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British American Presbyterian. TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1872.

THE KEITH CASE.

This somewhat perplexing case has now been removed to the Court of Chancery, and will be proceeded with as fast and as far as the rules of that court will permit.

There is, of course, a determined effort being made to keep the children concealed from their father, and so far as matters have yet gone, it has not been possible to get the Archbishop and others examined on oath as to their knowledge of their whereabouts.

The children have been made wards of chancery, and an injunction has been secured forbidding any one to remove them out of the country.

As was to be expected, this case has attracted much more attention in the neighbouring province of Quebec than in Ontario in general, or Toronto, in particular.

The Roman Catholic Freeman and Irish Canadian of this city have defended the whole proceeding of Mrs. Keith and her confederates; and one or two other newspapers have directed a passing notice on the incident.

In Montreal, almost all the organs of public opinion have discussed the case with more or less fulness; and have, so far as we have noticed, without exception condemned the course taken by Mrs. Keith.

It says:—"By God's law as well as man's law, the husband is head of the family and the wife is subject to him; and the Catholic woman should see well to it before marriage, that she give not unto herself a Protestant head."

There must, in short, in the family be some final authority whose decision is an end to discussion. That, by all law

has been left with the husband, and the course pursued by the wife in the case we speak of, could, if successful, only end in the destruction of the family relationship altogether, or in making the wife the legal head of the husband.

CONGREGATIONAL WORK.

It seems that in St. Paul's Cathedral Parish, London, Ont., an Association of Lay Helpers has been instituted, of which the following are the rules: 1st. To act under the direction of the Rector.

The work proposed to be accomplished by the Association is arranged under 14 headings, any one or more of which can be chosen by each individual as his or her specialty. We mention them as hints and assistants to others. 1. Performing the ordinary duties of a district visitor.

From the want of some such organizations as the above, a great amount of latent power for good is never turned to account. In almost every congregation there are those who are anxious to do something, and yet cannot find a way in which that something, whether little or much, can be accomplished.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN WORK.

The British American Book and Tract Society, whose headquarters are in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is doing a work the extent of which we in this Upper Province have no conception of. The receipts for the year ending 31st December, 1871, were, in donations and subscriptions, \$2891.74; store sales, \$12,085.69; colporteur sales, \$12,914.81, making, with one or two other items, an income of \$30,487.85.

Taken all in all, this organization seems a very active, energetic one, which is doing a work not otherwise likely to be overtaken, and doing it efficiently, and when the size and population of Nova Scotia are considered, on a scale that must be regarded as very large.

Let the society then frequentest be like a company of bees gathered to make honey, and not wasps, which do nothing but hum, devour and sting.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

The incidents of the week have neither been numerous nor startling. In Canada matters have moved on quietly and peacefully. The "nine hours" agitation has in Toronto and elsewhere formed a prominent subject of discussion, while the printers strike has dragged its weary length along and has practically nearly reached its close.

The Dominion Parliament met on Thursday of last week, but has not yet got into full working or fighting trim. The session is likely to be a very important and exciting one. Both political parties are confident of success in the struggle.

In the States the Presidential contest has fairly commenced. The prospects are that Grant will be re-elected, though a wing of the Republicans are very dissatisfied and may coalesce with the Democrats.

In Britain and the European continent nothing of any importance has transpired, except that the young King of Spain is likely to have trouble, though the Cortes just elected is said to be very strongly ministerialist.

Throughout the Churches there is the same paucity of incident. The work goes on quietly, and, so far as Canada is concerned, with nothing particular calling for remark. Any discussions of Presbyteries in the Canada Presbyterian Church on the Union question have been in general favourable to an early consummation of the proposed arrangement; the only apparent difficulty in any case being in connection with the relationship Queen's College is to bear to the supreme court of the United Church.

The soiree, surprise, and donation season is nearly over, though settlement celebrations are, very properly, to be expected at all times of the year.

Knox College closed some weeks ago, and almost all the students have gone to the mission field, where we doubt not, a great deal of good earnest work for Christ will be done during the summer. The interest taken by the members of the Church in that work has hitherto not been so great as it ought to be, and that very much from the information given of its character and extent having been very meagre and fragmentary.

The Presbyterian College at Montreal has also closed for the summer after a successful session.

In Scotland the proposal of the Joint Committee on Presbyterian Union in reference to making the ministers and preachers of each of the contracting churches eligible for call and settlement in any congregation within the entire bounds of these churches is exciting a large amount of keen discussion and opposition in the Free Church. The Anti-Union party has come out very strongly against the proposal, and the other side with equal vehemance in its support.

A plan for confederation in the work of Foreign Missions has also been suggested by the same committee, and the subject of cooperation in Home Missions is now under consideration. The more opposition there is shown to this Union in Scotland, so much the keener and more decided its friends seem to become.

The Rev. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D., pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, sailed on Wednesday last for Europe, as the accredited representative from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States to the General Assemblies of the Kirk of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and the United Presbyterian Church of Great Britain.

FREQUENT GIVING.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

Sir.—It is time that these letters were brought to a close, and I am certain if they tend to increase the actual giving of some of our church members and adherents you will not grudge having opened your columns to them. It is one thing to know the way and another thing to walk in it. Is Christianity a mere matter of taste? Is the Christian left to live just as he pleases, to be regulated by his own moods and feelings?

Table with columns: Name, Amount, Total. Lists names like Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mr. J. B. Jones, etc.

It will be observed that the money spent in Church and Manse building is not placed in the table. The reason is that such efforts are local and occasional and should be met by special contributions. Again I would remark that while it is thought that every one might reach the summationed week how many will, as they already do, go far beyond it and special schemes are not at all interfered with, such as our Gardens to the Foreign Missions, or our friends who provide Bursaries in our Colleges.

above table, they would raise for the schemes of the church \$101. For stipend \$305, for congregational purposes \$150, and for benevolent objects \$20. Such a congregation should be regarded as entitled to supplement of stipend from the Home Mission Fund, and in this way the strong would help the weak, and the weak would be more likely to become strong all the sooner, in being enabled to exercise themselves in giving freely to the mission work of our church.

Yours sincerely,

IRIS.

Literary Notices.

STEWART'S QUARTERLY, published in St. John's, New Brunswick, has reached, we are sorry to see the close of its fifth and last volume. It has been we think, the best quarterly or monthly publication of the kind of a purely native Canadian character hitherto published.

THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY AND PRINCETON REVIEW, for April, is a very excellent number of the new series of this old and able periodical. Under its new management it bids fair to maintain its ancient reputation. The article on Dr. Cooke of Belfast will be read with special interest by the many admirers of that able and eloquent Irish Divine.

"BLACKWOOD" for March is particularly good. Of course it is especially savage upon Gladstone and all his followers, but then it is so pleasant to hear Blackwood scold. It goes at it so *con amore*, and is altogether so vigorous and extreme in its denunciations, that one cannot help feeling interested. Scold! cries old Ebony "I'll show you scolding!" And so it does with a vengeance.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY, for April, is the fourth number of a magazine recently started in Toronto, to supply a place the phrase goes, "a felt want." It aims at being a first class publication of its kind, and proposes to draw out, encourage, and make use of the literary talent native Canadian talent hitherto latent and unappreciated.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE, for April, is fully an average number, and will be perused with interest. An appreciative article on William Wilberforce, the great English Abolitionist, will command the attention and sympathy of Canadian readers. The illustrations are numerous and well executed.