

# POOR DOCUMENT

## THE WEEKLY HERALD.

VOL. 1.—NO. 6.

FREDERICTON, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1882.

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### THE PROMINENCE OF A CITY CHURCH.

A SERMON BY THE  
REV. A. J. MOWATT,  
PREACHED IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, ST. JOHN,  
JANUARY 10th, 1882,  
BEFORE THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. JOHN.

"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."—Matt. v. 14.

The theme I propose to discuss to you about for a little while to-night is something like this, the prominence, I feel like calling it the awful prominence, of a city church. Last Sabbath was the anniversary of my settlement two years ago in the city of Fredericton, and I was led to discourse on the theme there, and as the Presbytery was pleased to appoint me to speak on this occasion, perhaps it may not be out of place to press home upon your attention some of the points brought out. I hope it will not be thought vainly on my part to say, that I want to realize myself, as pastor of a city church, and I want the brethren here to realize the high and responsible position we occupy as city churches. To have a right appreciation of our place and work as city churches, it seems to me, must go far towards waking us up to assume our responsibilities in all their length and breadth, and do them; and in the doing of them, or rather, in the attempt to do them, we shall come up to be as churches what the Lord wants us to be, burning and shining lights in the land, a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

And first, I have something to say about a church prominence that is not the prominence Christ commends in the text. It is something, an element, we must not overlook it altogether. It has a place, and it is all right in its own place. But, the trouble is, it is forever being pushed forward into a prominence that it has no right to. Let us clearly understand just what this prominence is. It is a mere outside world prominence, a high-tower prominence, a stone and lime prominence, a sham prominence perhaps. Very true, you cannot hide such churches. In that respect they are little cities set upon a hill. They rise sublimely at the corners of the principal streets, and they seem to say, "Let all eyes gaze up in wonder at us!" And then everybody says, "Come and see our grand church. Come and have your soul entranced with our glorious music. Come and hear our eloquent preacher." And when it is over they all say, "Isn't that fine, grand, thrilling, wonderful, sublime?" Thus, how true, "A city set on an hill cannot be hid."

I come to speak next of the only true church prominence. There is a true church prominence, and city churches should want to have it.

The prominence commended here is a characteristic of Christ's doctrine, the kingdom He came to set up. You cannot hide the truth, His truth, the kingdom of grace, any more than you can hide a city that is set on an hill. The truth is quiet, modest, retiring, unassuming. Truth is always that. It never has much to say about itself, never makes a parade of its own excellences. But there is this about the kingdom of grace and truth, it must be out, it cannot be hid.

Men thought—they have always thought—that they could hold the truth, believe in Christ, enjoy the blessedness of salvation, dwell in the light of God's favor, be citizens of the heavenly kingdom, and nobody but themselves be the wiser of it. But the truth that could thus be held and believed was not the truth. Christ's truth lives, grows, shines, in the hearts and lives of His people; and it soon makes itself seen and felt. His kingdom is like leaven hidden in the meal. It silently works away down in the dark of human hearts and human experiences, until the whole mass of society has been leavened by its sanctifying influences. It is like a city that is set on an hill that cannot be hid.

You do not need to force the kingdom of truth. You cannot force it. As well attempt to force the spring, to hurry up nature's slow processes of growth and development, as to force the truth and hurry forward the wondrous processes of God's grace. Give the truth a chance, and it will need no forcing of yours to get it along. It will do its work, slow perhaps, but sure, thorough, lasting—everlasting.

