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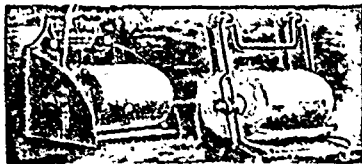
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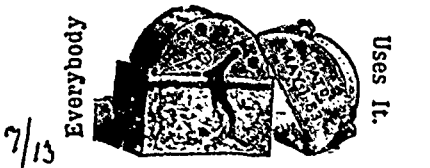
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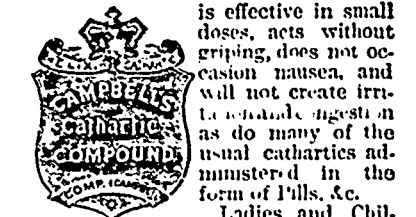


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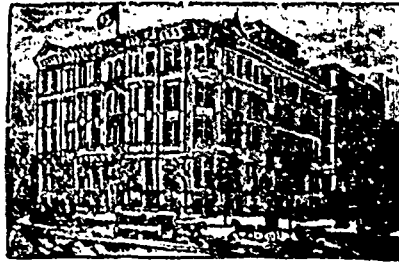
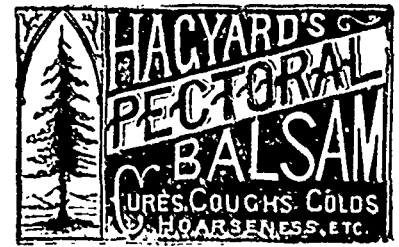
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Notes of the Week.

AT the recent semi-annual meeting of the directors of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository, the following resolution was adopted. Realizing the vast importance to be attached to the dissemination of pure literature, and desiring that every possible incentive be given to the work of tract distribution, the Depository shall hereafter supply tracts at an advance on cost simply sufficient to cover expenses of handling.

PROFESSOR CANDLISH is about to move in the Glasgow Free Presbytery an overture to the General Assembly asking that Court to explain the sense in which the Church understands the Westminster Confession. The formula of subscription for deacons was relaxed two or three years ago, but that for elders remains so rigid that many have refused to accept office under it. The movement of Professor Candlish is supposed to have reference to a Declaratory Act similar to those of the United and English Presbyterian Churches.

PRESIDENT MCCOSH lately remarked that he felt that his identification with America had cost him his old remembrance and esteem in literary circles at home: There are, he said, few who now remember me in my old country, which, though now far from it, I love more than ever. Nothing now written by me would excite any interest in Edinburgh, where a younger generation must do the work assigned them. I may have some little work to do in this country in philosophy, and in Princeton College, and then I must pass away and be forgotten. Dr. McCosh possesses the humility characteristic of true greatness.

THE death of Mrs. Henry Wood, the distinguished novelist, was recently announced. She was born in Worcestershire in 1820, and at an early age was married to Mr. Henry Wood, a gentleman connected with the shipping trade. She competed for the £100 prize offered by the Scottish Temperance League for the best temperance story. "Danbury House" gained the prize, and laid the foundation of her literary fame. The second prize was carried by Rev. David Macrae for a tale entitled "Dunvarlich." Mrs. Wood was a prolific writer, but her fame rests chiefly on "East Lynne" and "Mrs. Haliburton's Troubles." She was editor of the *Argosy*, a monthly magazine.

THE Judiciary Committee of one House of the Pennsylvania Legislature has adopted a report providing that absolute unanimity of the twelve jurymen shall no longer be necessary to secure a verdict, but

that two-thirds shall be sufficient to acquit or convict; and it is thought that a bill to that effect will pass. It has long been the impression that to require complete unanimity was to obstruct justice, and a change in the law in the direction proposed will put it out of the power of one or two cranks or corrupt men to interrupt the course of justice.

A CONTEMPORARY gives the following interesting information: A gentleman who has investigated the subject gives us some figures relative to the religious complexion of the present Congress, which, he says, are reliable. Of the 408 Senators, members and territorial delegates who compose Congress, seventy-two are Methodists, sixty-three Baptists, forty-one Episcopalians, thirty-seven Presbyterians, thirty-six Catholics, fifteen Unitarians, eight Lutherans, ten Christians (Campbellite), and two Quakers, making a total of 283 who are actively connected with some Church organization. This leaves 125 who either never belonged to any Church or have drifted out of such associations.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Philadelphia *Presbyterian* says: The Rev. Dr. Somerville, the college companion and bosom friend of Robert Murray McCheyne, has signalized his year of office by an extraordinary—and, for a man of his years, unprecedented—series of evangelistic journeys through the Highlands of Scotland. Dr. Somerville has visited almost all parts of the world as an evangelist, and has everywhere had immense audiences. But he says he never witnessed anything like the gatherings in the Highlands. Neither weather nor distance had any terrors for them. The Free Church is strong in the Highlands, and there is no doubt that this apostolic journey of the Moderator will do much to attach the men of the North to the Church of their choice.

THE impression is all but universal that the early spring will witness the outbreak of a great European war. France and Germany, to all appearance, will seek once more to decide by the sword which of them shall have possession of Alsace-Lorraine. For years France has been preparing, and is now eager for wiping out the utter collapse of her military strength that led to the inglorious surrender at Sedan and the siege of Paris. No great principle influences either Teuton or Celt to engage in deadly combat that is sure to spread sorrow, desolation and death in numberless homes. It seems equally certain that Russia will again start on her military march toward Constantinople. Other European Powers are certain to be dragged into the deadly struggle of the nations.

THE great difficulty, says the New York *Independent*, that will stand in the way of union between the Northern and Southern Presbyterians will not be the quarrel about political utterances, but the Negro question. The Northern Presbyterians in the South have an Atlantic Synod, with many coloured members. In the case of union these men would be distributed among the Synods of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The *Southern Presbyterian* warns its readers of this fact, and tells them that if they choose union, they choose their fellowship with Negroes. It suggests that the Southern Church establish an African Presbyterian Church, and so get rid of the difficulty; but that suggestion is absurd. No one would think of it. Not a few Northern Methodists acknowledge now that they made a mistake in dividing their Conference on the colour line.

THE other week the Toronto Ministerial Association called attention once more to the fact that the Roman Catholic authorities, whatever their income, were entirely exempt from taxation. Members of the association expressed their willingness to submit to pay their fair share of municipal rating did their fellow-citizens so desire, if the priesthood were asked to pay their quota. This position is reasonable. Archbishop Lynch, however, has come out with what a Scotchman would call a pawky rejoinder. The

plea of poverty is put in, and it is added that no certain annual income can be calculated on. If a serious effort were made, it might not be difficult to arrive at an approximately correct average of the annual receipts of Roman Catholic clergymen, whatever their position. Were the question of exemptions—not merely clerical, but all classes released from the first of civic duties, payment of taxes,—submitted to a plebiscite there would be an overwhelming vote favouring their abolition.

SOCIAL reforms are best promoted when individuals have the moral courage to dispense with customs that fashion has made inveterate. Fashion is impervious to reason, common sense and ridicule; but when here and there people are found with strength of will to resist, they will find that others are ready to follow their example. Defiance of tyrannous custom soon becomes easy when one or two resolute people are prepared to lead the way. The condemnation of funeral pomp and parade is well-nigh universal, but it remains as extravagant and unseemly as ever. At a recent funeral in Guelph, the *Mercury* informs us, the elders and managers of Knox Church attended in a body the funeral of the late Mr. Williamson, who died abroad, and whose remains were taken to Guelph for interment. There was no display of badges and crape at the funeral. Many sensible Christian people expressed their satisfaction at this omission of what they believe has become a vulgar and meaningless parade.

It has been remarked that during the recent election contests, especially the Provincial, ministers of various denominations took a more prominent part in the discussion of political matters than hitherto. Of the wisdom of this course there are marked differences of opinion. So long as a clergyman refrains from being an offensive partisan much need not be said. At the same time, if a minister does enter the political arena, it is on his own responsibility and subject to criticism. He speaks for himself, not for his denomination. Principal Grant has spoken out in manly, ringing words in condemnation of the crying abuses that have crept into Canadian politics, and laid down certain principles which ought to guide those who desire the progress and welfare of their country with which many belonging to both parties will agree. He has come down with severity on machine politics. It ought not to be overlooked that the machine, like water, can rise no higher than its source. If corrupt and unprincipled men run the organization, what can the machine be but corrupt and a plague spot, spreading moral contagion throughout the land?

THE movement by representative men in England, to repress the disgusting details in daily press reports of criminal court proceedings is defined in a circular containing the following: We respectfully suggest to all those who have control of the daily press the desirability of some combined action by which they may minimize, if they cannot wholly suppress, the details of the divorce cases and criminal trials. We are aware that the fear of publicity is one of the most powerful deterrents to the commission of crime, nor have we the least desire to shelter the misdeeds of offenders because of any position in society which they may occupy. But we have a strong conviction that the necessary publicity could be secured without the divulgence of details of a demoralizing character, and we have reason to fear that the full record of incidents in these cases ministers to diseased appetite, and produces unwholesome effects on many minds. We desire further to call attention to the inevitable evils which must result from thus familiarizing with vice the minds of tens of thousands of young persons of both sexes from whom in these days it is impossible to keep the daily newspapers. We are sure that a combined effort to keep the pages of the newspapers as free as possible from the stain of such impurities would be conducive to the public good.

