth a rule to reject very long papers without reading them at all Let us hint to some of our correspondents, chicfly, we are sorry to say, clerical, that the suaviter in mode, with the fortiter in re is greatly profesable to the converse. We have lately had communications in which "yelping curs." "fools," "little stupidity," &c., occurred all too plentifully. Writers of that style lose their labor and their postage as for, of course, their communications can have no place but in the waste basket

UNION T'SCUSSIONS.

The meeting of the General Assembly and Synods of the Presbyterian Churches is at hand, when the important matter of Union must be decided. We have afforded in our columns ample room for full and free discussion of all views of the question sent to us and we are satisfied in the retrospect. Some may censure us for what has been published and may think that too much space has been devoted to our correspondents, but the fullest inquiry and discussion were desirable and we have had it. No careful reader can fail to have marked the beneficial results which have flowed from the earnest and sometimes painfully energetic writing on both sides. Hard things have been said, steel has sometimes struck flint, but the result has been light. As it seems to us, who have always been favourable to union, it is now evident that union is attainable, although we do not think on the Basis of 1878. The negotiations have made during the last nine months decided progress, much misconception has been removed, and both parties have come to understand their own and each others position better. We do believe that churches so manifestly at one in all essential matters can be willing to remain apart, and we feel more than ever encouraged to expect the consummation of Union as the result of earnest and prayerful effort on the part of the able and earnest men in the churches who desire it. From all that we can learn the majority on both sides is hopeful; and unless some new obstacle arrives we expect to see a fresh effort made which, availing itself of past labours in the matter, will end in the accomplishment of Union among all Presbyterian Churches of the Domin-

We clip from the Irish Correspondence of the Old School Presbyterian, the following items:-Two of our well-known Presbyterian ministers are leaving for Canada. Rev. J. G. Robb goes from Clogher to take charge of Cooke's Church in the city of Toronto. He is possessed of high talent, is a polished christian gentleman, and is much admired as a pulpit and platform orator. He fleaves a gap-not easily to be filled-in the front ranks of the ablest debaters of the General Assembly. Rev. J. M'Meekin, of Magherahamlet, Ballyuahinch, goes out under the auspices and at the request of the Colonial Mission. He is a fine scholar, an able preacher and speaker, and was held in great esteem by the late Dr. Cooke, whose principles he maintained with much ability and intrapidity. There is great work in him, and I expect to hear of his early settlement in an influen tiel congregation.

According to Dr. Sprague, it was Dr. West who said:—"It teles a great mind to make a great mistales."

CHURCH SCHEMES AND 'FUN.'

We clip the following from an exchange as illustrative of the estimate Secular papers have of Church Bazaars and other similar plans for raising money for religions purposes.

gious purposes.

The bazaar in aid of the building fund of the ——, was largely attended last night and throughout to-day. We remind our readers that there are lots of nice things yet to be disposed of, and will be sold cheap to-night. Go by all means and enjoy some gold fun, is our advice to our readers. to our readers.

This witness is true. It comes to this exactly-"lots" of "good fun,"-and the discharge of religious duty at the same

THE PRESBYTERY OF HURON AND THE FOURTH ARTICLE OF THE BASIS.

BY JOHN LAING, M.A., DUNDAS.

In the answer to the protest of Mr. John Ross and others, which was adouted in the Presbytery of Huron, I find the following explanation of the Fourth Article of the Basis. As the the paper was given in by Rev. R. Ure, who is a member of the Union Committee, and may be considered as in some sense authoritative, having been sanctioned by a Prosbytery. The statement deserves careful consideration.

"The obvious truth is that the relations of the United Church even to those churches holding the same standards, are by this resolution left, and purposely left, wholly undefined. The resolution is partly negative and partly positive. Negative, in so far as it refuses to pledge the United Charch to definite relations to any foreign Church whatsoever, and positive in so far as it ex-pressly states, that ministers from the Churches especially referred to, are not necessarily to be received into the United Church simply, and as a matter of course, by their presenting certificates of good standing in their own Churches; but in accordance with the terms and regulations which the Church in its wisdom may from time to time

1. Here we are told that the relations of the Church to other Presbyterian Churches are purposely left wholly undefined. How this agrees with the statement in the Article, "such relations, as that ministers shall be received into the church." I cannot see; but if the statement is true, then what is the use of putting in an article on ecclesiastical relations which are wholly undefined. Surely to do so is an attempt of purpose, to say something about a thing which is undefined and is not intended to be defined. Such an article settles nothing, purposely settles nothing. Why then give it a place in a document so important?