Sometimes Christian parents are so concerned about the conversion of their children. With the stern rod of correction, with tears and prayers, with faithful home training and Sabbath school teaching, with Church ordinances and means of grace, they try to compel them, whether they will or not, to be Christians, and with but indifferent success. Ah! that will not do. Do only what you can do—instruct, influence, pray, love, lead, train, be gentle, be patient, be earnest, be hopeful, live the truth yourself, and leave results with God. Do not fear for the truth. It will take hold and do its work in its own time and way. The God of truth will look after the truth.

lime, pillars and cornices, are not much to be admired; but in a world such as ours, so material as ours, they have a mission, and a mission we cannot afford to ignore. Did not the Master himself use clay to open blind eyes sometimes? and the very stones in the temple cry out for him. His is a spiritual worship, a worship rising up to the sublimities of faith and hope and joy and the unseen glories; but it has its foundation in the dust, and while we are down among the dust, our worship cannot but have more or less of dust mingling with its holier incense.

I say, then, let the great cities have their great churches, and the great churches their great congregations, and as the Presbytery was pleased to appoint me to speak on this occasion, perhaps it may not be out of place to press home upon your attention some of the points brought out. I hope it will not be thought vainly on my part to say, that I want to realize myself, as pastor of a city church, and I want the brethren here to realize the high and responsible position we occupy as city churches. To have a right appreciation of our place and work as city churches, it seems to me, must go far towards waking us up to assume our responsibilities in all their length and breadth, and do them; and in the doing of them, or rather, in the attempt to do them, we shall come up to be as churches what the Lord wants us to be, burning and shining lights in the land, a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

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the truth, as they fly higher and yonder; but I know this, for the God of truth has said it, and that is all I want to know, that not one word of His shall fall to the ground. Men may wince and write; they may rebel and resist; they may sell and scoff; but God's truth is working, growing, and in due time there shall be a harvest commensurate with the amount of truth and faith and work expended.

Now, the prominence that as a city church we should be ambitious to have, is the prominence that the truth gives. Any other prominence is evanescent, unsatisfactory, unworthy. Let us truth glow and flash here. Let us as a church be known simply for this—our faithful adherence to the doctrines of the cross, our earnest confidence in the power of the gospel to reach to and reclaim the people, and our determination to work out our mission and destiny in the line of our history; and we must succeed. But it will not do for us to rest satisfied with our orthodoxy, our evangelicalism, our scriptural church polity, our grand history, our antiquity, our importance as a great city church. We may have the truth here—have it in our Bibles, have it formulated in our Confessions, have it preached to us from Sabbath to Sabbath, have it handed down to us in a glorious line of succession such as no church can show; and yet, we may be slowly dying out as an effete something that has served its day and lived beyond its time. Christ's truth is not something you can lay away on the bible shelf, or pass down the generations as an heirloom or antique relic; something that is brought out only on grand state occasions and exhibited to wondering eyes, but something that is to be touched or handled by the people. No. The truth is to be lived in the hearts and lives of men, and, only in so far as you live it—not as I preach it—but only in so far as you believe it and live it, is it the truth to you.

Hence, let the earnest simple truth of the gospel ring here. Especially, let it dwell in our hearts and lives. In our lives, and as a church and people we cannot be hid. We do not need to have a grand church edifice, a magnificent pile of architecture, to give us prominence. All that has a place, and in its own place it is all right. But, after all, it is the truth that shines; it is the cross that draws. It is not the architecture, the music and painting, that men who have deep wants hunting within them, and lives so sublimely important to live, come to church to wonder at. They may come for a time or two just for that, but these empty hearts will soon cease to satisfy and interest. Men want the truth, the gospel, the cross, the living Christ of God. Let us give them the truth, and they will come to stay, and live and shine. Oh, let the wondrous cross, with its bright coronal of salvation-truths, ever stand forth here, and this city church's influence must be felt as widely as the city's influence goes. Out over your tumbling waves will stream a radiance that will gladden and bless, comfort and save, and true souls will draw here with a great drawing. It is the blissful prominence of holding forth to the world the truth of the gospel, of helping the people to be good and brave and true, and of fitting men for their high destiny in the world to come—that is the prominence we want.

