

# British American Presbyterian,

102 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

For the Proprietor, C. BLACKETT ROBINSON  
Editor and Proprietor.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted. Articles not accepted will be returned, if the writer so desires, by the Editor. If no such notice is given, the Editor will be obliged to assume responsibility for the return of the manuscript. Manuscripts not accompanied by the writer's name and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

## OUR GENERAL AGENT.

MR. CHARLES N. D. General Agent for the Presbyterian, is now in Western Ontario, visiting the interests of this journal. We cannot but be glad to hear of his labors and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

## THE CANADA

# Christian Monthly.

A Review and Record of Christian Thought, Christian Life, and Christian Work.

EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON, CHATSWORTH.

NUMBER FOR APRIL, NOW OUT.

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British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1877.

We direct the attention of our city readers to the advertisement of the annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of this city, which takes place in the lecture room of Knox Church, next Tuesday, at half-past two o'clock, when the report will be read and officers elected. In the evening at 7.30 a public meeting will be held in Knox Church. Foreign and local speakers of note are expected to deliver addresses. We hope there will be a large and enthusiastic meeting, and then there will be no doubt about this important society getting a large and liberal collection.

DURING the past month many of our correspondents had to complain of non-attention to their letters. The letters never reached us; and the reason why is now very apparent. For several weeks our Post office drawer has been systematically robbed. We do not know—perhaps may never know—how many letters were abstracted; but of this we are certain that the affair has caused our correspondents no little annoyance—in some cases loss; and to ourselves both loss and vexation. In this connection we may mention that Rev. Principal Snodgrass mailed us in time for our issue of 2nd April another article on "Biblical Hyper-criticism" which never reached us. We have before us a duplicate copy of this paper, which, for want of space in this issue, we are compelled to hold over.

## ZION CHURCH, BRANTFORD, AND THE LADIES' COLLEGE.

Thirty-eight new members were added to the communion of this church last Sabbath. Thirty-three of these were by profession of faith, and of this number eighteen were from the Young Ladies' college. During the last three years since the college was established not a single sacramental season has passed without several additions from the students attending the institution. The senior class which graduates next June, with scarcely an exception, are professors of religion, and for some months past a very deep and earnest spirit has prevailed in all the classes. This state of matters must be exceedingly gratifying to parents whose daughters are under training at the college, and shows that the higher interests of the soul are not neglected, while maintaining a high standard of scholarship.

In spite of the financial crisis through which the country is passing, we are glad to say that the number of students in the college is larger than at any former period. While the largest proportion came from Ontario, there are now not a few from Quebec and the lower provinces, and Presbyterian families in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Missouri, are sending their daughters to the college in preference to American institutions.

In addition to the regular curriculum, the Rev. John Thompson of Saratoga has just completed a short course of lectures on the English language and Literature, which were of great interest and profit to all who heard them. Dr. Pierson, of Detroit, and others, follow on special subjects. The Directors of the college are sparing no effort to expend to put the college in the forefront of our educational system and make it an honour to the Church.

## MR. GLADSTONE ON PREACHING.

Some profess to see in Mr. Gladstone's appearance in Dr. Parker's Church, a movement which has a political object in view. It is said that the ex-premier was bidding for the support of the Dissenters in the matter of disestablishment with which his name is freely connected. Whether this be so, the future will certainly bring to light. The speech itself, which was delivered by Mr. Gladstone, was certainly no such political significance. He takes the great subject of preaching as his theme and delivers thereon a very interesting and instructive address. It is certainly something new for a distinguished statesman to leave the arena of politics and to occupy his mind with such a subject. Mr. Gladstone enjoys a certain reputation for dealing with ecclesiastical subjects from the point of view of a historian and scholar. The aesthetic taste is in fact highly developed in his cranium. But Mr. Gladstone in the address to which we refer shows himself to be deeply interested in the practical side of Christianity.

