

Presbyterian Review.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1889

THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS CO., TORONTO, (Ltd)

PURSUANT to notice, a Special General Meeting of the shareholders of the Presbyterian News Company, Toronto, Limited, called for the purpose of considering the propriety of applying to Government for an amendment to the Charter of the Company, authorizing the Company to carry on a general book-binding, book-selling and stationery business, was held on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., in the offices of William Mortimer Clark, Esq., President of the Company.

Mr. Clark occupied the chair and Mr Geo. H. Robinson acted as Secretary. There was a good attendance of the shareholders, there being present, amongst others Revs James Middlemiss, D.D., Elora, John Lang, D.D., Dundas, W. D. Armstrong, M.A., Ph.D., Ottawa; John Somerville, M.A., Owen Sound; H. M. Parsons, D.D., Toronto; D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., Toronto; D. McTavish, M.A., D.Sc., Toronto; Robert Leask, Toronto, W. McKinley, Toronto; and Hamilton Casells, Esq., M.A., John Leys, jr., Esq., Toronto; John Kay, Esq., Toronto; James Murray, Esq., Toronto; John M. Martin, Esq., F.I.A., Auditor of the Company, Toronto, etc., etc., etc.

The Secretary reported the receipt of letters from a number of the shareholders unable to be present at the meeting, expressing themselves in hearty sympathy with the movement. After hearing the statements and explanations of the Auditor, and after full discussion in which many of those present took part, the following resolution was unanimously and heartily adopted: - "That an application be made to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in Council, for the issue of Supplementary Letters Patent, extending the powers of the Company so as to enable them to engage in a general book-binding, book selling and stationery business."

It will be a matter of interest and satisfaction to the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW to learn that of the amount of new capital considered by the Directors sufficient to carry on the business efficiently, the Manager was, at the close of the meeting, able to report more than one-half had been applied for. The remainder is being rapidly taken up.

In the opinion of the Directors and the meeting the extension of the Company's business is likely not only to be of great service to the Church, but a source of fair profit also to the shareholders.

Applications for stock in shares of \$10 (ten dollars) each, payable ten per cent on allotment and ten per cent every two months thereafter, if required, until the whole amount be paid, may be made to Mr Geo. H. Robinson, Managing Director; or by letter, to Box

2507, Toronto, or personally, at the Offices of the Company, 26 & 28 Front Street West, Toronto.

It is confidently expected that all arrangements for carrying upon this new business will be completed at an early day.

MR. WILKIE'S WORK.

IT will be remembered that the General Assembly, in June last, acting upon the suggestion of the Foreign Mission Committee, endorsed the College work already begun in Indore and recommended it to the support and sympathy of the Church. The resolution adopted by the Committee may be found in their Report to the Assembly (Minutes App. iv. p. 33), and is as follows: -

That in view of the circumstances under which the College classes at Indore were opened in affiliation with the University of Calcutta and the importance of higher education in the hands of Christian men as a means of leading the heathen to the knowledge of Christ, the Committee having anew considered the question of continuing the College classes, do resolve to proceed with the College work already begun at Indore.

The resolution unanimously adopted by the Assembly was as follows. (Minutes p. 40): - The General Assembly recommends to the liberality of the Church the High School and College work committed to Mr. Wilkie, and trusts that all necessary aid will be given him in his endeavours to raise funds to enable him to procure buildings requisite for the efficient carrying on of his work.