Our Contributors.

SOME SPEAKERS WHO OCCASIONALLY HEAR.

BY KNOXIAN.

Who is the best speaker in Canada? Edward Blake. We don't say Mr. Blake, or the Hon. Mr. Blake, or Edward Blake, Esquire. When a man gets up to a certain height above his fellow-men you never put any handles to his name. Nobody says Mr. John Milton, or William Shakespeare, *Esq.* Few sensible people say the Hon. George Brown. Fewer still say Senator Brown. Nobody says Mr. George Brown, or George Brown, *Esq.* If you want to electrify an audience of substantial Grits, say GEORGE BROWN, with the proper emphasis, and you will never fail. One good way to measure the height to which a man has risen is to ask whether handles to his name make him seem larger or smaller. If he seems as great or greater with his plain name as with a lot of titles attached to it, you may be sure he has got up to a considerable height. The Premier of the Dominion was not raised an inch by his title. He was just as high when plain "John A." as he will ever be by any other name. No title could raise Alexander Mackenzie in the estimation of the people of this country. He is as high as any man can get now. A handle to his name would not help him.

Edward Blake has risen to that lofty region where handles are not needed, and he has risen there mainly by his powers as a public speaker. Of course he has an unblemished character, and many other strong points; but dozens of other public men have unblemished characters, and many other good points. Edward Blake, as a debater, as a political orator, ranks with the best men England ever produced. If you do not think so, just take half a dozen of Blake's best speeches, and half a dozen from any collection of speeches by the best English Parliamentary orators, and compare them. Let the comparison be comprehensive, and embrace all the qualities which usually enter into first-class oratory. Judged by this list Edward Blake stands in the front rank not only of Canadian, but of British orators. Of course, men who belittle everything in Canada will say, No, especially those who don't know Burke from Julius Cæsar. If a man does not know but Charles James Fox commanded at Waterloo, and is not quite sure that Pitt did not take Quebec, he may say with great confidence that England has produced a thousand orators far superior to Mr. Blake. We have no discussion with people of that kind. How many orators are there in the Empire at the present time that by intelligent and unprejudiced judges would be pronounced superior to Edward Blake? Are there ten? Name them. Knew you couldn't? Are there six? Are you quite certain there are three?

In making a fair comparison a speaker must be viewed all round. The sum total of his qualities must be considered. And this is just where Edward Blake towers up above almost everybody. It would be easy to find a speaker that surpasses him in one point. Sir John has more wit. Principal Grant has a better voice. Sir Richard Cartwright has more individuality. As a friend of ours once remarked, you see the twirl of Sir Richard's moustache in every sentence. Principal Caven constructs a clearer sentence than Mr. Blake sometimes does. So does Alexander Mackenzie. Dr. Cochrane has more animation—more go. So has Christopher Fraser. Principal MacVicar knows much better when to let go a point that he has handled. So does Sir Richard Cartwright. Mr. Blake's most serious fault as a speaker was that he never seemed to know when he had given a point sufficient treatment. This blemish no doubt acquired at the bar, when the young advocate was laboriously and conscientiously taking all he could out of his cases. Dr. McLaren reasons as closely as Edward Blake, but he needs more time. G. W. Ross can bring out a happier illustration. Mr. Mowat can touch the heart of the average Ontario Grit perhaps a little better than Edward Blake. If there is just one thing that the Ontario Premier knows quite as well as he knows constitutional law, it is the place you should touch an average Ontario Grit when you wish to fire him up. Taking the sum total of his oratorical qualities, however, Edward Blake seems to us a speaker that any country might be proud of, apart from all considerations of party politics.

By way of practical improvement, as the preachers say, we wind up this paper with a few hints about speakers that do not resemble Edward Blake to any great extent.

There is the speaker who says nothing in an *interesting* way. Let nobody despise him. Occasions arise when nothing is the right thing to say. To be able to say nothing in good style at the right time is a high accomplishment.

There is the orator who says nothing in a *pedantic* way. He usually manages to inform you early in his speech that he is a graduate of some kind. His triumph is complete if he can say he has been in Europe. Then comes the long words and the unpronounceable names, and the far-fetched allusions. Of all the sickening bores that ever preyed on suffering humanity the pedantic bore is the most cruel.

And here is the orator who says nothing in a *pompos* way. He inflates himself, puts on a full head of steam, blows with his fog-horn, and starts. You feel like saying, "Mr., are you anybody in particular?" but the pomposity of the man paralyzes you, and you listen to the fog-horn in silence.

Now rises the orator who says nothing in a *patronizing* way. Every square inch of him, from his boots up to that formation that is charitably supposed to contain brains, seems to say, "You are greatly favoured in having ME here" (emphasis on *me*). The man is so impressed with the fact that the privilege of looking at him is quite enough for any audience that he says nothing. He smiles a patronizing smile, utters a few broken-backed commonplaces, and sits down, feeling that the people of that community owe him a debt they can never pay.

We could name the place where this patronizing orator is very likely to come from, but we refrain.

FOR THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

FRAGMENTARY NOTES.

EXPERIENCE OF SNOW DRIFTS—MONTREAL SHROUDED IN SNOW—CHURCH LIFE—CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—SOCIAL QUESTIONS—FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

It was at a small station in a rural district, where we were stranded in consequence of the heavy snow drifts, which most effectually stopped all traffic for some days. Our little crowd of passengers (seven in number) comprised representatives of the leading business of the country, with an insurance agent thrown in; as no company would be complete without one. There were three drummers who, as a matter of course, knew everything, and who did the grumbling to perfection. One denounced the weather, said "it was beastly." Another, with more than an ordinary craving for food, which had not been satisfied for some hours, poured out the vials of his wrath against the railway company, the officials, and in fact all connected with the road, and threatened that he would "blow them up in the newspapers," ignorant, evidently, that there was an ambitious member of the fourth estate present. When the complaint of hunger was heard, a humane individual opened his sample case, and distributed a nice lot of confectionery, which had survived the holiday trade.

Then we had an author of local reputation, who gave us a few extracts, some in prose and some in verse, from the manuscript of a book which was about to be ushered on an unsuspecting public, and as the orator was a real son of Erin, in whose veins coursed the pure Milesian blood, we were not only entertained, but instructed, and all expressed the hope that we would meet him again, but not under such circumstances.

The insurance agent was called upon, and, considering the perilous condition in which we were placed, generously offered to insure our lives, which, by down-hearted and hungry passengers, was regarded simply as an outrage.

The situation became desperate, and, by cutting and wading up to the waist in snow, we made (without the aid of snowshoes) our way to the nearest hotel, where we found a cheerful fire of good maple in an open fire-place.

One of the drummers, who was acquainted with the landlord, shook hands with him, asked for a sample room (No. 6) if vacant. He then humorously introduced the other members of the deputation, who, with a fluency and eloquence unequalled, related our experience in the snow drifts, and at "that cold, cold railway sta-

tion," until the landlord, a sturdy Scotchman, had difficulty in restraining his tears.

It was now twelve o'clock at night; supper was anxiously awaited, and soon the "gong" gave forth its pleasant sound, when a rush was made for the dining room, where all were well fortified for the remainder of the journey. Soon after it was announced that the train was ready to move, and in a few hours we reached Montreal, which was also shrouded in snow. Men, with ropes tied around their bodies, were on the roofs of houses cleaning off the snow, whilst hundreds of men and horses were carting it to the river.

The Carnival of course is the universal subject of conversation, and gigantic efforts were put forth to make it a success.

The Ice Palace was a magnificent creation. Everything possible was done to accommodate the influx of visitors which took place at the opening.

Montreal is nothing if not religious. The "Irish Catholic" and "Habitant" should put Protestants to blush in their desire for religious ordinances. At all hours of the day they may be seen wending their way to the various churches, deeply impressed with the solemnity of worship. In the Church of the Gesu, in Bleury Street, there is a part set aside for Protestants, who, attracted by the artistic music and the oratory of the preacher, go there in considerable numbers. Not the best way, I should say, of letting "their light so shine," seeing that there is ample accommodation in the Protestant Churches of the city.

The Presbyterians, with their accustomed energy and administrative ability, are doing a great work, not only among the Protestant masses, but among the French population, where there is abundant material to work upon. Its headquarters are in Montreal, where the movement has been carried on, and had the assistance of the herculean efforts of the Rev. Principal MacVicar.

Presbyterianism is making sure and steady growth here, and with the exception of Cote St. Antoine, the vacancies are all filled and the pulpits well manned.

Several of the Churches have held their annual meetings and presented most encouraging reports.

CHANGE OF NAME.

What's in a name? The wise man says that a good name is better than riches. The St. Joseph Street Presbyterian congregation have changed their name to that of Calvin Church.

The reason for this is that the name of the street has been changed, and it was found to be inconvenient. Appropriate services were held on a recent Sabbath, when Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., preached in the morning, and the Rev. James Barclay, M.A., in the evening. The Sabbath school assembled in the church at three o'clock p.m., when interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. Smith, Revs. James Fleck and Nicholls. These services were continued the following Sabbath, when the Revs. Professor Scrimger and G. H. Wells conducted the services.

