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The Canada Presbyterian.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6th, 1892.

TO hold men, edify them and make them increasingly useful is a much better test of a minister's ability and efficiency than merely to draw them.

SPURGEON is reported to have said in one of his latest sermons that he had been looking in vain for any such command in the Bible as "Groan in the Lord always, and again I say groan." Groaning and bewailing and lamenting never did either the Church or the world much good.

MRS. GLADSTONE is writing a series of papers in an American ladies' journal on the early training and home culture of children. The subject is no doubt important, but we quite agree with a writer who says that the talented wife of the great statesman would do more good if she wrote something on keeping husbands young at eighty-three.

IN an admirable article on the death of Dr. Cairns the *British Weekly* says:—

He was an eminent example of the truth that the man who most devotedly loves and serves his own denomination is the man who is most likely to care for that wider Church of which Christ is centre and root.

There are few topics on which more unmitigated nonsense is talked than on denominationalism. The man who runs around among the Churches and sputters about what he calls brotherly love and union sentiment is supposed by some not particularly sensible people to be a broad-minded, useful kind of man, while the man who works quietly in his own Church is suspected of being narrow and of little account. Ninety-nine times in a hundred the exact reverse is the truth. The man who does most for his own denomination, generally speaking, does most for the Church universal. The man who works hard at home has no time to distribute himself among all the congregations and societies in the community.

THE Home Mission Committee at its meeting last week commissioned a small army of students and others to go to all parts of the country and preach the Gospel as we Presbyterians understand it. The big battalions, of course, were sent to the North-West. The Church should be profoundly thankful for its Home Mission field and show its gratitude by giving the \$80,000 needed by the Committee. There is not a more promising Home Mission field in the world than that given to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Of course it is large. Does anybody want the Church to try how little Home Mission work it can do? Certainly a large sum of money will be needed. The more the better for the field and those who give the money. It is greatly to be regretted that there is such a deficit in the Augmentation

Fund as to suggest a probable reduction in salaries already too small. This was a serious step, but what could the committee do? The Church has never taken hold of this Fund in the West as it should have done. Just why we cannot say, but perhaps the present crisis may lead to improvement. When things come to their worst they generally begin to mend.

THE dispute between Great Britain and the United States about seal killing in Behring Sea has been settled, or rather referred to arbitration for settlement, damages against the losing party to be assessed by the arbitrators. One more irritating question is thus put out of the way, and all right-minded citizens are thankful. One cannot help wondering how long the Mother Country will endure these Canadian disputes. Any other nation under heaven would have told us long ago to keep out of trouble or shift for ourselves. The dispute about fish in the Atlantic is followed by another about seal in the Pacific and by a tariff quarrel with Newfoundland. All the while we levy a duty on British goods and claim protection from an army and navy that costs the British taxpayer millions but costs us nothing. It may not be our fault; it may not be anyone's fault; the difficulties may necessarily arise out of our peculiar situation, but signs are not wanting that the British taxpayer is becoming a little restive. Small wonder if he is. How can British manufacturers, whose products we tax, be expected to help to maintain an army and navy to defend us. The very least we should do is to try to live at peace and not worry John Bull too much.

PRESBYTERIANS throughout the Dominion will learn with deep regret that the last representative of the historic Burns family is about to leave Canada to spend, we believe, the evening of his days in the old land where the family name has for generations been a household word in Presbyterian circles. Dr. R. F. Burns will leave behind him thousands of friends when he sails from Halifax in a few days, but it may be said with perfect safety that he will not leave one enemy. A more generous, kindly man never stood on Canadian soil nor preached in a Canadian pulpit. He has seen many changes in the Church of his birth and choice since he began his ministry in Kingston as a mere lad nearly half a century ago, and has done not a little in many ways to promote the interests of Presbyterianism in Canada. A ready writer, a capital speaker, and one of the most kindly pastors that ever entered a family, Dr. Burns was always a central figure in any circle in which he ever moved. He was a supremely good-natured man, and, like all men of that kind, had hosts of friends wherever he went. Followed to the Fatherland he will be by the best wishes and prayers of hundreds of Canadian Presbyterians, and in these none join more heartily than THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. Adieu, old friend. May the smell of your native heather greatly lengthen your lease of life, and may your last days be your best.

