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GENERAL AGENT FOR THE BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

REV. A. MILNE, M. A. P. O. Address, Drawer 933.

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The great matter of interest among Canadians has been the meeting of Parliament, and its decision on the great question of "confidence" or "no confidence."

Our readers are aware that in the disturbances during 1869-70 in the North-West of British America, a young man of the name of Scott was put to death in circumstances of peculiar atrocity, by the Provisional Government, under the authority of Louis Riel.

Many of those who attended the New York meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, are already on their way home to Europe.

The separation between Church and State decreed in Mexico is a noticeable sign of the times. It is more and more distinctly seen that either all religious denominations must be endowed or none.

In Britain the Gladstone ministry is becoming more weakly, and is looked upon by both friends and foes as tottering to its fall.

In Spain the civil war still progresses, with the scale to all appearances turning more and more in favor of the Republicans and Castelar.

France is on the eve of another convulsion unless her statesmen are exceptionally wise. On Monday first the Assembly meets for business, and it is generally understood that an attempt will be made to secure the vote of the Assembly in favor of the restoration of Monarchy in the person of Henry V.

The Pope and the Emperor of Germany have been correspondingly about their standard difficulty. The letters are models in their way. Calm, even to contemptuousness, with as much acid in both as to make them poignant, Kaiser William has no wish to play the part of Henry IV., and certainly Pius IX. is not able with even passable

dignity to play the role of Hilderbrand. Among other things the Pope claims jurisdiction over all baptized persons. This the Emperor, with a touch of irony, entirely repudiates. It would be difficult to say what will be the final issue. To all appearances at present, victory seems to incline to the side of the civil authorities.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.

We have had some hesitation about printing the letter from "A Presbyterian Politician," but as it is in itself as striking an example of "rabid" partizanship and of consequently perverted judgment as we have come across for some time past, we give the most of it. Its many references to one particular newspaper and man we cannot admit. As far as possible we wish to deal with principles rather than with individuals, though when it comes evidently in our way we shall not be slack to discuss the public actions of individuals also. We are not aware that any of the assailants of Mr. Dodge ever confessed that they would have let him go free had he voted differently. All that was said, however, against that individual was fairly deserved, and if our correspondent does not think so we can only attribute his state of mind to the perverting influence of that very partizanship he cherishes and deplores. We can say nothing and wish to say nothing in extenuation of the use made of the intercepted letter. It was both a crime and a blunder. But surely no one but a blinded partizan on the other side, can fail to see that the plans and proposals in that letter were simply infamous, viewed from anything like a Christian standpoint, however much they may be suitable to the ordinary meridian of Canadian politics. We persuade ourselves that we are not by any means rabid in our political leanings, but most certainly we fully believe that the Pacific Railway Charter was awarded, on the understanding, expressed or implied, that those who had the disposal of it should be pecuniarily helped to corrupt the electors. With the sworn statements of the principal parties to that matter before us, we cannot even imagine any one coming to any other conclusion, and of all the paltering with conscience we can think of none more deplorable than the many and most wretched attempts which have been made to show that bargain or understanding in the case there was none. The "rabid partizanship" of political newspapers is greatly to be deplored, but we do not see how this either naturally or necessarily results in bribery, except it be by the efforts made on this side or that to show that giving and taking money for votes is not wrong, or that, at the worst, it is a painful but necessary evil not to be judged too severely, or condemned too harshly. We are fully persuaded that there are many upright and honorable men on both sides of our Canadian politics, and are very sorry that these do not do more than they have done to frown down the merest approach of bribery for the purpose of securing political support. We are not called upon to say who began the infamous practice among us, or which party has carried it on most lavishly and systematically. It is, at any rate, time that it should cease, for it has already more than sufficiently disgraced the country and demoralized all parties concerned, more especially those who have not only followed the course themselves, but have defended it as a moral, or at any rate apologized for it as a necessary. We shall not cull any elegant extracts from the files of our neighbors, or thank God that we are not as others are. We could wish, however, that all the journalists of Canada should have as much respect for their own manhood as not even to try to make a defence for anything that is indefensible, and not deal tenderly and apologetically with what is infamous, because it may happen to have been done by those whose general politics are approved of and adopted. If a general and righteous feeling of indignation against all corrupt practices be awakened by the miserable disclosures and wretched confessions of the past months, even the Pacific Scandal, and the stolen letter, and the Dodge forgery may not have been unmitigated and shameless evils after all.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The public opening of the new College Buildings will take place next Tuesday, 28th inst., at 8 o'clock p. m. Ministers and friends of the institution are cordially invited to attend.

