

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## MY NEXT YEAR'S PAPER.

AS the end of the year approaches, preparations begin to be made in every home of intelligence for reading matter for the coming year. There is something far wrong in any home where no distinctively Christian or church paper is taken, and where it does not receive a good share of consideration in the year's supply of mental and spiritual food. Such a paper, pure and strong, and full of information on the most important subjects, exercises a daily and powerful influence, and is one of the most important factors in the education of a household or family. Let the newspapers taken in a family be known and speaking generally one can tell the character of that family. At this time, then, in all the homes where the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is a regular visitor, we would bespeak for it friendly consideration in arranging for the year's mental and spiritual provision. We do this in all good conscience, because we believe that it is worthy of a place in the families of our church and in every point of view is deserving of support. All who are attached to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, ought to feel a lively interest in the work and progress of his church, and aim to be an intelligent Presbyterian in this respect. It is impossible to be so without knowledge or the means of knowledge. In our columns may be found from week to week a record of what is going on over the length and breadth of the church. Our news of the church at home and of sister churches especially, in other lands, are gathered from all sources and are ample and varied. No man who reads them, no family in which they are read, can be dull or uninformed about what our church is doing at home or abroad. For this reason the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN ought to have a place in all the households of the church.

Not only in the matter of church news are our pages well supplied, but there is no question of importance or interest to the church's well-being or agitating it in any way, or likely to come up for consideration in Presbyteries, Synods or General Assembly, about which desirable or even necessary information may not first be found in the church paper. In its pages the views of many minds looking at subjects from all different aspects are obtained, and the fullest materials are provided for arriving at the best conclusions. It is of the first importance in this respect to take a church paper, and in this view we commend to our readers and to those with whom they may have influence the claims of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, which has in this respect served the church so faithfully for almost a quarter of a century.

In addition to church news and the discussion of subjects of interest affecting the church, there is supplied weekly, a large amount of good, healthful, stimulating and instructive reading on general subjects. No family or individual who, week after week reads the columns devoted to this department can help becoming well informed on many things, or being made thoughtful and having the desire for information awakened and to a good extent gratified. Is this not what parents should desire for their children, what they should study to be themselves?

In doing this work many minds co-operate. Selections are made from the thoughts of the most able contributors to the religious and secular press in all English-speaking lands, and many at home willingly lend their aid to give value and interest to our paper. To all these the Editor would most gratefully return his thanks for their most valuable and highly valued assistance, and from them all he would bespeak their continued co-operation. Allow him here one word of explanation with respect to contributions sent. Some are of a nature such that, if they are to be of any value they must be used at once; so far as it is at all possible these will receive prompt attention, but even then, owing to a superabundance at times of such contributions, some will have to wait. In such cases we ask patience and consideration. Other contributions are of permanent value, and will be of use at all times. Valued and valuable as these may be in themselves, they for the time being, will often have to give way

for matter of only passing interest. Let not, however, the fact of delay in inserting such papers cause impatience or disappointment, for whenever an article is suitable or worthy it will in time be given to our readers.

One thing more. Let us call attention to the very moderate cost at which so rich and varied a supply of news and mental and spiritual food is supplied through the church paper. In no way that we know of can so large and manifold a supply of information and reading be procured for so small a price as through a daily or weekly newspaper. Take the fifty-two issues of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, let any reader look over its well-filled pages, and notice the great variety of their contents, observe the widely different quarters from which its matter has been collected, see the great number of names of men and women whose thoughts have lent interest, and profit, and pleasure to its pages, and we venture to say that, in no way could so large a return be got of intellectual food for the same amount of outlay as is obtained by taking a good religious newspaper. We have confidence in asking our supporters from our record in the past, to continue their support, and to ask the support of new friends, and we have confidence in asking their support in the future, because our one aim and ambition are for their sakes, for our own, and above all for the sake of the Master, whom in this field of work we seek to serve, to make the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN more and more worthy of the confidence, the affection and support of all who feel an interest in and love the Presbyterian church and the cause of Christ as represented and maintained by it at home and abroad.