And, to close, this prominence of a city church is an awful prominence—an awfully responsible prominence; and the larger the city, and the more important the city, the more awful the prominence. You are set here on this hill-top to shine afar for Jesus. You are here to be a centre of light and holy influence to all around; it is not for us to say how far around. You are here as a church to wield a potent influence for good upon the home life of the people, their business, their prospects, their social character, their national interests, their progress and history, their eternal destiny. The truth is here, and having the truth, you have what is fitted to promote the city's welfare and the good of the nation, purify society, and bless and save the people. A living city church is a mighty agency for good. The very building may impress and awe some minds in some moods. Towering up towards heaven amid the city's din and turmoil, and amid men's grief and gladness, it may sometimes preach, with a majestic silent eloquence, a sublime pathos, that may stir the deepest thoughts and feelings. The atheistic Braugh is credited with giving utterance to this: "You cannot talk of ignoring St. Paul's cathedral, it is too high." And I would say here, in the words of another, "Let this church so present the claims of the gospel as to extort concessions like this, and make men say we cannot ignore the gospel. We cannot ignore its arguments. We cannot ignore the cathedral of christian doctrine. It is too high. Its solid walls, its stately towers, create attention and command the admiration of the world."

My brethren, we are but dull clay—how can we shine? But when the Lord of Glory lets His brightness flash in upon us, as the electric spark flashes on the dull calcium points, then will we shine with a light that will cheer and bless and save. Then will begin in us a glory not unlike His.

O Thou blessed Light of Heaven, shine through our poor words and works, and make our simple lives sublime with good to men, for Thou hast said, "Let your light so shine before men that others seeing your good works may glorify your Father who is in Heaven."—Amen.

### SUNDAY SERVICES.

**FREDERICTON.**  
**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.**—The Bishop of Fredericton, Metropolitan of Canada, Rt. Rev. H. T. Kingston, D. D.; sub-dean, Rev. Finlay Alexander. Services on Sunday—Celebration of the Holy Communion, 8 a.m.; Morning service, 11 a.m.; Evening service, 6.30 p.m.

**CHRIST CHURCH (St. Ann's).**—Rev. G. C. Roberts, rector. Morning service at 11 a.m., with the celebration of the Holy Communion at 11 a.m.; evening service 3.45 p.m. The sermon at both services will be by the rector. Sabbath school at 2.15 p.m., at the Madras School Room.

**ST. DUNSTON'S CHURCH.**—Rev. J. C. McDevitt, Parish Priest; Rev. C. Precillius, Curate. Sunday services—Low Mass at 9 a.m.; High Mass, at 11 a.m.; Vespers, at 3 p.m.; Sabbath school at 2 p.m. The Ladies' Sewing Circle meets in the vestry at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday.

**BAPTIST CHURCH.**—Rev. F. D. Crawley, pastor. Morning service at 11 a.m., sermon by the pastor. Evening service at 6.30, sermon by the pastor. Subject of the morning sermon "The witness and their testimony." Evening subject, "Glimmerings in the dark." Sabbath school at 2.30 p.m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday at 7.30.

**FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.**—Rev. J. McLeod, pastor. Prayer meeting at 9.30. Morning service at 11 a.m. Evening service by the pastor. Sabbath school at 2 p.m. Prayer meeting will be held on Wednesday at 7.30.

**METHODIST CHURCH.**—Rev. W. W. Brewer, pastor. Services at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Week services every evening at 7 o'clock. The sermon at the morning service will be by the pastor, that of the evening service by the Rev. Mr. Evans.

**METHODIST CHURCH.**—Rev. John S. Allan, pastor. Services at 11 a.m. Sabbath school at 1.45.

**CHURCH NEWS.**  
**CHIPMAN, Q. Co.**—The members of the Baptist Church and congregation, Chipman, at the late residence of G. G. King, M. P., on the 26th ult. after spending a pleasant evening, presented the pastor, Rev. W. P. Anderson, with \$100 in cash and goods to the amount of about \$80. Speeches were made by Rev. S. Johnson, Presbyterian minister, consulting pastor and people on the good feeling that exists between them, followed by remarks from G. G. King, M. P., and others when the meeting was brought to a close by an eloquent speech from E. C. Largin, Esq., Chairman of the meeting. Special meetings were held in connection with this church during the last week in December.