Since the settlement of the present pastor, the Rev. Dr. Smyth, the church has made satisfactory progress, and now having started under a new name, and not an indifferent one at that, it is hoped that still greater things shall be accomplished.

St. Joseph Street Church was opened in 1863 as a mission church by the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, and was ministered to by the Rev. P. D. Muir until 1866; he died in June of the following year. The Rev. Alexander Young, now of Napanee, was the next minister, having been settled in 1867, and supplied the congregation until 1872. He was succeeded by the Rev. John (now Professor) Scrimger, M.A., who laboured until 1882, when he was appointed to a professorship in the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The next pastor was the Rev. Thomas Cumming, who, in 1884, accepted a call to St. Andrew's Church, Truro, N. S., when the church again became vacant. A call was extended to the Rev. Dr. W. J. Smyth, B.Sc., who has proved himself to be an able and useful minister. The congregation at their late meeting added \$100 to his salary. The membership is now 363, and the outlook for the future is cheering.

The city is in the throes of the mayoralty election, which, with the Dominion elections, seems to eclipse every other interest. The question of Church and State is a burning one, and only second in importance to the National Policy.

The questions of Prohibition, Sabbath Observance and other social questions will not be important ele-

ments in either elections. The Sabbath Observance Committee petitioned the directors of the Street Car Company, but the reply was not reassuring: There are ninety-five per cent. of the drivers Roman Catholics, who go to early mass on Sundays; and are not deprived of Church ordinances, and that by not running the cars a large number of good citizens would be deprived of the privilege of attending service, and that five times as many men and horses would be employed to accommodate church goers.

The old argument, doing evil that good may come.

In regard to Christian work in Montreal, some, indeed many, may be disposed to cry, How long, how long? but we should rather be thankful for what has been done, and well done, and is worth all the labour and money spent upon it.

Seeing light in a French Protestant church a few evenings ago I went to the door, and looked in, and listened for a short time, and although the several speakers spoke in French I could not help admiring how one young lady acquitted herself when giving a recitation. There must have been over 200 present, who listened attentively. In Ontario one can have no idea of the difficulties to be grappled with in bringing the claims of the Gospel to bear on a French-speaking population, bound by the fetters of Rome. K.

Montreal, Feb., 1887.

THE ELDERSHIP.

Dr. MacNish has written a series of valuable articles on the polity of the Presbyterian Church, treating it chiefly in its practical aspects.

What he says about the "elder" is not a little intricate, to say the least. No wonder. The attempt to extract "two classes of officers" so distinct from one another, out of the word "presbyter" has led only to confusion in other hands than his. No sort of ingenuity can do it.

In his second article he gives an extract from the "Form of Government" drawn up by the Westminster Assembly as follows:

As there were in the Jewish Church elders of the people joined with the priests and Levites in the government of the Church, so Christ, who hath instituted government and governors ecclesiastical in the Church, hath furnished some in the Church beside the ministers of the Word with gifts for government, and with commission to execute the same when called thereunto, who are to be joined with the minister in the government of the Church, which officers the Reformed Churches called elders.

The propositions here laid down are:

1. That the office of the elder is from Christ.
2. That it is an office *sui generis*—strictly and originally one of rule.
3. That the gifts or capacity for the office are also from the Lord Jesus.
4. That the elder is one "of the people"—the laity; like the tribal elder, his analogue, in the Jewish Church.
5. He is appointed to the office on the call or election of the people, to act as their representative or in their name.
6. The place of the elder is that of a help, associate or adviser with the pastor in the government, order and discipline of the Church.

The Assembly adds that the Reformed Churches called this functionary by the name of "elder." They did it optionally for convenience, distinction or respect.

It is plain in the light of this extract that the Westminster Assembly did not believe that "presbyter" is the title of an office distinct from that of the clergyman or pastor.

Dr. MacNish thinks that the elder has no right to the peculiar functions of the minister; and yet in another place he takes the position that in the earlier periods of the Christian Church there was no such distinction of minister and elder as that which now exists—all elders were ministers. Where then in our economy is the apostolic elder?

He is also unwilling to have it said that the elder is a layman; for the reason that to put the elder in the ranks of the laity is to sink him ungracefully below the dignity of his office!

The familiar interpretation of 1 Timothy v. 17, which Dr. MacNish is anxious to adopt as the right one, is obviously at variance with the principle and logical consistency of the extract from the "Form of Government."

Holding as he does that the functions of teaching and of ruling were at first inseparable, how does he account for the origin of the elder? Somewhat curiously. He supposes that certain presbyters, who were chosen for their ability to teach, were found on trial not to be possessed of the faculty of elocution. Their forte, it was discovered, was ruling. So they dropped the other part of the investiture, and took to ruling. Hence, the office. According to this fancy, the eldership was a mere accident, with no divine foundation, a thing born of a mistake!

If "presbyter" does not stand for the elder, there is, he asserts, no warrant for the office in the Word of God, not a trace; and yet he is at pains to show, and in fact successfully shows with the light and force of scriptural reference, that the office did exist in apostolic times, and is emphatically marked with apostolic recognition.

Do we not read, however, of a plurality of elders in a Church? We do; but a Church was not a single congregation in the modern usage of the word, but a multiplicity; the centre, in fact, of a large environment of missionary stations, in which there was ample scope and necessity for almost any number of presbyters.

A note from Dr. Hodge may here be of service. In his comment on 1 Cor. xii. 28 he says on the word "governments": "As this gift and office of ruling are distinguished from those of teachers, it cannot be understood of the presbyters or bishops who were required to be 'apt to teach.' It seems to refer clearly to a class of officers distinct from teachers, i.e., rulers; or, as they are called in the Reformed Churches, 'ruling elders,' and in the Ancient Church, *seniores plebis*."

Many of your readers are no doubt well acquainted with the wonderful success which has crowned the labours of the American Mission in Asiatic Turkey, and the circumstances which led the missionaries, as the work grew upon their hands to form the converts into what is now known as the Armenian Evangelical Church. Their plan of organization said:

"The officers of the Evangelical Armenian Church shall consist of elders or bishops (called also pastors) and deacons."

The duty of the pastor was defined to be: To give himself to the preaching of the Word and to prayer, and to administer the sacraments; and to watch over and visit his flock. The duty of the deacons—to care for the poor of the Church, and to assist the pastor in all suitable ways in spiritual duties.

For the *government* of the Church it was provided that—"inasmuch as discipline according to the Scriptures belongs not to the clergy alone, but with them to the people; and inasmuch as it is not always convenient or expedient for the whole Church to come together for that purpose, they shall choose three or more brethren as 'helps, governments,' to form with the pastor and deacons a Church Session, or standing committee for the examination of candidates for admission into the Church, and the administration of discipline."

They point to 2 Co. v. 4, 2 Cor. ii. 6, and 1 Cor. xii. 28 for the source of their adopted form of Church polity.

It is manifestly on the line of the Reformed Churches. What Presbyterian would say that it is not also on the simplicity of the apostolic model?

It is an interesting fact, and well known, that the Syrian missionaries are not all Presbyterians; they were partly of the Congregational Church.

PRESBYTER.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN REGINA.

MR. EDITOR,—As many of your readers are doubtless very much interested in the progress of the Church in the capital of the North-West, permit me to send your journal a few extracts from the report presented at the annual meeting of the congregation held on the 20th ult. Many of the people of the Eastern Provinces are under the impression that Regina is an humble place—where no one but mounted police and Government officials live—indeed such was the character recently given it by Mr. Smelley, of the St. Paul, Minn., *North-West Magazine*, but Mr. Smelley is in the employ of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and a slap at a Canadian town is in his line.

Regina is, let me tell your readers, a happy little

town; its people are refined, intelligent, and possess none of that discontented spirit which a couple of years ago was so prevalent with the people of this portion of the Dominion. They have the fullest confidence in the future of the North-West capital, and they set an example to the people of other towns, which is worthy of being imitated.

It will be gratifying for your readers to know that during the past year the congregation made considerable progress, both numerically and otherwise. To the roll of membership last year forty were added. These were received into the membership of the congregation, eleven being by profession of faith, and twenty-nine by certificate.

The number of communicants at present on the roll and in full communion is, after deducting those who have removed to other parts of the country, 140.

The total number of admissions since the formation of the congregation has been 111, of whom ninety-one have been admitted since May, 1885—thus the report says the membership has more than doubled itself during the past eighteen months.

An agreeable feature also is that the attendance during the past year in connection with the regular services of the congregation has considerably increased in the evening especially.

The report states that the average attendance at this meeting—the weekly prayer meeting—during the past year was between twenty and thirty. The Sabbath school and Bible class have made most encouraging progress during the year. There has been an increase in the number of classes, and several additions have been made to the teaching staff. There is now an average attendance at the school of 120.

The report further adds that it has been felt for some time that the Session, in order to meet the growing necessities of the congregation, requires an addition to its numbers, and in the near future propose taking steps in this direction. It concludes with the following words: "It is believed that not only will the Session be strengthened by such addition, but that the congregation will also derive advantage therefrom. Believing that it will materially aid in the contributions to the schemes of the Church to have connected with the congregation a missionary association, steps are now being taken to organize the same."

"The Session feel that they cannot close their report without a reference to the union meetings now in progress, which have been continued during the past three weeks with interest. It is sincerely hoped that the result of these meetings will abound in much fruit to the honour and glory of the Great King and Head of the Church, and that the whole efforts of this congregation during the year upon which it has entered may be crowned with much success."

