

PIANOS AND ORGANS.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED HOUSE IN CANADA.

We are the sole and exclusive agents for the following celebrated Pianos:—
CHICKERING & SONS, ESTEY & SONS, DUNHAM & SONS, HAINES BROS.
 And for Organs:—
NASON & HAMLIN Organ Co., Boston, GEO. A. PRINCE & Co., of Buffalo, N.Y.

We also keep in stock a large assortment of Pianos by other well-known makers, which we offer at lower rates than any other house in the Dominion.
 Second-hand Pianos from Fifty Dollars upwards.
 Road for circulars, price-list, terms, etc., before purchasing elsewhere.

A. & S. NORDHEIMER,
 "King St. East, Toronto, and 25 Sparks St., Ottawa.

Any irregularity in the receipt of the PRESBYTERIAN will be immediately rectified on notice being sent by Postal Card or otherwise.

Single insertion (or less than one month) 10c. per o (nonpareil) each insertion.

Special rates for quarterly, half-yearly and yearly advertisements.

No double columns cuts 25 percent. extra, special in reading matter 15 cents per line each insertion.
 Office, No. 122 Bay Street, (Late Telegraph building).

British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1878.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The civil war raging in Spain is being carried on by the Carlists with more, if possible, than their traditional brutality and blood-thirstiness. These are the sworn soldiers of the church and are professedly doing battle in the highest of causes. Alas for the cause that has such champions. In their successes, cold-blooded murder has been the least of the outrages that have marked the progress of the Ultramontanists in the Peninsula.

The Modocs in their lava beds are giving their neighbour a good deal of trouble. It is only what we expected when we find a large number of the most respectable organs of public opinion on the other side denouncing in strong terms the incessant cry that has been raised for the extermination of the native tribes. The policy of fair play and honest, upright treatment has had as yet but a very short trial in the U. S. A large and influential section of the community is, however, determined that it shall be carried through. Had it been in force for the last fifty years the Indians at the present day would have given Uncle Sam very little trouble.

The political struggle at Ottawa still goes on. We have been very backward to believe that any of our public men could be guilty of the conduct charged against the Ministry by Mr. Huntington, but the manner in which, at every turn, obstacles have been put in the way of a full and immediate investigation, by those whose conduct is arraigned, completely staggers us. Consciously innocent men would be eager for every particular being most rigidly sifted, and that at the earliest possible day. They would say "Essey, look in, we care not, and publish, tell, we care not." We do not say that the conclusion is to be drawn that from this continued effort at delaying the accused in this case are to be regarded as guilty, but we must acknowledge it gives the whole thing an unpleasant appearance, and will make many suspect who never suspected before.

The struggle between the German Empire and the Ultramontanists still goes on. Bismarck, with the overwhelming majority of his countrymen at his back, has come to the conclusion that Ultramontanism is not so much a religion as a conspiracy against all free State action and national independence, and that either it or the German Empire must go to the wall. So far the balance of success has been with the "terrible Major." This next move may, perhaps, be looked upon as quite as questionable as his expulsion of the Jesuits; but he is apparently determined to put it through. All persons educated for the Roman priesthood in Germany, and proposing to exercise that ministry in that country, must henceforth pass through a full course of literary and scientific training at one of the German Universities. Bismarck is determined that those who go to other countries to receive an education that has a direct tendency to alienate them in feeling from the great mass of their countrymen, and make them hostile to the institutions of Fatherland, shall not be permitted to act as spies and enemies under the guise of religious instructors, in the dominions of the German Kaiser. We fear that this is carrying matters too far, and that it looks mightily like persecution. To be sure, those priests are State stipendiaries, and the State may claim to have a right to say on what terms it will continue to pay the salaries of so-called religious instructors. The only proper course, however, for Governments, is to cease paying such stipends altogether, and allowing only free churches in free lands. If Roman Catholic priests plot against the State let

them be punished, but it is rather hard to tolerate them and at the same time say that they shall not receive that kind of education which they regard as alone worth having. It is, however, very significant that all kinds of Governments, absolute and republican, heathen and christian, have apparently been forced to the conclusion that the presence of Jesuit priests among their people is always incompatible with political quiet and national independence. From their very nature, apparently, these stirring Fathers will always be meddling with things that do not belong to them, and it is little wonder, therefore if they have often got their fingers burned.

KNOX COLLEGE.

The subscriptions for re-building Knox College still come with gratifying liberality and promptitude. The people generally recognize the need of such a building and give willingly and cheerfully. Of course, as always will be the case, there are a few who do not see their way to lending any assistance, but these are very few and perhaps they will come in by and bye.

