

British American Presbyterian.

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TO CONTRIBUTORS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

We invite the active co-operation of friends in every section of the Dominion, in order to secure a large circulation for the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN; and to promote the interests of the paper by furnishing early intelligence of Church, Missionary and Presbyterian news suitable for our columns.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Table with columns for Space, 3 Mo's, 6 Mo's, 1 Year. Rows include One column, Half column, Quarter column, One-sixth column, One-eighth column, One-sixteenth column, 15 lines or 1 inch, 8 to 6 lines, 4 to 2 lines, 4 lines and under.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1872.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

A little more life has been displayed in our Parliament during the past week, and there has been greater appearance of the business of the session being actually set about.

The measure for ratifying the Washington Treaty has been at last introduced by Sir John A. Macdonald, in a long and very plausible speech, which occupied between four and five hours in delivery.

The nomination by the Cincinnati Convention of Horace Greeley for President was not anticipated, but is regarded by many as quite as good as could have been made.

as it was hoped, though perhaps groundlessly, the nomination of Adams would have done. The result in all likelihood will be the nomination of three candidates and the election of Grant for a second term.

Nothing of much importance has transpired during the week in Europe. The Gladstone Ministry has suffered no more defeats, though evidently its prestige and power have been sensibly lowered.

The most important news from the other side of the Atlantic during the week has been about Dr. Livingstone, who is said to be all safe and about to return to England with Mr. Stanley, the Commissioner of the New York Herald.

The three Provincial Synods of Hamilton, London, and Montreal, in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church, have had meetings during the present week, but no business of any importance was transacted.

The question of Union with the "Kirk" and the Church of the Lower Provinces is still being discussed in the sessions and congregations of the C. P. Church, and generally, though not always, the result is favourable.

The "Kirk" Synod meets in Kingston on the fifth of June; the Canada Presbyterian Church in Hamilton about the same time. It is peculiarly desirable that there should be a full attendance of Elders at both meetings.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States meets this year in Detroit, in the course of next week. We have no doubt that a large number of Canadians will avail themselves of the opportunity of attending this meeting of the Supreme Court of the largest Presbyterian body in the world.

The question of Union among the various branches of the Methodist body in Canada is being discussed with a good deal of interest, but we doubt if with any present practical result.

In Ireland it is to be noted that the first popular election of a Bishop has taken place in the lately enfranchised Protestant Episcopal Church of that country, and with great satisfaction to all concerned.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Already in the course of our short connection with the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, we have been under great obligations to our correspondents. They have supplied valuable contributions; cheered us with words of kind encouragement; thrown out very useful hints; and pointed out in a very friendly spirit some of the more evident defects of our publication.

We thank them all heartily for their good word, kind words and friendly wishes, and hope to hear from them often, and from many others who have not yet favored us with any communication. We shall not promise to publish every thing we receive. That might in some cases not be fair to our readers nor kind to some of our correspondents themselves.

Our excellent correspondent from Elmira, Ill. will have noticed that he has been anticipated by our beginning a course of Sabbath School lessons before receiving his of the 24th of April, so that it will not be in our power to avail ourselves of his kind offer, for which we

are very much obliged. Such a publication as he contemplates would, we have no doubt, be very useful, and we hope, when he puts it out in a separate form, it will have a wide circulation.

J. D.—Thanks for your facts, which we shall be happy to use when occasion offers.

We are very much obliged to our esteemed friend "OBSERVER" for his zealous defence of us against what he regards as the hard words of LIBERALS. We think he rather misapprehends the drift of the communication to which he refers, which struck us as acknowledging that there was a good deal of force in what "Justitia" had advanced.

"A FATHER" writes us to say that a son of his, a lad of fourteen or fifteen, when reading the PRESBYTERIAN last week, put in the remark "Why don't writers in Presbyterian newspapers and ministers in Presbyterian churches explain to us young people all about Presbyterianism, as the Roman Catholics and Baptists and Congregationalists do to their young folk?"