Another pleasing feature is the choir, which is certainly the best in the North-West, and its members seem to have taken hold in earnest.

The resolution of Rev. Mr. Urquhart was a good step. He is an earnest and excellent worker, and would, I think, have been lost had he located himself in an Indian schoolhouse as he intended. The congregation recognize his zeal and his usefulness in his present sphere. Yours sincerely, G. B. E.

Regina, Feb. 1, 1887.

AS USING BUT NOT ABUSING.

We may possess earthly comforts, but we must not be possessed by them, we may use them as flowers to smell, but not as garlands to crown ourselves with; we may as pilgrims walk with them, as staves in our hands, seeking the country which is above; but we may not load ourselves with them, or bear them as burdens upon our backs; we may make them our encouragement, but not our confidence; we may use them as accessories, but we may not love them as our principal happiness. As bees, though they live in the midst of honey and wax, yet have not their wings touched with any vicious matter, that hinders their delightful flight abroad, and their nimble passing from one flower to another, so should Christians that live in abundance of earthly comforts, as in a hive of sweetness, be exceedingly careful that nothing of the world do cleave to their affections, which are wings of the soul, that may hinder lifting up and raising their hearts toward heavenly objects, or abate the activity of their thoughts in their frequent musings upon the promises, and all the mysteries of the Gospel, on which the mind, above all other things, ought to be most exercised and delighted.

Pastor and People.

FOR THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM.

BY T. K. HENDERSON, TORONTO.

For of such is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. xix. 14.

Dear Lord I and is Thy kingdom made of such—
The little ones that gathered round Thy knee,
In all the playfulness of childish glee—
And pressed the border of Thy robe to touch I

The love and innocence and simple trust
Breathing yet sweet of Eden's blessed prime,
That into Thine encircling arms did climb,
And hid their happiness upon Thy breast

Oft had the children served the loving Lord
As living texts on which to hang His thought
When in the temple courts He daily taught
The many-sided minds that heard His word.

Not human learning hived through weary years
Of patient industry and midnight toil,
Nor honours won from weeping nations' spoil,
Can fit the spirit for those higher spheres I

The gracious Master welcomes to His school
All those who leave their knowledge at the gate,
And sit, like gentle Mary, at His feet,
Content to learn upon the lowliest stool I

Was He not once a child I and though there clung
To His maturer years no taint of sin
To soil the whiteness of the soul within—
No stain nor clog of earth on life or tongue—

He trod temptation's path, and knew
The way was strewn with bent and withered flowers,
That erst would gladden e'en immortal bowers,
While yet their leaves were wet with heavenly dew I

And so He guards the tender plants that bloom
In wayside nooks, unsought of human eyes,
And one by one transplants them to the skies,
To grow for aye in more capacious room.

THE GOSPEL AFLOAT.

The first Sabbath Day at sea dawned upon us as we were skirting the Portuguese coast, with the town of Lisbon well abeam. It was a glorious morning. The sea was calm, and in the golden sunlight recalled the apocalyptic figure: "A sea of glass, mingled with fire."

The situation was unique; my feelings were indescribable. Far away from home and friends and church, a weird sadness crept over me. I felt shut out from those associations and privileges which make the Sabbath hallowed. Soon I was able to realize the inspiring truth that, though separated from the dear ones at home and church, I was in no wise separated from my God. I could repair to the same throne of grace, commune with the same Father, and share in the same blessing as they with whom it was my wont and joy to worship. Oh! the unspeakable preciousness of the thought which flashed upon me: "My church is praying for me!" It thrilled me. I felt one with my people. We were separated by a thousand miles of weary waters; but the cord of prayer that binds us to the throne of God brought us nigh in spirit. I prayed for them; I knew they were praying for me. Precious golden link of prayer which no distance can dissever!

The custom which obtains in the ships of the Cunard service is to have the prayers of the Church of England read in the saloon every Sunday morning. Attendance at this service is compulsory on the seamen; default means sundry disabilities. The captain of the ship expressed his willingness to transfer the service to me. I thanked him for his courtesy, but suggested that the ordinary course on that occasion be followed; and proposed that an evening service should be held, entirely freed from all conditions of compulsion. To this he readily agreed.

At eleven o'clock the ship bell tolled in orthodox church fashion. Its sound was strange, yet home-like, as it called passengers and crew to morning prayer. The seamen, in clean, new, rig-blue woollen jackets and white trousers, filed in, headed by their officers in full uniform, and filled one half of the saloon, the passengers occupying the other half. By arrangement with the captain, I introduced an element which was new to his ship's services—hymn-singing. For once in my life I officiated as precentor. We sang:

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee,

Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,—
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

And if the execution was not all it might be, the effect was very grand and inspiring. The church service was read passably by the captain; another hymn was sung, and the service concluded with the announcement that at seven o'clock an evening service would be held—a purely voluntary service—to which all passengers and crew were earnestly invited.

I spent the afternoon forward in giving personal invitations to the men to attend this evening service. My heart went out to a class of men, so peculiarly shut out from religious privileges, and yet, in the openness of their disposition, so peculiarly susceptible to religious impressions.

"Six bells" rang out, and very anxiously did I watch the issue of the experiment of a voluntary service on board ship.

My brightest hopes were more than realized. The saloon began to fill; captain, officers, seamen, engineers and stokers poured in until every available space was occupied. My heart was glad at this grand response. How we did sing, undaunted by any possible hypercriticisms of the so-called "New Theology," the grand old evangelical hymn:

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

The sonorous voices of the seamen rolled it forth as though it had been one of their work ditties. Truly, the singing was congregational. It warmed me up to my work. I told them of Jesus, the world's Redeemer, and the certainty of His glorious Gospel, in a few words. My heart was hot with love to Him and them. I pray that the simple words spoken may have a fruitful history!

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
The darkness thickens, Lord, with me abide.

This brought our meeting to a close.

The sequel of our services showed that hearts had been touched by the power of the Word. Passengers retired to the quietude and coolness of the saloon deck. Never can I forget the scene which then met our gaze. The sea was unrippled, and the air was still. The silence was only broken by the dull throb of the ship's engines. The moon had just risen like a great sun, blood-red; and, assuming a silvery brightness as it rose, cast its silvery sheen upon the still waters. Under the silent stars, with the restful consciousness of God's nearness, we held sweet fellowship, one with another, on that Sabbath night. Some of the passengers, whom I did not know to be Christians, made themselves known to me, others professed anxiety and stated difficulties. One case I must specialize.

A lady from Belgium, en route for Smyrna, where she had previously lived fifteen years, and who could speak modern Greek like a native, told me her story. She belonged to a Roman Catholic family in Antwerp. Under Protestant teaching she was led to see the errors of Rome, and to espouse Protestant truth. Referring to my address in the saloon, she confessed to me that she was not in possession of that solid peace of which I had been speaking. Her hope was in Christ, and in Him alone; but she felt her "grasp" of Christ (as she called it) was at times feeble and relaxed, and she lived, therefore, under conditions of uncertainty.

I told her that she was overlooking a very important side of truth. She was cleaving to Christ, and feeling at times the uncertainty of her grasp. I reminded her that Christ was cleaving to her. I quoted the passage: "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of My hand." (John x. 28.) This seemed at once to introduce her into a new life; it was a vision of God to her. Assurance and peace become henceforth possibilities; and repeated communications from Smyrna and elsewhere since attest to the reality and permanence of the change.—*Rev. W. Scott, in Canadian Independent.*

A MODERN PARABLE.

Everybody had heard that the great elephant was loose, and several families whose gardens he had torn up and whose boys he had trampled upon were certain of it. There was great excitement, and the town

held a meeting to decide what should be done. They did not want to exterminate him; in fact, many of them did not believe they could exterminate him, for he was a pretty big elephant. Besides, he was useful in his proper place—in shows, in India and in story-books.

"Our best plan is to try to regulate him," said an enthusiastic speaker. "Let us build toll-gates all along the route we find he is going to take, and make him pay—"

"Yes, but that leaves him roaming round," shrieked an old woman. "And I don't want my boy killed!"

"Keep your boy away from him; that's your business. Why, madam, don't you know that an elephant's hide and tusks are valuable for mechanical or surgical purposes, and that he is useful in India? Besides there is the toll he will pay. We shall by this means get money enough in the public treasury to build schools for a good many boys who are not trampled to death."

"That's the plan. Regulate him! Regulate him!" shouted the crowd.

So they appointed a great many committees, and drafted constitutions and by-laws, and circulated petitions, and by the time the elephant had killed several more boys and trampled down a number of gardens, they had erected very comfortable toll-houses for the gate-keepers and gates for the elephant; and then they waited in great satisfaction to see the animal regulated. Slowly the great feet trampled onward, slowly the great proboscis appeared in view, and, with a sniff of contempt, the elephant lifted the gate from off its hinges and walked off with it, while the crowd started after him in dismay.

"Well!" exclaimed the keeper, catching his breath, "we haven't made much money so far, but the regulatin' plan would have been first-rate if the elephant hadn't been a little stronger than the obstruction." The elephant's name was Whiskey.—*New York Evangelist.*

GOSPEL WORK.

AS TO SACRIFICES.