That the philosophic statesman should be drawn to the subject of preaching is very natural. He himself is the model parliamentary speaker, the eloquent exponent of finance, one of the great teachers of the science of political economy. He has proved himself a master in the art of public speaking before an audience like that of the House of Commons, which is confessedly most fastidious. On the hustings and on the platform, he has shown himself to be the mob orator *par excellence*. The art of preaching is one to which such a man cannot have failed to have given much attention. Besides as a Christian he is interested in a matter so essential to the dissemination of truth, and the advancement of Christ's kingdom. It would not astonish us in the least to hear of Mr. Gladstone coming out in the roll of preachers. Many lesser lights, some of them even belonging to the Upper Ten, have recently appeared as evangelists. He exhibits "out of harness" a strange restlessness. He is in truth too vigorous and active for retirement. What is he to do with such a fund of unspent force, now that he no longer makes Westminster ring with his eloquence, or conserves his talents as the Parliamentary leader. There is nothing evidently for it, now that the political pamphleteering has come to an end, but that Mr. Gladstone assume a new roll, and exemplify in living action his theories of preaching.

Everything is tending to show the importance of the preacher's office. It is questionable whether the matter of preaching ever before received such attention. There is evidently a great improvement going on in the cultivation of the speaking faculty, in the study of modes of address, in the presentation from the pulpit of scriptural truth. The preacher of our day is becoming more and more direct. He is no longer the slavish reader of manuscript. He can look the people in the face. Mr. Gladstone thinks the day is coming when the manuscript will disappear from the pulpit. Whether that be so or not, the day has come when preachers who can deliver well what they have to say, are very much in demand. Nor is there any longer a painful divorce between good speaking and sound scholarship. In our day the best scholars are in general the best speakers, the clearest, the most forcible, as well as the most cultivated. This is as it ought to be. For scholarship must indeed be at a fearful disadvantage when it is allied with an awkward and ungainly utterance.

## FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

DEBT ON REV. C. CHINIQUE'S CHURCH.

A fortnight ago we published an urgent appeal from Principal Macvicar on behalf of contributions to meet a note for \$3,000, due on the new church recently erected for Rev. Mr. Chinique in Montreal. In response to that appeal we understand that only about \$300 have been received. Of this amount \$50 were from a member of another branch of the church in Montreal, \$5 from one of our most poorly paid ministers, \$5 from another minister with a small salary who, having received a small gift from his people at the close of a prayer meeting service, concluded to send a portion of it to aid in removing this debt. The note falls due at the bank on Thursday next, the 19th inst. We trust that before that date many additional contributions will be forwarded to the Treasurer, whose address is Rev. R. H. Warden, 210 St. James street, Montreal. How many of our readers could afford \$5, \$10 or \$100 to such an object, and not feel themselves the poorer thereby. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth."

The annual missionary meeting of Knox Church, Woodstock, was held on the 27th ult., and was largely attended. The Rev. Mungo Fraser of St. Thomas, gave a very able and interesting address. The sum total raised during the year for the schemes of the Church is \$565.55, being an advance of \$188 on the contributions of the previous year.

## CASE OF REV. MR. McCUNE.

The Presbytery of Cincinnati has for a long time been occupied with the case of this reverend gentleman. We have never been able to make out what the prosecutors meant to establish against their brother. These gentlemen including Dr. Skinner and Dr. West were evidently in dead earnest. They acted as though they felt that Presbyterianism was at stake. But what meant these charges that were so freely made against Mr. McCune, was the one agitating question that pressed itself upon the on-looker from a distance.

As far as we can make out the Rev. Mr. McCune had adopted some impracticable theory of Church Union—carried to its extreme that would obliterate all denominational landmarks; and the reverend gentleman became involved so far as to affect his practice in the matter of infant baptism, and to lead him to take part in the formation of a church which had no distinct Presbyterian connection. It appears that Mr. McCune is a man singularly devout, and zealous in his work, a man of transparent honesty and sincerity of character, and a man much beloved and respected by his brethren. And yet his prosecutors framed a libel charging him with disloyalty to the Church, and depended for proof upon the vagaries in which he might be led to indulge from his overwrought but highly attenuated theory of Church Union.

