

British American Presbyterian,

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FOR TERMS, SEE FIRST PAGE.

G. BLACKETT ROBINSON, EDITOR.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters on business intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, either in full or by initials, and the time they are sent, a request to be made to that effect, and sufficient postage stamps enclosed. Manuscripts not accompanied by these particulars cannot be considered.

OUR GENERAL AGENT.

Mr. CHARLES N. NOL, General Agent for the Press in Canada, is now in Western Ontario, pushing the interests of this journal. We commend him to the best of our ability, and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1876.

A NUMBER of colored men, candidates for the Ministry, have recently been licensed by Presbyteries connected with the Southern Presbyterian Church.

YOUNG MEN'S Christian Associations are being extended far and wide. At Melbourne, Australia, the Christian young men have erected a building at a cost of £6,000.

THE last number of the Queen's College Journal is on our table. There is a considerable display of adolescent talent in it, which gives promise of a supply of eloquence for the pulpit and the bar, such as the country greatly needs.

THE Presbyterian Witness of Halifax says: "The Board of Superintendence will very soon put the matter of collecting one hundred thousand dollars for the endowment of the Theological Hall in Halifax, and for the erection of new buildings, in a practical shape before the congregations of the Synod of the Maritime provinces."

A LETTER has just been received by Dr. Duff, from Dr. Stewart, dated Quillman, on the Zambesi, 16th August, stating that the Mission parties of the Free and Established Churches, had all arrived there safe and well, and that they were occupied in collecting canoes to take themselves and goods up the Zambesi and Shire rivers.

Our contemporary the Interior gives a department in its columns to the Elder's council, and thus furnishes a medium by which Elders throughout the church may exchange their views on vital points. How would the Elders of the Presbyterian church in Canada like to have such a channel opened to them for mutual advice and instruction?

PRESIDENT McCosh in his report to the trustees of Princeton urges that the teaching force of the College should be increased. The Board appointed two new professorships, one in Architecture and the applied arts, and the other an adjunct professorship in Mathematics and civil Engineering. They further agreed to appoint new professors of classics. Their committee are now on the outlook for candidates.

ARCHBISHOP LYNCH seems determined to lynch the brethren of the Baptist church, judging from the way in which he puts the matter of immersion and infant baptism in his sermon of last Sabbath. The Romish theological taint appears in the first part of the address, in which Baptismal regeneration crops out largely. We expect the Archbishop will get immersed in hot water by the Baptist brethren, if he persevere in his present course. Whither shall we look for our champion on the Evangelical side of Penance and Baptismal Regeneration. What has become of our friend Dr. Robb, who on a former occasion won his spurs on doing valiant battle with this same rev. Archbishop?

We have received a very clear and concise statement of the Financial affairs of Knox and Queen's Colleges which is signed by Dr. Froudford, chairman of Knox College Board, and Dr. Snodgrass, chairman of Finance and Estate Committee of Queen's College. It states that constituencies have been assigned to the several colleges for financial support. The congregations west of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway, are the constituency of Queen's and Knox Colleges. For these institutions \$14,350 will require to be contributed this year—\$11,900 for Knox College and \$2,450 for Queen's. It is suggested to the Presbyteries, and to all friends of the Colleges, that the present year will virtually test the practicability of sustaining the Colleges according to the present territorial arrangement. The Board of these Colleges urges the necessity of all the congregations reaching in their contributions the amount proposed. We heartily concur in this practical recommendation.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

Our readers cannot fail to have noticed the decided improvement in our columns during the past few months, consequent upon the strengthening of our Editorial Staff. Still greater improvement we hope to make during the coming year, having been promised contributions from time to time from several of the ablest ministers of the Church. We are determined to spare no effort to make our paper increasingly useful in advancing the interests of our Church, and in deepening the attachment of our people to the principles of Presbyterianism, and to the general work of the Church in her various schemes. To aid us in this we invite the co-operation of all our readers. The *Conveners and Secretaries of Committees* and the *Clerks of Presbyteries* can render us most valuable assistance by furnishing from time to time reports of meetings, items of missionary intelligence and Church news generally. Such assistance we earnestly solicit and will ever gratefully receive. The *Missionaries* of our Church on foreign fields as well as those in our *Home Mission* districts can add materially to the interest of our columns by contributions bearing on their work—their difficulties, and successes and encouragements. Such contributions will not only enrich our columns but will do much towards interesting our readers in Christian work, and in developing more and more of a missionary spirit throughout the Church. The *Ministers and Sabbath School Superintendents and office-bearers* of our several congregations can all aid us by occasionally forwarding matter for publication, and by speaking a kindly word on behalf of our paper. Each and all of our readers can render us important service by endeavouring to secure additional subscribers. We are neither unmindful of, nor ungrateful for, the valuable assistance rendered us by our many friends in the past, and we bespeak the continuance of their help in the future. During the past few weeks we have made large additions to our list of subscribers, so that the circulation of our paper is now 6,000 weekly. The number of families in connection with the Church at present is about 60,000, of whom there are upwards of 40,000 in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. With a united effort on the part of our friends our circulation could easily be increased three or fourfold. If every reader were to interest himself on behalf of the paper during the present month we might begin the new year with a subscription list of at least 15,000. Were this the case we would then be in a position to alter the form and increase the size and add greatly to the efficiency of the paper generally. In the interests of ourselves and in the interests of the Church and of the cause of truth, we earnestly solicit the hearty co-operation of all our readers. Many subscriptions expire with the current month. We desire as early as practicable to adopt the principle of payment invariably in advance,—the principle now adopted by most of the leading journals and periodicals published on this continent, and would therefore respectfully ask those in arrears to remit the amount due, and those whose subscriptions expire in the end of December to renew their subscriptions at their earliest convenience.