**BAPTIST QUARTERLY MEETING.**—The Carleton and Victoria Counties' Baptist Quarterly Meeting convened according to appointment with the Baptist Church at Jacktown on Friday last. Delegates were present from the following churches—Jacktown, Florenceville, Bloomfield, Andover, Wakefield, Avondale, East Florenceville, South Richmond, Centreville, Rockland, Jacksonville and Woodstock.

**MR. W. L. GOODWIN, B. Sc.**, of the University of London, has accepted a professorship of Chemistry at Sackville College.

We make the following extract from the *Maritime Farmer* of Thursday:—"We have not the least doubt but that there are some business men in the city, and vicinity who, in confidential moments or at times when business is not booming as finely as they would like, speak in favor of annexation and say that, in their opinion, the Province would be more prosperous if it was a part of the great Republic."

After expressing his belief that few of those who talk this way would vote for a union with the United States, the *Farmer* says—

"There is no good reason or sufficient cause for raising the question in our midst at this time."

A few remarks from the *Sun*, in thundering condemnation of this "insult to the business men of York," and an echo from the *Me-Too* of the *Capital* would be very timely. We assent most heartily to the second proposition of the *Farmer*, which we have quoted, and beg to return it our thanks for condemning the course of its Tory contemporaries towards the *Herald*. Most certainly there was "no good reason or sufficient cause" for them to raise the question of annexation. The *Sun* and *Capital* did so, because the former saw no other way of meeting the point of the *Herald's* article in the first place, and, in the second, because it thought it saw a chance to injure Mr. Eider politically. The *Capital* simply followed the lead of the *Sun*, and in so doing got caught in a trap, which it could only escape from at the loss of what credit for veracity it possessed. It is a far more prudent course to do as the *Farmer* has done—admit the truth of what we stated and seek to avoid its force. And we may add that we agree with the last named journal that many of those who express their belief that the Province would be better off in the Republic, are so wedded to British connexion, that they would bear almost any amount of oppression before consenting to break the ties which bind us to the Empire.

### A CHALLENGE "BURIED."

The *Capital* says that in naming its editor as a prominent annexationist, it was "supplied barked its challenge." To burke anything means to kill in a sudden, unexpected manner—to destroy by taking the advantage of an unguarded moment—so that our contemporary is about right; and we beg to assure its editor that it was because "his record in this community is well known," that the *Herald* said he had "been for many years manfully outspoken in his desire for annexation." But he will please observe that we charged him neither with dialoquy nor want of patriotism. "Dialoquy," "unpatriotic," were the bugbears with which the Tories of the last generation frightened the people. These words have their true meaning now; and a man who is at heart true to the best interests of his country is both loyal and patriotic, no matter how much his views may differ from those of the majority. When our friend would urge so forcibly, and so well the benefits New Brunswick would derive from political connection with the United States, he was both loyal and patriotic, because he was sincere, if mistaken, and none the less so because his views were unpopular. For the greater favor into which they have come since, he may give the credit in part to the Tory tariff, and in part, if he wishes, to his own influence. That there may be no misunderstanding of the *Herald's* position, we repeat the statement which we made at the outset of this discussion, "the union of Canada to the United States is not necessary for the working out of the future of the Dominion;" but how many or how few years of Tory misrule and Tory taxation will be needed to drive the people to it, as a refuge from oppression, we are not prepared to say.

The *London Spectator* settles the Panama Canal question in a sentence. After showing that, if the United States insisted on controlling the Canal, it would be a good cause for a declaration of war, it says a vindication of the right of Great Britain would simply be "the maintenance in time of peace of that which would necessarily cause an end in time of war," that is, the right to use the canal in case of war would be of no value in times of peace, and in the time of war it would not be recognised.