The Presbytery found Mr. McCune innocent of the charge libelled by a large majority. They acquit him of the accusation of disloyalty. They admonish him for having gone astray in the matter of infant baptism, but justify his conduct in reference to the formation of a church outside of the Presbyterian communion. They expressed the hope that the matter would be completely dropped, and that Mr. McCune would be made to feel that he had the confidence of his brethren. Mr. McCune throughout the trial had acted a noble and manly part. He had defended himself with remarkable power. He had shown himself to be deeply in earnest. Such indeed was his conduct all through, that whatever imprudence may have appeared in him was altogether lost sight of, and his Christian integrity stood forth in the clearest light. It was therefore a matter of regret that by reason of the determined opposition of the prosecutors he should have requested to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church to join a Congregational association.

We cannot help thinking that this Prosecuting Committee have acted with absurd conscientiousness all the way through this protracted trial. They have shown themselves far too zealous for the letter of the law. Their charge of disloyalty was a grave one, but now that it has broken down for want of proof, it shows them to be disloyal themselves to the law of Christian courtesy. Had they sought by mild measures, by prayer and conference, to correct their brother, they would have done a service for which they would have been commended. But to proceed to libel, and therefore to steps that looked to the expulsion of an excellent brother, looks very much like a persecuting and intolerant spirit. The case is a warning to ministers who seem to think the office of a presbyter is made for the purpose of libelling and excommunicating others. Let us have a little more of that charity "which thinketh no evil," and it will be well for the Church and all her courts.

## Queen's University and College.

SESSION 1876-7. CLOSING MEETINGS.

The annual statutory meeting of Senate for the making up of pass and honor lists, awarding of scholarships and University prizes, conferring of degrees, etc., will be held in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday, 24th April.

The first annual meeting of the University Council will be held in Convocation Hall on Wednesday, 25th April, beginning at eleven o'clock a.m.

A conversazione under the auspices and direction of the Alma Mater Society will take place in Convocation Hall on the evening of Wednesday, 25th April.

The annual meeting of Convocation for distributing prizes, announcing honours, laureating graduates, and electing Fellows will be held in Convocation Hall on Thursday, 26th April, beginning at three o'clock p.m. At this meeting Dr. Cook, of Quebec, the first Chancellor of the University, will be installed, and will deliver, it is expected, his installation address, and act as President of Convocation.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held in the Senate Chamber on the evening of Thursday, 26th April, beginning at half-past seven o'clock.

Graduates and undergraduates attending Convocation are requested and expected so far as possible, to appear in full academic costume.

It is expected that as usual, return tickets at a reduced rate of one and one-third first-class fare will be available. Application for certificates entitling holders to this privilege should be made to the Principal without delay, and any such application in order to receive attention must give the name of the Railway station from which the applicant intends to begin the journey.—*Queen's College Journal.*

## Ministers and Churches.

(We urgently solicit from Presbytery Clerks and of readers generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general opinion of all local church news.)

Rev. Mr. McCune has been appointed Moderator of the Chatham Presbytery.

The members of Knox Church, Toronto, by a vote of 252 to 214 have decided against the introduction of an organ into the church.

The Presbyterians of Stratford are talking seriously of erecting a new church at a cost of from \$8,000 to \$10,000. Their present edifice is becoming too small for the increasing congregation.

The Bible-class in connection with Chalmers' Church, Guelph, held a social meeting on the evening of Monday, the 2nd inst.—Rev. Mr. Wardrope, the pastor, in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Johnston, President of the Agricultural College; Mr. Stinton, postmaster; Rev. Mr. Bell, and Rev. Mr. Torrance. Between the addresses the audience were entertained with anthems, recitations, etc.