Book Notices.

BLACKWOOD FOR SEPTEMBER.—Is a fully average number with all respectable, but nothing surpassingly brilliant.

Ministers and Churches.

It is rumored that Dollinger has recanted and fully submitted to the Sovereign Pontiff. We can scarcely believe that this is true.

The 'Knight Case' is not settled yet, as the minority of the Presbytery means to carry the matter by appeal to the higher courts.

At the meeting of Presbytery on Thursday week, the Rev. Hugh Thomson, of Chalmers Church, Winterbourne, formally tendered his resignation as pastor of that congregation after three years' ministry, and the same was accepted.

The Rev. Dr. Waters has accepted the call to the Presbyterian congregation, St. John's, N. B. We wish the Rev. Dr. all success in his new sphere, and St. Mary's congregation speedily supplied with a suitable pastor.

The large additions made to Knox Church, Toronto, are approaching completion. They may be very commodious, and very much needed, but, to tell the truth, they don't improve the outward appearance of the Church.

At a meeting of the Hamilton Presbytery, on Tuesday last, the Rev. Mr. Laing accepted the call presented to him from Knox Church, Dundas. The induction services will be held on Wednesday, 5th November.

The Rev. M. W. McLean, late of Port Hope, has been called to Belleville. The Intelligencer says:—Mr. McLean is spoken of as an eloquent preacher, an earnest worker, a man of superior attainments, and one who will be a great acquisition to the Protestant clergymen of Belleville.

The first volume of the Rev. W. Cochrane's sermons is now in press, and will be issued shortly. His many friends and admirers are looking forward anxiously to the receipt of the book. Adam Stevenson & Co. are the publishers, and they promise a neat and beautiful work of art.

We call attention to the communication from Manitoba. It is of the first importance that the openings in that Province should be promptly, liberally and energetically taken advantage of. A timid and half-hearted policy would be simply ruinous. We must "go forward," and with increased celerity and force.

The congregation of the Canada Presbyterian Church, Ridgeway, lately presented their pastor, the Rev. A. Currie, with a valuable young horse and a set of silver-mounted harness, and also acknowledging their appreciation of his labors, though so lately settled among them.—Com.

The Rev. K. McDonald, of Thamesford, has received and accepted a call from Alexandria, Glengarry, Ont. Glengarry is Mr. McDonald's native county. The congregation he has ministered to in Thamesford for nearly two years past, deeply regret that he feels it his duty to accept the call, and part with him very reluctantly.—Com.

The Rev. Mr. Ure, of Godrich, has been giving his people sketches of his recent trip to Manitoba. One of the local papers says:—"He speaks very favourably of the country and its resources, and is fully impressed with the glorious future in store for it, though like all other regions it has its drawbacks. Mr. Ure evidently kept his eyes and ears open during his travels."

A handsomely got-up Year Book has just been issued by our Congregationalist friends. It contains a great deal of interesting information about the denomination, and is promised as a yearly publication. Presbyterians might take a hint in this respect and try a publication of the same kind. Such a publication ought to be made to pay. Whether pecuniarily successful or not, it would be, if well got up, exceedingly handy in many ways.

The question raised by our correspondent in reference to the standing and Church relations of Mr. Laing, is an interesting one. We suspect that as Mr. Laing had assumed a secular position out of the Ministry, he could only be replaced in his former ecclesiastical relationship by the action of the General Assembly. Though, to be sure it may be urged that Mr. Laing never ceased to be a preacher and minister without charge in the Canada Presbyterian Church.

The Seaford Presbyterian Church held its anniversary services last Sunday. In the morning and evening Rev. Mr. Inglis, of Toronto, preached two eloquent sermons, while in the afternoon Rev. Mr. Goldsmith, pastor of the church, conducted the services. The attendance was very large, and the amount realized by the collections, we understand, equalled the expectations of the managers. On Monday evening a soiree was held. Rev. Mr. Brown, of Wroxeter, and Rev. Mr. Ure, of Godrich were the speakers on the occasion. Mr. Ure gave an interesting and very impartial sketch of his impressions of Manitoba, obtained while on a brief tour in that Province last summer. A choir of children, under the leadership of Mr. Church, sang very sweetly a number of hymns and other pieces.

