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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 11th, 1888.

ON all sides, and by all parties, it is predicted that the coming Presidential contest will be a "clean campaign." No doubt these predictions are founded on the fact that both candidates are Presbyterians. Not long ago an esteemed Presbyterian pastor whom we know was considerably annoyed by the proselytizing practices carried on by his Methodist neighbours during an alleged revival in the Methodist Church. The Presbyterian pastor remonstrated with the Methodist pastor who said that he did not do any work of that kind himself, but he "could not restrain the ardour of the people." Cleveland and Harrison being decent men and good Presbyterians may want a clean campaign, but perhaps they may not be able to restrain the ardour of their friends. It is to be hoped they will try harder to do so than some Methodist ministers do during those revivals which prompt their people to steal sheep.

CLERGYMEN and other people who get or take no holidays have a fine opportunity just now to test the merits of the mind-over-matter theory. If the mind has absolute power in the body all a stay-at-home need do is to imagine himself having a good holiday, and the best holiday effects will follow. To aid the imagination it might be well to read some of the letters from resting places with which the journals will teem for the next two months. Read, for example, one of Dr. Cuyler's graphic descriptions of Saratoga water. Then put a full head of steam on your imagination and see if the imaginary water has as beneficial an effect as the real. Imagine yourself sitting on a rock near Portland sniffing the Atlantic air and listening to the roar of the waves. Let your mind sail around among the islands of Muskoka, and see if the bodily effects are as good as sailing around on one of Mr. Cockburn's fine boats. Mental efforts like these with the mercury at ninety-five might probably convince one that mind has not absolute power over matter.

THE *Globe* says:

There is a school of fanatical prohibitionists, who in default of prohibition, and as a means of disgusting respectable people with the liquor traffic, would incontinently abolish all licensing and excise systems. They would not attempt to regulate the traffic and would not take any revenue from it, but allow whiskey to be sold as freely as sugar is. When it is pointed out to them that this would mean free trade in liquor, the cheapening of whiskey to less than one-fifth of its present price the placing of temptation under everybody's nose, and the general bedevilment of the country, these prohibitionists reply, "Exactly; this is what we earnestly want; the greater amount of crime and misery caused the sooner we shall get total prohibition."

Now these fanatics are but a very small portion of the Temperance people. To the ordinary Christian their plan appears horrible, callous, diabolical. To do evil that good may come of it is not permitted to Christians.

But if a man believes that the sale of liquor is a crime against society what other course can he take? It is not permissible to license crime. Does not the theory that the sale of liquor is criminal, or even sinful, logically shut out the man who holds it from having anything to do with a license law? That is the point.

THE *Interior* gives the following racy account of the college and courtship days of Benjamin Harrison, the Republican candidate for the Presidential chair:

He was a close student and a good debater—and never assumed superiority—which indeed was allowed to no one among the boys of Farmer's College, except as they won it in the classes and literary societies. He left the college and took his degree at Miami. Professor John W. Scott, still living at the age of eighty-eight, had the class in chemistry,

and also taught a school for young ladies. His daughter Caroline and Benjamin soon became friends, and were married probably before he finished his law course—very young at any rate. She was a talented, pretty and vivacious young girl. There was a handsome and popular student from the south, Thaddeus —, who put in his claims for Miss Carrie, and most girls would have preferred him—but she chose the better part in a less showy garb. They set up housekeeping in a little cottage of three rooms in Indianapolis, she doing her own housework. Mrs. Harrison retains much of the vivacity and beauty of her youth. The two have climbed the hill together from humble and straitened circumstances, and all the friends of their youth will join in hearty congratulations.

When we read the foregoing and remember that Harrison is a Presbyterian elder, we almost hoped next November would see him President of the United States. But then Cleveland is a Presbyterian and a son of the manse. May the right side win. Whoever wins the next President is sure to be a Presbyterian. That will not help Presbyterianism much, for we don't depend for success on kings and presidents, but it may be a good thing for the United States.

THE well known contributor "Clement" gives the *New York Evangelist* a fine descriptive letter on the Convention that nominated Harrison the other day as Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States. Among many other sensible things "Clement" says:

It is the fashion, which the clergy are quite too forward in setting or following as the case may be, to look upon such men, and to speak of and denounce them as a set of unscrupulous and crafty schemers, without honour or honesty or principle, supremely devoted to self-interest by any methods, however despicable, which may promise to further it. This is a very reprehensible practice which does great harm. For one, I have found those who are called politicians, meaning by that those who are holding or are seeking offices of State, to be about as free from evident and low self-seeking as editors or lawyers, or business men, or physicians, or even ministers. I have seen more trickery manoeuvring to achieve place, or to carry a point, in a General Assembly, than I have ever seen of the same kind of tactics employed for the same ends in a political convention. This business of denouncing politicians, as if all selfishness, corruption, double-dealing, and infidelity to principle, were all to be laid at their door, is immensely overdone. It is doubtless, most done by those who themselves are most guilty of the crimes which they charge upon others.