There was the Sin-offering, the Burnt-offering, and the Thank-offering. Thus, if the order was inverted or altered, it would indicate the attitude which the worshipper took before God. If he came with a sin-offering or with a thank-offering only, he declared himself a sinner or not a sinner by that act. Such, apparently, was the difference between the offerings of Cain and Abel; and by their offering they became respectively the types of the various ways in which ever since men have viewed the Atonement.

AS TO THE FLOOD.

God brought it about as an act of judgment.—The people of that time had broken away from God. He was not in their thoughts. They had, so to speak, turned Him out of His own world, and in His place they had substituted their heroes as gods, men of prowess and mark, with whom might and physical force were right; and gradually men became atheists—ceased to believe in the God who had so recently brought them into being. To repeat His authority, and to show that He alone was the "Mighty One," God brought the flood upon the ungodly world. . . . Let things come to the same pass again—let men dethrone God, and put in His place a god of their own invention, and they will find that, though He will not again bring upon earth a flood of waters to destroy it, yet the other elements are in His hand, and whenever He will, He may give the word of command, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, while the earth and all works therein shall be burned up.

AS TO SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

An infidel, boasting in a published letter that he had raised two acres of "Sunday corn," which he had intended to devote to the purchase of infidel books, adds: "All the work done on it was done on Sunday, and it will yield some seventy bushels to the acre; so I don't see that but Nature or Providence has smiled upon my Sunday work, however the priests or the Bible may say that work done upon that day never prospers." To this the editor of an agricultural paper replies: "If the author of this shallow nonsense had read the Bible half as much as he has read the works of its opponents, he would have known that the great Ruler of the universe does not always square up his accounts with mankind in the month of October."

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE CO.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Proceedings of the Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting.

The fifty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company was held in the Company's Offices, Front Street, on Wednesday, the 16th inst., the Governor, Mr. John Morison, being in the chair. The following gentlemen, among others, were present: Messrs. W. J. Macdonell, Geo. Boyd, Hon. Wm. Cayley, J. W. Reid, John Leys, Henry Pellatt, A. Myers, Geo. Henderson, C. D. Warren, J. M. Whiton (New York), Dr. Robinson, Frank Cayley, J. B. McLean, Wm. Adamson, Geo. H. Smith (New York), Robt. Thompson, H. L. Hime, Robt. Beatty, A. Hoskin, Geo. Smith and Alex. Will. The Secretary, Mr. G. E. Robins, read the following

ANNUAL REPORT, 1886.

The Directors in submitting their Annual Report have to express their satisfaction with the results. The severe storms which occurred during the past year, both on the ocean and our inland lakes, materially affected our profits in the Marine Department. The Directors are happy to state that the Fire Branch shows a fair profit, and that a satisfactory business can be anticipated during the ensuing season, as in their opinion Insurance Companies were never more in accord in maintaining rates on sound business principles. After paying all losses due and providing for all liabilities, the assets have been increased from \$1,133,666.52 to \$1,187,163.64, and the net surplus from \$151,329.29 to \$206,193.86. All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. E. ROBINS, Secretary. J. MORISON, Governor. STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1886.

Table with columns for Capital Stock, Losses under Adjustment, Dividend No. 85, Balance, Liabilities, and Assets. Total balance is \$1,187,163.64.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Table showing Profit and Loss details: Fire Losses paid, Marine Losses paid, Commissions and other charges, Fire Premiums, Marine Premiums, Interest, Rent Account, Increase in value of Securities. Total profit is \$956,426.23.

SURPLUS FUND.

Table showing Surplus Fund details: Dividend No. 85, Dividend No. 86, Balance, Balance from last statement, Profit and loss. Total surplus is \$618,546.73.

REINSURANCE LIABILITY.

Table showing Reinsurance Liability details: Balance at credit of surplus fund, Reserve to reinsure outstanding risks, Net surplus over all liabilities, Actual gain in net surplus for the year. Total liability is \$518,534.90.

To the Governor and Directors of the British America Assurance Company, Toronto. GENTLEMEN—We, the undersigned, having examined the Securities and Vouchers, and audited the Books of the British America Assurance Company, Toronto, certify that we have found them correct, and that the annexed balance sheet is a statement of the Company's affairs to 31st December, 1886. R. R. CATHRON, HENRY M. PELLATT, AUDITORS.

The Governor's Remarks.

Although your Directors are all modest men, they believe I ought to say a few words with reference to the position of the Company to-day to what it was when we assumed the management five years ago. At that time you might say we were scattered all over the world, doing business in England, on the Continent of Europe, in India and other foreign countries, under treaties with three English companies. It was not long before we believed that the sooner we withdrew from those treaties the better, because we were not receiving our share of the best class of risks. We therefore retired from those countries, and are now only doing business in the United States and Canada. We also did our business at that time in the United States through what are called General Agents, who had control of the agents under them, the General Agent sending the business to the head office here. We found that for ten years that system had not produced any money to the shareholders. Then we decided to abolish that plan, for we believed the nearer we came to the agent who controlled the business with the assured, the more money we would make the less complicated would be the system and it would save a great deal of trouble. We are now in direct communication with the agent, and can cancel any risk either by wire or letter immediately on its arrival here, and find that plan of having direct control over our business a great improvement. Five years ago we had outstanding unsettled Fire losses of \$151,906.99. On December 31st last we had only \$44,715, or just about our average monthly losses in the Fire Branch. It is true we had another \$3,209.07 unsettled losses from the Marine Department, but the reason that amount is so large outstanding, for volume of business done, is because they occurred by those severe storms about the end of November, and the losses were not adjusted until about the end of January, when they were paid immediately on receipt of loss papers. Another item we are pleased to draw your attention to is our expense account, for we know that shareholders generally are always anxious to keep that down as low as possible, and we take pleasure in saying that last year's business was done at an expense ratio of only 2 1/2 per cent, while at the time we assumed the management the average cost for years was 3 1/2 per cent. We also lay before you a detailed statement of our assets, and you will find, I think, that they are all of a high order, and are first-class securities. Your Directors believe that although they might receive a little higher interest on some other class of mortgages, they think the wisest course for them to pursue is to adhere strictly to the same class of securities as they now have; in you see our Company is now in a nice clean shape, and we believe we will make as much money yearly as any similar company of its size doing business in America. I now beg to move the adoption of the report. On motion of the Governor, seconded by Mr. John Leys, the report was adopted. Moved by Mr. Hoskin, seconded by Mr. Myers, That the thanks of the Shareholders are due and are hereby tendered to the Governor, Deputy-Governor and Directors of this Company for their attention to the interests of the Company during the past year. Carried. Moved by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Will. Hime, Pellatt and Macdonald be appointed Scrutineers for taking the ballot for Directors to serve during the ensuing year, and that the poll be closed as soon as five minutes shall have elapsed without a vote being taken. Carried. The following is the Scrutineers' Report: We, the undersigned Scrutineers, appointed at the annual meeting of the British America Assurance Company, on the 16th day of February, 1887, declare the following gentlemen unanimously re-elected Directors: Messrs. John Morison, J. W. Reid, Hon. Wm. Cayley, C. D. Warren, George Boyd, J. Y. Reid, Henry Taylo. G. M. Kinghorn and Geo. H. Smith. (Signed) H. L. HIME, HENRY PELLATT, W. J. MACDONELL.

The meeting then adjourned. At a meeting of the Board held subsequently, Mr. John Morison was unanimously re-elected Governor, and Mr. John Leys, Deputy-Governor.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Shareholders of the Western Assurance Company was held at its offices in this city yesterday. The President, A. M. Smith, Esq., occupied the chair, and the Managing Director having been appointed to act as Secretary, read the following

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors have pleasure in being able to report to the Shareholders that the business of the Company for the past year has been fairly profitable in all its branches. A synopsis of the accounts for the year, together with the Profit and Loss Account and statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December last, is submitted herewith. The revenue account shows a net premium income of \$1,236,165.76, being an increase of \$70,625.15 over that of the preceding year; and after providing for all losses incurred the profit balance on the year's transactions amounts to \$122,325.70. Two half-yearly dividends at the rate of ten per cent. per annum were declared, and after payment of these, \$75,000 is carried to the Reserve Fund, and \$5,391.50 remains at the credit of Profit and Loss Account. The total surplus funds of the Company now amount to \$740,391.50. Deducing from this the amount necessary to re-insure or run off all current risks, estimated at \$504,654.85, a net surplus of \$235,736.65 is shown over and above capital and all existing liabilities. The increase of the capital stock to \$1,000,000, authorized at the special meeting of Shareholders on the 26th of February last, was carried out by the issue of \$200,000 new stock, and the calls made upon this, amounting to fifty per cent., have been fully paid, making the paid-up capital \$500,000. The Directors have pleasure in acknowledging the efficient services of the officers and agents of the Company, to whose efforts are largely due the satisfactory results of the year's business which they are now enabled to present.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Table showing Revenue Account details: Fire premiums, Marine premiums, Less re-assurance, Interest account, Fire losses, Marine losses, General expenses, agents' commission, and all other charges. Total revenue is \$1,236,165.76.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Table showing Profit and Loss Account details: Dividend paid July, 1886, Dividend payable January, 1887, Sundry accounts written off, Carried to reserve fund, Balance, Balance from last year, Premium on 143 shares new stock, Profit for the year. Total profit is \$122,325.70.

