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TORONTO FRIDAY JAN. 3, 1873.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Throughout Canada for the past week there has been very stormy weather, with the Thermometer sometimes as low as from 15 to 20 below zero.

In Scotland according to the latest News, the mutual eligibility scheme has been carried the larger number of the Presbyteries of the Zion Church by increasing majorities.

Preparations are being made for the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York, in the course of next Autumn.

A very determined effort has been made to prevent Dean Stanley being elected as one of the select preachers at Oxford.

The Inverness Conference of Free Church Ministers and Elders to which we referred a week or two ago was held at the time appointed; and though the meetings were private yet it has been ascertained that the greatest harmony prevailed.

NEW YEAR CALLS.

It is rather too late for us now to say a single word about New Year Calls. Whatever evil effects flow from them, have already as far as this year is concerned taken place.

habitual drunkenners has been induced by this New Year drinking from house to house, and Christian ladies with the sweetest smile imaginable have coaxed young men to their fall and ruin by the pleasant cake and wine at that festive season.

KNOX COLLEGE.

Did our readers carefully peruse, mark, and inwardly digest the letter of "Index," in last week's PRESBYTERIAN? Many of them, we hope all, did.

The whole surroundings, external and internal, of our school of the prophets in Toronto are of the most melancholy and depressing character. We cannot speak so authoritatively as "Index" on the dust, but of the close, dank odours, as of the sepulchre, we can testify very conscientiously.

MANITOBA.

A very large proportion of those who have during the past two years settled in Manitoba, are Presbyterians, while of the old inhabitants, a very considerable number are also connected with the same church.

should say,—No. These men came to us in our days of poverty and loneliness and desolation, they cheered us by their visits: they preached to us the word; they encouraged us in the darkest hours; they wept with us over our dead; and they rejoiced with us in our homely joys.

We notice from a letter of Professor Hart, given in the PRESBYTERIAN for January, that matters are in the most interestingly progressive state about Winnipeg.

THE HEADSHIP AND UNION.

Last summer, the Presbytery of Montreal, in its return to a remit on Union, expressed the desire—"That there should be introduced into some parts of the Basis a clause embodying the Church's continued adherence to the great doctrine of Headship of our Lord Jesus Christ over the Church and the nations; and the General Assembly, in view of the fact that many esteemed members of Court desire a recognition of the Headship of Christ over His Church, instructed its Union-Committee to endeavor to secure, in some way, such a deliverance as shall meet the views of all parties.

1. Many think an explicit declaration on this point necessary in order that they may heartily go into Union. It would be well to conciliate them in this matter, especially as the Headship of Christ is the corner-stone of His Church, and the assertion of it in a basis of Union very opportune as a testimony to His honour, not only against Erastian encroachments, but against Papal arrogance and Rationalistic dogmatism.

2. Whilst all the negotiating denominations are at one in upholding the principle of Christ's Sovereign authority, there is confessedly a conflict among them as to what in some particulars is His Sovereign will; for instance, in regard to the relation proper to be maintained between Church and State.

MANITOBA.

CHURCH AND COLLEGE AFFAIRS IN THE NEW PROVINCE.

The following interesting Communication has been received by the Revd. Wm Cochran, Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Canada Presbyterian Church, and transmitted us for publication.

DEAR BRETHREN,—At the suggestion of the Convener of the Home Mission Committee, I would seek to bring some of the financial details and material features of our extensive work before you.

The Fort Garry congregation has had a most remarkable growth. It was organized in February last, the first communion was held in May, with 10 members; the second was held in November, with about 40 communicants.

As to Churches during the past year, three have been built; two enlarged; and four or five planned for next year.

The number of students has kept up, the College has grown in public estimation, and the prospectus for the Winter Term after New Year, are about twenty-five students.

The library has been begun and has a nucleus of some 150 volumes. Meetings are being held at all the stations in aid of the College funds, for we find it an expensive matter, in a country of high prices to conduct so large an institution in efficiency.

Such is our work. The amounts raised for 1872, for all purposes will probably be about:

Kildonan \$1,100
Winnipeg, Fort Garry 900
Little Britain, (8 station)
Headingley, (2 station)
Portage group, (4 station) 1,000
White Mead group, (4 stat)
Springfield (1 station)
Rockwood, (1 station)
For College (Fees, collections, &c., for Current expenses, &c. \$600
Ladies School (8 months) 800

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHEME OF S. S. LESSONS, BY DR. HALL, OF NEW YORK, AND INFANT CLASSES.