As is known to our readers, Mr. Wilkie has, with his accustomed energy, devoted himself since the meeting of Assembly, to the task of raising the amount required for the proper equipment of the College, namely, \$10,000. In the places he has been able to visit he has met with more or less encouragement; but, from a variety of circumstances, he now finds himself at the time when he had planned to return to India, with the task accomplished only in part. The reasons for this failure are briefly, the physical impossibility of visiting any large number of the congregations in a short time, the absence from home during the summer months of many who are interested in Foreign Mission work, the claims of other Schemes of the Church, and the extensive building operations of many churches which tax the liberality of members and adherents to the utmost. Add to this, there is still, notwithstanding the diffusion of missionary literature and the information disseminated from the pulpit and the platform, in very many quarters, dense ignorance respecting the operations of the Church at home and abroad and corresponding lack of interest in missionary effort and sympathy with those most earnestly engaged in promoting it. In some quarters also, there would appear to be a disposition on the part of ministers and office-bearers - to their shame be it said - to confine the exercise of their liberality to their own congregational enterprises exclusively, as if they had no lot or part in the general work of the Church. Indeed, we have heard of one minister, who, having allowed the missionary use of his pulpit, took occasion at the close of his address to assure him that while he and his people were in sympathy with the scheme he would neither give him the names of his people nor assist him in the canvass, as they were about to erect a new church edifice! But notwithstanding all such drawbacks there is no doubt that Mr. Wilkie would be entirely successful in raising the necessary funds, if he had the time at his disposal to visit a large number of the congregations in person. The time, however, has come when the interests of his special work in India require his presence there. It seems, therefore, that there are only two courses open to him - either to return to India without having secured the funds, or to remain in Canada until such time as they are raised, if they cannot be raised without him.

In the circumstances, and especially as Mr. Wilkie has now been absent a considerable time from his field and is most anxious to return, would it not be well for the Foreign Mission Committee to assume the duty of raising this fund, and next year place whatever amount may be required for the College in the estimates for India? We fail to see any good reason for imposing upon any of our missionaries home on furlough, the task of raising money for the Schemes of the Church. If the work is deemed necessary to be done in the name of the Church, then the Church, it would seem to us, should assume, through the proper Committee, the burden of providing the ways and means for its most efficient accomplishment. There can be no objection to any person specially interested in a scheme giving a large measure of his time and attention to furthering it; but would it not be a mistake to let the scheme suffer by the failure, through no fault of their own, of the most immediately concerned, to reach their expectations? We say nothing here of the mistake of requiring missionaries on furlough to exhaust their energies upon special work which might just as well be done by others not so much in need of rest. In the meantime, as the sum required for the College buildings has not been placed in the estimates, we would suggest that an organized effort be made at once to secure the desired amount and relieve Mr. Wilkie from any further anxiety in the matter. Let a meeting of the Toronto congregations be called, and a local committee be formed to push the matter to a successful conclusion. It would be a shame if, after the Committee and the Assembly had endorsed the continuance of the College work in Indore, that work should be allowed to languish or die through want of adequate support. It would be more than a shame, if after all Mr. Wilkie's labours in India, if after his tireless efforts in the interests of Mission work generally while home on furlough, he should be compelled to return to his beloved field of labour without the means to give strength and efficiency to his work there. We cannot believe that the Church will prove indifferent to his appeal or recant to its duty in the premises. But no time is to be lost. Something should be done and done at once. We trust that the Foreign Mission Committee now in session will not adjourn without concerting measures to make the College a complete success.

DEATH OF REV. DR. SOMERVILLE.

LATE British exchanges bring the news of the death on the 18th ult. at his residence, Southpark Terrace, Hillhead, Scotland, of Rev. A. N. Somerville, D.D., in the 77th year of his age, only a few weeks after that of his lifelong friend, Rev. Dr. Horatius Bonar. Though Dr. Somerville had attained the age allotted to man the announcement of his death has come as a surprise to his many friends in Scotland and far beyond her borders. Until his death was announced it was not even known that he had been ill. Indeed, he can scarcely be said to have suffered any illness. The two or three weeks immediately preceding his death, he spent at Kilm in his ordinary good health. On the Friday he did not feel so well as usual but, as we learn from the Herald, the symptoms so far disappeared that he was able to make the journey to Glasgow on Tuesday. The day before his death there was nothing in his condition to cause anxiety. He did not get out of bed but was able to converse freely with the members of his family, and so unsuspected was the approach of death that almost the last words the venerable Doctor uttered were of a jocular character. He was suddenly seized with a pain in the region of the heart, and died in the arms of one of his sons. After a life of singular devotedness to the ministry of the Gospel, and a unique career of usefulness in every quarter of the world, Dr. Somerville thus passed peacefully away at the mature age of 76 years, but still, it may be said, in the midst of his activity.

