

The Canadian Independent

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TORONTO, JUNE 23, 1881

NOTICE!

Subscribers will take notice that all payments for the INDEPENDENT, whether for arrears or for current volume, must in future be made to Mr. W. Rovell, Box 2648, Toronto P. O.

We would call the attention of our readers to their labels. All whose subscriptions expired Jan., '81, or earlier, are now due another year. Will they please remit.

We want as many items of news of the churches as possible, but will our correspondents be brief: our space is limited, and we dislike to cut down.

UNION MEETING NOTES.

The address of the Chairman of the Union was the utterance of a man as well read in the history of our principles as he is attached to them. They were very clearly and sharply set forth, especially in the aspect of our differences from other bodies, not that any attack was made upon others, but that the truth, as we hold it, was made prominent and attractive. It may help to show some among ourselves that the principles we have been advocating, call them "Organized Independency" if that phrase pleases, can be held along with loyalty to the independence and autonomy of the churches.

We were especially delighted with the address of Dr. Eddy, its word-pictures, so briefly, yet so powerfully drawn, of the sufferings for conscience sake of our ecclesiastical forefathers were most telling, and his further tracing of the growth of the Congregational principle on this Continent was exceedingly interesting. His vindication of independency from the charge of bigotry and persecution, so often made, was complete, and we can only wish that the address shall be printed in tract form and circulated widely among our people; a generation is growing up that needs to be informed respecting the reasonableness of our faith and practice, and of the glorious inheritance of faith and steadfastness into which we have entered.

We did hope that time would have been found during the sitting of the Union, for a free, informal conference on the state of the churches, especially in view of the facts brought out in the letters of "A Practical Man." It is all very well to push, push, those letters, but they contained statements which cannot be controverted, which have not even had an attempt made thereat, and they deserved the earnest consideration of the assembled brethren. The question we are called upon to face is this—shall the next twenty-five years of our Church history present as sorry a record as the last, or shall the previous quarter of a century, 1830 to 1855, be more our model of work and measure of success?

It could not, we suppose, be avoided, but more than one begrudged the two mornings spent upon two applications for admission into the Union. Can nothing be done to prevent so large a space of time being similarly occupied in future? Is it not possible to have a standing rule limiting discussion on such applications to, say, half an hour, no speaker to occupy more than five minutes? Possibly the Union Committee can devise something of this kind as a safeguard in future. Apart from the time it consumed, we do not, however, regret the discussion. Some principles that we need to remember were enunciated, and some truths that there was need to speak were spoken. But are we not a red tape-bound people?

The discussion on the position of the INDEPENDENT, and the means to pay off the old debt was unfortunately interrupted by the hour of adjournment, and no place was afterwards found for it. We trust, however, that it will not be lost sight of. The debt in round figures is \$1000, five subscriptions of \$50 each were promised contingent upon the whole amount being subscribed. Legally, there is no claim upon the churches; morally, there is, the debt was incurred—rashly, unnecessarily, we think, in an effort to give the churches a paper representing their views, and forming a medium of interchange of thought and intelligence amongst us, a worthy aim, and we should endeavour to save our good name by allowing no debt thus contracted to remain unpaid. We may say that the friends need not fear a repetition of this, the paper is being carried on now without any expense beyond the printer. If it is found ultimately that the subscriptions cease to pay him it will be discontinued. We shall have something to say on the new arrangements next week.

We do not know how the attendance of ministers and delegates compared with former years, but the gatherings at the various meetings struck us as exceptionally large. In fact all the meetings were well attended, the interest shown by church members in the city was very marked; from the first evening at the opening sermon by Rev. J. L. Forster, of Montreal, to the closing service on Monday evening, all the churches were well represented. We are glad of this, and hope that it is an augury of better things in store for us.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We give the full text of the resolution passed at the meeting of the Congregational Union in Toronto, on the 13th inst.

Moved by the Rev. T. Hall, Kingston, seconded by Rev. J. L. Forster, B. C. L., Montreal, That the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be a Provisional Board of Directors to organize and work a Foreign Missionary Society in connection with the Congregational Churches of British North America: Revs. Dr. Jackson, J. Roy, M.A., A. I. McFadyen, B.A., H. D. Hunter, H. D. Powis, J. Burton, B.D., H. Pedley, B.A., J. Wood, R. Mackay, Jos. Griffith, R. K. Black, J. L. Forster, B. C. L., D. Macallum, I. Howell, C. Duff, M.A., and Messrs. George Hague, J. C. Field, M. P.P., B. W. Robertson, H. O'Hara, Dr.

Richardson, J. R. Dougall, John Nasmith, H. Cox, D. Higgins, Geo. Fenwick George Robertson, and H. J. Clark

At a meeting of the Board held in Zion Church, Toronto, same date, J. C. Field, Esq., M.P.P., Cobourg, was elected President; B. W. Robertson, Esq., Kingston, Treasurer; and Rev. T. Hall, Kingston, Secretary. The members of the Board residing in Kingston were appointed a Committee to draw up a Constitution, to be submitted at the next meeting of the Board.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF B. N. A. ENDOWMENT FUND.

