

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

— PUBLISHED BY THE —

Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd.,

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

Terms: \$2 Per Annum in Advance.

ADVERTISING RATES. Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1 per line; 6 months, \$1 75 per line; 1 year, \$2. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

The Canada Presbyterian.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 1890.

PRESIDING at the meeting of the American Board of Foreign Missions the other day, Dr. Storrs laid down the principle that "discussion prevents division," and then allowed the members to say just what they wished and as much as they wished. The plan worked well so far as the results were concerned, but it made the meeting seem at times as if Old Adam was fairly well represented on the Board.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF BAL-LARAT, Victoria, is reported as saying that he wished to have no connection with the Young Men's Christian Association "if its effects were simply to create young females of the male sex. Though he liked to see the youths put off the old man, as the Scriptures said, he did not wish to see them put on the old woman." His Lordship should remember that the clergy of his own Church have been charged with effeminacy quite as frequently, and perhaps as truthfully, as the members of the Young Men's Christian Association.

A VERY sensible paragraph in the *Christian-at-Work*, on the conduct of a lady who said she "lost the wonderful sense of God's presence" because she declined addressing a Sabbath school, closes with the following remark:—

We believe very many Sunday school speeches are born of something else than the spirit of God.

That may be sadly true but speeches born of "something else than the spirit of God" are not by any means confined to Sabbath schools. Speeches born of egotism, self-conceit, and a love of display are found in every department of Christian effort. They abound in conferences, conventions, revival meetings, and other places of that kind and are not quite unknown even in Church courts.

OUR excellent neighbour, the *Guardian*, has this practical remark:—

However necessary it may be to examine and discuss questions of Church policy, and proposed reforms in methods of Church work, there can be scarcely any doubt that such discussions are not conducive to spiritual growth.

True. Such discussions are necessary but when they are made the main thing there is never much growth in either numbers or spirituality. The most useless of ministers are those whose minds never rise above ecclesiastical machinery, and whose conversation is always a flow of ecclesiastical small talk. Church gossip is not one whit more edifying or more spiritual than gossip of any other kind. One reason why Church courts are often a weariness to earnest men is because the business is mainly about machinery. It is neither possible nor desirable to avoid this but the power that drives the machinery if it is driven at all might often be given a more prominent place.

MR. MUNRO, of Embro, is said by a western paper to have advised his congregation to keep off the streets of Woodstock the day Birchall is hanged. The advice is sensible, and is perhaps needed in some other places more than in Embro. If there is anything in this world more utterly loathsome than the conduct of people who crowd around a gaol wall when a wretched human being is to be hanged, we know not what it is. It is said that when the wretched man Harvey was being hanged in Guelph the crowd outside heard his dying groans, and replied with shouts of laughter. We hope the report is not true. One can hardly believe that such things exist in a town like Guelph. We hope the good town of Woodstock will not furnish any such exhibition of brutality. It is but fair to say, however, that in all such cases the townspeople say the thugs come in from the country.

WE have on our table an open letter of forty-five pages on the separate school question written by Mr. James Fisher, barrister, of Winnipeg, to the electors of Russell, the constituency which he represents in the Manitoba Legislature. Mr. Fisher, as many of our Western readers are aware, is a stalwart Presbyterian and was some years ago a prominent and active office-bearer in Knox Church, Stratford. The letter is written in a calm judicial spirit and shows on every page that faculty which first-class lawyers usually have of looking at all sides of a question. The subject is treated historically and we have a bird's-eye view of the question as it crops up in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario and the experience of these provinces is made to throw a flood of light on the educational situation in Manitoba. Mr. Fisher is not in favour of the action taken by the Manitoba Legislature in abolishing separate schools. He prefers a medium course between the action of the Legislature and the system as it existed before that action was taken. Mr. Fisher's pamphlet will furnish excellent matter for the electors of Manitoba to read and think over while they wait for a decision from Ottawa in regard to their School Act. We should not be surprised if the Province yet came round to Mr. Fisher's views and effected what the brilliant Principal of Queen's would call a "good, practical compromise."

WE have often wondered that young ministers of zeal, energy, and ability, would rather labour in worn-out villages or townships with a constantly decreasing population, than go to such fields in Manitoba and the North-West as Dr. Robertson described in our issue of last week. The difficulties to be encountered in Manitoba are not to be compared with the difficulties faced by the pioneer ministers of Ontario. Most of the men who laid the foundations of Presbyterianism in this Province laboured for twenty or thirty years before they heard the snort of an iron horse. Some of them rode on old stage coaches to their fields, some went on horseback, some on emigrant waggon, and some walked. A glance at Dr. Robertson's letter shows that nearly every pastor he wants can ride to his location on a railway and several may have a choice of routes. The building-up work to be done in a new country is by far the most encouraging kind of work. It is a great thing to see what you are doing a glorious thing to feel that your cause is growing. It must be very disheartening to labour in an old township and watch your people slipping family by family out of your hands and going away to some new part of the country. There is only one kind of a field more disheartening and that is a finished village in which there are three or four ministers struggling for a foothold, fighting for every new family, in which every sorehead has to be coaxed and petted and every crank treated as a distinguished man. Who wouldn't rather be out on the broad prairie with ample material and plenty of room?