LIABILITIES.

Table showing Liabilities details: Capital stock paid up, Losses under adjustment, Dividend payable January, 1887, Reserve Fund, Balance profit and loss. Total liabilities is \$1,359,054.40.

ASSETS.

Table showing Assets details: Cash on hand and on deposit, Debentures, United States bonds, Dominion of Canada Stock, Mortgages, Bills receivable, Interest due and accrued, Company's building, Re-assurance due from other companies, Bank stocks, Loan and Investment Company stocks, Agents' balances and sundry accounts. Total assets is \$1,359,054.40.

A. M. SMITH, President. J. J. KENNY, Managing Director.

WESTERN ASSURANCE OFFICES, TORONTO, February 12th, 1887.

AUDITORS REPORT.

To the President and Directors of the Western Assurance Company: GENTLEMEN—We hereby certify to the correctness of the books of the Company for the year ending 31st December, 1886, which we have audited, having examined the vouchers verifying the same, and the above statements agree therewith. Toronto, February 12, 1887.

R. R. CATHRON, JOHN M. MARTIN, AUDITORS.

In moving the adoption of the report the President said—Gentlemen, it is with feelings of no ordinary satisfaction, that I rise to move the adoption of the Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Western Assurance Company, which will be seconded by our Vice-President. Our able and efficient Managing Director has laid before you a full statement of the Company's affairs as they appeared on the books on the 31st December last, which I am sure must be very gratifying to the stockholders. Our business has steadily increased in volume, and has been profitable in all its branches, enabling us to declare two half-yearly dividends at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, and after writing off all known bad and doubtful debts, we have added to our Reserve Fund the handsome sum of \$75,000. In addition, we have, during the year, allotted to you 5,000 shares of new stock at par, which at present market quotations is worth about 100, so that on the whole I think you will agree with me that we make a very satisfactory showing for the past year, and that the results of the business have fully justified the increase in the capital which the Directors recommended in February last. For the present prosperous state of the Company's affairs I feel under a kind Providence we are largely indebted to the watchful care of our Managing Director and his able staff of Superintendents, Inspectors, Agents and other Officers of the Company, both in our own country and the United States, who appear to have vied with each other in their endeavours to forward the Company's interests. Mr. Wm. Gooderham, Vice-president, seconded the report, which was unanimously adopted, and a vote of thanks passed to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their services and attention to the interests of the Company. Messrs Wm. Anderson and E. J. Holmes having been appointed scrutineers, the election of Directors was proceeded with, which resulted in the unanimous re-election of the following gentlemen to serve during the ensuing year:—A. M. Smith, Esq., Wm. Gooderham, Esq., Hon. S. C. Wood, Robt. Beatty, Esq., A. T. Fulton, Esq., Geo. A. Cox, Esq., Geo. McMurrich, Esq., H. N. Baird, Esq., and J. J. Kenny, Esq. At a meeting of the Board of Directors held subsequently, A. M. Smith, Esq., was re-elected President and Wm. Gooderham, Esq., Vice-President.

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EASTERN GENERAL AGENT.

MR. WALTER KERR—for many years an esteemed elder of our Church—is the duly authorized agent for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. He will collect outstanding accounts, and take names of new subscribers. Friends are invited to give any assistance in their power to Mr. Kerr in all the congregations he may visit.



TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1887.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ATTENTION is invited to the following very liberal combination offers: THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN and *Weekly Globe* for \$2.00; THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN and the *Rural Canadian* for \$2.00; THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN and the *Weekly Mail* for \$2.00; THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN and the *London Advertiser* for \$2.00; and THE PRESBYTERIAN and Dr. Gregg's "History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada," for \$4.00. These combinations will prove most advantageous to our readers; and that such is being generally recognized is evidenced by the large number of new subscriptions and renewals daily received at this office. Might we respectfully request our readers to draw the attention of their friends to these offers?

OUR SABBATH SCHOOL PAPERS for 1887 will be unusually attractive to young people. Already arrangements are perfected for illustrations for the coming year. Why send your money abroad when you can do better at home? Our publications comprise the following: SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN, GOLDEN HOURS, EARLY DAYS. The latter is published twice a month, and is intended for the infant class. Specimen copies free to any address.

AN orator, speaking the other day on the best method of dealing with Indians, gave it as his opinion that the best way was to "exterminate the Indian in him, and leave the rest of him alive." A better way would be to exterminate the Old Adam in him. And this is the best treatment for white and black men as well as for the red. The Old Adam in us is the root of all our bad qualities.

SPEAKING of the difficulty of bringing men who have long heard the Gospel to a saving knowledge of Christ, a contemporary aptly remarks:

It is always hard to catch fish in streams nearly fished out. The few that are left are proof against the ordinary tactics of the angler.

Yes, these few that are left in or on the side of a congregation are hard to catch, as many an earnest pastor can testify. Many have accepted Christ, and become members of the Church in full communion, since they seemed to be coming in, but they still linger without. The sight of these few resisting every attempt made to bring them in has made many a faithful pastor wonder whether he had not better move and let somebody else try. There are few pastors, however long their pastorate, that cannot count a few who have stood out since their induction. They seem to be proof against every effort to bring them in.

A MINISTER, writing in one of our exchanges on unseemly jealousies among Christian workers, says:

Even clergymen are sometimes not a little nettled by a brother's success. A minister packs his Church, adds steadily to its membership, is evidently blessed of heaven, and with some of his brethren cry out "Sensational! shallow! commonplace!"

Sadly true. There are clergymen who so far forget themselves as to speak in that way. Envy, however, is not always the root of such disparaging remarks. We should hope that there are not many ministers so brimful of envy as to feel nettled at a brother's success, though doubtless there are a few. Some ministers are so wedded to one way of working that they natur-

ally suspect every worker whose methods are not exactly like theirs. They have just one way of presenting the truth, and cannot, or will not, present it in any other way. Some preacher comes who presents the truth in a different way—perhaps in a brighter, fresher way, and they instinctively shout "sensational." Perhaps their style has been so profound that nobody could understand it. Some brother comes along who presents his truth in so clear a style that everybody understands it. Then the profound brother instinctively shouts "shallow." One of the last things many a good man learns is that the way somebody else does something may be better than the way he has been doing for the last forty or fifty years.

THE New York Evangelist says:

When Dr. A. A. Hodge passed away his friends claimed that had he lived he would have become very useful as a popular expounder of theology to the masses, a kind of popular defender of the faith. The question arises, Are there not others in the theological seminaries and colleges of the land, who, besides their work in the study and class room, are capable of conveying to general audiences the Christian evidences in powerful addresses? Far be it from us to disparage the power of the reclusal professor when he trains his class, and uses his pen in preparing the fugitive article or the permanent book. The Church cannot afford to lose power of that kind. But here and there is a man of the requisite learning, who is apt to teach not only by the written lecture, but also by the oratorical temperament. Such a man may occasionally, when not called on to serve his classes, go forth to the pulpit, and more especially to the platform, and make theology a popular subject. At a time when this queen of the sciences is being bespattered with mud, and liberal pulpits take delight in decrying her loyal subjects as abject bigots, it is high time for those who are endowed with the faculty of speech to let themselves be seen and heard, and to declare before large assemblies of men, gathered specially for that purpose in our great cities, what are the doctrines of our confessions, and how little need there is of being ashamed of them. Dr. Hodge had just begun his career as a public apologist. How many professors will continue and enlarge it?

There is real merit in this suggestion. Too many people have the idea that discussions on theological topics should be confined to the class room. There is no reason in the world why a point of theology might not be discussed in a style suitable to large assemblies of men. Given a man who has mastered the subject, and who has also mastered the art of putting things, and people will listen to a theological discussion as eagerly as to a discussion of any other subject. The enemies of orthodoxy have this field very much to themselves, especially in large cities. It is high time that the defenders of truth should show that truth can be made more popular than error.

WHEN this issue of THE PRESBYTERIAN comes into the hands of our readers, many of them will be taking a good rest after the fatigue and excitement of the elections. We have had more than enough of politics this winter. Since last November the din of political strife has never ceased. We have little sympathy with those who vehemently denounce partyism and suggest no better plan, and none at all with those who profess to be so superintending that they cannot meddle with politics, even to the extent of voting. There is no sense in denouncing partyism without suggesting a substitute for government by party. Nine-tenths of the people who vote the party ticket are just as honourable, just as honest, just as truthful, just as patriotic, just as good citizens in all respects, as those who denounce party. Everybody knows that some of the most unsavoury politicians Canada has ever been cursed with called themselves "independent." To say that partyism has evils connected with it is to utter one of the most commonplace of truisms. The present struggle between the two great parties has been unusually bitter. The bitterness and violence have been caused mainly by those who four months ago let loose the demon of sectarian strife. The seeds of discord then sown are bearing their legitimate fruit in the fanaticism and hate that burns the Scriptural Selections in rural school sections. Where the strife may end no one can tell. Some of those who created the strife professed to belong to no party—in fact professed to be infinitely superior to party. What the country now needs is peace. Good citizens of both parties should "follow after the things that make for peace." By so doing they may easily lessen the evils of party warfare, and show that they are really better neighbours and better citizens than some who denounce party. The struggle is over. Let us have peace.