## Notes of the Week.

We notice that the name of Professor Watson, of Queen's University, Kingston, has been spoken of in connection with the vacant chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow. Canada has given able representative men in various walks to different countries, especially Great Britain and the United States, and should Professor Watson go to Scotland he would add another honoured name to the list. We can ill spare such men from the country because of its newness, or from our colleges, because the formative stage comparatively, in which the country and our colleges still are, even the oldest of them, make it particularly important that we should have the best obtainable men in them. The old saw is true in this as in less important matters, "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined," therefore we need wise men to give the twig the right bent. Should the Queen's professor be taken, it will be a high compliment to that college and its able staff.

The system of University Extension Lectures is one which ought to be taken advantage of to the utmost in our cities and larger towns. In Ottawa, on a late evening, the inaugural lecture of a course in political science and English literature was given and was very largely attended, and the course throughout promises to be successful. The large lecture room of the Normal school does not more than comfortably accommodate the attendance in English literature, there being upwards of one hundred now on the roll, and the classes on political economy and electricity are rapidly increasing in numbers. How many who now fritter their time away in idleness, or desultory reading, or become an easy prey to forms of vice, might keep up by this means some kind of intellectual discipline, and reap a large amount of genuine pleasure and profit were such lectures and the courses of reading connected with them brought within their reach and attended. In all our larger towns there are now to be found at least some one or more graduates of universities who might interest themselves in such work and take a general charge over it, and lecturers at regular intervals could at no great expense be obtained from some one of our seats of learning to guide and stimulate those who might attend.

The accounts which reach us of the destitution and misery prevailing in Chicago are in ghastly contrast to the carnival of pleasure which reigned there during the whole of the past summer. Frightful scenes are witnessed, it is said, every day at the office of the county agent for the distribution of provisions and clothes to the poor. The present officer in charge says, "that he has never before seen the like." The applicants are for the most part foreigners and many of them filthy in the extreme. The crowd at the office was chiefly made up of men and women whom hunger had changed into beasts. These wore tatters and broken shoes and frayed shawls and hats with large holes in them and dirty faces. They were like wild beasts, and the only thing that saved them from tearing one another to pieces was the density of the crowd. Men and women were lifted from the floor and held upright. Numberless cases of extreme destitution have been already reported to the police, and the winter, which promises to be a severe one, has but begun. At least two thousand homeless men sleep in the police station houses every night.

The Haven and Prison Gate Mission is one of the most humane and deserving of the many forms in which the benevolence of this city seek an outlet. Its annual meeting was held the other evening and a very encouraging account given of its work. A new wing has been added to the present building which increases materially its means of usefulness. The methods followed in its work of pity and love towards the unfortunate are stated to be kindness to them and sympathy with them in their troubles, the influence of home life, regular and steady employment, and religious instruction and services. Ten classes come within its beneficent operations, which includes women from the gaol, reformatory, hospitals, and Police Court, women unprotected and unprovided for, servants out of situations who were formerly inmates, and the inmates of disreputable houses. The statistics of the matron, Miss Fitzsimmons, showed that the number of inmates during the year had been 506, of which number 444 were discharged, 4 died, and 58 remained at the end. Situations were secured for 115. The laundry and sewing-room accounts were satisfactory. The treasurer's report showed that the Haven had been run at the small cost of \$4,276.03.

"Mr. Howland is dead," were the words which might be heard passing from mouth to mouth as one walked along the streets on Tuesday afternoon of last week. And the words were spoken in a tone which could leave no doubt as to the sincere and mournful interest taken by the passers-by in the sad event. Probably there was no man in Toronto who was so well known by his appearance on its streets as the deceased, certainly none better. It is hard to take it in as a reality that he is really gone, and will be seen no more. His kind, genial, hearty manner made him accessible to all and a general favorite. They reminded those who knew him then of what he used to be as a boy. He entered very early into the practical, busy work of life, and being possessed of remarkable energy and spirit a very large amount of work fell to his share. The number of enterprises, business, municipal, philanthropic and Christian, with which he was prominently connected, and in which he took an active part, was very large, and all will miss him much. As a temperance worker, and a Christian philanthropist, probably no name in Canada was so well known over the whole Dominion and in the United States as that of him whose death we mourn. His memory will be long preserved in Toronto and in the hearts of his fellow-countrymen, and always as an inspiration to what is manliest and best in the service of his fellow-men, whether as citizens, or as needing a warm, strong hand to lead them away from vice, poverty and sin, and to lift them up and beckon them onward in the love and service of Christ.