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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1874.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

The painfully distressing accident on the Great Western Railway last Saturday evening ought surely to read every one a lesson to be very cautious in handling coal oil, and ought also to make the punishment very severe for any one making or selling any of that article which from improper modes of refilling, may be highly inflammable and explosive.

The Ashantee war is generally regarded as over now that the capital of the kingdom has been taken. We hope it may be so, but there is the possibility of a good deal of trouble, if not absolute danger in Sir Garnet's march back to the sea coast. All will unite in the prayer that the matter may be finally and satisfactorily disposed of. There is just the possibility of treachery, and we wait with interest not unmixed with anxiety, for the next Ashantee intelligence from the west of Africa.

It is a comfort to know that the Tichborne case is at last finished, and that the "Claimant" has been found guilty of perjury, and sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment. About the justice of this verdict there is a great diversity of opinion in England. But among those in other lands who have followed carefully this most protracted trial we are persuaded that the all but universal conviction is that justice has at last been, at least partially, done. There is to be a move for a new trial, but all is likely not to amount to much.

The proceedings of our Local House of Parliament during the past week have been almost entirely devoid of interest. This Assembly has very little dignity and is day by day throwing off part of the little it originally had. In hearing or ability of debate it is not very superior to an ordinary County Council. In one point of its proceedings are specially shown the strength and tendency of public opinion. While the Parliamentary bar for the sale of intoxicating liquors is liberally patronised by honourable members, no opportunity is allowed to pass unimproved on the part of even the most inveterate toppers, for airing opinions in favour of a stringent liquor law, if not for absolute prohibition. It is an awful farce, of course, for poor creatures who sometimes can venture to their seats on the floor of Parliament when more or less intoxicated, to declaim upon the evils of intemperance; but it shows the growing force of public opinion which even such men cannot afford either to ignore or despise.

## LETTER FROM INDIA.

Our readers will be glad to know that the young ladies—Miss Fairweather and Miss Rodger—who left Canada for India in October last have reached their destination in safety. The missionaries are under the charge of the American Presbyterian Church, although paid by the Canada Presbyterian Church. Through the courtesy of the Rev. Prof. McLaren, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, we are enabled to give the following extracts from a letter written by Miss Fairweather, under date 20th Dec., 1873, recently received by Rev. T. Lowry, of Brantford:

"We are now in India, and Allahabad is our home at present. We are with Mr. and Mrs. Brodhead, most hospitable people indeed." (American Missionaries). "Mr. Heyl, one of the American Missionaries, was at the station and took us home at about 12 o'clock at night. After that he had to get beds made up for us, or rather

for himself, as he gave us his. We went to Mr. Brodhead's next day. Mr. B. had to give up his study, and we are using it now for a bed-room. It is likely, Mr. B. thinks, that we will go farther up the country; but at present we can tell nothing. The Presbyterian meeting was just past, and now a letter has to go through the different stations before any thing can be done. It has put them to great inconvenience. I did not meet Dr. Wilson of Bombay; but we have a Free Church here. Mr. Williamson is Pastor. We saw him on Christmas day. His is a fine church, and well attended. I shall write soon again to you, but I am very tired after my journey, so please excuse me, and do not retaliate either by a short letter or a long time before writing."

## OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In the *Home and Foreign Record* for last August, we noticed that the third Sabbath of March is set apart by the General Assembly as the day on which a stated collection should be made to the Foreign Mission societies of our Church. Coupled with this is a recommendation that missionary Associations, or similar organizations should be established in all our congregations. It would be well, and the necessity for any special appeal would be moved, if this recommendation were generally noted on, there is, however, great reason to fear that many of our congregations are still content to give for Missions what may seem to them a pretty liberal collection, and nothing more. Well-to-do heads or families put in their twenty-five cent pieces, a few, a little richer, perhaps, or perhaps only more liberal, give their half-dollars, and everyone is proud if enough bills are given to conceal the silver and copper from sight. And in the next number of the *Record* it appears that the congregation of — has given \$17.67 towards the great work of spreading the glorious gospel to the ends of the earth.

