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## The Canada Presbyterian

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4TH, 1895

**PRINCIPAL RAINY** made a speech at the recent election in favour of his friend Mr. Paul. Mr. Paul was badly beaten. One of the papers strongly advised the Principal to give up Pauline politics and return to Pauline Theology.

**I**N some way to us unaccountable, the valuable article in last week's issue on, "Whom Shall the Church send to the Foreign Mission Field," was credited to Rev. J. McP Scott instead of Rev. J. A. Turnbull, LL.B., of this city, to whom it rightfully belongs, and who, we trust, will forgive this mistake.

**WOULD** those who denounce the young Methodist preacher, who said wild things about nunneries the other day in Toronto, tell us why a young preacher may not say in Toronto what older preachers were endorsing by their support of the P.P.A. and their patronage of Margaret L. Shepherd a few months ago.

**THE Herald and Presbyter** has this pointed and timely paragraph:

"It is a good rule for every one to make up his mind and use his efforts to build up his own church. Suppose every one in the whole country should try for one year, as zealously as he knows how, to add to the membership, the efficiency, the attendance, the spirituality, the benevolence, the income of his own church. It would be a great year and the result would be the strengthening of the church for its work in reaching and blessing the world. The one who loves 'all the churches' will not love any one of them enough to do it any good."

Our contemporary evidently understands the Rouser.

**THERE** is a good deal of quiet interest in legal, political and temperance circles in regard to the coming decision of the Privy Council in the Prohibition matter. Legal gentlemen who were in London at the time of argument are quite divided in opinion as to the result. One gentleman thinks there is not the slightest doubt that the decision will be in favour of the Province, while another thinks the Province has not the ghost of a chance. The data on which these opinions are formed are mainly the questions asked and the observations made by the Law Lords during the argument. Some legal experts profess to know by a judge's manner, remarks and questions what his decision will be. It should be remembered, however, that some judges, when they have their minds pretty well made up ask questions simply to hear what can be urged against their own opinion. It is quite possible, indeed we think, rather probable, that the Ontario Premier will fail this time to add another to his series of victories in the Privy Council. Not long before his death, Sir John Thompson said in his place in the House that it never would have occurred to him to question the jurisdiction

of the Dominion Parliament in regard to Prohibition if eminent lawyers had not given the contrary opinion. Sir John Thompson was high authority.

**WE** would call the attention of our readers to the valuable series of articles begun in our last issue, continued in this, and one or two more, on the Sabbath and the question: "Should the Church send to the Foreign field all applicants who are found suitable, trusting to the Lord through His Church to support them"? They were first given as addresses at a conference held just before the meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, and were considered so excellent that they are now published in THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and, thereafter, through the liberality, as we understand, of one of our elders in this city deeply interested in Christian work, will appear in pamphlet form, and we hope will in that more permanent shape have a wide circulation and be the means of doing much good.

**I**T will speak well for the good sense and level-headed character of the people of Manitoba, if they do not because of the "magnificent crop" they are having, of magnificent grain, and magnificent weather for harvesting, and the attention it is drawing upon them of the whole Dominion, not to speak of other lands, the laudation of their country and its soil, and the flocking to it of so many distinguished visitors from everywhere, each one of whom vies with the other in praising the fertility of the Province and the greatness of its resources; it will be well if with all these things and many more it escapes the disease popularly known as "swelled head." It takes a steady hand to carry a full cup, and we hope they may have and will keep the steady hand. As no doubt there are many big "bills payable" waiting for this great crop, let us see if there will not soon be heard the wail over the poor prices, and that after all it is not so great a thing as one might think. We remember well, once at least, seeing farmers in one of the Western States apparently really quite put out by the abundance of the yield of corn, causing expense in providing accommodation for it, hard work harvesting it, and then so little for it. We hope our fellow citizens out West will get grace to put up with, and bear as best they can this almost superabundance with which they are being blest. It is well at such a time to remember the warning given to another people long ago: "Beware lest thou say in thine heart, my power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth; but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth."