2. We are again told that the resolution is partly negative and partly positive; that it " refuses to pledge the Church to definite relations to any foreign Church whatsoever." This may be an implication, but certainly there is not a word in the Article that expresses refusal of any thing whatever. Still we grant the Church would be free of any such pledge. To what then does it pledge the Church. Manifestly to nothing under the sun, for

8. We are told, "It expressly states" a negative, viz.: That certain ministers " are not necessarily to be received . . . as a matter of course, by their presenting certificates of good standing in their own churches." If words have meaning, where BIL I to find any such express statement? I find an express statement " that ministers &c., shall be received." That is positive, but a negative express statement is not in

4. We are told "It expressly state "that certain ministers &c., are to be received "in accordance with the terms and regular ons which the Church in its wisdom may from time to time determine." There is no express statement of terms. The expres language of the Article is, "shall be received into this Church, subject to such regulations as shall from time to time be adopted." If "terms" of reception were still an open question, and the United Church were left free to enact terms, the objection felt by many would be much weakened. The only proviso, however, in the Article, is " subject to regulations" which, while they guide the act of reception, cannot in fairness prevent it. It seems incredible that any Presbytery should have committed itself to saying that the Article "expressly states" what is not mentioned and only by remote suggestion may be implied in the language used.

As explained by the Presbytery of Huron, the Article appears to be without any definits meaning and self-contradictory. Still, the Presbytery may be right in their interpretation of the intention of the framers of the Basis. If so, surely language less ambiguous can be found, if undefined clesiattical relations must be spoken of although that seems unnecessary. The interpretation of the Presbytery is not the natural one, and Mr. Campbell, at leasthas not been led to adopt it. But why insist on such an ambiguous article at all, which, as explained, only pleages the United Church to receive ministers from such shurches, on such terms, and in such manner, or not at all assigmay at any time please.

HOME MISSION WORK.

Editor British American Preserterian.

DEAR SIR,-Attention has several times been called to some features of our Home Mission work, which are neither encouraging nor satisfactors; but, although it is a conviction on the minds of those even best acquainted with the subject, that the present

of our church.

The embarrassment of the Committee for The embarrassment of the Committee for sarry, let me simply indicate one or two of want of funds, in the presence of so rapidly the prominent features of the comparison. increasing dem ands upon them from the newer parts of the mission field, together with the vasatisfactory condition of many of the older Stations upon which much things which we, as a church, can scarcely accept as beyond improvement, without earnest and thorough examination.

immensly increased contributions, the revenue of the church will have to be double or four fold what it now is, in a few years, if she is to do the work that lies before her.

Another statement that may be made with almost equal confidence is that some change is necessary, if not in the system, at least in the carrying out of the system according to which the money is expended, if we are to lock for results at all commensurate with the efforts put forth.

The following table will present one view of the ground on which this statement is made. It is taken from the published reports of the Home Mission Committee for five years from 1867 to 1871, and is intended to show the results of the five years work and expenditure. The stations named are those found in the Reports of both the years mentioned, the time previous to '67 and 71, as well as the period between these perceptibly reduced even by years of mis-less is left out of the question in order to sionary labour expended upon them. That dates is left out of the question in order to simplify the view.

date of the opening of the Station wherever that was given in the report.

the first to the left, not given in the report provement. id '67 merely standing to correspond to the first in '71, the amount per Sabbath paid

by the stations: The two last to the right, are the amounts of increase, or decrease in the grant during the five years.

The first feature of the table to which I ask your attention is the dates of opening of the stations. Leaving one or two really venerable through age, we find the years of dependance ranging from 10 to 20 or even admitted that the progress m many places to 80 years, a fact somewhat startling when is not what it might be, their seems to be we consider that this list includes considerably more than one half of the total number of these aven heat. ber of stations on the report of '67, and look forward to the number of new stations system is the less that can be devised.

