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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 1894.

THE current number of the *Canadian Monthly* has an able article on evolution by the Hon. David Mills, M.P. Everybody in Canada knows that Mr. Mills is one of our highest authorities on constitutional law; but perhaps comparatively few were aware that he could handle the problems of evolution with the grip of a scientist. Lord Salisbury has recently been discussing the same question. It is a good thing to see public men taking an interest in such questions.

THE immense crowds that gathered to hear Mr. Laurier last week, show clearly that the love of good oratory is far from being extinct in Ontario. The subjects discussed are not new, all of them having been thoroughly threshed out long ago. But the silver-tongued orator handles old questions in an interesting way, and members of all parties go to hear him. Political discussion that informs and educates is just the thing needed. We have not enough of oratory of that kind.

ECONOMY is well enough in its way, but it is not everything. A Chinaman can live on five or ten cents a day, but at the very beginning of the war the Chinese have been compelled to borrow money from Europeans who spend enough in a day to keep an average Chinaman for a twelvemonth. If living on little could make a nation wealthy, China should be one of the richest nations in the world. As a matter of fact, China has more beggars than any country in the world. The ability to live on five cents a day will not of itself make a man or a nation rich.

THERE seems to be a revolt in the American Presbyterian Church against the habit of preaching on current events. No so long ago it was popular with certain classes to make the sermon a rehash of the principal events of the week. "Preaching on the times" was considered the correct thing by shallow-minded, sensation-loving people, especially those of the "rounder" variety. The press, the solid intelligent people, and the best class of ministers are beginning to frown down the practice, and encourage preaching on subjects that are of momentous importance all the time.

THERE was something tragic in the sudden death of the Hon. Christopher Finlay Fraser. He had lived in public and served the public most of his life, but he died alone in his room. He died in the very building that was his greatest work and which will stand for centuries as a monument to his unflinching honesty. Taken all round, Mr. Fraser was one of the best public men ever raised in Ontario. He was strong every way but physically.

As a parliamentarian, as an administrator, and as a man, he has been easily among Ontario's first men for twenty years. His early death is a Provincial loss. To his honor be it said, he passed away without a single stain upon his record.

A MIDST the agitation for reform in the administration of law, it should not be forgotten that the law itself greatly needs reformation in certain directions. Offences against the person and the pocket are punished with a severity out of all proportion to that meted out to offences against reputation. Prick a man with a pen-knife in a part of his person far removed from a vital point and you are pretty certain to be sent to the penitentiary; but you may stab his reputation in a dozen different ways with the chances a thousand to one in favour of no punishment at all. Steal a dollar from him and the punishment is usually swift and certain, but if you can throw an odour of sanctity about the operation you may steal his good name with impunity. Offences of the tongue are treated very lightly in Canada. In the United States they are not punished at all. We utterly fail to see that stealing a man's reputation is a lesser crime than stealing his money.

ONE of the most eminent Presbyterian ministers of New York, Dr. John R. Paxton, has been compelled to leave his pastorate through the use of stimulants and narcotics. There is something sadly pathetic in the story as told by himself. He says:

"There was a time when I thought I should go mad. For months I had an awful pain at the base of my brain, and I got no rest. I admit that under the stress of circumstances I did things that I should never have done. I used stimulants, among others cocaine. That time, however, is passed and gone, and thank God I feel no desire to do that now. I should never have gone into the ministry, the strain on me was too great. I am too much of a soldier for that sort of thing. The constant struggle for something new, which is as strong in churches as elsewhere, was what told upon me."

Are the people who constantly demand something new, who morbidly crave for something sensational every Sabbath, who think a minister is doing no good if he does not "draw," who consider every service a failure unless it is attended by a crowd—are these people not in part responsible for the wreck of Dr. Paxton. Most assuredly they are.

COMMENTING on the causes that led Dr. Paxton to abandon his pulpit, the *British Weekly* asks:

Are not ministers too ready to think that people are running mad in search of novelty? Is it so certain that faithful preaching of the great themes of the Scriptures, that quiet, persistent pastoral work, that the influence of a heart at rest may not do much more in the long run, and even in the short run, for congregations than anecdotes, tragedies, and rockets?

