

British American Presbyterian.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT TORONTO, CANADA.

TERMS: \$2 a year in advance. Postage by mail, 40 cents per year, payable at the office of delivery.

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HAMILTON AGENCY.

MR. JOHN GREIG, Bookseller and News Agent, No. 2 York Street, Hamilton, has consented to act as Agent for the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

Our friends in Hamilton may find it more convenient to pay Mr. G. than to remit their subscriptions to this office. Toronto, 12th March, 1874.

British American Presbyterian. FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1874.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The Local House of Parliament has been going on in its usual undignified fashion. It is, however, doing some useful legislative work.

The Ashantee expedition has been crowned with complete success. It is to be hoped that matters will henceforth move on more quietly and peacefully in that barbarous and, and that Britain will henceforth keep out of such quarrels.

The only thing that has during the week broken in upon the general monotony in Ontario has been the occurrence of many cases of daring burglary attended in some cases with violence. Evidently we have at present among us a more than usually large number of the "dangerous class."

The famine in India grows every day more formidable. It is to be feared that in spite of all the efforts put forth by the Imperial authorities very many will die of starvation. Such wide spread calamities can only be prevented by an extensive and complete system of irrigation.

On the other side of the line, the crusade of the ladies against the saloons and general liquor stores proceeds with ever increasing vigor and success. In many of the smaller towns and villages throughout several states, they have closed up almost every place where intoxicating liquors were sold. Their mode of procedure is quite characteristic. They gather round the whiskey seller's door and continue in prayer for, and in remonstrance with him till he gives in, and promise to give up his accursed business.

The Marriage Bill at present before our Local Legislature provides for the Banns being proclaimed on only one Sabbath, either before, during, or immediately after public worship. One of the parties must have previously resided at least fifteen days within the Municipality as at home, and the proclamation must be made in the Church where the minister who is to preside at the marriage usually preaches. Licenses are to be abolished, and instead certificates are to be issued by persons duly authorized by the Lieut.-Governor, stating that there is no legal or other reason why the marriage should not be celebrated.

The united congregations of Guthrie Church, Longwood, and Cook's Church, Caradoc, have called the Rev. Alex. Sutherland, Presbytery of Omaha, U.S. These are new charges; but the people have already purchased a glebe of 15 acres upon which there are a manse, stable and barn, for their future pastor. The property is centrally situated.

PRAYER MEETINGS.

Many complain of the difficulty of keeping up congregational and other prayer meetings. After everything that can be thought of has been done to make them interesting and profitable, the people don't attend by any great numbers and even those who are found at them don't appear to take any deep interest in the services.

REVIVALS.

While there is so much talk about the great work of grace at present going in Scotland, a good many in Canada are anxiously praying for a similar time of refreshing for our Dominion from the presence of the Lord. There are no doubt ever and anon taking place 'revivals' in different parts of Canada, but there has for a long time past been no such extensive and marked a work of Grace, as are taking place in other lands.

DR. JENNINGS.

We are sorry to see from the report of the last meeting of the Toronto Presbytery that the Rev. Dr. Jennings has been obliged to resign his charge of the congregation with which he has been so long connected. We trust that the rest which the Dr. will now be able to take from continuous labour may, under the blessing of God, tend to the restoration of a good amount of vigour, and that he may be able to do still considerable work for the advancement of that cause with which he has been so long identified, and for which he has laboured so long and so assiduously. Dr. Jennings came to this country in 1838, when Toronto was little more than an insignificant village.

THE SALARIES OF MINISTERS.

We have taken no part in the discussions going on in our columns in reference to the frequent changes of ministers and the causes of so many vacancies. Of the fact there can be no doubt, whatever may be the cause, numbers of our ministers are leaving our Province, and numbers more are anxious for a change.

Questions on the State of Religion.

- 1.—What is the number of Communicants in your congregation? Number received during the past year? How many by certificate? How many on profession of faith?
2.—On what grounds are applicants for admission to communion received, and how are they dealt with in order to their admission?
3.—Is the discipline of the Church faithfully maintained by the Session?
4.—Is family worship generally observed by the members of the Church?
5.—Are there any prayer meetings connected with the congregation? If so, how conducted? How attended? Any district meetings conducted by the Elders?
6.—Have you a Sabbath School, or Schools? Do the Elders show much interest in Sabbath School work? Are the teachers sustained, in any good degree, by the sympathy and co-operation of the members of the Church? Is the Shorter Catechism used?
7.—Is there any evidence of increasing liberality, in the congregation, in the support of Gospel ordinances among themselves and in contributions to the Schemes of the Church?
8.—How is the Sabbath observed in your community?
9.—Is intemperance on the decrease, or otherwise? Any special means used in order to its suppression?
10.—Can you specify any particular hindrances to the advancement of Christ's cause among you?
11.—Can you specify any hopeful indications of spiritual life among the young, or in the congregation generally?

In the beginning of January, copies of these questions were addressed to all the Kirk Sessions of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Additional copies have since been forwarded to the Clerks of the various Presbyteries for the use of those who may not otherwise have received them. The Committee on the State of Religion would earnestly appeal to all the Sessions, to aid them with material for a full report to be laid before the Assembly in June.

In the circular first sent out, Sessions were requested to forward answers to the Clerks of their respective Presbyteries on or before the first of March. Those who may find themselves unable to do so, are now requested to forward answers to their Presbytery Clerks on or before the 1st of April.

