

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

— PUBLISHED BY THE —

Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Company
(C. BLACKETT ROBINSON).

AT 5 JORDAN STREET, - TORONTO.

TERMS: \$2 per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISING TERMS:—Under 3 months, 10 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1 per line, 6 months, 1.50 per line, 1 year \$2.50. No advertisements charged at less than five lines. None other than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

SABBATH SCHOOL PAPERS

THE SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN, GOLDEN HOURS AND EARLY DAYS will be continued for 1885, greatly improved and at reduced prices. Illustrations of a very high character have been secured in England; the size of the type will be reduced in the case of the SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN; and no efforts will be spared to make all the papers more attractive and useful than ever before. The price of each has been reduced to \$10.00 per 100 copies for one year; \$5.00 for 50 copies; and \$4.00 for 40 copies. Special rates for smaller quantities. EARLY DAYS is published twice a month, and is a favourite paper for Infant Classes; the other two are monthly, and suited to more advanced scholars. In the SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN will be found, from time to time, interesting missionary matter from the Home and Foreign Fields. Send for specimen copies. Address THE PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., 5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Correspondents are particularly requested to be careful in addressing all correspondence to

THE PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.,
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
5 Jordan Street, Toronto.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1884.

THE son of a Scottish Manse, resident in New York, possessing a lengthened journalistic experience, writes "THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is simply the best two dollars' worth I have ever seen."

ATTENTION is directed to the thrilling narrative entitled "Kashiba's Story," appearing on another page. It is from the pen of a distinguished Canadian *litterateur*, whose contributions grace the pages of the leading magazines of the day.

THE folly of the prohibitionists who persisted in running a prohibition ticket at the presidential elections is now bearing its legitimate fruit. Seventeen cities of Massachusetts held their municipal elections a few days ago. Out of these seventeen, eight last year decided to have no license. This year only three so decided and in those three the liquor vote was greatly increased. A few days ago Ex-governor St John, the prohibitionist candidate, could scarcely get a hearing at the State Temperance Convention in Topeka, Kansas, and when heard the five minute rule was severely applied to him. A short time ago he was the most popular prohibitionist in the West. In Maryland the home of Mr. Daniels, prohibition candidate for the Vice-Presidency, six elections have lately been held in local option counties that formerly gave majorities for prohibition, and the temperance candidates were badly beaten in every one of them. Republicans blame the prohibitionists for defeating Blaine and they naturally take every opportunity to defeat them. All this comes from mixing prohibition with party politics. There is a lesson here for Canadians. The wonderful success of the Scott Act arises largely from the fact that the agitation has been kept aloof from politics. Tories and Liberals have united in favour of prohibition. Some of these days a few fanatics may combine and insist on running prohibition candidates at parliamentary elections. When that day comes, if it does come, the temperance cause in Canada will go back twenty years. Every attempt in that direction should be promptly stamped out. We should learn wisdom from the mistakes of our neighbours.

THE refusal of the people to allow the reporters to remain at a Congregational meeting, lately held in Toronto, has given rise to some discussion about the right

of the press to report such proceedings. Some innocent people seem to think the interest taken by the press in meetings of that kind is an innovation which has come in with American and Canadian sensational journalism. They seem to think newspapers never interfere with the church "in the old country." Those good souls can never have seen a copy of the *Edinburgh Scotsman*. In a file of that journal the names of the late Dr. Begg and of Dr. Rainy appear about as often as the names of Sir John and Mr. Blake appear in the *Globe* and *Mail*. In a recent issue of that journal there is an editorial article just a column in length sneering in the most contemptuous manner at one of the Greenock ministers because he said he had some difficulty in deciding between fields of labour offered him. It is broadly hinted that he kept the question before "a throne of grace" until some matters in one of the congregations should be settled. Few papers in this Dominion would have published that article even in the form of a letter, much less as an editorial. We question very much if there is one paper in the Dominion that would have published it in any form. In the same issue there is a report of an alleged "heresy hunt" in the Free Church in Leith, racy enough for a Chicago journal. Some of our dailies may be rather fond of sensational headings and they may have a weakness for giving undue prominence to the "spicy" part of a report, but they treat church matters on the whole in a good spirit. There is no venom in Canadian journals when they discuss church questions.

