

THE PRESBYTERIAN is really a first-class paper, and should receive a wide and liberal support. —*Guelph Mercury.*
Mr. Inglis is one of the foremost writers on the Canadian Press. —*Montreal Witness.*

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

Edited by Rev. William Inglis.

NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION!

Reduction in Price!!

In making the announcements in connection with the forthcoming volume of THE PRESBYTERIAN, it is not our intention to indulge in anything like extravagant promises of future excellence. We prefer being judged by our past attainments. Ever since the issue of the first number our course has been steadily onward, until, at the present time, THE PRESBYTERIAN occupies a position second to no other denominational journal in the Dominion. It is scarcely necessary to add that there will be no going back on this record. Both Editor and Publisher will spare no efforts likely to render THE PRESBYTERIAN increasingly useful to its ever-growing circle of readers; and able writers, in various parts of the world, will aid by their valuable contributions to give variety and interest to its columns.

During the ensuing year all the old departments, heretofore so popular, will be continued. A new and attractive serial tale will shortly be commenced, the exposition of the International Lessons, so highly prized by Sabbath school teachers and others, will still receive the measure of attention which so important a subject demands; and it goes without saying that the editorial columns will continue to be characterized by independence of tone and vigour of statement. In short our aim will be to make THE PRESBYTERIAN more and more worthy of the hearty support of the Church, and more widely useful to all the great interests involved.

CIRCULATION!

The general improvement manifested in many branches of trade, the plentiful crops and good prices, render this a favourable season for extending the circulation of THE PRESBYTERIAN. In this good cause we invite all to labour. It only requires cordial co-operation in the various congregations of the Church to give THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

12,000 to 15,000 Subscribers.

That this is no wild estimate the experience of last year amply demonstrates. If the exertions of several kind friends who in 1880 sent us goodly lists were only generally imitated, even the larger figure would be far exceeded. To render this easy of accomplishment we have decided to reduce the price of the paper to

\$1.50 in Clubs of 20 and over!

with the balance of the year free to new subscribers. A club of twenty can be easily reached in every congregation, while in many localities it can be doubled and trebled, if friends only help. Let some one in each congregation see that every member and adherent is canvassed. With such a paper at the low price of \$1.50, in clubs of twenty, the result cannot be doubtful.

We do not ask assistance in this connection without being willing to give something in return. Our Premium List includes a number of valuable articles which will be forwarded to getters up of Clubs, as an acknowledgment of exertions in behalf of the paper.

The work of canvassing for THE PRESBYTERIAN will be rendered all the easier when the character and great merit of the

PREMIUM ENGRAVING OFFERED TO EVERY SUBSCRIBER

is taken into account. We have secured the beautiful and appropriate picture, entitled

"The Word of God,"

after a painting by Mr. H. Larpent Roberts, R.A., and engraved by Mr. Arthur Willmore. The size is 24 x 30; and the subject—the Parable of the Sower—is so handled by the artist that you have four distinct pictures in the one engraving—the execution altogether being remarkably fine.

The pair of Premium Engravings sent out last year were received with unusual favour, but we believe that the one now offered will even more heartily commend itself to our patrons, because of its intrinsic value and great beauty.

This fine engraving will be securely mailed, postage prepaid, to EVERY SUBSCRIBER paying \$2 in advance for 1881, or who joins a club at reduced rates.

CLUB RATES FOR 1881:

Terms of subscription, \$2 per year. In clubs of 6 to 19, \$1.65 each, with Premium Engraving to every subscriber; 20, and over, at \$1.50 each, with Premium Engraving to every subscriber. In the formation of clubs old and new subscribers count alike—the only restriction made is that no one in arrears shall be taken.

Premium List free on application

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
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THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Proprietor.

OFFICE—NO. 6 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.



Edited by Rev. Wm. Inglis.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1880.

A TYPOGRAPHICAL error was made in stating the price at which THE PRESBYTERIAN is furnished to clubs of twelve and sixteen. In each case it should be \$1.65 instead of \$1.60. Friends will bear in mind that we have only three rates, viz. \$2.00, \$1.65 and \$1.50.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

WE call the special attention of our readers to the account given in another part of this week's issue, by the Rev. Mr. Pitblado, of his recent visit to the North-West. That account is a plain unvarnished statement of facts, and all the more interesting and important on that account. It will be observed that Mr. Pitblado confirms what has been stated again and again in these columns, that a very large proportion of the immigrants into that north-west country has been and is Presbyterian, and that if our Church do its duty to these, its expatriated members, by following them with an abundant supply of the means of grace, the result will be peculiarly abundant and blessed. Such an opportunity is at present afforded, and if ground be lost now, through remissness in the supply either of money or men, it will never, in all likelihood, be fully made up. No Church had ever a wider or more inviting home mission field than that which the Presbyterian Church in Canada is at present called upon to cultivate, and we shall be both astonished and grieved if there is even the appearance of failure in her coming up to the help of the Lord in this great work.

THE FREE CHURCH COMMISSION AND THE REV. ROBERTSON SMITH.