The study of statistics is to most people very interesting, but it may notwithstanding be very instructive. It would do every adult member of our Church good, for instance, to study the Report of the Assembly's Committee on Statistics contained in the same number of the *Record* already referred to. It appears that in the contributions to Foreign Missions there was last year a falling off of \$425.21 while the committee has since felt that for the perishing heathen they must go forward in the good work. Since last Assembly three have been added to the Saskatchewan staff, two have been sent to India to do work for us under the superintendence of the American Presbyterian Board, and, besides Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, who hope to go to Formosa during the coming summer, a young man of great promise has volunteered for this field of labour, and will be sent, if possible, at the same time as Dr. Fraser. The demand on the Foreign Mission Fund will thus be unusually heavy this year. The question is, will the Committee on Statistics have still to report a falling off in this Fund to the next Assembly? If so, some of the missionaries already sent out must be recalled, and those ready to go must stay at home. This must not be. We are persuaded better things of our Presbyterian Christianity in Canada. Will those forty-seven congregations that last year gave nothing at all to the Foreign Mission Fund, not this year give the Lord some token of their love for Him by giving of their substance to send those who are willing to go and tell the heathen the story of His love? Will those congregations who have no Missionary Association, not organize one? Will those ministers who have been content once a year to announce that "a collection will be taken up next Sabbath day for the Foreign Mission Fund," without any further attempt to interest their people in the Evangelization of the world, not set apart some days for the preaching of "Missionary Sermons," so that the flock, knowing of what our Church is doing for the heathen, may have their heartiest sympathies enlisted in this glorious work.

The Sabbath after next is the third Sabbath of March. The Foreign Mission Committee will meet at the close of the month and, as the Convener says, "they can only administer the funds placed at their disposal." Erskine Church, Montreal, has done nobly. A thousand dollars at the head of this year's subscription list. Those who have given it have not thrown away their money. They have lent it to one who gives good interest, and who will repay them again. May all our Churches emulate the example, may some, may many yet, exceed the attainment.

The heathen are hungry for "the bread which perisheth not." Shall we deny them what they ask? There is an "open door," shall we refuse to go in? If we do may we not expect that God will send us "emptiness" of barn, and "banness" of soul.

May God help us, as a Church, to devise liberal things when we are dealing with those to whom "the glad tidings" have not as yet been sent!

The Rev. John McNab has been called by the West Church, Fitchburg.

## CHAMPAGNE AND RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

We have made some enquiry about the matter referred to by our correspondent "one who wants to know" and feel sorry to say that there is only too much truth in the humour he speaks of. "Railway Engineering," not in the scientific but in the conventional sense, has always, we are afraid, been tolerably discreditable, and the lobbying about the Parliament House has certainly not always been what it ought to be, but some of the more recent "campaigns" have been simply disgraceful, and when things have got so far that a good many of our law-givers are treated to champagne 'guzzles' by railway manipulators in order to mollify their hearts, and it is to be presumed, influence their votes, it is full time that the decent and sober part of the community were bethinking themselves and preparing for action. Were the secret history of the struggle of rival railway lines for township and county votes and bonuses given in all their native truth and hideousness, many would stand against the sad facts brought to light. The stories which pass current from mouth to mouth under the exalting sanction and authority of some of the prominent actors in the scenes, are shocking and disgusting in last degree; but we thought operators would have been satisfied with their rural achievements with "forty rod" without trying the effects of more sparkling beverages on those who are generally thought to be above being "approached" in any such fashion. Why there should be a "bar" at all for the use of a legislature that has unanimously declared for prohibition is not very plain. By their fruits ye shall know them. Men do not gather grapes of thorns or figs from thistles. Is it come to be a preliminary for getting a bill passed into law that the "promoter" should treat "all round"? Our local lights may have sunk low enough, but surely things have not yet come to this pass with any of them. If they have even in a few cases, constituents ought to look after such representatives. When we are told, we may also add, that other things have been reformed in Dominion matters, it will surely be well that the representatives at Ottawa during the coming session of Parliament, likewise show an amount of that personal reformation which some of those who have been re-chosen gave very painful evidence on former occasions was much needed. There are too many quick eyes about the capital now, and too many faithful pens to let any of our representatives imagine they can outrage moderation and propriety without being known, talked about and exposed. The character of public men is so far public property, and if honourable members think they can with impunity sleep off a heavy debauch on the benches of the Parliament House, they will find themselves mistaken. The public mind in Canada is becoming very strongly exercised over the question of intemperance, and representative toppers with or without genius, had better take the hint, and regulate their conduct accordingly. Things are fast coming to this pass, that even undoubted ability allied with genial manners and popular opinions, will not secure that the mantle of charity and forgetfulness be thrown over personally intemperate habits or general immorality; and if even genius may not secure such impunity, what will be the fate of those who have no genius, and no respectability to make up for its absence?

