

British American Presbyterian,

102 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

FOR TERMS, ETC., SEE FIFTH PAGE

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON

Editor and Proprietor.

TO 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. Articles not accepted will be returned, if, at the time they are sent, a request is made to that effect, and sufficient postage stamps are enclosed. Manuscripts not accompanied will not be preserved, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

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MR. CHARLES NICOL, General Agent for the PRESBYTERIAN, is now in Western Ontario pushing the interests of this journal. We commend him to the best offices of ministers and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

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OUT FOR 1877.

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British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1877.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.

It is gratifying to learn from a variety of sources, that our Presbyterian congregations are becoming more and more alive to the value and influence of good music. In most of our churches choirs have been formed who are giving much heed to the science and art of music, or congregational practices have been organized in order to render the praise of God in public in a becoming manner. The musical portion of the service is no longer trusted in a mere haphazard way to the ignorant and incompetent. Accurate and skillful teachers of music are in demand, and the prospect is that, instead of such choirs and congregations meeting for the purpose of running over the tunes that are to be employed on the coming Sabbath, some degree of attention will now be given to the acquirement of a scientific knowledge of music. The plan hitherto adopted of getting up a momentary excitement and enthusiasm on the subject, which was destined as quickly to die away, is being discarded. We are taking hold of this matter by the right end, by carefully training the young and rising generation, and by making music a prominent feature of Sabbath school work. The change from spasmodic effort to system, is producing marvellous results, and we may reasonably entertain the expectation of our country becoming as musical as the German people, and of the service of song in the sanctuary attaining a position worthy of the noble end we have in view of worshipping God in sincerity and in truth.

It is remarkable the change of sentiment which has been produced in reference to this question. Time was when it was almost impossible to introduce new tunes, or to attempt improvement, on the ground of the danger of substituting forms for worship. It was thought that to sing in the coldest manner, and to strip the house of God of all ornament, was a sure way to secure true spirituality amongst the people. From this there was the natural reaction—the swinging of the pendulum to the opposite extreme—of introducing choirs composed of the highest musical talent, and whose members, being those who could command large prices in the oratorio and the concert, had consequently to be paid enormous sums by church managers. In the United States until very recently this method was carried to an absurd extreme. There were in very many of the churches hired quartettes, who

were engaged to do the singing in a professional manner. Two ladies and two gentlemen, dressed in the newest style, occupied a prominent place in the organ gallery. Their duty was to render the classical music for the delectation of fastidious ears. One would sing a solo, and the choruses would be rendered by the four voices in combination. The psalms and hymns which followed were in comparison with the opening voluntaries, sung in a common place manner, the congregation perfunctorily listening to the performance while it was going on. In some cases we allow, such as the Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, congregational singing is happily allied with that of the professionals, and then of course the effect is grand, startling, and impressive. But generally speaking the people stood up to listen and not to sing, and the performance became positively nauseous to those who had been brought up to another way of thinking. So complete a line of demarcation was drawn between the musical part of the service, and the devotional and expository, that it was no uncommon thing for the swellish quartette to leave their place during the latter, and we have it on the best authority that the choir has been known to retire during the sermon to the lecture room. Such a state of matters is only evil, and that as long as it continues, and the wonder is that it is still tolerated in some of churches of such cities as New York and Brooklyn. When we are told that in some of these the music costs from three to six and eight thousand dollars a year, we are tempted to think that the minister in such a case must occupy only a secondary position. In these circumstances, it is by no means certain that the minister is very popular, because his pews are all let and the aisles are crowded, seeing that the multitude are attracted by the music and the spectacular show.

There is a better way than this, and it is shown to be so from a number of the churches in the States having dismissed their quartettes, and returned to the simple plan of having a precenter, and generally an organist where an instrument is used. What is wanted, is that all the people praise the Lord. The late venerable Dr. Muir of St. James, Glasgow, on one occasion exchanged pulpits with the minister of St. Enoch's, where there was a very artistic choir who kept all the music to themselves. Dr. Muir gave out the hundredth Psalm. It was sung by the choir, not one of the congregation joining. The minister then rose and said, we have heard the choir, let us now all join together in worshipping God by singing the hundredth Psalm. The doctor led himself, and never before was heard such singing by the aristocratic congregation. Let us have congregational singing by all means, and in order to have this, let those who can sing use their voices. No matter though the singing be not of the best, let us have volume. Instructors can do something with too much sound, but what can they do, if there is not a cheer in the entire building. You cannot regulate silence, but you can control volume towards a specific end. But conductors should be careful as to the tunes they employ, and as to the manner of rendering the music. We have seen a whole congregation who were accustomed to sing heartily, completely paralyzed because the precenter started them on something totally strange and unfamiliar. On the other hand, a congregation well able to sing have been stopped by the leader introducing new-fangled ideas into the ordinary tunes. What a noble legacy of tunes, and psalms, and spiritual songs we have, and it should be the aim and endeavor of every congregation to have the singing rendered heartily and yet tastefully as an offering of praise to the Lord.

