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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. Mrs. Keith could, at once, be committed to prison for contempt of court in disobeying the order to produce the bodies of these children, but it would not be advisable to have even the appearance of acting harshly towards her, while those who are the real movers in the case go undetected and unpunished.

The children have been made wards of chancery, and an injunction has been secured forbidding any one to remove them out of the country. More than this however nust be done, else we shall have to acknowledge that in Canada a man's children can, under the pretence of zeal for religion, be spirited away from his house, and no remedy for the grievous wrong he has sustained be available.

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, but there has been no such amount of attention given to the whole of the circumstances as their importance deserves. The community in general has never considered fairly and distinctly the fact possible for a wife still living in her hasbands house and supported by him, to hide away his children for more than a year, and by the help of professedly religious associates defy the law of the land, trample upon her marriage vows, and be kept in countenance through it all by persons that claim to be moved by the Holy Ghost, and by zeal for religion, in thus aiding and abetting a a course of systematic violation of the laws of God and man.

In Montreal, almost all the organs of public opinion have discussed the case with more or lessfulness; and have, so far as we have noticed, without exception condemned the course taken by Mrs. Keith. We have not room to quote what they say with the exception of what follows from the True Witness. Though a rabid Ultramontanist, the Witness is to astute to defend or even excuse the kidnapping taken place.

It says :- "By God's law as well 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 stort, in the family be some final authority whose decision is an end to discussion. That, by all law nothing but hum, devour and sting.

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 logal 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. 2nd. To be willing to devote at least one hour each week to one of the objects of the Association. Srd. To attend the monthly and other business meetings of this Association, when not reasonably hindered. Some such Association might be found of great use in many other congregations in the way of utilizing and directing Christian effort.

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. 2. Voluntarily teaching a child or an adult of scanty means and opportunities. 8. Voluntarily teaching in a Sunday School. 4. Visiting the sick, aged and infirm, for the purpose of reading the Scriptures or other books. 5. Distribution of tracts. 6. Searching out children for the purpose of getting them to attend the Sabbath School. 7. Taking in hand individual cases with a view to (a) rescue them from evil ways, viz: intemperance, swearing, profanation of the Lord's Day, (b) and bring them to attend church; (c) obtain employment for immigrants and others; (d) reconciling those who are at enmity, and discountenancing back-biting. 8. Assisting in making clothes for the poor. 9. Informing the Rector of new arrivals in the city, with a view to his visiting them. 10. Informing the Rector of any case in which his visits would be particularly desirable, especially cases of serious illness, accident or death in a family. 11. Assisting in the musical portion of the church services. 12. Endeavoring to secure more hearty response to the service of the church. 18. Collecting funds for charitable and church purposes. 14. Obtaining old clothing for distribution among the des-

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. With such a choice of specialties as has been indicated, it would be hard indeed if any one willing to work could not get something to do.

# PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN WORK.

The British American Book and Tract Society, whose headquarters are in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is doing a work the season is nearly over, though settlement extent of which we in this Upper Pro- lebrations are, very properly, to be vince have no conception of. The re-, expected at all times of the year. ceipts 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. The increase over that of 1870 was \$9687.82. The total value of Bibles and religious publications sent out of the Depository was \$31,481 36. Among these were 28,428 Bibles and Testaments, 6,500 periodicals, such as Sanday Magazine, Sanday at Home, &c.; 25,200 Band of Hope; 20,400 British Workman, &c., &c. Altogether, 275,000 copies of periodicals, 7,500 bound volumes, 2,000,000 of pages of tracts have been issued through this agency. 300 Sabbath Schools have been supplied with libraries.

Taken all in all, this organization be overtakon, and doing it efficiently, churches eligible for call and settlement that must be regarded as very large.

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

The incidents of tho week have neither been numerous nor startling. In Canada matters have moved on quietly and peacefully. The "nine heurs" 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 prosecution of some of the members of the Printers Union for conspiring" to induce workmen to leave their employment, may be in accordance with law, but can scarcely be characterized as a very wise movement, for it is calculated to make it appear that the men are persecuted and that the right of combination which is allowed to the employers is very unfairly denied to the employed.

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. At least they say they are, and of course very strong language on both sides is likely to be the order of the day. Already the contending newspapers sound for the onset, and vie with each other in any amount of crimination and recrimination. The contest has come to assume a very definite, though somewhat narrow character. On the one side, it is to be asserted and, if possible, proved that the Ottawa ministers never have done one good thing. and never will, nor can; so that it is the duty of all true patriots to hurl them from power as expeditiously as possible. On the other hand the way is equally plain, viz.: to contend that these ministers have never once made a mistake; that they are heaven-born one and all of them, and that, consequently, if Canada that being justified by faith we have no is not to go to utter ruin, they must be thing to do with works? we forget that be sustained at all hazards. This sort of work reduces politics to a very small compass, and is becoming painfully

In the States the Presidental 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 consumation 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 soirce, surprise, and donation

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 carnest 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. It is to be hoped that not a few of the missionaries will remedy this defect by availing themselves of the columns of the Presbyterian.