Without directly questioning this decision and certainly without any desire to find become self-antaining even after such profault, I venture to repeat m a somewhat the content of the many be opened during the next ten years. But this is not the essential feature of the representation. If they had become self-antaining even after such profault, I venture to repeat m a somewhat varied form, statements which have sub. them gave good evidence of becoming so at stantially been made before with respect to this very important department of the work even for such doubtful encouragement. And, that I may not occupy space unneces-

In the first place the stations raised in the aggregate, only about \$170 more in 1871 than they did in 1867. While the increase in the aggregate giant, for the same time, was almost five times as much, or, between labor and money have been expended, are \$700 and \$800; certainly an unexpected things which we as a church can scarcely result. Increased aid indicates, not mercasing vitality, but failing strength.

But, again, of the forty stations included One thing is evident, we must have received increased supplement, along with which is generally found in the corresponding columns, a falling off of the weekly or yearly amounts contributed by the stations. Of the remainder, cloven show decrease in the grant received from the fund an apparent improvement, but it will be seen that the amount raised by the people has continued the same, or has decreased; so that the decrease in the grant indicates no real improvement, but the limiting of supply, a fact that can tell only in one way in the

> Other comparisons will readily support themselves on an examination of the table. but those indicated will be sufficient at pre-

If the Report, are correct, and if they have been correctly interpreted, we arrive at the general conclusion that while stations of unusual vigour, or those in exceptionally favourable circumstances, start almost at once into the rank of congregations, many, the majority sink into inactivity and continne to require assistance for many years. That the amount of aid thus required is not these facts give evidence of a loss of cour-The first column, as will be seen, is the part of the people. That we may expect ate of the opening of the Station wherever similar results to follow similar administration in the larger mission field now opening. And that the extension of such results can The columns to the left and right, of the only increase the embarrassment of the centre dividing line, except the two last to Committee, and more severely paralyse the right, show the comparative amounts the Church in missionary enterprise. In contributed by the stations, and paid by the next number I hope to be able to state what I believe to be the principal cause of these committee, in 1867 and 1871 respectively results, and to suggest some means of im-

> Yours truly, G. BRUCE.

Statement compiled from the reports of the Home Mission Committee, for five years-1867 and 1871.

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The Rev. Wm. Armstrong was ordained to the pastoral charge of the Canada Presbyterian Congregation, Daly Street, Ottawa, on the 14th inst. Rev. Mr. White of Osgeod preached from Isaiah 57th chap., On Thursday the 21st Inst., the C. P. and 7th verse. After sermon the ordina Presbytery of Toronto inducted the Rev. J. tion was proceeded with in the usual way Gardner Robb to the pastoral charge of tion was proceeded with in the usual way Gooke's Church, Toronto. There were presented to the pastoral charge of the control of the contro Thereafter the Rev. Mr. Moore addressed sent the Revs. Dr. Topp, Prof. Gregg, the newly ordained pastor and the Rev. Mr. Prof. McLaren, W. Reid, J. M. Cameron, MacKenzie of Almonte, the congregation, J. M. King, Men. eith Pottigrew, R. Wallace, on their respective duties. On the subseon their respective duties. On the successful soirce was question a very successful soirce was held in colebration of the event, speeches of the usual character.

Before the reg ar service began, the order the reg are service began are service b

COOKE'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

INDUCTION OF REV. J. G. RORB, B.A.

An obstinate men does not hold opinion been engaged in, the Rev. Mr. Carriek, of but they hold him; for when he is ones possessed with me error, to he like is development of the second; shipper of Nebrical verse as with great difficulty. After the usual devotional acreious

unto them, the God of Heaven He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build.'

Questions touching faith and doctrino were then put to the rev. gentleman, by the Rev. W. Reid, all of which being answered in a satisfactory manner.

The Roy. Mr. Roid said in the name of the Presbytery, I give you the right hand of fellowship, and declare you to be inducted as paster of this congregation.

An address was then delivered by the Rev. Mr. Roid, touching the duties attachmg to the office of mmisters of the Gos. The address abounded in good advice, and was delivered in a very earnest manner.