There is still another matter on which the prosperity of a paper largely depends, viz.: its advertising patronage. While we cannot consent to devote a very large proportion of our space to advertisements, we have still room for a greater number of these than now appear in our paper.

There are few better advertising mediums in Canada than the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN now is. With a *bona fide* circulation of 6,000 weekly, and that among the very best and most desirable families to deal with in our country—for it is an undeniable fact that our Presbyterian people on the whole are so,—our paper presents inducements to advertisers that few other newspapers do. In addition to our present subscription list very large accessions are weekly being made to it. An agent is at present employed in making a thorough and successful canvass of the City of Toronto and Suburbs; another is constantly engaged in systematic visitation of the families in our towns and rural congregations in Western Ontario; while in the East our list of subscribers is increasing at the rate of upwards of 100 per week. During the past month we have added several hundreds to our circulation in the cities of Quebec and Montreal. The Ottawa district is about to be canvassed, and arrangements are at present being completed whereby we hope to materially strengthen our position in various parts of the country. We can therefore with confidence solicit an increased patronage from advertisers, believing that their interests will be served by using our columns to secure increased custom and enlarge their business operations. Our rates will be found moderate, correspondent with the advantages to be derived from the use of our columns.

To the SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN greater attention will be devoted next year than formerly. More prominence will be

given to the missions of our own Church so as to elicit the interest and sympathy of the young of our congregations, and generally the paper will be improved. The price will continue as heretofore, 25 cents per single copy; in parcels of twenty and over 15 cents per annum for each copy. We invite the attention of pastors and Sabbath school superintendents to this monthly periodical for the young, and at this season of the year in ordering papers for their schools for 1877 we solicit their co-operation in increasing the circulation. We will gladly forward specimen copies to those who may desire to have them.

EARLY CLOSING.

The mass meeting held on the 23rd ult. in Shaftesbury Hall in the interests of the Early Closing Association was very successful. The house was crowded by an intelligent and respectable audience. Vice-Chancellor Blake occupied the chair, and spoke very effectively upon his experience as a young man in a dry goods store. He stated that the great annoyance he felt arose from being compelled to hang over the counter for twelve hours and more in order to do what could easily be done in seven or eight hours. He believed that it would be to the gain of all concerned, were the hours shortened. Rev. John Smith, of Bay Street Presbyterian Church, spoke specially in regard to the dry goods stores, and showed that the long hours were kept up in order to make money, that they were unfavorable to health and temperance, and to the moral and spiritual well-being of the people, and that our time should be so distributed, as not only to give due heed to the calls of business, but to secure rest and recreation for the body, and social and intellectual improvement. Rev. David Mitchell, of Central Presbyterian Church, regretted that some had fallen from their engagements in the matter of early closing, but spoke hopefully of the future of the movement. Like the Temperance reform, the reform now sought could only be accomplished by degrees. If we were thoroughly in earnest, every defeat only meant victory. He contended that the spirit and genius of Christianity favoured the movement, as it favoured every cause that tended to alleviate human suffering. He thought there were other interests at stake beside those of dry goods merchants and their employees. They should sympathize with all who are the victims of long hours and oppressive labors. He drew a graphic picture of the needle-woman, stitch—stitch—stitching during the long day and night to make a scanty living for herself and those dependent upon her. He referred to clerks in drug stores, and spoke feelingly of the kind physician ever active and toiling, with sleep broken, without leisure, and said that such men required kindly consideration. He affirmed that the public was the master-tyrant that made long hours necessary, and that the matter of early closing was in their hands. Hon. Dr. Tupper made a very happy and telling speech, in which he spoke of Canada as a noble country and inheritance, opening every possible channel for the enterprising and industrious and holding out the prospect of honor and reward to all. He hailed the early closing movement as furnishing the opportunity to young men of improving their time, and thus fitting them to become in time noble and worthy citizens. He referred in eloquent terms to the aspect of this subject which affected our fair sisters, and urged the point made by the previous speaker that their labors should be made lighter and more pleasant, especially in view of the fact that these were frequently undertaken in order to provide for helpless ones at home. The addresses altogether were excellent, and when Mr. Charles Page admirably focussed these into a suitable motion, its adoption was at once unanimous and enthusiastic. The motion was as follows:—"Resolved—that this meeting, seeing the propriety, justice and necessity for shortening the hours of labor in the business establishments of this city, do hereby pledge themselves to support the movement by every legitimate means in their power." The proceedings were enlivened by the singing of Professor Jones, leader in the Bay St. Presbyterian Church, and by a number of anthems sung by the choir of the Central Presbyterian Church. We have no doubt that the emphatic endorsement given to the early closing movement by this mass meeting, will in the future bring forth valuable fruit. Let the Association persevere in their agitation of the matter they have so much at heart, and their efforts will yet be crowned with success.

