

mond came to Hamilton are generally known. To Mr. Burnett, of the Kirk of Scotland and Mr. Pullar, of the Congregational Church, the public of Hamilton are mainly indebted for his visit. Other brethren, both of the Presbyterian and Methodist persuasions, not to speak of Mr. Brown of the Baptist communion, concurred in the arrangement. At the time when the subject was first mooted, Dr. Irvine, of Knox's Church, was in the mother country, but he arrived soon after the movement had commenced, and cordially joined with the other ministers, making twelve in all, who threw themselves into the work.

It is known to our citizens, though it may not be known abroad, that the order of procedure embraced—

1st. A general gathering of the Sabbath Schools, which convened each morning at eight o'clock, in the lecture room of Mr. Inglis's Church, and the school room was usually crowded. Hymns were sung and addresses delivered by some of the ministers or laymen, who were present. At this meeting Mr. Hammond always presided, and usually led the music. After the devotional exercises closed, an enquiry meeting was held each day, and such children as were under religious impressions were conversed and prayed with. These varied in number from fifty to one hundred and fifty, at different times. Each Saturday afternoon a general muster of all the schools was held in one of the large churches—usually in Knox's church—and the meeting was conducted in a similar way to that of the morning meetings. Among the children there was usually decided evidence of a deep interest in divine things, and on all occasions when they met, Mr. Hammond seemed to possess the power of charming them with some story about the cross of Christ, or bearing on the practical duties of the Christian. A very considerable number of children, in all the Sabbath schools, have been deeply and seriously impressed. In Knox's Church it was announced last Lord's day that the whole of the first class of females had passed into the minister's enquiry meeting, and were all giving hopeful symptoms of decided piety.

2nd. The Union prayer meeting at 3 p.m., each day, was held in St. Andrew's Church. This meeting was at first but thinly attended, but the interest seemed to me like the rising tide; and when gentlemen such as Lieut.-Colonel Hoste of the Royal Artillery and Sheriff Thomas, men of education, men of talent, and men of unimpeachable moral character, come forward and lend the weight of their influence and testimony to such a movement, it will scarcely be presumed that they are either deceiving others, or that they are themselves deceived.

It is not our design, much less would it be in harmony with our position as a secular journalist to argue the question from a Theological stand point, that we leave for the pulpit, or the platform, or the sectarian journalist. We however feel perfectly safe in glancing at mere passing matters of fact, and some of these are not trivial but startling. At the crowded daily prayer-meeting in St. Andrew's church, there was a general gathering of all denominations, and on the platform a clerical representation of the various churches in the city. This catholicity of action may it is hoped, have proceeded from the charity and love of an inner and a hidden life which is the best proof of the effect of the gospel on the human heart, and to no community was this more needed than in Hamilton. The harmony of sentiment which seemed to pervade the addresses and progress of the various speakers, and the brotherly feeling which seemed to pervade the clerical platform must have been peculiarly annoying to that spirit which rejoices in iniquity.

3rd. The open air preaching, which is quite a new item in our religious services in Hamilton, did not fail from its very novelty to attract large numbers. Every evening for weeks, at a quarter to seven o'clock, amid all weathers, wet and dry, storm or no storm, a number of our city clergy were assembled at the Gore on King Street. Children from the various Sabbath Schools were with them singing psalms and hymns, and short discourses were delivered to gathering crowds of labourers, mechanics and others, who, with the most becoming decorum and respect, listened to the gospel message whether delivered by Mr. Hammond, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Henderson, Dr. Irvine, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Burson, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Brown or Mr. Pullar, all of whom took part in these services. Few it is believed of the right-thinking manifested any feelings of disapprobation, and altogether it is most complimentary to the good taste and proper feeling of our citizens, that they showed so much deference to the new system of proclaiming Divine Truth in the open streets of

our city, and doubtless the zeal of the ministers who conducted these services is worthy of admiration and respect.

4th. The Evening Union Services, held alternately between St. Andrew's Church and the Brick Wesleyan Chapel on John street, for the first two weeks, and then in both places, were attended by very large numbers, while Enquiry Meetings at the close of each service were held, and hundreds of 'anxious enquirers' were conversed or prayed with. Sometimes these meetings were kept up till midnight and even beyond it. On Sabbath, the 23rd inst., for example, in Dr. Irvine's Church, the last of Mr. Hammond's services, many people did not leave the church till after one o'clock on Monday morning. Several clergymen and laymen, including Mr. Hammond having remained talking and praying with those who were concerned about spiritual things.

