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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH, 1895.

OUR readers will be glad to know that "Knoxonian" has returned from his holiday in Bermuda, very greatly benefited in health, and that they may now again expect to hear weekly from his racy pen.

FROM a friend who writes with full knowledge we learn that a note which appeared in our columns a short time ago, quoted from one of our exchanges, to the effect that the Rev. Dr. Ecob, of Albany, was about to unite with a seceding Methodist minister to establish a liberal church without a creed, to be virtually Unitarian, has really no foundation in fact. We are glad to learn that Dr. Ecob emphasizes in the most positive manner the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is without the slightest sympathy with or tendency in belief towards the doctrines held by Unitarians.

THE *Sentinel-Review* suggests that the proposed excursion of the Canadian Press Association take the form of a trip to Newfoundland. Brother Pattullo well says: "If that island is coming into Confederation, it is important that Ontario journalists should know something about it. The people want information and intelligent discussion. They will have to look to the public journals for it. And how can journalists get information better than by travel and observation. It is hereby moved that the C. P. A. visit Newfoundland!" We very heartily second the motion!

AMONG the names mentioned in connection with the chair vacated by the death of the late Prof. Thomson has been that of Rev. Dr. Kellogg, late pastor of St. James' Square Church in this city, and formerly a professor in Alleghany Theological Seminary, Alleghany, Pa. A letter just received from Dr. Kellogg intimates that his engagements with his present work are such as to preclude any idea of his services being available for a chair in Knox College at present. In the interests of the college this is much to be regretted, as Dr. Kellogg is by common consent admirably fitted to carry on the work of the late lamented professor.

IN these days when authority is at a discount, it is interesting to learn from an article on the late Rev. Dr. Dale, in the *Review of the Churches*, by Dr. Mackennall, that "more and more as years advanced, he dwelt on authority—the authority of the law-giver; authority as distinct from love and perceived truth, not the authority of love, the authority in the truth perceived." This is teaching very much needed in our time, and especially in a new country, where the tendency is for

every man to be a law unto himself, and to resent the exercise of authority as an impertinence. Were respect for the authority of truth embodied in courts and legislation general, how much more smoothly would government of all kinds work in the state, the school, the church.

ONE of the difficulties regularly settled pastors have in calling to their help the professional evangelist is the effect this often has, and which all evangelists are not careful to guard against, of thinking lightly of and underrating the ordinary means of grace. In the nature of things these must be mainly relied upon for the promotion of the cause of Christ and of the Christian life. It is pleasant to hear of the character of the Rev. Mr. McNeill in this respect, as borne witness to from Bombay. It is that "the ministers of all the churches have been on his committee, and between them and him there has been the heartiest co-operation. Mr. McNeill has lost no opportunity of exhorting his hearers to make use of, and to be useful in the churches, and most manifestly one of his chief joys in his work is, that it has enabled him to help his brethren, whether by bringing to the light the fruit of their labors, or by sowing seed of which they may be privileged to reap the harvest. Christians of all the churches in Bombay wish him God-speed."

PREVIOUS to the meeting for business of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, a conference will be held extending from the afternoon of Monday 13th, until that of the next day. These subjects will be introduced by speakers appointed for that purpose:—"The Administration of the Holy Spirit in the Work of the Church"; (a) through its officers; (b) through its members. Address on "Obedience to the Last Command, the Secret of Individual Blessing and Power," by Rev. M. N. Bethune, Beaverton. Address on "Should We Send to the Field all Approved Persons Who Offer for Foreign Mission Service, Trusting to the Church for Their Support?" by Rev. J. A. Turnbull, LL.B., Toronto. "Sabbath Observance"; (a) the Law of the Sabbath and its present obligations; (b) in its relation to Morality in the Community. "Sabbath Observance"; (c) in its relation to Spirituality in the Church; (d) in its relation to Government. A large attendance at the Synod is looked for, and it is hoped that many will come prepared to take part in the conference.

A GOOD WORK.

A SOCIETY that in a quiet way, without any elaborate machinery, or blare of trumpets, or thronged conventions, holds on its way and is doing a large amount of good work is the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society. Its sixty-second annual meeting was held last Friday evening in the Carlton Street Methodist Church. Considering the objects and the good work this Society is doing, the meeting was painfully, we had almost said shamefully, small. It was, however, excellent in spirit and it was the absent who suffered loss by their absence. The meeting was opened and presided over by the Rev. Canon Sanson, the retiring president of the Society. After devotional exercises a very suitable and excellent address was given by the president, in which, after referring to the work of the parent and other similar societies, he emphasized the fact that this Society through its various agencies disseminated and upheld evangelical truth—the truth which saves and satisfies, quickens into activity and sustains Christian life and work.