Dr. Somerville was personally well known to many of our readers, having visited Canada twice, first in 1845 as a delegate from the Free Church Assembly, when he made a stay extending over five months in which he visited many of our chief towns, and again in 1876 when, besides fulfilling a commission as representative of the Assembly at the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia, he made an extensive evangelistic tour through the Dominion. It is also known to many of our readers that his youngest daughter Mrs. General Keer was until recently a resident of this city.

We hope to be able to give, at an early day, a portrait of Dr. Somerville with a sketch of his life. In the meantime it may justly be said that in his death one of the most saintly characters of the present age and one of the greatest ornaments of the Presbyterian Church has passed away. Born the Home and the Foreign Mission Committees of the Church are in session in this city, this week and much business of importance is being transacted.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SUDDEN death has come into the home of one of our ministers, Rev. Dr. MacRae, St. John, N.B., and in a way that makes one shudder at the fiendish wickedness of the perpetrator, and excites the deepest sympathy for the bereaved family. On Wednesday morning, of last week, as related in the press dispatches, the postman delivered to Rev. Dr. MacRae's house a small parcel, addressed "Rev. Donald MacRae, City," which, on being opened, was found to contain a few gum drops. Mrs. MacRae ate some of the candies and shortly afterwards she was seized with convulsions and died in a few minutes. Her symptoms and the condition after death indicated strychnine poison. The remaining pieces were examined by an analyst and crystals of this poison were found in them. A similar parcel was delivered at the residence of Rev. Thomas Deinstadt, a Methodist minister, but Mrs. Deinstadt had some suspicion concerning the candy and did not partake of them nor give any to her child, who begged for some. Rev. J. Sayres, of St. John's Episcopal Church, also received a package. He tasted a piece of the candy, and finding it bitter spit it out and took the parcel to a neighbouring doctor, who pronounced the bitter stuff strychnine. This diabolical plot to destroy three highly respected clergymen and their families has created great excitement in the city of St. John and throughout the country. At the time of his wife's tragic death Dr. MacRae was absent in attendance at the meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, in Pictou. He will have the deepest sympathy of the Church in the terrible event. It is to be hoped that no effort will be spared to bring the perpetrators of this atrocious crime to punishment. The poisoning of Mrs. MacRae recalls the Galt poisoning case of a few months ago, and suggests the unpleasant thought that the failure to discover the perpetrator of that foul deed has emboldened another, or the same party, to attempt a similar crime on a still more extensive scale.

Two of the Quebec Presbyteries have already pronounced upon the action of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction in recommending the acceptance of the \$60,000 bribe, offered in the Jesuits' Estates Bill. The resolution of the Presbytery of Quebec will be found in a report of Presbytery on another page. Following is the resolution adopted at the meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal last week: -

With respect to the reported action of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction regarding the Jesuits' Estates Act and the acceptance of the \$60,000 offered to the Protestants, the Presbytery protests against the action of the Committee as unjustifiable because acquiescing in the principle of said Act, and especially to the institutions that may be made to participate in the revenue derived from said sum.

The Presbytery of Ottawa, which includes many congregations in Quebec, may be trusted to give the same sound. If it is disappointing to find some covetous souls in Quebec, of whom better things might have been expected, hoping to share in the spoils by becoming partakers of the Jesuit iniquity, it is, on the other hand, cheering to note that our Church Courts are alive to the dangers that are sure to arise from joining hands therein. Let the Protestant Samson remember that he cannot rest his head in the lap of the Jesuit Delilah without incurring the just punishment of weakness, blindness and death.