5th. The great mass-meetings, however, were those held at three o'clock, p. m., on the Lord's day, and for three successive Sabbaths, held in Dr. Irvine's church. The aisles, passages, and every available standing room were densely filled. A large number were obliged to go down to the basement, where several clergymen addressed and prayed with and for anxious people. Mr. Hammond's discourse was listened to with attention, and at the close over two hundred persons stood up to ask the prayers of the congregation.

The amazing powers of body, mind and spirit possessed by this extraordinary Evangelist, may be estimated by the fact that from eight o'clock in the morning, when he met the Sabbath Schools in Mr. Inglis' church, up till midnight, and sometimes even till two o'clock in the morning, he was incessantly engaged in speaking, preaching, praying and conversing with the anxious.

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HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 29, 1862.

LOCAL INTERESTS.

No matter how admirable may be the form or pattern of a people's institutions, their real freedom will, in the main, depend upon their moral capacity to enjoy its blessings, and to discharge the duties it imposes; dark ignorance, unreasoning superstition, or blind selfishness, are just as efficient destroyers of human liberty as the worst despotism that ever interposed its hideous form between mankind and the sunlight of God. The noblest laws which human wisdom ever framed are valueless to a people whose moral power is insufficient to give to them energy and vigour. Moreover, the institutions of a nation are constantly assimilating themselves to its moral condition, if that is advancing it will carry these with it; if retrograding, the very forms of liberty soon become a sham, and the life of a sham is but short. These are not newly discovered truths; mankind has always, in some dim way, acknowledged them, but only in the highest forms of civilization have they become practical convictions, and accepted as guides to every day life. It is worth our while, as Canadians, to give heed to these matters. As a nation, we are at that time of life which will infallibly leave its imprint on the future. We have a comparatively clean record of the past. There are as yet no venerable, hoary-headed abuses interwoven with the web of our social life; but are there none forming? is the direction we are now giving to our customs, opinions and modes of thought, such as will bear the test of time? or will these some day ripen into a harvest of blood and sorrow?

The general tendency of Canadian politics to degenerate into spasmodic efforts, for local aggrandizement, is one of those evils which, if not checked, is likely to lead to much future mischief; it is the direct enemy of economical government, the friend of extravagance and the corruptor of political morals.

This 'local tendency' is not, of course peculiar to Canada; it exists more or less in all countries, but it seems with us to have attained to a vigor and intensity which it no where else exhibits, certainly not at least in that country from which

our institutions have been derived, and whose excellence in government we seek to emulate.

Our local interests naturally divide themselves into two grand sections, viz., Upper and Lower Canada, but in each of these several smaller sections are included, there are in the one 'The Extreme West,' 'Canada centre,' 'The Ottawa District,' &c.; in the other we have the 'Eastern Counties,' 'Quebec District,' and how many others let us not stop to inquire; each of these are supposed, in some way, to have interests totally independent of each other. Nay! Mr. PETIFOGGER, through these smoked-glass spectacles of his, can see quite clearly that their interests are not only independent of, but totally antagonistic to, each other. Now this Mr. PETIFOGGER—in America at all events—is quite an important personage; he is particularly strong on election committees; he thoroughly comprehends the orthodoxy of the doctrine, that one vote before 12 o'clock is worth two after it; so he is always early at the polls, and never fails to bring his voters with him. Unable to obtain position and power by commanding talents, he aims to succeed by appealing to the lower passion* of our nature. 'I will support the Ministry,' said he, in one of his ubiquitous election contests, 'in order to get something for the County.' Thus in Canada he appeals to the mammon-worshipping instincts of his hearers,—another name for local interests—while in the United States, he has bestridden the hobby of 'State Rights,' and by energetic whipping and spurring, and the help of slavery, he has succeeded in making a precious mess of affairs generally.