Mrs. Noverre having resigned her position as organist of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, at the commencement of the year, was last Tuesday presented by the Kirk session and managers, on behalf of the congregation, with a handsome gold locket set with diamonds, and bearing the following inscription:—"To Miss Noverre, Organist of St. Andrew's Church for eight years, as a token of esteem and good will from the congregation. Toronto, 21st February, 1877."

The annual Missionary meeting in connection with Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, took place on Thursday evening of last week, at which there was a large attendance, the church being well filled. Rev. Mr. McTavish, pastor of the congregation, presided. Excellent addresses were given by Rev. Dr. James of Hamilton, and Mr. Mullen and Clarke of Woodstock. The report read by the Secretary showed that \$450 had been collected for mission purposes during the year.

The Rev. John McTavish, who left last week for a three month's trip to Scotland was presented on Friday evening at the close of the service with an address expressive of the esteem and good wishes of the congregation over which he so faithfully presides. The address was accompanied by a purse containing three hundred dollars, and the presentation was made by Mr. Alex. Watson in behalf of the congregation, and feelingly and suitably replied to by Mr. McTavish.

At the annual missionary meeting of Knox Church, Woodstock, recently held, the attendance was large and the spirit evinced was admirable. The amount collected for missionary objects by the Ladies' Missionary Association, together with the collection taken up at the meeting, was \$562.82, being an advance on last year of \$185.02. The Sabbath School contributed \$90 to missions. The Sabbath School children and their teachers and friends held a meeting on the same day. Rev. Mungo Fraser of St. Thomas favored them with an able and interesting address. Rev. Mr. McMullen presided and gave some interesting statistics of the Foreign Missions throughout the world.

## Presbytery of Huron.

This Presbytery met at Clinton on the 20th and 21st March. Mr. Ferguson reported that the congregation of St. Helen's and White Church agreed to raise their minister's stipend \$100. In revising the Mission Stations and Supplemental Congregations, it was agreed to apply for the following grants:—For Bayfield and Bethany \$2 per Sabbath, and in the event of their calling a minister \$200 supplement to be asked for. For the Gasline congregation, Goderich, \$2 per Sabbath; for Stephen and Hay, \$3 per Sabbath; for Cranbrook and Ethel, it was unanimously decided to press the application already made for a supplement of \$180 in order that the stipend be \$600 with a manse; For Ashfield it is to be supplied by a student during the summer associated with Mr. Lusk. Mr. Scott of Egmondville adheres to his resignation, and his congregation is to be cited to appear at the July meeting, for their interest. Moderations in calls were granted to the congregations of Duff's church, McKillop and Winthrop, to Walton and to Belgrave, when they are prepared for it. In accordance with the prayer of a petition from Londonboro', Mr. Young was instructed to organize said preaching station, and to give it supply every Lord's day till next regular meeting. A memorial from Manchester asking for connection with Smith Hill was laid on the table till the July meeting. A report on the state of religion was read by Mr. Ferguson. The report was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the Convention of the Synod's Committee on the State of Religion. The Remits of Assembly were then considered. 1. Home Missions.—It was recommended that there be two separate funds. 2. Widow's and Orphan's.—This remit was approved of *simpliciter*. The Presbytery does not approve of this remit, but recommends to the Assembly to re-commit the matter to its Committee for more mature consideration. 4. Constitution of Assembly.—This remit was approved of *simpliciter*. The remnant the "Barrier Act" was not taken up. The next meeting of Presbytery is to be held in Goderich, on the first Tuesday of April, at 11 o'clock a.m.—ARCH. McLEAN, Pres. Clerk.

## Book Reviews.

**BIBLE ANIMALS.** By Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.R.S. Guelph: J. W. Lyon.

Bible-class and Sabbath School teachers, ministers of the Gospel, and all who wish to read the Scriptures intelligently, will find this book an invaluable aid. In its facts it is eminently reliable. It contains a vast number of beautiful and truthful illustrations; and is bound in a durable, and very elegant manner. This Canadian edition in some respects exceeds the English. It contains two papers, which are not to be found in the English edition, viz., an article on "Evolution," by the Rev. James McCosh, D.D., which demolishes the Darwinian theory; the other, on "Research and Travel in Bible Lands," by Rev. Daniel March, D.D. We confidently recommend this book to the attention of our readers.