A READER of most of the Republican journals during the late presidential canvass would have come to no other conclusion, if he believed one half he read, than that Grover Cleveland was one of the worst men in the United States. Since his election several facts have come to light which prove that, notwithstanding his one sad lapse, the President elect has some of the noblest qualities of our fallen nature. His father, who was a Presbyterian minister in York State, died about thirty years ago, leaving a widow and nine children, four of whom were younger than Grover. Though then but seventeen years of age he obtained a situation as teacher and gave his earnings cheerfully for the support of his widowed mother and the younger children. So sensitive was he about her support that he refused to allow her to draw upon the widows' fund of the church, preferring to help her with his own scant earnings. During the years that he studied law he did all in his power to help her, and when he entered upon the practice of his profession and made money in abundance, he voluntarily denied himself many luxuries, and provided liberally for his aged mother and the younger members of the family. His eldest sister is the wife of a Presbyterian missionary in India. The stipend of her husband has been regularly supplemented for many years by this brother, and four of her children brought home and educated by him. Cleveland cannot be such a monster after all as the party journals tried to make him appear. There is a great offset to his sad lapse. But when would one hear anything from the politicians about this offset? And may it not be true that the public men of Canada about whom we read such hard things every day have a good many good qualities about which no one ever hears until they die?

THE Franchise Bill lately passed by the Gladstone Government gives the franchise to about two millions of voters. It would not be a surprise if these newly enfranchised electors turned the Grand Old Man out of office at the next general election. Such things do sometimes happen. The late George Brown had a solid answer for his opponents when they charged him with agitating for reforms to increase his popularity. It was that the man who fights for reforms and secures them never gets the popularity. This is sadly true of the Church as well as of the State. We could name at least one worthy minister who in years gone by brought no small amount of odium upon himself by advocating reforms in our Colleges and Home Mission. Centralization in Home Mission work and entrance examination by a board as well as by Presbyteries were not introduced without some opposition and a good deal of friction. The Church enjoys the advantages of both now and would never even dream of going back to the old systems. Many a minister suffers because he has been compelled by duty to do some unpleasant work in his congregation. He finds

perhaps that a change of organization or a change of men are necessary and the changes are made. The making of them, however, produces so much friction that the minister has to go. The useless men who lose office and the fossils who admire the old worn-out machinery that would not run are too much for him. A good easy man comes, who has no changes to make and he runs the new machinery without any friction. Everybody likes him. Three-fourths of his success arises from the efforts of his banished predecessor. Might not Christian men give a little credit to workers who are forced to do rough work? But they don't, more's the pity.

FEAR NOT; FOR BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS.

THOUGH the precise date of the birth of our Saviour may not now be definitely ascertained, and though a profitless discussion as to the exact chronology of the most important event in the annals of time may be continued, in almost every country under Heaven, those who bear the Christian name celebrate the twenty-fifth of December as one of the happiest days of the whole year. Throughout Europe and America, in far India, in the British possessions, at the Antipodes the people delight to observe the recognized natal day of the Founder of our holy religion.

Foreign missionaries in their distant homes feel the gladdening influences of the season. They recount the mercies they have experienced, they think lovingly of the dear ones in their native land, and look forward with renewed hope and faith for the coming of the day when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. In beleaguered Khar'oum the faithful and heroic Gordon and his followers, amid their anxieties and distractions, will have some time to think of the past, and their friends far away. Our fellow-countrymen on the Nile expedition will not forget the Canadian homes darkened by the loss of those who have perished in the waters of the ancient river.

It is a privilege that the busy wheels of industry cease for a day to revolve. The steady round, the ceaseless monotony of toil, prepares for the real enjoyment of the day that brings a brief respite to most people. Home on that day is peculiarly attractive. There may be piercing cold without, or the snowflakes quickly falling; but home has a sunshine and gladness of its own. It is diffusive. The aged inmates who have well nigh done with the interests and anxieties of earlier days, smile benignantly on the joyous faces of their grandchildren reflecting back their happiness. And the children! How artless and unaffected their delight as the gifts the morning brings them are gazed on with rapture for the twentieth time. Enjoy the day while you may before care sets its impress on your young hearts. Only when you are so glad yourselves, don't be too selfish in your joy. He whose birth in Bethlehem is celebrated loved the children as He loved all with a boundless love, lived and died to bless others.

The varied round of human life is neither all sunshine nor gloom. Many homes will be brightened with Christmastide mirth and gladness; there will also be many at this season of depression where gloom and despondency lie like a thick, dark cloud. To many at best the day will be cheerless. To think kindly of the downtrodden in the weary march of life is something; to impart some practical benefit is better. Even among the heathen generosity was a much lauded virtue; it is an essential characteristic of practical Christianity. Peace on earth and good will to men was a benison not for one brief day in the year, but for every day throughout all time.

Christmas day not only brings back to memory the melodious song of the angels which has continued in its immortal beauty, to echo down the ages it speaks to the inmost heart of all believers of the advance of that kingdom the Prince of Peace has founded. It is to the world a prophecy of that blessed time when angelic voices shall again take up the song of victory, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever."

To our readers we send the customary greetings of the season, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, none the less sincerely because it is a good old custom. May the peace of God rule in the hearts, and the love of God rest in the thousands of homes into which THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is an invited guest.