## Ministers Salaries.

In the last number of the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN we observe a letter from a clergyman signed "Nova Scotia," referring to the stipends generally paid to the clergymen of the Presbyterian Church in Ontario, which was of opinion deserving the thoughtful consideration not merely of the members of that church, but of all the churches in the Province. This gentleman, who, from intrinsic evidence, appears to be an Ontarian, complains that the clergy are miserably paid; that "able men, first-class men, may travel Ontario, rich Ontario! from centre to circumference, and as a rule the best offer made to them is the overhanging six hundred dollars, with or without a manse. And he truly says "no minister can live on that now, and therefore ministers are leaving Ontario and getting comfortably settled in other places, where they are eagerly snatched at and where they are just as usefully employed in the service of the laudable Church." And adds he could give the names of excellent men who could not get more than \$600 per annum in Ontario and who receive \$800 and a manse in Nova Scotia. We have long been of opinion that as a class the clergy (not of any particular church) are very inadequately remunerated, and that the time has come when the people should look the matter fairly in the face and deal more honestly with their pastors.—*Carleton Place Herald*.

A few weeks since the members and adherents of King congregation after paying their Minister's stipend presented him with a handsome China tea service, and also the Laekay congregation surprised him with a splendid earthen dinner service, as a token of respect, and after a profitable conversation, reading and prayer the friends went home.

## Book Notices.

BLACKWOOD FOR FEBRUARY.

Received from the Leonard Scott, Publishing Co., New York.

Keeps up its usual character. Its most noticeable article is on "Scripture and Modern Poetry." As might be expected, Blackwood is very jubilant over the dissolution of the Imperial Parliament and very confident about the result of the new election. There will be a wonderful crow next month. The desertion of the nonconformists is held to be the great cause of Mr. Gladstone going to the wall. About that we rather think there is now scarcely any difference of opinion. Mr. G. might possibly have fallen though the nonconformists had stood true, without them he had not a chance.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW FOR JANUARY 1874.  
Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York.

This number of the *Westminster* opens with an able and temperate article on the "Disestablishment of the Church of England." The points dwelt upon are, the Establishing now by-law of the Church of England, 1st involves "the violation of religious equality." 2nd, deprives the Church of the right of self government. 3rd, Involves upon Parliament duties which it is not qualified to discharge. 4th, Is hurtful to the religious and political interests of the community. 5th, Is a failure, and 6th Is unnecessary. Each of these points is dwelt upon with great power. The Church of England as a State Church is doomed. As also is the Church of Scotland. Both friends and foes are now agreed on that point. It may be very soon or it may be delayed for a while, but disestablishment is surely in the not very far off future. "Christian Missions to the H-eathen," is an article in the usual style of the *Westminster*, intended to show that modern Christian Missions to the heathen have been "universally absolute failures, and will always be so. This kind of talk is old and stale. The usual character of wandering literatures and adventurers is such that no possible importance is to be attached to what they say when Christianity and ordinary morality are under discussion. A highly laudatory notice of the biography of John Stuart Mill was to be expected, though even the *Westminster* does not venture to defend Mr. Mill's peculiar views on marriage and the general relation of the sexes.

## Ministers and Churches.

The Synod of Toronto will (D.V.) meet in the Gould street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on Monday, 31st March, 1874, at 7 o'clock p.m.

At the annual meeting of the Orillia Presbyterian Church, held on the 30th January last, the Basis of Union was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. John Brown, of the Newmarket Presbyterian Church, was presented the other day with a purse of over \$100, by the members of the Queensville branch.

On Monday evening last, the 2nd of March, a few friends from the Essa town-line congregation waited on their pastor, the Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., at his residence, Cookstown, when an address was read by Mr. Ignatius Lennox, who, in the name of the congregation, presented Mr. Fraser with a well filled purse, as a token of their esteem and affection.

The *Perth Courier* says:—"On a second vote being taken regarding the admission of organ music into the religious services of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, the yeas carried the question; but on considering the matter, it was deemed advisable, on the grounds of so many old and prominent members being opposed to the innovation, not to use the organ at present."

We are in receipt of the Annual Report of Knox Church, Dundas, for 1873. The receipts during the past year amounted to \$1,518.01, and the balance on hand \$320.60. The congregation is about erecting a fine new church at a cost of \$9,000. The pastor—Rev. John Lang, M.A., is well seconded by the Session, managers and members, so that, in all probability, the new edifice will be opened free of debt.