We occasionally notice in some of our exchanges gentle reminders "to those in arrears" significant of the fact, that their publishers have not yet solved the irksome problem of how to supply gratis, to any considerable number of subscribers, sheets which weekly involve great labour and expense in their production. Perhaps to the infinite disappointment of a certain class of readers, to be found almost everywhere, in the meantime, publishers might find, among other reasons for troubling this sort of patron, a fresh warrant in the severe logic of a certain Mr. Peech, who figures in the following brief tale which we find in an American newspaper: -

The Rev. Dr. Sutton once said to the late Mr. Peech, a veterinary surgeon. "Mr. Peech, how is it you have not called upon me for your account?" "O," said Mr. Peech, "I never ask a gentleman for money." "Indeed?" said the vicar, "then how do you get on if he doesn't pay?" "Why," replied Mr. Peech, "after a certain time I conclude that he is not a gentleman, and then I ask him."

The report of the opening proceedings of Knox College will be found of unusual interest. The addresses of the lecturer of the day, Rev. Prof. MacLaren, and of the Reverend Principal being on topics of present interest, will be widely perused and cannot fail to have much influence upon contemporary thought and action.

Literary Notices.

"CHRISTIAN Evolutionism and its Influence on Religious Thought," by Prof. Daniel S. Martin, is calculated to find an extensive circle of readers, from the known ability of its author and the masterly treatment of his theme. The paper gives marked evidence of careful thought, and denotes familiarity with the advanced thought of the age. It cannot be read without genuine profit. [Price 20 cents. WILBUR B. KETCHUM, Publisher, 71 Bible House, New York.]

Scraper's for October contains an exciting exploration article, in which Joseph Thomson describes his famous journey through equatorial Africa; a very practical paper on the best way to improve the common roads of the United States; another of the attractive electric articles, showing modern applications of electricity to war, on land and sea; the end of Stevenson's great romance, "The Master of Ballantrae;" an unconventional travel article on Iceland; the second instalment of Harold Frederic's romance of Colonial New York; with other interesting fiction and poems. Most of these articles are richly illustrated. [CHAS. SCRIBNER & SONS, New York.]

The Treasury for Pastor and People for October, 1889, announces that twelve college presidents will write for it during the year on questions of current and vital interest, and that other noted writers will furnish contributions. The Leading Thoughts of Sermons are varied and suggestive. Articles of great value are by Prof. Murphy on "The Value of Emotion," by Prof. Broadus on "Christian Giving," by Rev. A. H. Bushnell on "Elements of Successful Preaching," by Rev. R. Glover on "Faithful Bible Study," by Rev. Dr. Fuller on "The Revival in Turkey" and by Rev. K. Short on "Lay Elements in Christian Work." Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill College, Montreal, furnishes an article of great excellence on "The Opponents of Christianity." [E. B. TREAT, New York.]

The Homiletic Review for October well sustains the high reputation of this ministers' monthly. The leading paper is by Dr. Wayland Hoyt, being the closing half of his masterly presentation of his ideal Parish Minister. Prof. Warfield, of Princeton, gives us a paper rich in thought entitled "Flowers Plucked from a Puritan Garden." A racy paper follows on "The value of Wordsworth to the Preacher." W. C. Conant treats with good taste and judgment the timely subject of "Evangelical Ritual." Prof. A. McClelland, D.D., in "The Uses of Comparative Religion," sets forth in clear, vigorous thought and diction, a subject of the utmost importance to the preacher. The Sermons in this number - nine in all - are mostly of a high order, and are by Drs. Alex. MacLaren, C. H. Buckley, Wallace Radcliffe, S. E. Herrick, Boston, and others. Dr. Stuckenbergs' tribute to Prof. Christlieb will be read with tender interest. [FUNK & WAGNALLS, New York.]