OUR readers are aware that the last General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland finished the protracted trial of the Rev. Professor Smith for heresy, in a way that astonished almost everybody, while it rejoiced the hearts of the Professor's friends, and gave all the prospect of a final deliverance from a vexatious and perplexing difficulty. The process was dropped at the last stage, and the Professor was restored to his chair with an admonition very much to the effect that he was set there not to promulgate his own opinions upon doubtful points of criticism, but to maintain the testimony of his Church to which he professed a loyal subscription. It was only a few days after Professor Smith had bowed to this admonition from the Moderator's chair that a new article from his pen on "Hebrew Language and Literature," made its appearance, and more than renewed all the old uneasiness and excitement. The charge of heresy was revived, coupled with another of disingenuousness if not of positive dishonesty, inasmuch as it was evident that Mr. Robertson had repeated all that had been objected to and condemned, while he had concealed the existence of this new paper till after the Assembly had come to a finding which, it was alleged, would never have been rendered had it been known in all its offensive characteristics. A great clamour was raised. Presbyteries addressed themselves to the Commission of Assembly summoned to meet in August, asking it to intervene and, in the new circumstances which had emerged, to prevent the finding of the Supreme Court, which had restored Mr. Smith to his office, from being carried into effect. A good deal of discussion has been raised over the question of the Commission's right to interfere at all in the case. Some have held that it had no such authority, while others have insisted that it had. Be that as it may, the Commission took up the case and in a way which we must acknowledge did not savour much of fair play. At its August meeting a committee was appointed to examine this new production of Mr. Smith, and to report. This committee, as first nominated, was not fairly constituted. Not a single person, it is alleged, who had

in the Assembly voted with the majority that eventually restored Mr. Smith to his office, was among its members. When this was protested against, a small number of those who had thus been excluded were added so as to form a majority, but from the sub-committee, named specially to examine the obnoxious paper, every one of the minority were rigidly excluded. All attempts to rectify this were fruitless. No reason was given for the refusal, though the refusal was persisted in all the same. Application was made that Professor Smith should be heard before the sub-committee in explanation of the passages found fault with, but this also was denied. A report was adopted in which those passages were set forth marked by the condemnation of a majority of the committee, while, it is alleged, not a word of explanation was either asked or suffered. Professor Lindsay and others dissented from the report, for elaborate reasons which they read before the committee. These reasons the committee resolved not to print. Now all this appears rather high-handed to say the very least of it. It is to be noted further that the report of the committee, though in type several days before the meeting of the Commission, was refused to the Press, and was only supplied to members as they entered the hall at the hour of meeting. Professor Smith was not supplied with a copy till an hour or two before he was called upon for his defence, while many of the members of the Commission could scarcely have had time to do more than glance hurriedly over the document before they were in the midst of a discussion for its adoption. Subsequent statements and explanations may cast additional light upon their proceedings and may remove in some measure the appearance of tyranny and unfairness which the first glance at them cannot fail to suggest. In the meantime we have room merely to mention one or two things which were done at the last meeting of the Commission held on the 27th of last month. The report, to which we have already referred, said that while the committee did not impute to Professor Smith the intention of assailing the integrity and authority of Scripture in the writings examined, yet that the statements made by him in many particulars were such as were fitted, and could hardly fail, to produce upon the minds of readers the impression that the Scripture does not present a reliable statement of truth, and that God is not the author of it. Extracts were given from the writings examined, to shew, first, that the Books of Scriptures are spoken of in an incorrect manner; second, that they are spoken of in such a way as to render it very difficult to regard God as the author of them; third, that it is naturally suggested that Scripture does not give an authentic narrative of facts or actual occurrences; and fourth, that prophecy in its predictive aspect is discredited.

After the report had been read, and protests against the Commission proceeding with the case given in, Mr. Smith was heard at length, both in support of his protest and in explanation and defence of his inculpated writings. He endeavoured to shew that, when fairly examined and fully understood these could not be made to sustain the charges brought against them, and he, at the same time, complained that instead of trying honestly to face the difficult questions which had been raised, those opposed to him had attempted to put him down by a mere popular agitation.

When Mr. Smith had finished his speech of about two hours and a-half in length, Dr. Wilson moved to the following effect:—

"The Commission receive the report of the committee and approve of it generally; and considering that the Commission is instructed to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent; considering also the various writings of Rev. Robertson Smith adverted to in the report, which have created serious alarm and uneasiness in the Church, as being fitted to produce upon readers the impression that the Bible does not present a reliable statement of the truth of God, and that God is not the author of it, have been published since last Assembly and were not in view of the Assembly; considering that these writings were prepared for publication at a time when their author had accepted service of a libel found relevant, charging him with cognate views; and considering further, that the Church must sustain serious injury if she can be regarded as giving any sanction to, or as concurring in, the views expressed in these writings, declare that the Commission, as representing the Free Church, and as charged with conserving its interests, cannot but protest against the Church being implicated in the promulgation of them, and resolve to transmit the report of their committee to the General Assembly, that they may take such action in the matter as to them may seem meet. Further, in view of the whole circumstances of the case, instruct Professor Smith to abstain from teaching his classes during the ensuing session, leaving the whole question of his status and position in the Free Church to the de-