A deputation consisting of the Rev. J. McEwan and Rev. J. M. Gordon, of the Presbytery of London (Church of Scotland), have been visiting the congregations of Parkhill and East Williams, and the injunctions of the Synod relative to the salaries of ministers. The arguments of the deputation had a decidedly beneficial effect, and we understand, the salaries of the ministers laboring in those districts have been increased to \$600 per annum, not including the allowance for the Sustentation Fund. The congregations were also given an opportunity of asserting themselves in reference to the resolutions on Union, and unanimously adopted them.

The Rev. K. McDonald, for several years past the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Thamesford, left last week for his new field of labor, he having accepted a call from Alexandria, Ont. Previous to his departure he was the recipient of several substantial acknowledgments of love and good feeling. On Thursday evening, 9th inst., he was presented with an address, a gold watch and chain, and Mrs. McDonald with a set of valuable furs, by his Bible class of Thamesford. On Monday evening he was presented with a farwell address, and a purse containing about \$50, by his East Nissouri Bible class; and on the same evening he was presented with an address and a valuable gold pen from the members of the I. O. of Good Templars of Thamesford. Interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Wright and Lounsbury, of Ingersoll, on this occasion. We regret we cannot find space for the addresses and replies. We can only add that we wish Mr. McDonald a long life of usefulness in his new field of labor.

On Wednesday, 15th inst., the services in connection with the induction of Rev. D. B. Whimster as pastor of the Presbyterian congregation, Meaford, took place in the church. The Rev. Mr. McNaughton, of Big Bay, occupied the pulpit in the morning, preaching an excellent practical discourse from St. John 11th chap. 28th and 29th verses; the latter clause of the 28th verse especially, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." The usual questions were put to the pastor and people by Rev. Mr. Dewar, and these having been satisfactorily answered, Mr. Dewar engaged in prayer and the newly elected pastor was ordained by the solemn laying on of hands by the Presbytery. The minister was then addressed very appropriately and earnestly by the Rev. Mr. McNaughton, and the people by the Rev. Mr. Dewar. After the blessing had been pronounced the congregation, in passing out of the church, gave their newly elected pastor the right hand of welcome. Mr. Whimster takes the pastorate of the congregation under the happiest auspices, with the most cordial good will of every member and adherent of the church.

For some years past the Presbyterians in and around the neighborhood of Wilton, have been without any proper place of worship. Many of the denomination having lately come to the village and the families of those who have for many years resided in the vicinity, having increased and grown up, it was thought that there was a sufficient number to warrant the people in putting forth an effort to erect a church that might be suitable for them to worship in. The earnest and devoted pastor, Mr. Gallagher, was the main-spring of this effort and measures were immediately set on foot to solicit subscriptions. Those engaged in the work met with unexpected success and received the hearty co-operation of the entire congregation. The church was accordingly built and, strange to say, built upon the foundation of the first Presbyterian Church ever erected in Canada, of which the late Rev. Robert McDevall was the esteemed minister. It is a neat and commodious building, surmounted by a handsome spire and presenting a fine appearance as you approach the village. It occupies a central and eligible position on the main street. At the opening the Rev. Mr. McKenzie, of Almonte, conducted the services both morning and afternoon, and preached two earnest and powerful discourses. The church was crowded at both services and the collections footed up a nice sum. In the evening a tea meeting was held, which proved an entire success. The refreshments provided were of the most excellent kind, and the ladies who got them up are deserving of all praise. Mr. Pulse was the chairman, the duties of which he well discharged. Addresses of an interesting character were delivered by Revs. Scott of Napance, Chambers of Sunbury, and McKenzie of Almonte. A reading was well rendered by Mr. Alexander of Kingston.

Mr. Adam Black, lately the senior partner of the firm of Adam and Charles Black, is regarded as the Nestor of the publishing trade of Great Britain, as he certainly is of that of Edinburgh. Though now in his ninetieth year, he is astonishingly hale, daily taking walks which men in his meridian esteem not over-easy pedestrianism. The fine old Scottish gentleman, besides having been a spirited publisher, was an active politician on the Liberal side, having represented Edinburgh in succession to his friend T. B. Macaulay. For several years he was also Lord Provost (equivalent to Lord Mayor) of his native city, and has taken an active part in promoting the higher education of its youth.—Printer's Register.