The Rev. Dr. Moffat, the indefatigable secretary, next presented his report which briefly set forth the work of the Society under the heads of "Free Grant Work," "Religious Books," "The Word of God," "Aggressive Colportage," "Sailors' Mission Work," "The Welland Canal," "Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence," "Lumber Camp Work," "Help for New and Poor Sabbath Schools," "Sailor's Bags," "Chinese Colportage Work," "The Jesse Ketchum Bequest." Under these heads a great deal of interesting and most encouraging information is given showing the extent and value of the work done.

Of free grants the report says:—

"No request for a grant is ever refused, wherever there is actual need, for such Christian work to be done! During the past year the Young Men's Christian Associations in Toronto, Ottawa,

London and other places have been supplied; hospitals, prisons, and jails are never forgotten. Student missionaries in the newest and poorest mission fields in the North and North-West; city mission workers of all kinds; the W. C. T. U. and many other associations have had grants heartily given."

Gratuitous issues have been made during the year of 668,000 pages of Christian literature of various kinds; and of religious books and booklets 34,000 volumes have been circulated by the society. We are often told by the wise in this world, that the Bible is getting obsolete. This society, judging by the test of demand and circulation, does not find it so. It circulates the Douay and different versions of the French New Testament, being the only one in Canada which does so. Its circulation of Scriptures during the year has been no less than 8,500 copies, and, of these, 4,059 have been sold by colporteurs on prairies, in lumber camps, and in the scattered homes of our new settlements.

Colportage is an important and growing feature of this Society's work. It has now ten employed in its service for longer or shorter periods. Of them the reports says:

"Messrs. Yule and Rouleau in Manitoba, and Messrs. Curry, Dunbar, Gordon, Graham, Huntsman, Lithgow, Luckham and Mills in Ontario and Algoma, have all labored faithfully and successfully. During the year they wrought 1,421 days, travelled 12,929 miles, visited 16,329 widely scattered families, sold 4,059 Bibles and Testaments and 11,510 religious books. By this one agency 15,569 volumes of gospel books to the value of \$3,546, are now doing God's work, in old and new settlements, on prairies and in lumber camps, carrying manifold blessings wherever they may be read."

By means of a generous bequest of the late Mr. Wm. Gooderham, of Toronto, the Society has been enabled to enter upon colportage work in foreign lands. In the past year, accordingly, all arrangements have been made with the Central China Religious Tract Society, under the Presidency of the Rev. Dr. Griffith John, to begin Chinese Colportage Work. Through the instrumentality of this well-known Christian laborer who has spent forty years in Christian work among the Chinese, two of the very best Colporteurs have begun work in the Province of Hunan, one of the most difficult mission fields, and to which for thirty years he had been looking, and three others have begun work in Chungking, Chengtu and Hankow.

Not to go further into detail we may add that the work on the Welland Canal, under the charge of Mr. Bone, and that of Mr. Potter on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river, is carried on by visits to vessels, hospitals, factories, prisons and such like distributing bags, filled with good literature to sailors, holding services and circulating the Scriptures and good books. Together these two made 1,386 visits, placed 300 sailor's bags, held many services, and distributed many thousands of Bibles, Testaments, books, magazines and tracts.

Work of a similar kind, equally earnest, generous and fruitful, is done by Christian men employed to visit lumber camps and shanties wherever in Ontario, or the adjoining parts of Quebec, this work is carried on. Feeble, struggling Sabbath schools in new settlements are assisted by special free grants or liberal discounts. All this work under the Board owes much to the zeal and ability of the Rev. Dr. Moffat, the secretary. Of him the report says: "In addition to all his yearly increasing work in the office in Toronto, he travelled last year over 6,000 miles, preached 70 times, gave 90 addresses, and held 58 public meetings, so as to keep the work of your society fully before the churches. By his Sabbath collections and pulpit services he paid all his travelling expenses, and in addition passed over \$216 to the general funds of society."

A work such as this, done so quietly and unostentatiously, which has been going on for over sixty years, every year stretching out to the regions beyond and growing more vigorous, has results which only eternity will unfold. It deserves the continued and most hearty sympathy and support of Christians of all denominations, rendering to the work of them all, as it does, the most effective help.

LORD'S DAY LEGISLATION.

MR. CHARLTON with characteristic perseverance, and it is all needed, has again introduced into Parliament his bill for the better observance of the Lord's Day. Should it pass the House of Commons, and then get unimpaired through the Senate, that philosophic body of legislators which, in so many cases, does not represent the feeling of the country, it will greatly help to