That depends entirely on what kind of congregations they are. Some congregations want anecdotes, tragedies and rockets every Sabbath. There are a few people connected with most congregations who want such things occasionally. The chief trouble, however, arises in this way. A clerical neighbor tells funny anecdotes, indulges in cheap tragedy, fires off rockets that make little light and go out very soon, perhaps leaving the atmosphere not quite as pure as it was. Some sensation-loving parishioner who never feels happy except in a crowd is sure to go to the faithful preacher and persistent pastoral worker every Monday and tell him about the "crowd" that was at the — church last night. Usually the intimation is accompanied with a hint that "something ought to be done" to rival the rocket-firing neighbor. Sometimes the faithful preacher and persistent pastor-worker yields and then the mischief begins. The people soon become demoralized and the preacher gets on the incline plane the other end of which is too often ruin.

THE Presbytery of Owen Sound has adopted what appears to us an excellent plan of having the work of its various committees attended to and keeping every member of Presbytery in mind of his place and work with respect to committees and church schemes. It has had neatly printed on a card to be distributed to all concerned and taken care of, first, the various committees, such as Finance, Home Missions, etc., and under the names of members of Presbytery belonging to each committee. Next come, Schemes of the Church, such as statistics, colleges, etc., and the name of the member of Presbytery charged with looking after each. Last comes committees on remits, such as hymnal, separating that into

hymns and music church and manse fund, etc., with the names again of those appointed to deal with the various subjects. This method would be found a help in every Presbytery if even in no other way than by fixing responsibility for dealing with certain subjects upon certain members of Presbytery at the beginning of the year, and not leaving it indefinitely upon all.

IT is interesting and pleasant to notice that so many of our ministers, teachers, lawyers, judges and other public servants can get a break made in their round of toil, by taking a holiday, short or long, as the case may be. No doubt they all feel very much the better of it, and return to work with fresh vigor and zest. We note that wives are not often mentioned in such items of news as getting a holiday with their husbands. How is this? No doubt many husbands are too magnanimous to take a holiday and leave what the author of "Rab and his Friends," calls the "sine qua non" at home, toiling and moiling in the monotonous round of domestic work. We have no wish to suggest a tiny rebellion in the homes of our readers, but if husbands and brothers who need change of air and scene, would find it a very great hardship not to get it, so also must wives and sisters need it. We venture, therefore, humbly, to suggest that, when the valiant husbands and brothers get home, and while they are yet strong and able for duty, the wives and sisters who have been at home, pack up their valises and set off to Muskoka, the seaside, or wherever else their fancy may lead, leaving it to the gentlemen of the male persuasion to run as best they may, with or without assistance, the domestic department of housekeeping for a couple of weeks or a month.

THE LATE HON. C. F. FRASER.

IT would ill become any newspaper in Ontario, whether secular or religious, not to notice with respectful sympathy, the very sudden and unexpected removal of so prominent, honest and efficient a public servant and distinguished citizen as the late Hon. Christopher F. Fraser. Mr. Fraser's career was one which reflected great credit upon himself, and both in its struggle and triumph was well calculated to encourage and stimulate all ranks of young Canadians in their upward and onward endeavors. That he served his country for many a long year with untiring energy, conspicuous ability, unquestioned and unquestionable honesty, and with even brilliant success, is now frankly and fully acknowledged, quite as much by political opponents as by friends and supporters. His name was never associated with the veriest whisper of a job. At the head of the great spending department of the Government for nearly a generation, he could say when he dropped his charge—"These hands are clean;" and no one even in his heart ever questioned the truth of the declaration. Besides, he held, and rightly, that for one in his position to be able to plead personal purity in the face of undoubted malversation of public funds by subordinates or contractors, was no excuse whatever. He was he believed where he was, for the very purpose of seeing to it that the state suffered no wrong from his ignorance, incompetency or culpable trustfulness. He believed that it was not enough for honor to be personally honest. If it could be proved that whether from ignorance or oversight he had allowed others to steal, he was always willing to step down and out, as one at once culpable and incompetent.

And yet this man, such as he undoubtedly was, if a set of foolish, unreasoning bigots had had their way, would have been relegated to private life and declared unfit to serve his country even as a court crier or a parish constable. It tempts one almost to be ashamed of the name of Protestant when it is possible to find in such a country as Canada, and at this time of day, men masquerading as patriots, statesmen and champions of liberty, yet ready to adopt all the persecuting and intolerant principles and practices which they allege, and no doubt with a good deal of reason, have been characteristic of the church of Rome during all its history. The very glory of Protestant is surely to hold more scriptural principles and follow a more excellent way. The "rascal mobs" of Montreal and Quebec, under the guise of religion, and from pretended zeal for truth and righteousness, may assault and maltreat French-Canadian Protestants and *Suisse* preachers and colporteurs, but is that any reason why the Protestants in Ontario should go and do likewise, whether by bludgeons or bad disfranchising laws?