CONVENT SCHOOLS.

This is the age of liberalism in religious matters. "Sectarianism" is condemned by popular writers of every shade. The Romish hierarchy, ever the same as of old, ever unchanging in spirit and aim, but most pliable and accommodating in the matter of ways and means, and always watchful to expose the buckets of their own mill-wheel to the current of popular thought, are not slow to avail themselves of this tendency. They preach liberalism, but it is to Protestants that they preach it. The very same spirit which they pretend to admire so much in outsiders, they utterly condemn and endeavor to crush within their own pale. Witness the difference—the apparent opposition—between the utterances of Bishop Bourget in Montreal and those of Archbishop Lynch in Toronto. The opposition is only apparent—not real. These two men had the same object in view; but one was speaking to Roman Catholics while the other addressed himself to Protestants. They all wish Protestants to be as liberal and tolerant as possible; as they all desire to have Roman Catholics as sectarian as the terrors of superstition can make them. One grand object of this double-dealing is to induce Protestants to send their children to the "Convent Schools"—loudly asserting that

their sole object is to give them a good education, and impudently denying any intention of interfering with their religion. These institutions are now becoming pretty numerous on this continent; and many Protestant parents, in their anxiety to provide what they are led to consider the highest possible education for their children, are, perhaps with some misgivings, induced to send them—especially their daughters—to these places. That the pseudo-guarantee of non-interference with the religion of the pupils is utterly worthless and never was intended to be acted upon, has been proved over and over again, by the unerring logic of events. A good many people are aware—the priests know it—that the mind of the pupil is exceedingly liable to be perverted through contact with the mind of the teacher, even without any intention of proselytizing on the part of the latter. But when this natural process fails, and the conversion of the pupil would be of any special advantage to the church, the priests are quite prepared to employ means of a more aggressive character. The following paragraph gives an account of the latest example of this sort by tyranny; and we just place it before our readers without further comment:—

"It seems that Miss Mary Jackson, a young girl of eighteen, was placed in the convent of Auteuil, near Paris, a year ago by her step mother, who was a Roman Catholic, and was about to go to Hayti, her native place. The young girl was heir to a considerable fortune, which, if she died before she reached twenty-three years of age, would pass to the step-mother. She had been baptized in the Roman Catholic faith, but had lived since infancy with her uncle and aunt, who were Protestant, and regularly attended the Protestant services. But scarcely had she been left alone in the convent before the nuns and the Mother-General, as Monsignor Capel calls the principal, attempted her conversion. She repelled all their efforts. They proceeded to use severity. Her letters to her uncle and aunt were intercepted. She was restrained of her freedom and intercourse with her friends. So painful were the means used to change her resolution that she attempted to make her escape from the convent, but was seized and brought back. So deep was the mental distress produced in her excitable nature by her isolation, the apparent neglect of her friends, the persecutions of her keepers, the nuns and the Mother-General, that she twice attempted suicide. At last, however, she yielded, and became in name a Roman Catholic. But she now fell into a severe illness; and when she seemed near death, the Mother-General, alarmed, wrote to her aunt, who came over to find her still in danger, and pining in the gloom of the convent. The uncle and aunt, with whom she had lived for many years, applied to the French courts to release her from the imprisonment in which she is held by the Mother-General. The case has been decided by the courts, always under clerical control, in favor of the convent, and the nuns and the Mother-General, aided by Monsignor Capel, a noted English priest, have written severe letters to the London Standard, denouncing the attempt to snatch from them their helpless victim. In the meantime Miss Jackson remains a prisoner, forbidden to see her friends, bitterly complaining to her aunt by secret means that she has been forced to change her religion, eager to escape to England, but held firmly in the grasp of the Jesuits. Her uncle states "that she is dying," that she "is being killed," while nothing can be more insolent or defiant than the tone of Monsignor Capel's letters. The lonely, isolated, perhaps dying girl seems to produce in him no emotion but that of rage and exultation. She is eager to seek the friendly shelter of her uncle's home; he is resolved to keep her in a convent whose severity she has sought to escape by two attempts at suicide.

Ministers and Churches.

[We urgently solicit from Presbytery Clerks and our readers generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general epitome of all local church news.]

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, Berlin, realized \$211 by a recent bazaar.

THE congregation of Florence and Dawn have extended a call to Rev. W. C. Armstrong, probationer.

A UNANIMOUS call has been extended by the congregations of Kirkfield and Victoriaville to Rev. D. D. McLennan, of Luther.