**THE CANADIAN TEMPERANCE ALMANAC AND TETOTALLAN'S YEAR BOOK FOR 1877.** Cobourg: Canadian Temperance Book Room. Price ten cents each, or one dollar per dozen.

In addition to the usual calendar and astronomical calculations, this annual contains statistics of intemperance, lists of grand bodies, Dominion and Provincial Societies, post office addresses of chief officers, a full directory of all temperance organizations that subscribed to the publication, list of temperance papers published in Canada, anecdotes, stories, illustrations, facts, etc. It should certainly be in the hands of every temperance man; and we would strongly advise those who are not temperance men to study the statistics contained in it—especially the tables (taken from insurance reports) showing the lessened mortality of total abstainers as compared with that of moderate drinkers.

**THE CANADIAN MONTHLY.** Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

After reading some of the articles in the April number, we feel irresistibly impelled to call this magazine the Canadian Blackwood. We refer to the fresh thought, the racy style, and the masterly handling of the English language. By fresh thought we do not mean new and heretical discoveries in philosophy, in science, or in anything else, but simply a new, fresh, and unexpected way of putting things, and the bringing together of truths which have been long separated in ordinary thought, but which, when brought into juxtaposition, are found to be closely related. This constitutes true poetry whether it appears in verse or in prose. Such writing as we speak of may be found in the article headed "A Land-Lubber at Sea," and in some passages of "Green Pastures and Piccadilly." There is a poem entitled "My Old Schoolmaster," by Alexander McLachlan, which will probably be found fully as good as anything else which he has written—and we do not mean that for very "faint praise" either. But perhaps the ablest and most useful article in the present number is that entitled "The Temperance Problem," by "Fidelis." The question is discussed calmly, dispassionately, and from a common sense point of view. There is no "teetotal rant." The writer does not even solve the problem in so many words. But we venture to say that no candid and intelligent person will rise from the perusal of this admirable essay without being convinced that strict and total prohibition is the only remedy for those frightful evils under which the country labors through means of the liquor traffic. Leaving the merit of the piece aside, it is a good sign of the times that an article favorable to total abstinence should appear in a magazine of this class. What a bright day it will be for Britain when such an essay appears in *Blackwood's Magazine* or in the *Westminster Review*!

**BELFORD'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.** Toronto Belford Bros.

If there was any justice in calling the magazine noticed above "the Canadian Blackwood," with at least equal justice may we call that now under review the Canadian Scribner. Our reasons for doing so are to be found in the copiousness and beauty of its illustrations, the interesting and readable character of its essays, and the healthy moral tone of its fiction. The poem called "Walter Mauro," by our Canadian bard, Charles Sangster, is in execution and sentiment, a polished gem. The essay on "Canada a hundred years ago," by John Read, is of value to the historian and intensely interesting to every Canadian. The article on the "Ornise of H. M. S. Challenger" is profusely illustrated with cuts taken from photographs of striking scenery in distant lands. The remaining contents are "Nicholas Minturn," by Dr. Holland, chapters XI. and XII.; "Death," a short poem translated from the French of Florian; "Forest Rangers and Voyageurs," by J. G. Bourinot; "Welcome, welcome thou little bark," a song of the coast, by Susannah Moodie; "Artificial Fish-Breeding in Canada," by F. O. Sumchurst; "Evenings in the Library," No. IV., by Geo. Stewart, Jan.; "A London Modern Green Room," by J. Knight; "Pandora," another short poem from Florian; "What He Cost Her," by James Payn, chapters XI.-XVI.; "Current Literature," Music; and the Humorous Department, consisting principally of comic poetry.