The Queen of Madagascar has recently issued an edict prohibiting the traffic in rum. Her Majesty says, "I tell you that trade in good things makes me very glad indeed. Oh my people, if you trade in rum, or employ people to trade in it, then I consider you to be guilty, because I am not ashamed to make laws in my kingdom which shall do you good." Would that our rulers and our people were of the same mind as the good Queen.

SABBATH SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

We have much pleasure in directing attention to the forthcoming Sabbath School Institute. It will commence on Monday next, and will continue during four consecutive days. Knox Church and Carlton Street P. M. Church will this year divide the honor of holding the meetings of the Institute. In addition to the many attractions which are held out in connection with the coming week, it may be stated that the Rev. John H. Vincent, D.D., will be the conductor. A gentleman of his fame hardly needs any endorsement from pulpit or press. He is known as a Sabbath School veteran. He has devoted himself soul and body to this work. Like all men with specialities, he is an enthusiast in the right direction. It is well to have such a man, who can diffuse himself over the whole land and over the whole world, who can inspire others with his own devotion, who can lead a vast army of instructors in the Divine Word. A man with such a specialty is better employed in using his gift thus for the glory of God, than if he were the pastor of the biggest church in the world. The Sabbath School is Dr. Vincent's church, and Sabbath School work is the enterprise he has at heart. It is with confidence we say to our pastors, superintendents, and Sabbath School teachers, that they will do well for themselves and their schools by giving hearty and constant attendance upon the meetings of the Institute.

Those of our readers who were privileged to be present at the various meetings of last year's Institute, will remember with delight the crowded audiences which filled one of our most capacious churches, the delightful exercises which were conducted by Mr. Reynolds, and the addresses that were delivered by various well known speakers. This year the Institute promises to be still more interesting and instructive. Every evening at eight o'clock, Dr. Vincent will open with a theme, such as that for Monday night "The four elements in the term Sunday-school—Domestic, Ecclesiastical, Spiritual and Educational." This will be followed by conversational discussions upon the subject, and questions will be answered by Dr. Vincent. At half-past nine o'clock there will be a normal class drill in the school room. It will be well for all teachers and superintendents to attend this special meeting in order to have a practical illustration of all that makes up the Sabbath School of our day.

The normal class will be found to be the valuable feature of such institutes. The idea of this is that of a training school for teachers. And that not in the old didactic sense of a training school. In the past the great evil has been to try and lecture students and apprentices into their work. Lectures were to make doctors and lawyers and ministers and merchants and nurses. While we value lectures, they will play but a mean part in the education of any man for his future work, if they are not accompanied with the practice which they enjoin and set forth. Now-a-days we teach by giving the practice as well as the precept. The medical student has the advantage of the prelections of his profession, but he is taken to the beds of the Hospital and Infirmary to learn his art. The Divinity student in our day besides attending his College in winter, has to go out to the missionary field in vacation time. The merchant apprentice, as well as studying the science of wealth, has to learn in the store or warehouse. And so the Sabbath School teacher while studying the Word of God, and listening to scientific lectures on the teaching of Scripture, has to exercise the art and practice of teaching in the Normal Class. This was admirably brought out in the Chataqua Assembly during the past year, and in the series of lessons which that Assembly have issued, we have an excellent illustration of the value of the method of the Normal Class Drill System.

CHICAGO CONVENTION.