These questions which are now presenting themselves for solution to our brethren of the Methodist Church, are not questions which other churches can afford to disregard. They will inevitably push themselves into other communion, and the other ecclesiastical courts. The question as to the African, Presbyterians have already settled. Numbers of coloured men are now Presbyters in our Church, and are, as we believe, scriptural Bishops, by virtue of their own official designation as pastors of particular Churches.

Whether the women of the Presbyterian Church will ever invoke the General Assembly to open the way for them into the ministry, is, of course, possible, but we believe extremely improbable. Opposed to such a movement are all the traditions of the past, the usage of the Church, which is its common law, the unequivocal deliverances of the General Assembly, and in the judgment of a vast majority of her ministers and people, the declaration of the word of God.

People talk of originality. What do they mean? As soon as we are born the surrounding world begins to operate upon us, and so on to the end; and after all, what can we truly call our own but energy, power, and will? Could I point out all I owe to my great forerunners and contemporaries, truly there would remain but little over.—Guth.

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS.

The next General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which is to meet in Brooklyn in the month of May, will be constrained to face some questions which will require skillful guidance in the leaders of that body.

1. The bench of Bishops must receive six or eight additions. Death and disease have reduced the number of effective workers among the Bishops to three or four, and the ranks of the Superintendents must be recruited. But in the forebodings of this important election, the inevitable African makes his appearance. A black Bishop—one at least, if not more—is the demand made by some of the radical leaders in the Methodist body.

2. The advanced woman of the Methodist connection propose a movement in force upon the next General Conference, their purpose being to open the door to the pulpit that they may go in thereat. A Conference of women who desire entrance into the ministry has just been held in St. Louis, as the papers inform us, and a memorial addressed to the General Conference has been adopted.

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ARCHBISHOP DENISON ON THE CRISIS IN THE CHURCH.

The Ven. Archbishop Denison, at a visitation at Taunton, delivered a charge to the clergy. He said:—A time of transition is generally a time of delusion. Those who have grown up under a system which is passing away, do not readily incline to belief that it is passing away, and shut their eyes to the evidence of accumulated and accumulating experience. It is thus that men cling to the belief that the old relations of Church to State here in England are not passing away, notwithstanding that they are passing away, is not a matter of opinion, but of fact.

WELLS OF SALVATION.

Even in our own favoured country, where streams of water are so abundant, we know what a prize it is to have a good, unfailing well of cold water at our very door. What must it have been then to the Orientals, who lived in sparsely watered lands, where, perhaps, in a range of fifty miles there would be but one available well?

Such a well is the Bible. A deep unfailing well, with waters for refreshing and cleansing. It is a deep well, and we must labour to draw the water. But the toil sweetens the joy of tasting, and the reward is ample. We are always well paid for searching the Scriptures. Careless reading will do us little good.

It is an exhaustless well, as thousands have proved. Professor Wood said that upon entering on his duties he feared that going over the same Scriptures so often, his interest in them would abate. But after fifty years of close study it was his experience that with each class his interest increased.

There is no source of earthly joy so great as drawing water from this well of salvation. It is said that no physical suffering is so great as that of perishing with thirst, and no enjoyment of sense so great as that of drinking when so distressed. So it is with the fainting perishing soul, which really longs for God's help. Here he finds something for all his needs. Can we imagine a person in such a condition that there would be no verse of Scripture adapted to his case?

The Bible, of all others, is the invalid's book. Every thing in his case makes it peculiarly suited to his wants. And though laid aside from many other sources of improvement, his soul may grow fat on such heavenly manna. I have reason to bless God," said Dr. Wayland, in a time of illness, "for setting me aside, on a side bench at school alone to read his word, and call upon his name. I have read the Bible more than ever. I did in the same time, and at every new reading I have found more to love and admire."—S. S. Times.