CHURCHLY ARROGANCE.

IN one section of the Anglican Church there is a strong resemblance to the Church of Rome. It is not alone in ornate sacramentarianism, ritual and vestment, posturing and the introduction of a modified confessional, that the High Church party approaches the modes of Roman Catholic worship. The Church of Rome assumes everywhere, and at all times, that it, and it alone, is the one true visible Church on earth. It tacitly ignores all others, refusing even to concede the very name of Church to those Christians who, in obedience to conscience, enlightened and directed by the Word of God, cannot join in the sacrifice of the Mass, or believe in priestly absolution, and several other distinctive features of the Roman Catholic Church. In this respect High Church Anglicans follow the bad example set them by Rome. On behalf of the Church of England the boast is not uncommon that it is the most comprehensive, tolerant and charitable of all the modern Churches. In some respects this may be true, but the ridiculously exclusive pretensions of thorough-paced High Churchism flatly contradict the claim to large hearted tolerance of those who question their theories, and prefer to worship in a more simple and scriptural form than prevails in stately cathedral or parish church.

There are Anglican polemics who for rabid intolerance and unseemly bigotry could not be surpassed by the most narrow minded and illiterate representatives of the obscure "sects." Like their Romish exemplars, they affect to consider all beyond their own fold as guilty schismatics. They do not reason; they have not the patience to weigh calmly the motives that influence, and the principles that guide, those who do not see religiously eye to eye with them. Such exponents of top-lofty Churchism pour out streams of bitter invective, ridicule and scorn on the unhappy schismatics who are only dissenters, and worship in meeting houses and conventicles. After all, the matter is hardly serious. The probabilities are that those who write and speak in the absurd fashion referred to have lucid moments in which they are sorely tormented for giving way to such folly. Outside the exclusive circles in which they move, their antiquated bigotry of expression is treated only with a good-natured smile. It is not even resented. The only appropriate feelings are those of pity and regret that well-meaning adherents of a grand historic Church should at this date be left to amuse themselves with the weak and beggarly elements of a rudimentary stage of religious development.

A short time ago Canon Wilberforce was invited to take part in a series of Sabbath evening meetings in Albion Chapel, London. The series was projected for the purpose of reaching non-church-goers and preaching the Gospel to them. Like good and true men of other denominations, the Canon cordially responded to the invitation, and preached a good Gospel sermon to the assembled congregation. It might be thought that embracing the opportunity afforded him, Canon Wilberforce was entitled to the commendation of all good men, and so he is; but, strange as it seems in these days, his action in preaching the Gospel in Albion Chapel has given great pain to many whose claims to being good men will be cheerfully conceded. The Bishop of Winchester hastened to acquaint the unsuspecting Canon that he had been doing something very wrong—something that had given aid and comfort to Nonconformists, and occasioned corresponding grief to "nine-tenths of your brethren among the Anglican clergy and to a large majority of the laity." Besides all this the Bishop hastens to assure the offending brother that he has been doing an illegal thing. "It is not legal for a clergyman of the Church of England to take part as an officiating minister in a service of Nonconformists, wherever held."

The correspondence between the Bishop and the Canon has been published, and it affords suggestive and instructive reading. The most unbiassed reader can hardly help coming to the conclusion that the Canon comes out of the controversy without hurt. The Bishop gets his answer, and it is hoped that after the excitement of the controversy has passed he may calmly and silently reflect on the firm but temperate and respectful statements made by Canon Wilberforce. To both combatants may be justly conceded that they keep their tempers, and use no unseemly language the one to the other. The Bishop

especially is entitled to that no small praise, seeing that his position is untenable, and his arguments necessarily weak. Large-hearted Evangelical Christianity within the fold of the Anglican Church is by no means the weak and decrepit thing certain very superior critics would have us believe.

A DARK SHADOW.

It was thought that when General Lee surrendered at Appomattox in the spring of 1865, the question of American slavery was dead and buried beyond possibility of resurrection. So in fact it was, but the unquiet ghost of that sum of all the villainies has of late been revisiting the glimpses of the moon. Nobody in any part of the great American Union dreams of proposing the restoration of what has ever and everywhere, while it existed, proved a cursed institution. While many Southern slave-holders thankfully acquiesced in the overthrow of the foul system as the final settlement of what had so long been a disturbing element, threatening national disruption, none would now care to revive the peculiar institution if they could. There may with some linger a poetic regret, such as the Jacobite feeling in Scotland, for the lost cause, but the man has yet to be found who would advocate the reintroduction of slavery in the Southern States.

All evils die hard, and negro slavery in the South was no exception. The very fact of the treatment often meted out to coloured people in those days is a sad evidence of how long an indefensible prejudice can survive. The refusal to concede equal rights to coloured people is not confined to Southern hotels and street cars. The same bitter prejudice has found its way into the Christian Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the South is just emerging from a keen controversy whether coloured students should be received into one of their colleges, or be provided for by themselves in a separate institution. A young men's association in New York has denied admission to a most worthy and intelligent coloured man who had been received without question into the Cooper Institute, and against whom no possible objection, apart from colour, could be urged. The only semblance of defence for his exclusion has been that of expediency. His presence in the Y. M. C. A. reading room or at its meetings, some timid ones thought, might repel the white young men whom it was their special mission to benefit.

It seems strange that while the Presbyterian Church in the North, and its Southern sister, who were parted when the rebellion ranged North and South in hostile camps, have all these years, since the chasm was closed, been drawing nearer to each other, as is certainly proper, seeing they are one in doctrine, polity, discipline and practice, that the colour line should, like a root of bitterness, spring up to impede the prospective union. But so it is. And it is marvellous how keenly polemical on such a subject great and good men can become. How will this colourable pretext, to hinder a desirable and practicable union, be viewed, not by a distant posterity, but by people living only a few years hence?

The advocates of union in the Northern Church have taken up a position that cannot be shaken. Presbyterian parity cannot consistently be limited by a colour line. In this matter it can admit of no compromise. The Church of Christ cannot become a respecter of persons without being unfaithful to Him who gave the Church its commission to preach the Gospel to every creature. Prejudices are inveterate, but it is high time that the people of the South were making earnest endeavours to rise above the unworthy feelings that grew out of bitter controversies on the slavery question. The substance having disappeared nearly a quarter of a century ago, it is surely none too soon for the shadow to vanish. We have more faith in the Christian common sense of Presbyterians, both North and South, than to believe that the reunion of a great historic Church will be retarded by the untimely apparition of a ghost.

THE Board of Directors of Columbia Theological Seminary (Southern Presbyterian) have elected G. B. Strickler, D.D., to succeed Dr. Woodrow as professor of Natural Science in connection with Revelation, enlarging the chair so as to make it include the general subject of Christian Apologetics. They also elected C. Hersman, D.D., to the chair of Biblical Exegesis.

Books and Magazines.

JOHN L. HOOB, music publisher, Philadelphia, sends "Anniversary Music for the Sabbath School, No. 4—Missionary," and "Life From the Dead." A service of Scripture and song for Eastertide. Arranged by Mrs. T. S. Burroughs.

THE WOMAN'S MAGAZINE. (Brattleboro', Vt. Frank E. Housh & Co.)—This is a monthly, exclusively devoted to woman's interests. Its tone is excellent, its contents varied, and, for the most part, its contributions are written by women.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE. (Philadelphia. T. S. Arthur & Son.)—This is an old-established magazine, well adapted for the home circle. There is much to interest and instruct old and young, made all the more attractive by excellent illustrations.

D L. MOODY AT HOME. (Toronto. S. R. Briggs.) This book gives an interesting account of the noted evangelist, and more particularly of the important educational work carried on by him at Northfield, together with some account of the various Christian conferences held there, and the best thoughts therein exchanged, with helpful hints and practical points.

STALL'S LUTHERAN YEAR-BOOK AND HISTORICAL QUARTERLY. (Lancaster, Pa.: Rev. Sylvanus Stall, A.M.)—This is a quarterly magazine, designed to exhibit the history, growth and work of every branch of the Lutheran Church in the United States and Canada, published on the first day of the month of November, February, May and August of each year. The present issue contains many interesting facts concerning the Lutheran Church on this continent.

SCHOOL-ROOM GAMES AND EXERCISES. Compiled and written by Elizabeth G. Bambridge. (Chicago: The Interstate Publishing Co.)—A very valuable manual, prepared by a teacher of experience, and one thoroughly familiar with the needs and tastes of children. The author believes that the introduction of such exercises as the book contains will not only rest the pupils, but will brighten their faculties, concentrate their attention, and strengthen them for a renewal of more difficult mental work.

THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE. Discourses upon Holy Scripture. By Joseph Parker, D.D. Vol. IV. Numbers XXVII.—Deuteronomy. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—Few need to be reminded that Joseph Parker is a most interesting and attractive writer on sacred themes. This, which may be called his great work, will be certain, from its intrinsic value and suggestiveness, to command an extensive circulation. It is chiefly made up of carefully-prepared discourses on passages selected from the above specified portion of the Pentateuch.

MILLENNIAL DAWN. Vol. I. The Plan of the Ages. (Pittsburg, Pa.: Zion's Watch Tower.)—While advocating the pre-millennial theory of Christ's Second Advent, it is stated that this is the first of a series of volumes, each complete in itself, designed to make plain the teachings of the Bible in a manner calculated to arrest scepticism by reason and Scripture. Their special aim is to lend a helping hand to Christians in putting on the whole armour of God, that, in the present confusion and scepticism and tendency toward infidelity, they may be able to stand.

