

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

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OFFICE—NO. 5 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1879.

IN the absence from the country, for a few months, of the Rev. Mr. King, persons having to correspond in any matters connected with the supply of mission stations and vacancies in the Toronto Presbytery will address their letters to the Rev. J. M. Cameron, who will attend to this business in Mr. King's absence.

THE INEBRIATES' BILL.

THE British Parliament has just passed an important measure in relation to drunkards. The object of this legislation is to put it in the power of the slaves of strong drink to go into voluntary imprisonment for a certain period. Once the inebriate incarcerates himself by his own act, he cannot get out of confinement till the period fixed upon has expired. He is then treated as a prisoner. He places himself in the hands of others to be dealt with according to the powers contained in this new parliamentary instrument.

Such legislation as this makes a wonderful change in public sentiment upon this subject. It is all the more striking that it has passed the House of Lords. Up to the present moment we are sure such a limitation of the freedom of John Bull would never have been dreamed of. But the thing is now done. It is an accomplished fact, and it is the beginning of the end. It promises more and more legislation of this kind. It means that restrictions will yet be placed upon the terrible vice of drunkenness. It has in it the very kernel and central principle of prohibition. The next step is coming even in Britain of giving to a community the right of saying whether it will allow the sale of intoxicants or not.

There is great promise of relief in this measure for many a miserable drunkard. There will, of course, be many who will go on recklessly in their maddening course, and who would scout the idea of going into voluntary restraint to escape if possible from a terrible doom. But there are many others who are anxious for such restrictions being laid upon them. At the present moment their whole being is demoralized. They have no power to will. They are the slaves of dire appetite. They are the victims of social cus-

toms. They are held in a vice-grip from which there is no escape. Many such, we are certain, would rejoice in anything that would hold out even a faint prospect of relief. There may not be a great number at first. But years will tell. As one and another is saved from the fearful habit of intemperance it will encourage others to go and do likewise.

The measure is evidently intended to deal with intemperance amongst the better class. The working man who has a wife and family to support could not take advantage of this law. It would be better if he could, of course; but it would require another measure to provide for his family. There will, however, be great gain in this reform beginning with the well-to-do classes. It will spread to other classes. It may prepare the way for still more searching legislation upon a confessedly difficult subject. It gives us pleasure to learn that this measure has passed the British Parliament, and it encourages every one to look for still better things.

GRANT AND THE CHINESE.

AN instance of the good sense of ex-President Grant occurred the other day. A communication was addressed to him by the Chinese authorities in regard to the treatment of their fellow-countrymen in America. While it is clear that neither the ex-President nor the Chinese knew anything about the bill, to which reference was being made, having been vetoed by Mr. Hayes, it shows the interest taken abroad in such subjects, and that of the leading men of the Celestials in the well-being and well-doing of those emigrating from their shores. It makes us pause and ask ourselves the question, supposing the noxious measure had not been vetoed by the President, what effect would this have had upon the Chinese? It could not have had less than the result of a destroyed confidence in a so-called Christian country. The next step would have been one of alienation, and for this a great injury would have been done to the commerce of the two countries. This lesson should not be forgotten. Whatever legislation we try to secure in our own interests, we should remember it has bearings upon the nation with which we are dealing. Nor can we realize how much harm has already been done by the mention even of the idea of shutting out the Chinese from the industries of America.

The good sense of ex-President Grant comes to the surface. He states strongly that he is not in sympathy with those who are seeking to exclude Chinamen from American soil. With him there is the question of manhood suffrage that should rule in the case of the Chinese, and in every possible case of the people of another nation seeking to settle on this continent. This matter, we would have thought, was settled when the manumission of the negro slaves took place. That was a death blow to menial servitude in its every form. It was saying that this is a free country, which throws wide its arms to all comers, and bids welcome to labourers from every clime. Nor is ex-President Grant far wrong when he says he represents the feelings of his country in the position which he thus takes

up. The ordinary Congressman may not have any particular liking for the pig-tail. The bar-room legislator may talk slang at Cheap John. But the common sense of the United States is in favour of giving a free soil and equal privileges to all comers, whether from the land of the Moon or from that of the Sun.

Thus, between the ex-President and the President the question has had its quietus. There let it rest. The matter of labour is under such governing laws that it may be safely left to time to adjust its disturbances. The skilled mechanic cannot be injured. There is always room in the upper tier of workers, as Webster said. There is no crowding out with the best workmen and with our noblest citizens. We believe there is room for every honest man and every good woman. And no one need fear the encroachments of an industrious and well-governed people like the Chinese.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

THE 24th of May has come and gone, and the Canadian people have celebrated with their usual enthusiasm their sovereign's birthday. This is well. Taking her for all in all, our monarch is worthy of the confidence and affection of her subjects. It is now nearly forty-two years since, at the age of eighteen, she ascended the throne, and it would be a wonder, indeed, if, in all that time, she had not been thoroughly tested. She has been tested, and she has stood the test well. She has been a wise, judicious queen. Of course, the power of an English sovereign is very limited now-a-days. The wearer of the crown can do but little directly either for good or for evil. And yet there must always be a great deal of influence attached to the throne. And it is of greatest importance that that influence be turned in the right direction. Victoria's influence has been generally so turned. A woman of decided moral and religious character she is, and this has appeared throughout the history of her reign. What may be her views in matters of public policy and how far she may have been able to give effect to her views, it would be impossible to state distinctly now. It has been more than whispered that she approves of Beaconsfield's pinchbeck imperialism, and that she is largely responsible for what has been done in that way, but we cannot decide that. Whatever may be the truth on that head, however, we can still unite in expressions of true regard for our queen. Her reign has been on the whole a happy and prosperous one. The British empire at large has advanced in every respect. We hope that the day is far distant when we shall have to put on the sables of woe and to chronicle the accession of another to the throne. We say from the bottom of our editorial heart: "God save the Queen! Long live the Queen!"

A HERO GONE.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, the friend of the slave, died in New York, on Sunday last, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. His life was devoted to giv-