"ORIENT PEARLS AT RANDOM STRUNG." The following "gems of purest ray serene" are from the last *Capital* and refer to the *Herald's* editor and friends—"Fools," "hirelings," "audacity," "totally devoid of truth," "false," "malicious," "mean," "contemptible," "presumption." To quote our contemporary's words its inventive powers must "have went" to their utmost limit to bring forth so much that is chaste and elegant.

Mr. LOGAN has introduced into the United States Senate a bill to provide for the employment of the internal revenue, some \$120,000,000 we believe, in the education of the children of the Republic. The amount of this revenue would more than pay the salaries of all the teachers now employed in the United States. The bill will probably not pass.

The opening of the Grand Southern affords a fitting opportunity to consider the railways of New Brunswick. Very few countries of the same population can boast so many miles of iron road, every County in the Province and nearly every important agricultural district being intersected by railways. We have the Intercolonial entering the Province in Restigouche and passing down through Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, Westmorland, Kings and St. John, and the Chatham Branch, the Kent Northern, the Albert Railway, and the St. Martin and Upham afford to those who do not live immediately in the vicinity of the road ample opportunity of reaching it. Then on the west of the St. John we have four trunk lines, the St. John and Maine, the Grand Southern, the New Brunswick and Canada, and the New Brunswick, with the branch lines by which St. Stephen, Fredericton, Houlton, Woodstock and Fort Fairfield, are reached. As soon as the gap between Edmundston and Riviere du Loup is filled, and we have reason to think it soon will be, the whole Province will be gridled by a net work of railways. Two very important sections alone remain without the convenience of railways and telegraphic connection. These are the Nashua and Miramichi Valleys, and the large, populous and wealthy district around Grand Lake and Gagetown. While we admire as much as any one can the energy which Mr. Greene displayed in pushing through the Grand Southern, we submit that the subsidizing of this road while the localities we have spoken of were unprovided for is indefensible. The claims of these sections, and especially of that last named, will before long force themselves upon the attention of the public in a manner which will make it impossible to refuse to accede to them.

Two contemporary journals ask us how the people of New Brunswick can get relief from the burdens of a protective tariff by annexation. We never said that they could! We never advised them to try anything of the sort. But at the same time we beg to direct their attention to the fact that the free trade party is growing in strength in the United States every day, and that the composition of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress is such that material changes in the tariff need not be a matter of surprise to any one.

A RECOMMENDATION TO MARRY.—Arthur W. Oliver married, he deserted his wife and children, he held himself out as a single man and induced a young, promising girl to become his wife. And yet the same jury who found that these things were true, recommended him, strange to say, to mercy, notwithstanding the fact that he had instructed his counsel to cast dishonor upon his (Oliver's) wife. One is disposed to ask how guilty a man must be to incur the full abhorrence of these gentlemen. It is such absurd things as this which bring trial by jury into contempt.

If the readers of the *Capital* enjoy the discussion of personalities which do not concern them, the readers of the *Herald* do not. When a political discussion degenerates into a personal squabble, it is time for gentlemen to drop it. This consideration, however, need not prevent the editor of the *Capital* from continuing his low tirade.

The *Capital's* article on "The Central Railway" last night was "too funny for anything." Before coming out as a comic sheet our friend ought to have given the public notice. The joke about the *Herald* being the organ of the New Brunswick Land and Lumber Company is especially good. The only improvement we could suggest would be a sketch of the *Capital's* editor when he discovered this mare's nest. But is not our friend getting things a little mixed. The *Herald* can't be Mr. Fickard's Annexation sheet and the above company's organ and a campaign sheet all at the same time. Because our contemporary can be a liberal one day and a Tory the next, it must not think the *Herald* can be three different things at once. But as there may be some people who will think our friend was serious in the article, the caption of which we quote, we will add that we have not the slightest reason to imagine that the N. B. Railway has any idea of building the Central Railway, and that the N. B. L. & L. Company have no connection whatever with the *Herald*. The paragraph which the *Capital* quotes in capital letters namely that the claims of "the rich and populous country around Grand Lake will before long force themselves upon the attention of the public in a manner which will make it impossible not to accede to them," was based upon our knowledge that the people of Queens were determined to have justice done. We shall discuss the merits of the proposed railway at another time.