THOMAS WARDROPE,

Convener of the Assembly's Committee on the State of Religion.

Guelph, Feb. 18, 1874.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, was held in the basement of the new church, Monday evening, E. McGillivray, Esq., President of the Temporal Committee in the chair. The Annual Report of the Temporal Committee, together with the Treasurer's financial statement, and the Report of the Building Committee, were presented, approved, and found to be satisfactory.

Book Notices.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN EVANGELICAL REVIEW. January 1874.

This is a periodical which needs none of our commendation. Its character has been long established for both vigorous and even elegant writing, and it is not falling off under its present management. Dr. Dykes is in himself a host, and is well supported by a band of able coadjutors.

But while all this damage has been done to the character and tone of the English Church, what have the Evangelical men been doing? If not so numerous as those of the High Church School still the Evangelical clergy have far outnumbered the Tractarians and Ritualists: and with the support of the laity, should have made very stout resistance to the anti-Protestant movement.

Every one feels that this is literally true of all branches of the Church of England, whether endowed or the reverse. Many will also sympathize with Dr. Fraser when he adds:— "The Evangelical clergy claim our sympathy, and it is easy to give it to them, but not so easy to treat their ecclesiastical position and policy with respect. They do not seem to be aware how much they are produced in the eyes of the most friendly on-lookers, by denying baptismal regeneration, and yet affirming it as often as they read the baptismal office: denying clerical priesthood, and yet accepting the name of priests; denying confession to a priest, and yet using and even lauding a prayer book that provides for both.

Recently the Rev. John Thomson, of Ayr, was made the recipient of a valuable set of books from the members of his Bible class.

Ministers and Churches.

Dr. Begg has returned to Scotland, from New Zealand, in excellent health.

The Rev. David Mitchell, Canal-street, New York, has been called by the congregation of Calvia Church, St. Johns N. B.

We propose to give occasionally a sermon by some distinguished preacher, many are familiar with the one we give in this issue but many others are not.

It is said the congregation of Erskine Church Montreal, propose, in the event of Rev. Mr. Gibson declining the call to Chicago, to raise his stipend to \$4,000 per annum.

At the Toronto Presbytery meeting, last Tuesday, the Rev. Thomas McPherson, M.A., of Stratford, was unanimously nominated as Moderator of next General Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Taylor of the Tabernacle, Broadway, New York, has been in Canada for the past week. He lectured last evening in Gould-street Church, on "Books and Reading."

The members of the C. P. congregation Charles-street Toronto, are about to call the Rev. James Robertson, of Paris, to be their pastor. They are very united and cordial in this movement and have great hopes of being successful.

The Student's Missionary Society, connected with Knox College proposes to send two of the third year Students to labour in Manitoba during the summer, with the understanding that if things should go as anticipated, their brethren will take license and finally settle in the Prairie Province.

On Wednesday, 23th ult., the members and adherents of the Presbyterian congregation, Port Dalhousie, presented a valuable gold watch and chain to Mr. John Denton, for many years elder of the Church, President, and Sabbath School Superintendent.

A few evenings ago—the students of the Canada Presbyterian College, in this city, presented an address to the Rev. J. M. Gibson, Professor of Exegesis in that institution, and pastor of Erskine Church, in this city, expressing their high appreciation of his services and regret at his probable removal from Montreal.—Witness.

The Montreal Witness says:—Rev. Mr. McDonald, C. P. Church, Alexandria, Ontario, preached in Cote street Church last Sabbath afternoon in Gaelic, and in the evening in English. He also addressed the Sunday-school Bible class, giving an account of the reasons which induced him to leave the Roman Catholic Church, in which he was brought up, and become a Protestant. He has evidently attained to the very creditable position which he now occupies in the church by means of extraordinary energy and self denial.

The following statement of facts and figures was given by the committee of management the other evening at the social in the Canada Presbyterian Church, Seaforth. The committee announced that for the period of Mr. Goldsmith's pastorate no subscription had been taken for any purpose till this winter; that all the money raised by the church has been contributed by plate collections and pew rents, and that the committee by such voluntary contributions have been able to pay all current expenses, (\$2,000 per annum) and to apply \$5,000 on the capital account of the church in the space of three years and a half. They have now, by a subscription circulated through the congregation, raised an additional sum of \$2,000, for the church debt, making in all \$7,000 on capital account, besides current expenses. So much for the voluntary principle.

The induction of the Rev. Alex. Burr as pastor of the Presbyterian congregation at Point Edward, took place on Tuesday, the 24th ult, under most favourable auspices. A very successful social meeting was held in the evening, Rev. John Thompson, of Sarnia, ably filled the chair; after suitable speeches were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Cuthbertson, of St. Thomas, McKinnon, of Dulmont, Ross, of Point Edward, and the newly ordained minister, Mr. Burr. Quite a novel feature of the entertainment was an address from Mr. McKinnon in the Gaelic language, which was the cause of the greatest merriment. He quite won the hearts of the Gaelic people, and though quite unintelligible, except at intervals when he spoke in English, to the majority of the audience, yet he received most pronounced attention. Mr. Burr, being introduced to the audience, then came forward as the spokesman of the congregation, and presented Mr. Thompson with an address, thanking him for the interest which he had always manifested in their spiritual welfare, and praying that the blessing of God might follow him through all his future career. Mr. Thompson replied in suitable terms, thanking them for the expression of appreciation which had been tendered him, and expressing his hope that the union which was about to be formed between pastor and people might result to the glory of God.