REV. J. C. BREKETT, of Thamesville, delivered a lecture in the Presbyterian Church, Dresden, on Tuesday evening, 19th inst. Subject:—"A Visit to the Centennial."

THE congregation of Victoria Road Station held their annual social meeting on Thursday, the 18th inst. The programme included tea and music, with addresses by Rev. Messrs. Scott of Cambray, Paul of Balsover, and Hastie of Lindsay.

THE Port Stanley congregation recently held a very successful tea meeting, followed the next evening by a children's festival. Nearly \$85 was realized. It was stated that the contributions of this congregation during the past year averaged \$28 per family.

THE Sabbath School Convention of the Whitty Presbytery was held in Oshawa on Tuesday, the 30th, and Wednesday, the 31st ult. Mr. John G. G. was elected President, and Mr. G. Whitty, Sec. Treas. A number of deep interest to Sabbath school were ably discussed.

With the consent of Presbytery, a division has taken place in the congregation of Knox Church, Mount Forest, and the new congregation was organized on Thursday, the 18th inst., by Rev. Messrs. Baikie and McIntyre of Harriston, and Mr. Reid, of Egremont, older.

THE members and adherents of Knox Church, Palmerston, held a meeting on the 22nd inst., at which it was decided to give a call to the Rev. E. W. Waites of Waterdown—salary \$800. At the same meeting, Mr. Martin, precenter of Knox Church, was presented with a handsome watch and chain.

ABOUT three hundred persons attended the annual tea meeting held on the 12th inst. by the congregation of Knox Church, Oro. Rev. Messrs. Fairbairn and Hutchinson successively addressed the meeting on the subject of Temperance, and Rev. Mr. McLean, pastor of the Church, followed with a short address in Gaelic.

A MEETING of the Juvenile Missionary Society in connection with the Presbyterian Sabbath school, Sarnia, was held in St. Andrew's Church there on Thursday evening, 18th inst. The overplus funds were appropriated as follows:—Knox College, \$40; Home Mission, \$50; Foreign Mission, \$40; French Evangelization, \$50; Sunday School Union, \$10.

THE first public meeting of the Y.M.C.A. of College street Presbyterian Church was held last Monday evening—Rev. A. Gilray in the chair. There was a large attendance. Readings, etc., were given by some of the members, and the choir of the Church rendered some selections of music in good style. Altogether an enjoyable evening was spent.

AT the opening of the new Church, recently built at Creemore, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, M.A., B.D., preached morning and evening, and Rev. T. R. Reid, Methodist minister of Avening, in the afternoon. The attendance at all these services was very large. On the Monday following a soiree was held, at which Rev. D. McDonald, M.A., was presented with a handsome pulpit gown.

THE anniversary of the Sabbath school at Carlisle, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. J. Rennie, was held on the 10th January. The report showed an increase in the attendance, etc. A very interesting concert exercise on "Christ the Redeemer of the World," was given by the scholars; also an exhibition of beautiful dissolving views by Messrs. Brown and Maddocks of Parkhill.

A FESTIVAL in connection with the Sabbath school of the Presbyterian Church, Ailsa Craig, was held on the evening of the 22nd January. The Church was densely crowded by the scholars and their friends. A most eloquent and instructive address on "What the Sunbeams Say," was given by the Rev. G. M. Milligan, of Toronto, who is always a welcome visitor in these parts.—Com.

THE children of the Beaverton Sabbath school enjoyed their annual social entertainment lately—Rev. E. H. Bauld, superintendent of the school, in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Rev. John Macnabb, pastor of the congregation, and Rev. Mr. Patchell. The children seemed to be very well satisfied both with the quality and the quantity of the eatables provided by the ladies of the congregation; and the singing, well rendered under the leadership of Messrs. W. McKay and W. Ellis, was much enjoyed by old and young.

AT Collingwood on the evening of Friday, the 26th ult.—a fine moonlight night it was—there was a happy gathering of some three hundred at the tea meeting in connection with Mr. Rodgers' congregation. Rev. Messrs. Moody and Ferguson delivered addresses; the tea and accompaniments were exceedingly good; and excellent music was supplied by a choir under the leadership of Mr. E. Thomson. The children's festival was held on the following Monday evening—a gathering if not so large, full as happy.

ON Friday, the 12th inst., the annual soiree of the Petite Cote Sabbath school, Montreal, furnished to the little folks the occasion of a considerable amount of harmless enjoyment. After tea, Mr. Greig, the superintendent, took the chair and gave a satisfactory report of the past year's work. Suitable addresses were then delivered by Rev. E. Campbell and Mr. Davidson. Two prizes, previously competed for by the children, were presented: the first, a beautiful silver medal to Miss Maggie Drummond, and the second to Miss Jane Irving.