### THE RAILWAYS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The opening of the Grand Southern affords a fitting opportunity to consider the railways of New Brunswick. Very few countries of the same population can boast so many miles of iron road, every County in the Province and nearly every important agricultural district being intersected by railways. We have the Intercolonial entering the Province in Restigouche and passing down through Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, Westmorland, Kings and St. John, and the Chatham Branch, the Kent Northern, the Albert Railway, and the St. Martin and Upham afford to those who do not live immediately in the vicinity of the road ample opportunity of reaching it. Then on the west of the St. John we have four trunk lines, the St. John and Maine, the Grand Southern, the New Brunswick and Canada, and the New Brunswick, with the branch lines by which St. Stephen, Fredericton, Houlton, Woodstock and Fort Fairfield, are reached. As soon as the gap between Edmundston and Riviere du Loup is filled, and we have reason to think it soon will be, the whole Province will be gridled by a net work of railways. Two very important sections alone remain without the convenience of railways and telegraphic connection. These are the Nashua and Miramichi Valleys, and the large, populous and wealthy district around Grand Lake and Gagetown. While we admire as much as any one can the energy which Mr. Greene displayed in pushing through the Grand Southern, we submit that the subsidizing of this road while the localities we have spoken of were unprovided for is indefensible. The claims of these sections, and especially of that last named, will before long force themselves upon the attention of the public in a manner which will make it impossible to refuse to accede to them.

Two contemporary journals ask us how the people of New Brunswick can get relief from the burdens of a protective tariff by annexation. We never said that they could! We never advised them to try anything of the sort. But at the same time we beg to direct their attention to the fact that the free trade party is growing in strength in the United States every day, and that the composition of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress is such that material changes in the tariff need not be a matter of surprise to any one.

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A RECOMMENDATION TO MARRY.—Arthur W. Oliver married, he deserted his wife and children, he held himself out as a single man and induced a young, promising girl to become his wife. And yet the same jury who found that these things were true, recommended him, strange to say, to mercy, notwithstanding the fact that he had instructed his counsel to cast dishonor upon his (Oliver's) wife. One is disposed to ask how guilty a man must be to incur the full abhorrence of these gentlemen. It is such absurd things as this which bring trial by jury into contempt.

If the readers of the *Capital* enjoy the discussion of personalities which do not concern them, the readers of the *Herald* do not. When a political discussion degenerates into a personal squabble, it is time for gentlemen to drop it. This consideration, however, need not prevent the editor of the *Capital* from continuing his low tirade.

The *Capital's* article on "The Central Railway" last night was "too funny for anything." Before coming out as a comic sheet our friend ought to have given the public notice. The joke about the *Herald* being the organ of the New Brunswick Land and Lumber Company is especially good. The only improvement we could suggest would be a sketch of the *Capital's* editor when he discovered this mare's nest. But is not our friend getting things a little mixed. The *Herald* can't be Mr. Fickard's Annexation sheet and the above company's organ and a campaign sheet all at the same time. Because our contemporary can be a liberal one day and a Tory the next, it must not think the *Herald* can be three different things at once. But as there may be some people who will think our friend was serious in the article, the caption of which we quote, we will add that we have not the slightest reason to imagine that the N. B. Railway has any idea of building the Central Railway, and that the N. B. L. & L. Company have no connection whatever with the *Herald*. The paragraph which the *Capital* quotes in capital letters namely that the claims of "the rich and populous country around Grand Lake will before long force themselves upon the attention of the public in a manner which will make it impossible not to accede to them," was based upon our knowledge that the people of Queens were determined to have justice done. We shall discuss the merits of the proposed railway at another time.

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