A very deep and wide spread interest has attached to the subject of Sunday Schools during the last few years, principally in connection with our Institutes and Conventions.

Perhaps this interest has just been flagging a little of late. This is, I am convinced, only for a short time, for I can see, I think, that God is preparing for us as Sabbath School workers a great and stirring time, the tide of which is not far distant but close upon us, and it is ours to be up and doing to meet that which God is sending upon us.

Some may smile, but I believe we are on the dawn of a great Revolution in the Spirit, but especially in the work of our Sabbath Schools. The work now is earnest and true, but to a great extent disjointed and unsympathetic, and the Revolution is in the opposite direction.

In different lands and even in different schools in the same lands we have at present all kinds of lessons taught, and the sympathy must to some extent be a broken one.

Why not all schools, of all denominations, in all lands, teach the same portions of the words of the Lord on the same Sabbath days. Then how pleasant would it be for a stranger, for example, desiring to visit a school, to feel sure of the lesson of the day.

That is only one advantage; and yet a not-unimportant one. To me it is an overpowering thought, that on the Lord's Day that great and noble band of earnest and devoted workers should be all teaching, and that far greater band of yearning learners all drinking in the same precious words of the Lord at the same time.

Does any credulous one smile at the consummation as visionary. I tell you, teachers, it is coming upon us, thank God, and it is our duty to meet it.

While we remain ever Presbyterians, Methodists, Churchmen, let us hurl to the winds anything and everything which tends to make us night but one in heart and work in the cause of Christ.

While intellectually we differ, let our hearts and hands be as one, firm and true, to work the works of the Lord.

Dr. Hall, of New York, one of the most devoted Sabbath School workers, has matured a scheme called "The International Scheme," which is intended to serve the accomplishment of this result:—To bind in one great army—to provide with the same well tempered weapons, and to lead to the home charge upon the same citadel of the human heart, those, who now by various and somewhat disjointed efforts, and with different instruments, are fighting the battles of the Lord.

And any one who knows Dr. Hall, who has ever had the great privilege of listening to his simple, earnest gospel preaching, and knows what he has done and is doing for the cause of Christ, especially in the direction of the Sabbath Schools in the city of New York, knows well that never fitter work fell to abler hands.

Dr. Hall is an Irishman and a Presbyterian; and although some narrow minded ones may hint that the Scheme came from the States, yet, let such remember that some one must originate it, and who so likely as the greatest of gospel preachers on this continent.

Let us on this side, forgetting every prejudice, for Christ's sake, lend a helping hand to the man who has devoted so much time and labor, and is banding every energy to bind in closer sympathy the Sunday School workers of every land.

My object is not to offer any thoughts on this scheme as it affects advanced classes in our Sunday Schools, for there is a paper published every month, called "The Sunday School World," containing Dr. Hall's own comments on the lessons, and for this end.

But I shall endeavor to follow out that Scheme, as it may be used in teaching infant classes; for I am most thoroughly convinced from what I have seen of them and of the ways in which they are taught, that, just as there has been too much carelessness in systematizing the teaching of advanced classes, so, much more, is there the almost total disregard of systematic teaching in infant classes.

No Bible student will ever advance in his knowledge of its contents who does not study it systematically. And this is just what we want to introduce into our schools; that our little ones may, like Timothy, be trained in the scriptures from their infancy.

This week I only offer a few suggestions regarding infant classes: First—No school should be without an infant class. Make it a grade class consisting of those who cannot read well.

If possible give them a room to themselves. I think it is better even to have them in a separate house, rather than not have them by themselves, for many reasons I could give.

Give them the very ablest teacher in the school. Let none but a true, prayerful, and devoted Christian—one who loves the work, (that is essential), and who is willing to devote not only Sabbath to teaching, but a portion of the week to visiting, his or her little scholars.

Let it be felt that the class is one of the classes from which the pupils are graduated, as they learn to read and advance in Bible knowledge.

Teach nothing but the words of the Lord. Some teachers make telling stories the sum and substance of their teaching. Stories, objects, anything, may be used, but always make the truths these things teach the most prominent thing in teaching.

Especially go to an infant class from your knees.

So much generally and at this time. I shall endeavor to be more particular as I advance, hoping that I may be able in my humble way to drop a few thoughts which may be picked up and perhaps planted in some soul which when watered with the dew from prayerful hearts shall bring forth fruit to life everlasting. Fellow teachers, let us ever pray for strength and guidance in our weakness.—THACKER.