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 seems a very active, energetic one, which reference to making the ministers and is doing a work not otherwise likely to | preachers of each of the contracting and when the size and population of in any congregation within the entire Nova Scotia are considered, on a scale bounds of these churches is exciting a large amount of keen discussion and opposition in the Free Church. The Let the society thou frequentest be Anti-Union party has come out very like a company of bees gathered to strongly against the proposal, and the

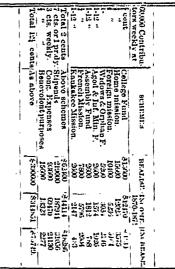
A plan for confederation in the work of Foreign Missions has also been suggested by the same committee, and the subject of cooperation in Home Missions is now under consideration. The more opposition there is shown to this Union in Scotland, so much the keener and more decided its friends seem to be-

THE REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D. pastor of the Infayette Avenue Presbytorian 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. Dr. Cuyler is pastor of the largest Presby-The Dominion Parliament met on terian church in the United States, there Thursday of last week, but has not yet | being in it 1570 communicants, and by his writings is well known throughout the Christian world.

### FREQUENT GIVING.

Editor British American Presbyterian. Sin .-- 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? Are there no holy gulling precepts, no high regulating principles? It looks very much as if it were so from the practices of many professing Christians and the present aspect of the Christian Church. If in our day we are free in some measure from the error of " justification by works," are we not apt to fall into the other extreme of supposing "faith without works is dead," and that we are "ander law to Christ." But allow me now, as I promised, to come to Individual Frequent Giving in regard to the schemes of our church, and here I crave the patience of readers while I go into "dry" statistics for a very little. First as to the number of contributors or who ought to be. We have according to last years returns about 47,886 communicants. Then it is well known that we have in all our congregations many adherents not in full communion attached to our cause, and many of them regular supporters. I am under the mark when I reckon these at 12114. Adning these we have 60,000 contributors. Suppose these were giving individually weekly 124 cents each, how would it stand? Instead of lengtheucd remarks I would here set before the eye a table that will speak for itself.



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 occasion al and should be met by special contributions. Again I would remark that while it is thought that every one might reach the summentioned we know many will, as they already do, go far be, and it and special schemes are not at all interfered with, such as our Gordons to the Foreign Missions, or our friends who provide Bursaries in our Colleges. Again while the table shows what might be done, it is not intended that congregations should keep to the proportions proposed, but vote away the sum raised as they might see meet. It may be said that small weak congregations could give very little to the schemes of the church, they need not do much for selfsupport. Dut would it not be better for such congregations and the individual contributors that the give a proportion to the schemes of the church and receive if need be a supplement to the stipend. For instance I knew a congregation receiving \$150 a year for supplement and paying to the schemes of the churk \$150 Surely it was better so to give and remake honey, and not wasps, which do other side with equal vehemance in its nothing. Suppose a congregation of nothing but hum, devour and sting.

above table, they would raise for the schemes of the church \$104. For sti-pend \$865, for congregational purposes 150, and for benevolent objects \$20, Such a congregation should be regarded as entitled to supplement of stipend from the Horse 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. And now, Sir with thanks for your kindness I close a subject that some may reckon of little moment; but even if small, let each endeavour to act under law to Christ, to discharge his duty, and let usremember that when God's people take pleasure in the stones and favour the dust of Zion we have an evidence that Gon's time is come to arise and favour Zion !

Yours sincerely,

IRIS.

#### Litarery Motices.

STEWART'S QUARTERLY, published in St. Johns, New Bronswick, 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. Mr. Stewart had succeeded in gathering round him a large and able stuff of contributors, and everything seemed to promise a long and successful career to his literary undertaking. We presume from his valedictory that he has given it up from bad health and perhaps from not receiving that amount of encouragement which he had a right to anticipate. We are sorry that there should have been any such necessity for the stoppage of a periodical which better deserved a long life than some others of far greater pretensions. Perhaps when Mr. Stewarts health is sufficiently established he may be encouraged to resume his editorial labours. And we can only express a hope, for his own sike, as well as for that of his readers, that such perfect convalescence may take place speedily.

THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTER-LY AND PRINCETON REVIEW, for April, is a very excellent number of the new sorice of this old and able periodical. Under its new management it bids fair to mantain 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. One on the "Eldership" seeks to show that service as un Elder for a term, and not till death or removal from the congregation was without exception the original polity of the Presbyterian Churches of the old world. A lengthened paper on the "Finances of the Church" will represent the tive perusal even in Canada where Ecclesiastical finance is too often in not so healthy a condition as could be desired. We have not space to mention even the titles of all the articles. The literary notices at the close are particularly valuable, especially for clergymen and Theological students. We shall be glad to learn that this  $Q_{t,t}$  to  $Q_{t,t}$  is widely circulated throughout  $t'_{t,t}$  Dominion.

"BLACKWOOD" for March is partieularly good. Of course it is especially savage upon Gladstone and all his followers, but then it is sopleasant to hear Blackwood scold, It goes at it so con amore, and is altogether so vigorous and extreme in its denuncation, that one cannot help feeling interested. Scold! cries old Ebony "I'll show you scolding"! And so it does with a vengeance. No Reform during the 's half century could be mentional statch Blackwood did not oppose with all its might and main, and then when opposition was useless, accepted with a growl, and a snarling intinaction that after that Britain's sun would speedily set never to rise again. For Britain's sun has gone on shining all the same, and Blackwood with all 118 extrem impractiable Toryism, still keeps in the front rank of the magazine army.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY, for April, is the fourth number of a magazine recently started in Toronto, to supply as the phrase goes, " a felt want." It aims at being a first class publication of its kind, and proposes to draw out, encourage, and not be presentable in the literary world, native Canadian talent hitherto latent an a mappreciated. We hope it may be successful in its very praisworthy undertaking, though, to speak honestly, its career hitherto has been by no means a brilliant one. Its light articles have been rather heavy, and its heavy ones, rather light.

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 read-The illustrations are numerous and well executed.