As Treasurer, I have received from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lyman, Montreal, the sum of \$100, the fifth and last instalment of their subscription.

HENRY WILKES.

Montreal, June 17, 1881.

MANITOBA MISSION Treasurer acknowledges with thanks the following sums: Collection at Union meetings, \$31; Embro Congregational Church, \$13—total, \$44.

H. SANDERS.

Montreal, June 17, 1881.

Correspondence.

"GOOD COUNSELS NEVER COME AMISS."

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

SIR.—I venture to address your readers through your columns. The Congregational Union for 1881 is over, and we may reasonably trust that beneficial results will follow the deliberations of that body. In common with other delegates, I was present when the affairs of the Canada Publishing Company were discussed. I am not given to blushing, but I confess that the blush of shame rose to my cheeks during the discussion. I say nothing of the financial position, although that calls for the gravest consideration, and one not redounding to the credit of Congregationalists. I learn that, you, sir, were 1st. A partner in a large mercantile establishment. 2nd. A hard-working officer in a prosperous church. 3rd. The Superintendent of a highly efficient Sunday-school. 4th. The Editor of a weekly journal, receiving no remuneration therefrom, (unless being grumbled at he regarded as reward) and in point of fact paying for the privilege by voluntarily giving up valuable time to the discharge of the duties necessarily entailed by such an onerous position. Worse still! That subscribers were remarkably backward in coming forward with their dollars, and furthermore, that contributors of articles, news of the churches and interesting items were like an "old man's" "few and far between."

This, sir, does not strike me as a healthy state of things, and as I feel certain that you would feel diffident in saying much on the subject, I venture to take up the cudgels on your behalf. It is not often I advise novel reading, but a perusal of Charles Reade's "Put yourself in his place" would do some of your subscribers good. Instead of experiencing a difficulty in obtaining contributions, your position would be one of *embarras de richesse*.

I myself cry *peccavi*, and ask a thoughtful consideration of this matter on the part of all who read this letter. Let every one at least send along their dollar, and those who are able, contributions also from time to time. I trust, sir, to see "a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether" made, the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT improved, your labours lightened, and no one a whit the worse as the result of my appeal.

Yours truly,

W. A. H.

PULPIT SENSATIONALISM.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

SIR, Protesting against any desire to re-open any issue disposed of at the late Union meetings; yet some utterances were given forth which ought not to pass unnoticed or unquestioned. Noticeable amongst these was the deliverance of Rev. Wm. Hay in defence of Sensationalism in the Pulpit as a means of drawing a crowd. From the reading of 1 Cor. ii., it would appear that for good and sufficient reasons the Apostle carefully guarded himself from even the appearance of resorting to such methods; nay, his words are an emphatic condemnation of any such practice. After hearing Mr. Hay, one is tempted to inquire if the Gospel is really the *effete* thing some say it is, or, is it still the power of God? Has the simple story of the cross lost its attractiveness? Are the men who think it necessary or desirable to resort to *outré* methods to draw the crowd, certain that they themselves are in their proper sphere as ministers of the Gospel? Another matter: If it is desirable—in the interest of the ministry—to enlarge the system, had not something better be done on behalf of the membership also? Those troublesome questions about a change of heart and leading a pure Christian life, etc., no doubt have a deterring influence on the crowd! and this is coming into prominence as one of the hitherto weak points of Congregationalism. We have need, in these days of drifting, to stand by the old land marks and keep the "blood-stained banner" free from entangling alliances which promise much, but only to betray and deceive.

Yours,

LAYMAN.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL INDIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent.

DEAR SIR,—The friends of our mission will be glad to learn from letters that were brought before the Board at its meeting last Tuesday, that our devoted sister, Miss Baylis, after some delay through fogs &c., had arrived in safety at her old field of labour, at Spanish River, and had received a kind welcome. The missions premises also, which had been unoccupied for two years, had been put into needful repair, and she was just beginning her labours once more, also that the boxes of clothing &c., which had been sent up to Mississauga for distribution among the Indians by Mr. Nicol, from the ladies connected with Zion and the Northern Congregational churches of Toronto, had been received by him, and in a letter addressed to a member of the Board, he says: "Since the hurried note I wrote you acknowledging the receipt of the boxes, I wrote to the Treasurer, and told him how delighted we all were with their contents. Mrs. N. wishes me again to thank the friend or friends for her share of the precious things contained in her box, she finds several items for the children of great service.

"I do wish the kind friends who contributed towards their contents, had only seen the semi-barbaric delight manifested at the distribution of the several articles. To our great amusement, the Chief (Bone-Kaosh) whose little daughter Mrs. N. had rigged out, came next day, and erected his wig wam just outside of our fence, I went out to him, and put one of the hats sent, on his head, and I think since that time, except when asleep, it has never been off. Some of the heavier articles, we propose keeping till the fall. By the way—our mission flag, which floats proudly all the time (since spring began) over our mission premises, is getting rather worn. Would our lady