Professors Caven and Gregg are going into the work with a great amount of energy and the people meet them in a similar spirit. Upwards of \$20,000 have been subscribed in Toronto, and another five or six thousand are still expected in the city. In Guolph upwards of \$2,000 have been subscribed, and in Galt more than \$1,500. It is fully expected that each of these towns will raise at least \$3,000.

During this week the Professors have been at work in London and its neighborhood. We have not heard with what success, but we are quite confident that the liberal friends in the West will not be behindhand. The deputation comes to Hamilton tomorrow, where they will conduct divine service in the Presbyterian churches on Sabbath, and make a thorough canvass of the city and neighborhood on the following days. The Presbyterian element in Hamilton is very strong and we have no doubt but the members and adherents of the church in that city will show their characteristic liberality on behalf of a cause which is so intimately connected with the future progress of the whole church. We are not informed of the course to be pursued by the Professors after having finished with Hamilton. All the congregations will as far as practicable, we presume, be visited, and our own conviction is that a large sum will be derived from strictly rural churches. Some of them have a large amount of wealth, and we are convinced, the will to part with it as well.

A new site—one of the best in Toronto—has been purchased provisionally; and if this be sanctioned by the General Assembly, the present building can be used till the new one is ready, and be then sold for a handsome sum, as the site is very valuable.

Ministers and Churches.

The Rev. Dr. Waters, of St. Mary's, has, we are glad to say, seen fit to decline the call to Brooklyn, and remains at St. Mary's.

The Congregation of McNab Street, Hamilton, held an anniversary soiree on the evening of the 2nd inst., to celebrate the completion of the first year of the Rev. Mr. Fletcher's pastorate among them. The attendance, though respectable, was not so large as it would have been had the night been favorable. The Rev. Messrs. Inglis, of Toronto, and Grant, of Ingersoll, with the resident Presbyterian Ministers, and Rev. Mr. Hunter, W. M., were present, and took part in the proceedings of the meeting, which was a very agreeable one. Mr. Fletcher's first year in McNab Street Church has been an exceedingly prosperous and pleasant one,—a happy augury, we trust, of very many more of which the same thing shall have to be said with ever deepening emphasis.

The Rev. Mr. Fenwick, of Metis, makes periodical tours along the line of the Intercolonial for the purpose of preaching to Protestants and others who may be engaged in constructing the railway. We are obliged to him for notes of his last journey, of which we make the following outline: The first place visited was Rimouski, 30 miles from Metis. Two services were held there, but the attendance was small, as the railway was newly finished, and there are scarcely any resident Protestants. The next place was Cansapscu, about 60 miles from Metis in the direction of New Brunswick. The snow was very deep, and the difficulties of travel considerable. The most of the journey was along the Metropedia road, which is described as excellent. There, as everywhere, the evils of shanty taverns, with nothing to dispose of but whiskey, were very manifest. In all that distance of 60 miles, to all appearance, the population is very sparse, and Mr. Fenwick's opportunities of preaching were but few. In due time he arrived at Canapscu, where service was held, as well as at another place on his return journey.

Book Notices.

GOLDEN HOURS.—This excellent little magazine for boys and girls is deservedly popular. Such literature for the young cannot fail to inspire a thirst for knowledge and stimulate a taste for reading.

THE LADIES' REPOSITORY.—This "Home Magazine" is very different in many respects from the periodicals usually published for ladies. It is a safe book for the household, and we cordially commend it to our readers.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.—The literature in *Scribner's* is healthy, and the prominence given to social and moral questions is a distinguishing feature of this excellent periodical. Dr. Holland invariably handles the "Topics of the Time" vigorously and fearlessly; and in the current number he discusses and condemns the plea for suicide recently advanced by Prof. Newman. We quote the closing paragraph in another column. "The Insanity of Cain" is a clever satire on American criminal justice.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.—The May number of *Harper's* opens with an exceedingly interesting article entitled "Life under the Ocean Wave," in which submarine mysteries are described in a very popular and attractive manner. The illustrations to this article are unusually good. Vienna, at present crowded with visitors from all parts of the world to see the "Great Exposition," affords the subject for an *apropos* article which will be eagerly read by those who are forced to remain at home. The editorial departments are, as usual, full of instructive and entertaining matter.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY.—The *Monthly* for May opens with articles on "Our New Provinces," British Columbia and Manitoba, the latter of which is written by Professor Bryce, of the Presbyterian College, Winnipeg. The articles contain much useful and interesting information, and will make readers of the *Monthly* better acquainted with those distant provinces. Prof. Goldwin Smith replies to an attack in the *Contemporary Review*, carried forth by his recent lecture on "The Labour Movement"; and in "Current Events" the Editor discusses, independently and vigorously, the most notable questions of Canadian and general politics.

Contributors and Correspondents.