The annual soiree of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin, came off on Friday evening, and was a great success. The Rev. J. F. Dickie occupied the chair, and the speakers were Rev. Messrs. Ball and Wardrop of Guelph. An excellent choir was also in attendance. Amongst those who received special applause we are pleased to notice our old townsman, Mr. H. K. Maitland and Miss Addison of Galt, whose singing on the occasion is highly spoken of. During the evening Miss Agnes Young, organist for the congregation, was presented with a beautiful gold watch, chain, and locket, valued at \$100. Mr. Young, of the Central School responded feelingly on her behalf. The proceeds of this Soiree amounted to \$100.—*Telegraph*.

The Rev. John McNab delivered a lecture in the West Church, Fitchburg, last Wednesday, on Manitoba, in which Province he laboured for four years as a minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church. The lecture was one of the most interesting ever delivered in this place. It embraced both the good and the bad features of the new Province. He minutely explained the fertility of the soil, the vast extent of country available for agricultural purposes, the mineral wealth together with its present political and ecclesiastical position, and its educational institutions. The lecture was exceedingly interesting, and the audience would have liked to see it in print for future reading.—*Cov*.

A most agreeable party assembled at the Free Mause Martintown, on the evening of the 25th ult., when a copious manifestation of the good will so long established between the pastor, the Rev. Nath. Paterson, and his kind flock, presented tangible results. Gifts, to the value of about \$116 inclusive of a large supply of wood, in which latter respect, some of the good friends from Williamstown assisted, materially were the expression of those sentiments of attachment and respect, so agreeable to the recipient, and so much calculated to advance his usefulness among the people. The company spent a very happy evening, and retired amid mutual congratulations concerning the pleasantness of the occasion.

The annual report of the St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, is before us. We quote the following "So far as statistics are anxious, we have ground for encouragement. The Communion roll now contains the names of 331 persons, to which 50 were added during the year, and from which 21 were removed by death or otherwise, leaving an aggregate gain of 26 communicants. The number of families now having a connection more or less intimate with the Congregation is 177. Fifteen new families have identified themselves with us during the past year, while we have lost six by death or removal from the city and district. All the congregational machinery is in harmonious working order. The Sabbath School is prosperous: the Missionary Association is doing its work effectively though quietly: the Dorcas Society is easily able to overtake with the funds on hand all cases of real want in the Congregation: the Young Men's Association is maintaining its former reputation for vigour and ability: and the Choir is now stronger in numbers than at any former period." The increase of the congregation amounted to \$2,607.75; with \$464 remaining unpaid on pew-rents.

The good people of Caledon, in connection with the Canada Presbyterian congregation there, made a raid on the Mause on the evening of Tuesday, the 24th ult. All mingled in social and friendly intercourse for a space of two or three hours. Short speeches were delivered by Messrs. Johnston, Atkinson, Wallace, and McPaul. After devotional exercises the happy party broke up at 11 o'clock, all delighted with the evening's entertainment, and expressing mutually the fond wish that they might have many such meetings with their beloved pastor and family. They left a tangible proof of their right good will to their minister in the shape of sixty dollars. This is more praiseworthy on the part of the Charleston congregation, when the fact is taken into consideration that during the past year they have erected a church at the cost of, at least, \$1,500, and that they have not only paid the stipend promised, but fifty dollars over the stipulated amount; so that it cannot be said of this Surprise Party that it was adapted as the means to the end of keeping out an ill-paid stipend.—*Cov*.

The annual missionary meeting of the Gould street Presbyterian Church was held on Wednesday evening of last week, and was largely attended. The pastor, Rev. J. M. King, M.A., occupied the chair. From the report read by the Secretary, Mr. Wm. Kerr, it appeared that there had been raised by the congregation and its Sabbath schools for the schemes of the Canada Presbyterian Church \$766 for Home Missions, \$311 for Foreign Missions, \$360 for Theological Education, \$60 for French Evangelization, \$50 for the Axel Ministers' Fund, for the College at Manitoba \$60, and for various other objects of a missionary kind \$34—making \$1,721 for these schemes. In addition to this sum, the congregation has contributed \$1,478 for the new College Building, \$1,000 for the Building Fund of the new church in College street, and \$76 for the current expenses of this church; for the Rev. Mr. Seshadri's mission in India \$144, and for the Waldensian Church \$80, making with the sum already enumerated \$4,479. It was stated that \$606 had been paid during the year in addition by the managers of the congregation, in connection with the mission premises and work on Sherbourne street, making in all \$5,085 as the congregation's contribution for missionary and evangelistic work. The meeting was afterwards addressed in effective speeches by Principal Cayon, Professor McLaren, Rev. Mr. McCall, of Hamilton, Messrs. T. W. Taylor, Picken, and Fitchburg.