Meeting of Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Guolph met in this town on Tuesday the 14th Oct. There was a large attendance of both Ministers and Ruling Elders. Auditors were appointed to examine the Treasurers' books, which were laid upon the table. At a subsequent stage of the proceedings the Auditors reported and furnished the detailed statements of the arrears due to the Ordinary Fund of the Presbytery. The Statistical Reports and Financial statement of congregations in the bounds were examined, and explanations required of those representatives present whose congregations were in default to one or more of the schemes of the church. The committee appointed at last ordinary meeting to arrange for the S. S. Conference fixed to be held in Knox Church, Acton, on the second Tuesday of January next, presented their report, consisting of a programme of subjects to be discussed at said Conference. After consideration it was agreed that the report be received, and that the Committee be re-appointed with instructions to procure statistical information from the Sabbath schools in the bounds and make all other necessary arrangements for rendering the proposed Conference interesting and profitable. In pursuance of a previous appointment the Committee on the State of Religion reported a number of topics for discussion, which were approved by the Presbytery, and made the subjects of a very pleasant conference, immediately on the commencement of the afternoon sederunt. Mr. Neil Currie was taken on trials for License, and, having passed these to satisfaction of the Court, he was duly licensed to preach the Gospel wherever he might be orderly called, and his name was ordered to be forwarded to the Assembly's committee on the distribution of probationers for employment, and the Clerk was instructed to give him a certificate of license when asked. Mr. Torrance reported that he had appeared before the Presbytery of Chatham in prosecution of the call given by the congregation of Duff's Church, East Paislieh, to Mr. Alexander McKay, of Elmira, Illinois, U. S., and that that Presbytery had unanimously agreed to allow the translation to proceed. It was thereupon agreed that the Presbytery meet in East Paislieh, on Tuesday, 30th Oct., at 10 o'clock a.m., for Mr. McKay's induction; Mr. Torrance to preside, induct and address the minister, Mr. D. D. McLennan to preach, and Mr. Wardrop to address the people. Mr. Smellie reported from the committee on the superintendence of students in the bounds, when it was agreed that the report be received, that the committee be commended for their diligence, and that, when necessary, Presbyterial certificates be furnished to those students requiring the same. There was read and a certificate of transference in favor of Mr. S. W. Fisher from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, N. S., to the Presbytery of Guolph. There was also a petition read from the congregation of the Canada Presbyterian Church, Galt, for the moderation in a call which they proposed to give to a minister—promising a salary of two thousand dollars. The petition was granted, and Mr. Ball appointed to preach and moderate on Tuesday, the 29th inst., at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. In accordance with a report submitted by the committee, the Presbytery arranged for holding a series of missionary meetings, having missionary sermons preached in the different congregations under their care. The session records of the First Congregation, Eramosa, were submitted, and a committee appointed to examine the same. This committee subsequently reported that said records were carefully kept and the business transacted in an orderly manner, and they were ordered to be attested accordingly. The Presbytery next proceeded to hold a conference on the state of religion, and, having spent some time in the same, taking for the subjects of conversation certain topics recommended in the report of their committee, formally agreed that when, in the judgment of ministers and sessions, continuous religious services are desirable, the Presbytery approve the holding of such meetings, and that the whole matter, including the questions discussed, be sent down to sessions for consideration and report. The committee appointed to visit Elmira, Hawksville and Winterbourne, and to confer with Mr. Thompson, with the view of uniting the above congregations into one pastoral charge, reported. After deliberation it was agreed that further consideration of the matter be delayed till next ordinary meeting, and that these congregations be summoned to appear then for their interests. A letter from Mr. Hugh Thompson, late minister at Winterbourne, claiming arrears of stipend due him by the congregation there, was referred to that congregation, with the request that the claim be discharged. A scheme for missionary sermons and meetings was submitted and adopted. The Clerk was instructed to get a sufficient number of copies printed for distribution. It was agreed that application be made to the Home Mission Committee for a grant, for three years, of two hundred dollars to enable them, with a subscription of their own to the amount of four hundred dollars, to obtain the services of a settled minister. The case of North Luther congregation, involving difference of opinion respecting the site on which they should erect their new church, was next taken up. Mr. Anderson and Mr. D. D. McLennan were heard. Papers bearing on the case were read. After deliberation it was resolved that a Committee be appointed to visit all these stations to ascertain all the facts of the case, and report to the Presbytery at their next ordinary meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting be held in Knox Church, Acton, on the second Tuesday of January, beginning at 9 o'clock a.m. A report for the mission supply for the summer half-year, with the amounts paid by, and the claims against, the different vacancies and mission stations, was submitted by the Clerk, received, and considered. The Clerk reported the amounts he had received to aid in the erection of a new church at North Luther, when he was instructed to hand over the sum to the Presbytery Treasurer, to be retained by him till authorized to pay the same to the proper parties. The Clerk further reported the amount of supply for the vacancies and mission stations, granted by the distribution