WEAK CONGREGATIONS.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR,—I have long hoped that some step would be taken more directly by our church so as that the strong would assist the weak. I know from experience that our church is losing every year by our present system. If our church had adopted the plan that the Free Church did in Scotland, I think we would have been much larger to-day. To show this I will give you a case well known to me. Seventeen years ago, there was a few of our people settled in Osprey. They sent a petition to the Presbytery of Toronto, then in connection with the Free Church, asking supplies, and stating what they were able to give. Mr. N. McKinnon was sent three Sabbaths. The next few summers they were supplied by students from Knox College. After that Mr. Greenfield had charge of the field. He gave it up and it was again supplied from Knox College by students. These supplies were only for the summer. Then we got Mr. Knowles and he was there five years, but on account of frost and removals, and building churches and a manse, they were not able to keep him. He left them heavy in debt and very few in numbers. A few of them are paying their seat rents as regular as when they had their minister, to try and get out of debt. But now being without preaching they are getting smaller. There is something wrong in our church. The Methodists have their Ministers in that very field, keeping stations even where they have in some instances only two or three members in a station, and none in that township have paid more for their ability, than some of our people. If Osprey is a sample of our church's new fields I do not wonder that we do not stand higher in the census than we do. I admired your article on how to raise the Missionary income. If it was known—the struggle that this people has in striving to maintain the means of grace, and often could not raise their bread, and how they are now left to sink under a load of debt that they are not able to pay in their present circumstances, some would help them. If the weak congregations in Scotland had been left in this way the Free Church would have been very small indeed.

Hoping that there are better days coming I remain,

A PRESBYTERIAN.

[We do not know the circumstances of Osprey, but as there is no offensive reference to individuals in the above, we give it publicity on our well-known plan. The evil complained of is evident, but how to provide a remedy? That is the question.—Ed. B. A. P.]

UNION.—No. 4.

THE ADVANTAGES OF UNION.

4 Another advantage resulting from the Union would be that it would advance the cause of God and earnest Christianity, as it would promote the efficiency and influence of the Presbyterian Church at home and abroad. In 1825 there were not more than 20 Presbyterian Ministers in all Canada. In 1880 the Presbyterians were reported as 80,000 with one 80 or 82 Ministers; 14 of them in Lower Canada. In 1885 there were about 20 ministers of the Church of Scotland in Canada, 15 of the United Synod, and a few others, perhaps about 40 in all. In 1861 the Presbyterians had increased to over 800,000, that is about 1,200 per cent. in 30 years. In 1873 the Ministers of the Canada Presbyterian Church—viz. Ministers on the roll and probationers, number about 350, and the Synod of Canada 150, besides some 10 others, 510; Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, 127; Church of Scotland in do, 40; other Presbyterian ministers in do, 18—180 in the Lower Provinces, making in all nearly 700 Presbyterian ministers and 545,000 people in the Dominion, being an increase of 1860 per cent in 43 years. And all of these, save 18 ministers, belong to the churches negotiating for Union.

As was to be expected, the ratio of increase was greater during the early portion of our history than of late, though the actual increase has continued to rise. Our increase has also been much greater than that of some other churches. In 1835 there were 40 clergy of the Episcopal Church in Lower Canada, and the bishop of Quebec; and 43 in Upper Canada with two Archdeacons, that is about twice the number of Presbyterian Ministers. There are now 483 Episcopal Ministers, 383 in Ontario, and 150 in Quebec. If all the Presbyterian Churches were united we would have nearly 700 ministers under one General Assembly. Yes, we might ere long expect to have a General Assembly as large as the Church of Scotland before the disruption, as a great increase of ministers is needed to keep pace with the rapid increase of our people. We may and do hope that the time is not far distant when the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of B. N. America will meet in turn at Halifax, N. S., St. John, N. B., Quebec, Montreal and Toronto.

It is indisputable, other things being equal, that a strong church has far more power for good than a small, weak church. Our united resources would be under more efficient control, and our leading minds be called to positions of wider influence, and as the result of this their own resources would greatly increase, as our people would have more confidence in the management of a large and influential body. We would then have more power to advance the cause of Christ, and of Scriptural Christianity at home and abroad.