The October issue of the Eclectic now before us is full of variety and interest. The place of honour is given to "Gounod's Views on Art and Artists," notes of conversations taken by Mme. de Bovet, full of brightness and suggestion. Canon Farrar, under the head of the "Nether World," studies low life in London, the occasion being a book of the above-named title. A practical article of importance is that of Dr. Behrend in "The Diseases Caught from Butchers' Meat," and a paper which also appeals to the current interests of the time is Mr. Paul Neumann's presentation of "The Case Against Capital Punishment," which is made with great ability. F. Legge is the author of an entertaining paper on the new fad represented by Mme. Blavatsky and Col. Olcott, the attempt to revive the ancient mysticism and natural magic of the Hindoos. Principal Doraldson advances views in his "Position of Women Among the Early Christians," which, if not absolutely new, will yet prove startling to the average reader. The poems and short articles of the number are of a high grade, and the whole table of contents will be found very attractive. [E. R. PELTON, New York.]

Among Macmillan & Co's announcements we find the following: A New Volume of Poems by Lord Tennyson; A New Volume of Essays by Prof. Huxley; "The Elements of Politics," by Prof. Henry Sidgwick; "On Style: with Other Studies in Literature," by Walter Pater; "Royal Edinburgh: her Saints, Kings, and Scholars," by Mrs. Oliphant, with illustrations by George Reid; "Pen Drawing and Pen Uraughtmanship," by Mr. Joseph Pennell, with photographs and other illustrations; "The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood," by W. Holman Hunt, with illustrations; "Cults and Monuments of Ancient Athens," by Miss Jane Harrison and Mrs. A. W. Verrall, with numerous illustrations; "A History of

the Latter Roman Empire from Arcadius to Irene, A.D. 395-800," by John B. Bury; "The Development and Character of Gothic Architecture," by Prof. Charles H. Moore, with illustrations; "Eminent Women of our Times," by Mrs. Fawcett; "Letters of Keats," edited by Sidney Colvin; "The Cradle of the Aiyans," by G. H. Rendall; "The Makers of Modern Italy: Mazzini, Cavour, Garibaldi," by J. A. R. Marriott. A new edition of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," by Mr. John Saunders, assisted by Dr. Furnivall, is promised shortly.

Church News.

OUR THEOLOGICAL HALLS. KNOX COLLEGE.

OFFERING SERVICES. - ADDRESS BY REV. PROF. MACLAREN. - THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, ETC., ETC.

The proceedings in connection with the opening of the 40th Session of Knox College took place on Wednesday afternoon, 4th inst. The weather was propitious, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled to hear the opening lecture. Rev. Principal Caven presided, and seated with him on the platform were Revs. Prof. Gregg, D.D.; Prof. MacLaren, D.D.; Dr. Proudfoot; R. V. Thompson, D.D., of the College Staff; Dr. Reid; Dr. Laing, Dundas; Dr. Middlemiss, Elora; Chancellor MacVicar, McMaster University, Toronto; Principal Sheraton, Wycliffe College, Toronto. Amongst others present in the audience were Revs. H. M. Parsons, D.D.; D. J. Macdonnell, B.D.; G. M. Milligan; Dr. McTavish; R. Wallace; R. F. McKay, M.A.; G. E. Freeman; Alex. Gair; A. Hunter, M.A.; J. Match, M.A.; J. B. Linnell; W. S. McTavish, M.A.; W. A. Che-son; W. McKinley; W. Burns, Agent of the College, Toronto; Revs. Prof. McCulloch, Toronto University; Dr. Gray, Orillia; Dr. Armstrong, Ottawa; Dr. Munro Fraser, Hamilton; Dr. Fletcher, Hamilton; J. Somerville, M.A., Owen Sound; R. N. Grant, Orillia; J. T. Johnson, York; R. H. Abraham, Burlington; D. C. Ramsay, London; W. Bennett, Peterboro; S. Cartwright, Kirkwall; A. E. Doherty, Carleton Place; J. McMillan, Wick; W. S. McTavish, St. George; J. S. Macleod, St. Catharines; J. A. C. Johnston, Beaverton; R. M. Carey, D. C. A. D. McDonald, Seaford; J. McKay, Agincourt; R. Pettigrew, M.A., Glenora; S. H. Eastman, Ottawa; J. W. Bell, Newmarket; D. M. Beattie, Gables; S. Young, Cliffton; A. Henderson, Hyde Park; Mr. Simpson, Binscath, N.W.T., and Messrs. W. Mortimer Clark; Prof. Loudon, Toronto University; W. H. Fraser, M.A., University College; Daniel Clark, M.D.; John Caven, M.D.; Andrew Jeffrey, Joseph Gibson, J. G. Hume, M.A., Geo. H. Robinson, M.A., etc., etc.