Undoubtedly it is, and the practice damages the ministry and proves a serious stumbling block to candid, honourable men, who are outside the Church, and who should be within her pale helping to do her work. How can any sensible man respect a minister who habitually denounces politicians, and at the same time practices as much "trickery manoeuvring" as any politician. A few "tricky" ecclesiastics in any Church expose all their brethren to suspicion and make it much harder to do the Lord's work. Denouncing politicians and then practising the unsavoury arts of unscrupulous politicians is a bad business and should be stamped out.

## THE PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

As detailed accounts of the meeting of the Presbyterian Council in London have not yet arrived, and as the cabled dispatches have been of the most meagre description, all that is yet known in Canada of the proceedings of this important body is tantalizingly little. The production of a new opera, or a fashionable wedding would have received much more prominence in the associated press despatches. Still real and relative importance are often very different, and in due time the desire for a fuller acquaintance with the proceedings will be gratified. At present it can be gleaned from the meagre notices of the meetings that have yet appeared that they have been most harmonious and profitable, that many of the most prominent representatives of the great Presbyterian family from all over the world have had a most pleasant reunion, which has cheered their hearts and strengthened their hands, and which will result in benefit wherever Presbyterianism exists—and on Presbyterianism the sun never sets.

Questions both of administrative and speculative interest have been ably and fully discussed. One great advantage which the Council possesses over ordinary Church Courts is, that its functions are not legislative, so that general subjects may be considered on their merits, irrespective of any personal or local interest they may excite. At former meetings the existence, causes and character of unbelief, have received careful consideration. At the present gathering, this, and kindred subjects have been

treated by thoughtful and scholarly men in a judicious and becoming spirit. The discussions on these themes have been participated in by the British, American and European divines, and by intelligent laymen from both continents. Social and industrial questions now pressing for solution have as their importance demands, received more attention this time than on any previous occasion. It is gratifying to observe that Canadian representatives occupied the place of honour at the time these questions were discussed, the chair being occupied by Justice Taylor, of Manitoba, and one of the most important papers was read by Principal MacVicar, of Montreal. For some time the learned Principal has been giving the great social problems of the time his earnest attention and has already given utterance to the conclusions he has reached in one of the best of our American quarterlies.

One conclusion unanimously reached by the Council will be peculiarly gratifying to Canadians generally and be of special interest to the people of Toronto. Some time ago the Presbyterian Council of this city resolved to invite the general Council to hold their next meeting here. This proposal was promptly urged in these columns, and generously commended in Canadian, British and United States journals. The invitation conveyed by Principal Caven and ably supported by Dr. Cochrane and other Canadians met with a unanimous and cordial response, resulting in the resolution by the Council to hold the next regular meeting here four years hence. That meeting will be looked forward to with great interest. It is eminently fitting that such a representative body should meet in the Dominion, and if in Canada, then in Toronto, as the most central meeting place that could well be selected. It is easily accessible from all parts of the Dominion and from the United States—whence a large representation are sure to come. Toronto will also form a convenient centre from which delegates from abroad can radiate in all directions, as they will be desirous of seeing all they can in a land that will astonish most and interest all. The position attained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be a matter of interested enquiry to most of the delegates from abroad. They will doubtless learn much that will encourage them to faithful continuance in well-doing in the lands whence they come. They will learn much from actual observation of the condition and resources of the Dominion, as doubtless facilities will be offered many of them to travel from ocean to ocean. The Church in Canada will be greatly benefited by the presence of men whose names are household words in the Evangelical Church. Many will come to hear and see men whose spoken and written words have been widely read in Canada. It is superfluous to add that the delegates to the Presbyterian Council of 1892 will be tendered a cordial welcome not by the people of Toronto alone, but by the Presbyterians and people of Canada generally.

## THE PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

LEADERS in the Temperance movement have, by the Convention held last week in Montreal, taken a step in advance. This has been achieved, not so much by any of the special decisions to which they have come, as by the conciliatory spirit which for the time seemed to animate the members of the Convention. Hitherto one hindrance to the advancement of the Temperance cause has been the existence of so many separate organizations, each with its own particular purpose and methods, that a certain degree of antagonism and friction was perhaps inevitable. Of late, there has been a growing disposition to unite various bodies of temperance workers, whose severance tended to promote petty jealousy and rivalries that are never anything else than sources of weakness if nothing worse. Unity of aim and of action, associated with large-hearted tolerance, will necessarily be helpful to the great cause in which earnest and zealous workers are engaged.

The representation at the Convention was not quite so large as many expected. It was, however, composed for the most part of prominent and active workers in the good cause. Senator Vidal, a veteran Temperance reformer, presided at the opening meeting, and Mr. W. H. Howland was elected permanent chairman. The Hon. Neal Dow was among the visitors present. The Hon. Mr. Foster, Minister of Finance, took part in the proceedings, and expressed