The Convention held in the Tabernacle occupied by Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the Evangelists, during last week in Chicago proved to be one of great interest. Ministers and elders gathered to the spot from all the country round. The services were similar to those which were held in connection with the revival work in London, Philadelphia and New York, and were calculated to elicit a variety of valuable suggestions on the great subject every one had so much at heart. Amongst the many things serious and sacred that will occupy the attention of such a gathering, there was bound to be a little of the ridiculous. A minister arose and said he had attended ever so many funerals, and done ever so much work, and had never got any thanks for those services, and was going on to enumerate other thankless labors, when Mr. Moody with that promptness and pointedness which are so characteristic of him, stopped him by saying: "the brother has our thanks," and amidst applause, provoked by the appropriate remark, the brother had to sit down.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey continue their work in Chicago till the end of the year. They then commence operations in the Edinburgh of New England—we mean Boston, the Capital of Massachusetts, and it is to be hoped that they will do much to counteract the Unitarian and Universal tendencies of this centre of civilization.

Ministers and Churches.

We understand that the Rev. D. Cameron has decided to accept the call recently addressed to him by the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, and that his translation will likely take place in the beginning of January.

On Sabbath, 19th ult., the Rev. Prof. De Launay lectured in Port Dover, in the Presbyterian Church in the afternoon, and in the Methodist Church in the evening, on "the Epitaphs in the Catacombs of Rome." The lectures of this rev. gentleman were ably delivered, full of instruction, and commanded the interest of crowded audiences.

On Wednesday, 22nd inst., the Rev. Mungo Fraser, lately of Barrie, was inducted to the pastorate of the St. Thomas Presbyterian congregation, the services, which were of an interesting character, taking place in the church. Rev. Mr. Simpson, of Westminster, presided as moderator; Rev. Mr. Thynne, of the English Settlement, preached; Rev. Mr. Murray, of London, addressed the people, and Rev. Mr. Sutherland, of Fingal, addressed the minister. In the evening a social was given by the ladies of the church.

The Young Men's Society of Erskine Church, Montreal, was also recently organized for the season by an able and exhaustive lecture, given before a large audience, by one of their number, J. S. Archibald, Esq., Advocate, on the recently adopted Quebec Burial Act. At the close the Rev. J. S. Black, pastor of the congregation, who presided, in a few well-timed remarks moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by the Rev. Principal MacVicar, and adopted by the meeting. The membership of this society is large, and the interest well sustained.

REV. R. SCOBIE of Strathroy, delivered a remarkable sermon in his own church, on Sabbath evening the 19th ult. About a month ago Father Lennan officiated at the re-opening service in the Romish Church at Strathroy, and while preaching from Eph. iv. 6 tried to prove that the Church of Rome is the true church, and that there is no salvation in any other. He said abusive things about the Queen, Bismark, and others, and denounced and condemned all classes of Protestants. His sermon having been published, created great excitement. Mr. Scobie in answer to many requests preached a sermon from the same text, which is one of eloquent and convincing power.

In connection with St. Paul's Church, Montreal, there is a Band of Hope, of which the Rev. R. Laing, junior minister, is the President. It embraces a large membership, which is continually on the increase. On Friday last an open meeting was held in connection with it in the school-room of the church, when a good representation of members and friends was present. The Rev. R. Laing presided. The entertainment was given chiefly by the members of the Band, of whom the following took part:—Misses E. Bently, Alice Wait, and Annie Young; and Masters Murray, Watson, and J. Robertson. During the evening the Rev. J. S. Black, of Erskine Church, gave a short address. Eleven new names were attached to the pledge-book, making an addition of about 150 since the beginning of the season. Rev. Mr. Laing is doing a good work in connection with this Band of Hope.

The Young Men's Association of Stanley Street Church, Montreal, we observe, was organized for the coming winter by a public meeting in the basement of the church on the 20th inst. There was a large representation of the congregation present, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After the opening exercises, the pastor of the church, Rev. J. C. Baxter, delivered a most interesting and instructive lecture on his travels in Egypt and Palestine a few years ago. During last winter Mr. Baxter gave a series of lectures on Sabbath evenings, upon incidents in the life of our Lord, describing from personal observation the scene of these incidents, and illustrating the manners and customs of the Jews from what he had himself witnessed. We trust that Mr. Baxter may be induced at no distant date to publish these lectures in a volume. At the close of the lecture on Monday evening, Mr. W. King recited in an effective manner the Legend of Loghri, and a well trained choir, under the leadership of Mr. Bain, sang "The Fall of Babel." The society enters upon the work of the present season with the hearty sympathy of the congregation, and with encouraging prospects of success.

A social gathering of the members and friends of the congregation of Nazareth Street Church, Montreal, was held in the church on the evening of Monday, the 20th Nov., the pastor, Rev. Jos. Elliott, presiding. There was a large attendance. Addresses were delivered by the chairman, as also by one of the students of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and by Principal MacVicar. The latter gentleman