The exercises were begun with the singing of Psalm xlvii., after which the Principal read the Scripture, 2 Cor. iii., and Rev. Dr. Middlemiss led in prayer. The Principal, having intimated that he would reserve any remarks he had to make to a later stage in the proceedings, called upon Rev. Prof. MacLaren to deliver the opening lecture, who, on arising, was received with hearty applause. Dr. MacLaren's subject was THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH UNION.

He said: There has sprung up in many quarters an earnest feeling in favour of the reunion of Christendom. Thoughtful persons readily admit that the condition of the Christian world is by no means satisfactory. The numerous divisions in the visible Church, the frequent controversies and heart-burnings which occur among Christian people, and the small progress made in the evangelization of the world, indicate that, in some way, full justice has not been done to the Gospel system. It is not surprising, in the circumstances, that some have been led to turn to the organic union of the Churches of Christendom as a panacea for the evils which are seen to exist.

Thirty years ago, there was organized in England, an Association for the Promotion of the Unity of Christendom," by intercessory prayers. In 1864, some two years after this Association had been publicly condemned by the Roman Inquisition, it had 15,684 members, drawn chiefly from the Anglican, Roman and Oriental Churches, with a few from various Protestant communities. This society, which, I presume, still exists, embodies largely the aspirations of those who long for the visible union of the Anglican, Greek and Roman Catholic Churches, and then look, perhaps, for the absorption of smaller Christian bodies. There has been, also, in recent times, not only a happy breaking down of the prejudices with which the different evangelical Churches were wont to regard each other, but in many instances, where the bodies were closely allied, organic unions have been successfully accomplished.

A movement has, moreover, been recently initiated in Canada, looking towards the visible union of influential denominations which have long stood ecclesiastically apart. The distinguished prelate who recently preached before the Twentieth Session of the Dominion Synod of the Anglican Church, in Montreal, declared his conviction that many great questions coming before the body, ranked in importance with that of the reunion of Christendom." In his sermon, the preacher has homed words, both for Roman Catholics, and for those who he scarcely knows how to classify, whether as "organized dissent," or as "non-conformity;" and he evidently longs and prays for a union comprehensive enough to include Rome and Canterbury, Moscow and Geneva, not to mention other ecclesiastical centers less known to fame.

There is much in these movements and utterances, in which earnest Christians may rejoice. They seem to indicate that the Divine Teacher is leading good men to feel after truer views of the unity of the Church, and to cherish feelings towards their fellow Christians, in other sections of the Church, which can scarcely fail to bear good fruit. It is, at the same time, clear that in many quarters, there mingle with these movements for the reunion of Christendom, confused and erroneous views of the Church and its unity, which we should avoid.

This topic not only concerns us as a school of the weighty practical interests which commend it to the consideration of all Christians, but it has theological bearings which naturally invite attention in a School of Divinity. The unity which we predicate of anything depends on the nature of the thing of which it is predicated. Whether we ascribe unity to a watch, a tree, an animal or a society, the unity in each case corresponds to the nature of the thing of which it is predicated. Our idea of the Church will necessarily determine our view of its unity, and will modify our conception of the importance of a corporate union and of the extent to which it is attainable. Our Lord declares to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. xvi. 18. This statement distinctly involves the unity and the perpetuity of the Church. But the question at once arises, what is that