**ACCOUNT** for it as we may there is no denying the fact that a large number of Nonconformists in England and Free Church men—probably even United Presbyterians—in Scotland are not taking anything like the interest in Disestablishment that they once took. The Rosebery Government tried to disestablish the Church in Wales and many of its supporters were strongly in favour of disestablishment in Scotland. The present Government is pledged up to the hilt against disestablishment anywhere and it is gravely hinted that it may establish and endow the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. It is no secret that thousand of nonconformists in England and Free Church men in Scotland voted in favour of the Salisbury Government thus showing at the very least that they consider other issues more important than disestablishment. From other directions comes the most undoubted evidence that disestablishment is no longer a question to conjure with. The Moderator of the Free Church Assembly stated in his opening speech that he had never taken any part in the disestablishment controversy. Would any Free Church Moderator have said that a few years ago even if it had been true? Such men as Drummond, Stalker and others among the younger leaders never touch the question. The nonconformist members of the Salisbury Government—or perhaps we should say those who had been born and bred Nonconformists—showed little or no zeal in supporting the Welsh Disestablishment Bill. The *British Weekly* declares that the Methodist member of the Government was the most lukewarm of all. The causes that have led to this manifest change of feeling and opinion would make an interesting subject of study.

**WE** fully expected that the article of the Rev. Mr. Doudiet in a late issue would call forth a rejoinder. The rejoinder to him by "A Home Worker," a lady, well-informed on the subject, expresses, we doubt not, the general, if not the universal feeling of Christian women, and does it in admirable spirit and form. We thoroughly agree with her in her contention; we could subscribe to almost every sentiment and opinion which she expresses. There is no answering these points made by "Home Worker," that women are needed on the Foreign field for the men who are sent out, because there is much work that only women can do; that responsibility is laid upon them along with men for the spread of the gospel in all lands; that they have therefore both a privilege and a duty in this matter and no one has a right to say them nay. The splendid results of women's work which could only be accomplished by them is an ample vindication of the wisdom of sending them to the foreign field, even in the face of danger and death. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews would not have been so complete and inspiring as it is, but for the women there spoken of. They have never been without their successors in the history of the Christian church, and of these, there have never been more or nobler than in our own day. The Church would sustain a mighty loss could that noble succession be stopped, and we rejoice to believe that, though there may be dangers to face, so long as woman remains what she is, and especially so long as the hearts of Christian women are fountains of love and pity and self-sacrificing consecration it cannot and will not be stopped.

## A VERY SIGNIFICANT PROPOSAL.

**A**T the last regular meeting of the Presbytery of London, North England, a most significant motion was made, and it is all the more significant because made by a Presbytery in the old land, naturally so much more conservative in retaining use and wont than is the case in a new country like our own. This motion is intended to deal with a difficulty which has been referred to in our columns repeatedly, which has been widely felt in our Church, and is likely to be more keenly felt as time goes on. It is the want of elasticity in our system of government as it is now, and usually has been administered, in the way of providing facilities for ministers and churches making changes where these may be desirable. So far as the minister is concerned the only way he can effect a change is to receive a call, die, resign or have the pastoral tie dissolved by the authority of the Presbytery. The congregation which for perfectly satisfactory reasons may need or desire a change, is in a much worse position than a minister. The same state of matters prevails in England and is there felt to be an evil as it is also by many in Canada. At the meeting referred to Mr. Henry Robson moved his resolution for facilitating an interchange of ministers. The motion is as follows: "Whereas there are ministers and congregations of our Church to whom a change of ministry would be both acceptable and beneficial, the Presbytery resolves to appoint a committee to consider the matter and report." Mr. Robson explaining his motion said that it did not deal with ministerial inefficiency. It had to do with ministers who were doing efficient work and might be doing more efficient work elsewhere. He admitted there were difficulties to be overcome, but he did not think they were insurmountable. It was desirable that a minister should be able to change his sphere without incurring the stigma of resignation. Other Churches either had schemes dealing with the question or were moving in the matter. The Waldensian Church has a system of itinerancy not so rigid and universal as the Wesleyan, of which Mr. Prochet says that it is of undoubted advantage to both ministers and congregations. Mr. Robson said that he had no plan to propose; he only asked that the matter be carefully investigated." "Rev. Principal Dykes," says the *Halifax Presbyterian Witness*, "spoke as he did at the Synod of the fact that the English Presbyterian Church offers fewer facilities to her own ministers for changes of sphere and promotion than most churches, and while recognizing the fact that it might be far more easy to formulate a practicable remedy, he declared that the question was one of the very greatest importance." The motion was unanimously adopted, and at the next meeting of Presbytery a committee will be appointed.