THE Rev. Andrew Glendinning, (lately in Manitoba), was inducted on Tuesday last to the pastoral charge of Glenmorris congregation, in the Presbytery of Paris. The Rev. W. M. Martin, of Norwich, preached from Galatians vi. 14. The Rev. D. D. McLeod, of Paris, presided and addressed the minister, and the Rev. Jas. Anderson, of Paris, the congregation. In the evening a social meeting was held to welcome the new pastor, when addresses were given by the above-named ministers and others. The attendance both during the day and evening was very large, the Church being filled to repletion.

THE annual meeting of Knox Church, Hamilton, was held on Wednesday evening, the 23rd ult.—the newly inducted pastor, the Rev. Dr. James, presiding. It is gratifying to learn that notwithstanding the very trying circumstances connected with the pastorate of this congregation, viz., sickness and subsequent death of their late pastor, Rev. Mr. Ronnelson, and the length of time it has been vacant, that the annual statement of the managing committee shows a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$9.47. The income being \$4,622.47; expenditure, \$4,613.00.—Com.

THE annual meeting of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church was held on Thursday, 18th January. At the close of the meeting Mr. J. Kane, in the name of the congregation, presented to the Rev. W. MacWilliam, M.A., a very handsome and valuable fur coat and a pair of gauntlets. Such evidence of the continued loyal attachment of the members of this Church to their pastor, after more than thirteen years of service, is highly creditable to the people, and cannot but prove an encouragement to the minister in his work.—Cobourg World.

A SPECIAL missionary meeting was lately held in Chalmers' Church, Kingston, in aid of the Presbyterian mission at the village of Morton. Mr. J. G. Stuart, the missionary at that place, reported that he had discovered about forty families there, the heads of which had been brought up as Presbyterians, and would gladly receive a minister of that denomination. They subscribed \$600 to build a church, and it is expected that the three congregations of Kingston will furnish the balance of \$400 necessary to do so. The city clergymen present at the meeting also delivered interesting addresses.

A VERY successful tea meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, Thamesville, on Tuesday, 30th January. The Church was filled to its utmost capacity, and the best of order prevailed throughout. After all had partaken of a bountiful repast, Mr. Robert Ferguson, Warden of the County of Kent, was called to the chair, and interesting and instructive addresses were given by the Rev. J. Becket, pastor of the congregation, by Mr. Maddin, and by the Revs. D. L. McKee, of Bothwell, and C. E. Benson, (M. E.) of Thamesville. The music was under the direction of Mr. W. Sherman, and was of the best quality.

THE children of Knox Church Sabbath school, Guelph, had their annual soiree on Friday evening, the 19th ult. After partaking of tea in the basement, they and a large number of their parents and friends adjourned to the Church, where the proceedings were opened with devotional exercises by Rev. W. S. Ball, the pastor, and an address by Dr. McGuire, superintendent. The missionary contributions of the children were then voted as follows:—French Canadian Mission, \$5; French Evangelization Society, \$10; Home Missions, \$15; Knox College, \$10; Foreign Missions, \$10; German Mission, \$7; retained for the purposes of the school, \$31. Total, \$91.68.

DR. CAMPBELL of London was presented by his congregation, Westminster, with a very valuable horse, not long since. This is the second presentation he has received inside of six months from the same people, shortly before having received a purse containing \$68. Dr. Campbell himself, we believe, claims a firm adherence to the Church of Scotland; his congregation is composed of, one-half belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, one fourth Baptists and Bible-Christians, and have been working very harmoniously together for two years. The Presbyterians are in hopes of being able to establish a regular station here soon, and make application for recognition.—Com.

THE Sabbath school of Knox Church, Stratford, recently held a very successful social. The evening was beautiful, and the spacious lecture room was crowded with the scholars and their friends. After tea Messrs. Brown and Maddocks, of Parkhill, entertained the audience with their wonderful Magic Lantern, showing several very interesting and amusing views which kept the young folks in rapt applause the whole evening. The proceedings were interspersed with music and singing by a choir of children, under the leadership of their kind and zealous superintendent, Mr. Jas. Henderson. Notwithstanding that the scholars were admitted free by ticket, the doorkeeper collected \$21.25 from the friends of the school. The Sabbath school reports 240 names on the roll, a library of over 600 books, and \$70 in the hands of the treasurer.

AT the annual missionary meeting of the Angus Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Thos. McKee was presented with a handsome fur overcoat, cap and gauntlets, by the members of the congregation and friends of other denominations, as an expression of their attachment to him as their pastor and in appreciation of his untiring labours in the district. Mr. Cooper, one of the elders, made the presentation in a very neat and appropriate speech. Also at a previous social gathering got up by the