To drop the metaphor; how many foolish things have we already done in obedience to the cry of local interests; since the Union of the Provinces we have pursued the insane policy of shifting our seat of government from one end of the country to the other, that local interests might be served, and when at length awakened to the inconvenience and extravagance of the system, our politicians squabbled and quarrelled over the question of the permanent Capital, with an earnestness, no one could have previously believed them to possess. A miniature contest of the same kind is constantly going on in the selection of our county towns. What an interesting work would a faithful history of some of these contests be? What magnificent specimens of stump oratory by Mayor TIMBER-NODDLE and Alderman DODGER, might enrich its pages? What a piquant interest would attach to a picture of nights spent in card-playing, between sporting M.P.P.'s, and members of delegations sent to the seat of government to demonstrate the superiority of GOOSEVILLE, over all competitors for the county town of —

But it is needless to give examples of the various forms under which this 'local interest' appetite presents itself, they are to be found unfortunately on every hand. What is the effect of all this? It is to drag down every political question to the level of grovelling cupidity. It will, in time, drive from political life every man who has talents enough to obtain distinction in other ways, or who has honesty enough to prefer the pleasure of a mind at ease, to that unstable popularity which is the reward of unworthy deeds, the accumulative effects of which will inevitably bring a day of reckoning; but let us hope.

The second number of the *Canadian Illustrated News* has been received here, and is very much liked. The wood cuts, it is true, are open to criticism, having evidently been done in a hurry. But Rome was not built in one day; and if the public will only support the enterprising publishers, there will be nothing to complain of even in this respect. It is money which gets good paper, good writers, good engravers, and everything else that makes up a superior publication. 'Once a Week.'—*Spectator*.

GRAND TRUNK ELEVATOR.

CANADIANS, though accused by their cousins across the border of being a little behind time in their movements, have now set about in earnest to provide accommodation for the storage of grain and flour, and its easy transference from railway car to vessel or from vessel to car, as circumstances demand. In various parts of the Province elevators have been erected, and we now give a night scene of one going up at Toronto. Its want has been long felt, but it was not till Mr. Brydges assumed control of the road, that the project was put into a tangible shape. He was fortunate too, in the selection of Mr. Sheddan, a man well calculated, from his extensive business capacity, to second his efforts.—The driving of piles on which to erect the building, was commenced some months ago, and ever since the work has been pushed forward both by night and day. First of all there had to be a wharf built, extending 500 feet into the Bay. For this purpose cribs 10 feet long by 24 feet wide and 15 feet apart were constructed and filled with heavy stones, so as to be proof against the most violent storms of Lake Ontario.—At the end of the wharf the foundation for a shed has been laid, into which, from ten to fifteen thousand barrels of flour can be stored. The length of the shed is 170 feet long by 94 feet wide. Some twenty feet from the end of this shed is laid the foundation of the elevator.—More than 400 piles have been driven through the mud and gravel, down to the solid rock, on which to rest the structure. The foundation is 108 feet long by 88 feet wide. From the water to the eaves of the roof will be 53 feet and from the eaves to the centre of the slanting roof 32 feet, making a total of 92 feet. The upper story is to be supported by 100 posts 20 feet long by 15 inches in diameter, and divided into four rows, between which two railway tracks will be laid. The elevator is long enough to take in three cars, so with the double track six cars can be unloaded at the same time. The grain can be elevated to the bins from the hopper into which it is emptied from the cars, at the rate of 6,000 bushels per hour. The number of bins is forty-three, and the whole has a storage capacity of 200,000 bushels. The cost of the elevator will be from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Its construction is under the immediate care of Mr. John Taylor, who is well qualified by the practical experience he has acquired in superintending the erection of some very extensive works both in and out of the Province and lately the Great Western Railway elevator in Hamilton, to bring the works to a successful termination.

WE regret to learn that many of our subscribers were compelled to pay the postage on our last number. This was owing to a mistake on the part of the Hamilton Post Office, as we pre-paid the postage on all copies sent by mail. The Post Office officials here acknowledged the blunder, so our subscribers will have no difficulty in getting their money refunded.

MANY of our subscribers, and especially those of this city, have good reason to complain in being so long in receiving the paper after it was issued. We will remedy this as speedily as possible, so that they will have it on the same day it is printed.

PARTIES residing in places in which as yet we have no agent, and to whom at their own request, papers have been sent, will now have to remit their subscription for any period they choose, as payments must all be made in advance.

ALL orders from agents for copies of *The Illustrated News*, when forwarded to this office, will be promptly attended to.