5. This Union would promote the interests of good order, liberty and progress in Canada. Presbyterianism has done much in this respect for every country where it prevails. It has contributed largely to the steady, industrious, orderly, law-abiding, and liberty-loving character of the people of Holland, Scotland, Ulster, and of the Presbyterians of France, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary, the United States of America, and the British Colonies. Presbyterianism secures and combines liberty and order in a very high degree. It presents in its own government the model for the *Representative system*, which secures justice to all classes, as every man is tried by his peers, and also by a body of impartial judges. It is opposed both to despotism and lawless democracy. The stronger we can make such a system the better for any country. The people of Scotland owe nearly all their greatness and influence among the nations to the Presbyterian Church. It is since the Reformation they have become distinguished, in consequence of the efforts of John Knox and the Presbyterian ministers to promote the education of the masses, and the general elevation of the people. This enlightened and patriotic spirit, combined with sound doctrinal teaching has been the chief source of Scotland's noble position among the nations of the earth. It is not the great ability of a few, but the general intelligence and moral elevation of the masses that give a high character to any nation. Let us then endeavour to do for the Dominion of Canada what Presbyterianism has done for Scotland, Ulster and other lands. This we can only accomplish by uniting all our forces and resources. We never can take the high position which it is our duty to seek while divided into comparatively small and weak bodies. This is also the opinion of some of the leading minds of the country, not especially interested in this matter. A large body has more influence and attractive power. A minister at a late Anti-Union meeting in Toronto argued against Union because it would be used for political purposes. It is strange, indeed, to hear such language from a Presbyterian minister. Above all churches, the Presbyterian avoids interfering in party politics—her people being found in connection with both parties. Does any Presbyterian minister

fear that the influence of his church will not ever be on the side of good order, liberty, justice and the rights of all classes? Why then speak against the Union on such a ground as this? We fear the interests of Presbyterianism are not understood by such persons, or are overborne by other considerations.

6. Union promotes a *Missionary spirit*. This has been evidenced in connection with the several Unions that have taken place. One of the first results of the Union of the Synod of Ulster with the Secession Synod was a greatly increased missionary spirit in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, which led at once to their sending forth several missionaries to India, (where the Irish General Assembly has now a good staff of Missionaries), and to the Jews in Europe and Asia; though Foreign Missions had not previously received much attention from either branch of that church. They also took a far deeper interest in the welfare of their own people who had gone forth to the various British Colonies, where a goodly number of their ministers are now labouring successfully—especially in Australia. Indeed from the time of the Union (1840) may be dated their active efforts as a church on behalf of other lands. In like manner the missionary spirit received a great impetus in Scotland from the union of the Associate Synod with the Relief in the present U. P. Church of Scotland. A noble work has been done by that church in Jamaica, West, and South Africa, India, and lately in Italy and Spain—which shows that their Union has also greatly promoted the missionary spirit among both ministers and people.

The Union so happily effected between the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the U. P. Church of Canada, is so recent (1861) that it is perhaps too soon to warrant any general deduction from its brief history. Yet, on the whole, it has already borne good fruit and fair to look upon, especially in the way of preventing disputes among the members of the respective Synods and a general spirit of harmony and co-operation, among both ministers and people, so much that it has been said by one of our leading ministers, that "no question could arise about which we would divide upon our old lines."

Since the Union we have made great progress—measuring and mapping the ground for future operations—placing here a pin and there a stake. Yet without there has been increased attention given to the subject of Missions Home and Foreign, as one may know who has given sufficient attention to the topics that obtained greatest prominence in the meetings of the higher church court for the last few years. More has lately been done to adjust plans for future operations than for many years before; and I doubt not increasing attention will be given to this matter of paramount importance to the welfare of any church, and a deeper interest will be taken in mission work from year to year. The Union which we now seek to accomplish would enable the Presbyterian Church of the Dominion to give her united energies to this grand and primary duty of the Church of Christ. This is not the place to discuss the mode of carrying on the work of Home Missions, whether by a Central Committee or by Presbyteries. The adjustment of all such matters may be safely left to the wisdom of the General Assembly of the United Churches. We are strongly of opinion that these extensive operations could be more efficiently managed by a Secretary and a Central Committee or Board, after the plan of the General Assembly in the United States, and the Wesleyan Church in Canada, who could collect correct and definite information respecting all portions of the field, and allocate labourers according to the importance and necessities of each district. We conclude from the experiences of other churches, and from the nature of things, that an increased missionary spirit and increased resources would result from the union contemplated, and that the destitute places of our land would be better supplied with the means of grace, and thus the interests of Presbyterianism would be greatly promoted.

Were all branches of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion of Canada united under one General Assembly we might hope soon to witness far greater efforts put forth to supply the whole of British America with Presbyterian missionaries or pastors, and the wilderness be made to blossom as the rose.

UNION.

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR,—The Presbyterians in Carlow, finding the Schoolhouses in which their services are conducted altogether too small to accommodate the congregation, have resolved to erect a new church. At a meeting held on the 7th of April, they appointed a building committee, with instructions to prepare the material for the church during the summer and coming winter, and to erect and finish it the next summer.

Although the land is excellent, and the people very comfortable, yet they are not sufficiently wealthy to finish the church they are going to erect, and intend through the Students' Missionary Society under whose control they are at present, to solicit assistance from their more privileged and wealthier brethren, which they hope and pray will be gladly lent.

Yours truly,