CANADIANS have met the McKinley Bill with splendid dignity and self-control. The self-control is all the more commendable because everybody knows the new tariff must seriously affect several lines of trade. Our knowledge of party politics has perhaps done a good deal in the way of helping us to accept the situation. The McKinley Act is neither more nor less than a desperate effort on the part of the Republican Party to obtain or retain the farmers' vote. The manufacturers' vote and the manufacturers' money the party now have, but there was a growing feeling in the rural districts against the highest tariff in the civilized world. To appease the farmer the Bill was passed. Canadians are not so unaccustomed to the ways of party politics as to go into hysterics over a party move of that kind. They have seen similar moves nearer home many a time. Some day soon it may suit some party or party leader to make another move that will be as much in our favour as the McKinley Tariff is against us. Changes come with such wonderful suddenness these days that there is no use in getting very glad or very sorry over any political movement. The theory that the American people desire to injure Canada is pure fiction. Their politicians work for party interests, just as ours do, just as all politicians do the world over. In fact nearly all men work more or less for their own interests. It so happens that in working for what they supposed to be their own interests the leaders of the Republican Party struck Canada. If increasing the trade with Canada had promised to bring them more votes at the coming elections the trade would have been increased. Canadians have no intention of going into hysterics over the McKinley or any other Bill.

PRINCIPAL GRANT AT THE NATIONAL CLUB.

IT is a trite thing to say that Principal Grant is one of the most versatile of our Canadian public men. Wherever he goes he finds himself at home and can without difficulty adapt himself to his immediate surroundings. If he traverses the North American continent with an exploring party he keeps his eyes wide open and sees whatever is worthy of observation, can hold high converse around the camp-fire, come back in due time to civilized life and tell what has impressed him most in his journey "From Ocean to Ocean." In the halls sacred to learning he maintains his honoured place and seeks with tireless energy to promote the important interests entrusted to his charge. Though he has not come out into the open of political strife, when occasion offered, and in his judgment demanded, he has not hesitated to speak plainly on questions on which political parties have differed.

At the National Club celebration in this city last week the learned Principal of Queen's University, in more than a conventional sense, was the orator of the evening. In his fervid and patriotic utterances he rose to a lofty height. Those who had the good fortune to listen to his address and those who read it will readily conclude that he has there given a strong impulse to the cultivation of an enlightened national sentiment, which is after all an important factor in moulding a people's destiny. With all his fervour Principal Grant never loses sight of the great underlying principles that should govern in public affairs, the more especially as these have an immediate bearing on the shaping of its future. He is loyal and patriotic, but never unreasoning. Touching on the future of Canada he concedes that it is reasonable and proper to discuss whatever plans are proposed. There are but three possible proposals: annexation to the United States, a separate and independent nationality, and some method of imperial federation. Each of these have their advocates, although a change in the direction of either of them is not immediately in sight. That there are Canadians who favour annexation there is no reason to doubt. Here and there even public men have expressed their belief that this is our manifest destiny. One or two newspapers have suggested the union of our fortunes with our Southern neighbours, but there is every reason to believe that the number of annexationists is small. It is sometimes said that popular feeling is so strongly opposed to the obliteration of Canadian national life that those in favour of annexation are afraid to show themselves. If this is so it is a proof that in Canada there is a decided aversion to merging our national existence in that of the United States. What the strength of the desire for an independent nationality may be it is equally difficult to determine. The issue has never been submitted to a popular test. Most Canadians it may be presumed would consider it preferable to an amalgamation with the Republic across the border. Imperial federation has its advocates. Most of them are men of some mark in the conduct of our public affairs. Principal Grant himself favours it. In his address before the National Club he did not discuss it, but claimed for all the right of free discussion of a matter that is of the utmost interest to the people of Canada, and one on which the future of the country largely depends.

One thing which Principal Grant rightly deems essential to our national welfare is the promotion of harmony between the different races that claim Canada as their country. The strained relations between the French and English are not conducive to harmonious action. On this point he said several weighty and just things which it is important to heed. In dealing with this part of his subject he did not evade the difficulties it necessarily presents. The aggressions of the Jesuits and the political conditions that favour them he does not like and says so clearly and above board. He does not look for anything else than that the Jesuits will continue to be in Canada as they have been everywhere else disturbers of the public tranquility. Their intrigues are likely to keep alive race and sectarian rancour. It cannot well be otherwise. While it would be foolish to give way to wild unreasoning panic, and worse than foolish to inflame religious and race antipathies for political ends, there will certainly be a determination to withstand all encroachments on our civil and religious freedom.

Another point in the address worthy of consideration is the portion that refers to the elevation and purification of our political life. The upright men in both political parties will cordially appreciate and approve of what Principal Grant said in this connection. The ablest, the fittest and the high-principled should be selected for the management of our