ON another page will be found an important communication regarding the Augmentation Fund from the pen of Rev. Dr. Cochrane. The following in substance has just been received from Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, which presents some encouraging facts concerning the present position of the Augmentation Fund: The sum of \$8,000 from a legacy covers the large deficit of last year (\$4,280) and leaves a considerable amount to be applied to the expenditure of the current year. The expectation of the Committee is that about \$3,000 will yet be received from congregations before 30th April. The feeling of the Committee was that the whole of the legacy should not be applied to one year's expenditure unless it would secure the payment of all grants in full. It was agreed, therefore, that, while \$6,000 was to be devoted unconditionally to this year's expenses, the remaining \$2,000 should be expended only on condition that the entire balance be made up. Assuming that \$3,000 will come in from congregations, there will still be a deficit of \$1,500. Members of Committee have undertaken to raise various sums in their respective Presbyteries over and above the congregational contributions, in order to make up this amount. The ministers of Augmented charges are waiting for their grants due 31st March, until the contributions come in. Will congregational treasurers be good enough to make their returns to Dr. Reid at once? And will members of Committee forward without delay to D. J. Macdon-

nell the amounts which they have severally undertaken to raise?

THE late Dr. Cook was a gentleman by nature. His fine physique, his agreeable manner, his kindly heart and pleasant address would have put him easily in the front rank in any company. He was a born leader of men, and when he came into the Union in 1875 he was unanimously given first place. Like many old country ministers he had the literary instinct in a marked degree and greatly enjoyed a good speech or a good article. In the Assemblies that followed Union he and his neighbour Dr. Jenkins seemed to consider it part of their duty as leaders in the new Church to encourage young men of promise to come forward and take a more active part in Assembly work. Unlike too many who try to pose as leaders in Church Courts, Dr. Cook always took pleasure in seeing young men of ability come to the front. Probably he never listened to a fairly good speech from a young member without congratulating him on his effort and encouraging him to try again. And Dr. Cook, be it remembered, could congratulate anyone without being patronizing. By his death the Church loses one of her few distinctly representative men. Had his lot been cast in almost any community but Quebec his influence might have been greater, but even the surroundings of an old Catholic city did not prevent him from being one of the most influential Presbyters of the Dominion. Some one applied the other day Carlyle's famous saying on the death of Dr. Chalmers to the death of Dr. Cairns—"No such Christian priest is now left." With equal truth the same may be said of Dr. Cook—"No such Christian priest is now left."

PRINCIPAL COOK, D.D., LL.D.

THOUGH death is an ever constant presence in this world, yet, since the present year has begun its course, the number of those occupying positions of eminence and usefulness who have been called away is remarkable. In the humblest walks of life there are many who are sorrowing for the loss of loved ones, and the stateliest homes have been draped in mourning for some on whom the hopes of nations were set. Men who have stood in the foremost ranks of the Christian ministry have ended their course and entered into rest, and now the Presbyterian Church in Canada is called upon to mourn the departure of one who for over half a century has been looked up to with affectionate esteem for his personal qualities, eminent abilities and the services he has been enabled to render to the cause of evangelical Christianity in the Dominion of Canada. On the afternoon of Thursday last the Rev. John Cook, D.D., LL.D., emeritus pastor of St. Andrews, Quebec, and Principal of Morrin College in that city, entered into his rest in the eighty-seventh year of his age and in the fifty-seventh of his ministry.

In an extended and warmly appreciative article which appeared in the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* the day following his death the writer says:—

It was in 1883 that the subject of this hurried sketch retired from the pastorate of St. Andrews Church, and was succeeded by the present incumbent, the Rev. A. T. Love, who was with him together with the members of his family at the time of his death,—five o'clock Thursday afternoon. The reverend gentleman maintained his wonted vigour,—his intellectual activity, up to the very last. He had sat up in bed five minutes before drawing his last breath. There were no indications that his passing away was so near at hand. He conversed with the members of his family until his tongue palsied and he could say no more, and then there were a few long breaths and all was over.

The deceased gentleman leaves behind him to mourn their loss two sons and three daughters, all of whom are grown to man's and woman's estate. One of his daughters is Mrs. Andrew Thomson, the wife of the President of the Union Bank of Canada, while his youngest daughter is the wife of Mr. Edward Greenshields, a leading merchant of Montreal, and a director of the Montreal Bank. His two sons are Mr. William Cook, Q.C., and Mr. A. H. Cook, advocate. The *Chronicle* makes use of no empty form when it offers its sincerest sympathy to the bereaved relatives and friends of the lamented deceased.

In the able series of papers on "Prominent Canadians," appearing from time to time in the columns of the *Week*, Dr. Cook is one of the subjects. The sketch of the venerable and loved pastor of St. Andrews, Quebec, is from the pen of Dr. Robert Campbell, of Montreal, and as the main facts in the biography of the deceased are there clearly presented we cannot do better than select a few paragraphs from that interesting and comprehensive presentation of the life and work of one whose memory will long be cherished with affectionate esteem by many throughout the Dominion of Canada:—