Professor Gregg then addressed the congregation regarding their duties towards their minister, pointing out the necessity of their being ready to help him by all means possible.

A hymn having been sung, the service concluded in the usual way.

In the evening the congregation of the bovo Church met in their place of worsinp, after partaking of refreshment in the their newly installed minister.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Roid, and amongst those present were the Roys. Dr. Topp, Prof. McLaren, Principal Cavan, Prof. Gregg, J. M. King, D. J. Mc-Donnell, R. Monteith, J. Potts, . Gemley R. Wallace, and J. G. Robb.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that he had great pleasure in occupying the position which had devolved upon him. The past two years had not been without anxiety to the congregation of Cooke's Church, but they had enjoyed many privileges during that time. He hoped the minister who had been installed that day would long live to preside over that Church. He trusted that God would abundantly bless both congregation and

The Rev. Dr. Topp, said he had listened with great interest to the sermon which they had heard in the afternoon, and felt the importance of the remarks which had tallen from the preacher. The speaker then gave an interesting sketch of the changes which had taken place amongst the ministers of the Presbyterian Church since he had hved in this city. The congregation had no doubt done well in waiting for the vacancy in their pulpit to be filled by Mr. Robb, and he trusted that that gentleman would have no cause to regret the step he had taken in coming amongst them.

Rev. Mr. Potts then addressed the meeting. He, on personal grounds as an Irishman in Canada, was very glad to welcome the Rev. Mr. Robb. He also welcomed him on behalf of the Wesleyans of Toronto.

The Chairman asked some of the members of the congregation to speak before he called on the Rev. Mr. Robb.

Mr. Thos Kerr said that the chairman was such an excellent hand at getting round one, that he could not help responding to his orier that one of the congregation should offer a few remarks. He (Mr. Kerr) was very glad that Mr. Robb had come amongst them, and trusted that it would be long before the pulpit of Cooke's Church was again vacant. The speaker expressed his gratification at seeing so many ministers amongst them, and especially at the attendance of these because it at the steady ance of those belonging to other denomina-

Aid. Martin said he was grateful for the position the t they, as a congregation, stood in that night. Through the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Reid they had managed to keep together as a church. He had great pleasure in welcoming the Rev. Mr. Robb, and felt convinced that he would turn out to be the wight man in the winds. the right man in the right place.

The Rev. Mr. Robb, who next addressed the meeting, said that he felt much affected by the services of the day, but after the kindly way in which he had been received by the Presbytery of Toronto, individually by the Fresbytery of Toronto, individually and as a body, and also by the congregation he could not help saying a few words in responce to the call of the Chairman. He had especial cause for gratitude towards the Rev. Mr. Gregg who had so heartily welcomed him, and who had conducted the services of that clurch so long and so well. He further sale called near to thank those He further felt called upon to thank those brethren who had come forward to welcome him, and respecting the statement of the Rev. Mr. Potts he trusted that he would be spirit contained in it. Although he himself was a Presbyterian, and of a Presbyterian those who loved Zion. The speaker then directed the attention of the meeting to the duties and responsibilities of a minister of the Gospel, and of the necessity there was for the pastor and congregation working to-gether. It was requisite, if a church would be prosperous, that it should be a mission-ary church. Unless it grew and spread its branches far and wide, it ran the risk of The secret of church success lay in the activity of each individual member, and it was nece sary for the whole congregation to feel their responsibility. It was no use depending too much on the unaided exer-tions of the Minister. Thanking them for their kind welcome, and with a prayer for the grace of God, he accepted the position of their Minister.

The Orillia Packet says :- The "Presbytery of Simcoe have made an excellent suggestion in regard to the BRITISH AMERI-CAN PRESETTERIAN. It is only right that the General Assembly should afford such incidental support as is proposed to a paper which is doing an excellent work for their Church. It is suggested that the Assembly give the proprietors of the Paranttzain such portions of the printing required by that body as they can do as cheaply and expeditionaly as it can be done elsewhere. By this course, while affording encourage ment to the enterprise, and an incentive io the proprietors to king it abreast of the 19quirements of the Church, the unefalment and rader redence of the pages are not the dangered, as by an offer of the