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON. Preacher, author and philanthropist. With anecdotal reminiscences. By G. Holden Pike. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—This handsomely-got up volume gives a graphic and readable account of Mr. Spurgeon's ministry, and the many benevolent and educational enterprises with which one of the busiest and most popular of present-day preachers has been connected. Some of his racy criticisms from the *Sword and Trowel* are reproduced, and a steel-engraved portrait of Spurgeon, as he looked years ago, forms a fitting frontispiece.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—The principal illustrative descriptive papers in this month's number are "Robert Burns," by James Sime, and "An Unknown Country,"—which country is Ireland—by the author of "John Halifax," with illustrations from drawings by F. Noel Paton. The frontispiece, "The Sheikh's Captive," is a fine specimen of artistic work. "A Description of a Morning in London," is a humorous pictorial delineation of the good old days now gone by. Swinburne contributes a poem to this number. The attractive serial stories are continued.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

INDIA.—WORK AMONG THE GARDENERS.

Let us turn to a night's work among the Malis, or gardeners. These are to be found chiefly in the eastern and southern quarters of the city, living in rows and clusters of little mud huts, nestling under the walls, just as if, while obliged to seek protection within, they try to get as near as possible to the open country, where their gardens and work and hearts all lie. While their gardens proper in which they raise vegetables for the supply of the market are all outside, each hut or cottage has its own piece of ground in front and around it, surrounded by a thorn hedge or mud wall, in which are grown a few simple vegetables for family use. Stacks of grass, too, for feeding their bullocks, are piled up in these little courts or gardens, and sometimes, if the cottage has a flat roof, the grass rises high on and above the roof itself, causing, in the hot weather, considerable risk of fire, and making a fire, when it breaks out, very rapid and destructive.

The Malis themselves, who live in these cottages, are a hard handed, broad-chested, weather-beaten race. Silent and somewhat stolid and slow in speech they are fond of sitting together in bands of six or eight ruminating in a stolid unconscious fashion, like their own bullocks, bringing out their words in twos and threes as they pass the hukka from hand to hand, as if they wished to make them fragrant with its smoke, and set them to the music of its sleeping gurgle. Passing along among their huts, I seldom fail to be reminded of an extraordinary kind, in which I played a part among the early years of my work in Beawar.

MATA THE GODDESS.

It will be twenty-four years ago, and yet the whole scene flashes upon my memory as if it had happened but yesterday. A lovely night in the month of August, with a crescent moon in the sky, and a subdued radiance dimly lighting up the earth. A crowd of these horny-handed Malis filling one of the largest of these garden courts and overflowing into the lanes and street outside. They surround a little shrine—a recess in the garden wall on which in tin foil is a rude representation of a female figure, intended for the goddess Mata. Mata, or 'the mother,' is the common name here for Devi, the bloodthirsty wife of Shiva, and the chief object of the Malis' devotion. The shrine is lighted up in front with lamps, and the clouds of incense rise from a row of chafing dishes. Over the whole droops the graceful fronds of the Palma Christi; and on each side broad-leaved creepers, fantastically entwined, hang in festoons like natural curtains. In front of this shrine sits a youth of seventeen with a keen and cunning face. He is stripped to the waist, and is busy repeating charms and invoking the presence of Mata, while two assistants wave round him smoking censers of incense, and two others make night hideous with the noisy clatter of kettle drum and a gong. There is great excitement among the usually quiet and stolid Malis. For, as the result of all these charms and conjurings, the goddess Mata herself is expected to descend and take possession of her faithful priest.

THE AVATAR.

All at once the inspiration seems to come. The drums thunder, the gong clangs, the incense streams, a quiver passes over the priest's body, and he falls flat on his back with arms and legs extended. Great is the might of Mata when she thus descends on her votaries. She twists his arms, bends his trunk at right angles to his legs, and then straightens him up again. Filled with the *afflatus*, his chest convulsively heaves; he springs to his feet and begins to dance about in a wild fashion, while his head twirls round with amazing rapidity, and his long black hair stands out on end. "Jai, jai, Mata!" shout the Malis; and amidst the waving of censers, the thunder of the drum and gong, and the excited shouting of the crowd, he dances and twirls, until, apparently worn out with his violent exertions, he sinks down again before the shrine, and, still shakin'g his head with redoubled fury, shouts out "Bulao!" "Call them." In response to this a number of poor, deluded people, chiefly women, eagerly hurry to the front, to consult this new incarnation of Mata, whose every word is now believed as that of an oracle. The subjects about which they consult him are unlimited. "Who stole my scarf?" "What secret enemy is using charms against me?" "Will my garden and fields be productive?" "Will Mata pity my childishness, and grant me a son?" These are a few of the subjects. And each questioner brings a lapful of grain or a handful of *rice* to swell the heap already on the altar, and reward the oracle for his pains.—*Rev. Williamson Shoolbred D.D.*

Choice Literature.

HEATHER BELLES.

A MODERN HIGHLAND STORY.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

One Saturday evening, Dannie, the minister's man, came down from the manse to the catechist's cottage. He brought a note from Mr. Morrison for Roderick, and was prepared and inclined for a long "crack," if circumstances should seem favourable. He was on familiar terms with all the family, and was honoured with a seat in an easy chair by the side of the fire. As an essential preliminary to any conversation of a satisfactory kind, he went through all the forms necessary for the real enjoyment of a substantial pinch, while the student was reading Mr. Morrison's letter.

"There's not much in it, father," said Roderick at length. "The minister wants me to open the Sabbath school tomorrow, because he is going to preach at Glen Feoch in the evening; and he tells me the Presbytery meet on the 20th to take me on trials for licence."

To the catechist and his daughter, there was nothing very alarming in this intelligence, but it evidently made a serious impression on the mind of Dannie. Just when a pinch was on its way to the cavity which that worthy considered created for its reception, it was arrested in mid-air, and the old man, with slowly widening mouth and eyes, gaped and gazed at the student.

"Deary me, Maister Roderick! what's that you will be saying? Ye're a young man to be hae'n trials laid upon ye so sune whatever. An' what's gaun 'i dee't? Did ye say to Presbytery, moreover?"

"Yes, Dannie," replied Roderick, with a cheerfulness of spirit of which his questioner could not fathom the secret. "My trials are all appointed to come off on the day named. Don't you pity me?"

"That I dae, laddie," said Dannie in profound sympathy, which, however, he felt was not appreciated as it should be. "It's jist awful! And yet a'll hear to meemister saying tat will be always be the way. All our trials is fore ordered, an' we canna win by them whatever."

"That's perfectly true, Dannie," said Ellen McKay as soberly as she could. "And Roderick must just meet them bravely an' bear them patiently. Don't you think so?"

"Ye'll be right there, Miss Nelly," replied Mr. Macleod. "An' yet it's ye gaird hae beer. I kent a young chap, M'Tavish, tat wis wantin' tae be a doctor, an' they tell me 'at ta fouks in Edinburie plucked 'im, 'a tell ye. Whether it was 'is claes or 'is whiskers, or ta' hair o' 'is heid, 'a canna tell—but they did it whatever. Talk about trials—wisna that a trial, moreover?"

"It was so," said the girl, enjoying the fun, but scarcely able to maintain her gravity. "But you see, Dannie, the members of Presbytery here know Roderick very well, and perhaps they will not be so hard on him. They might be content with his whiskers, for instance."

"Maybe, maybe," replied Dannie reflectively. "We're ey tellt tae be content wi' sma' mercies."

By this time Roderick and Ellen both saw that the conversation, and especially the banter in which they indulged, was not in accordance with their father's mind. He had been silent and latterly uneasy; so fresh subjects of local interest were started, in which all took part. At length, Mr. Macleod thought it was time to go, and rose to say farewell. Tossing his plaid over his shoulder and taking his staff in his hand, he shook hands with each, and made for the door. Just then a sudden inspiration struck him. He was zealous for all that concerned the prosperity of the Church; and did his best to further—in others at least—the grace of liberality. He would not, if he could help it, let any one forget when opportunity was afforded for the display of generous giving for worthy ends. So came it that on this occasion he turned again to face the catechist and his family, and said in an earnest tone—

"Ye'll no forget ta collection ta morn. For ta Northern Infirmity, ye'll be minding?"

"The Northern Infirmity! Dannie," cried Roderick. "What's that?"

"Ye ken yersel better nor me, forbye. Is't no ta place at Iverness whar they put ta sick bodies, moreover?"

"You're not far wrong, Dannie," said Ellen soothingly. "It's a shame for Roderick there to laugh at anything like infirmity."

The student thought that there was in Dannie's use of the English language a decided northern infirmity, but he said no more, and the minister's man departed.

About three weeks after the return of Mr. Morrison and his faithful elder from the South, a picnic was projected in Glenartan. The author of the proposal was Mr. James Moncur Craig, W.S., Edinburgh, a bachelor gentleman well known in the glen, for he had occupied, during a portion of several previous summers, the Old House of Athbreac. Stealing a few weeks' holiday from the arduous and often harassing duties of his profession, he had just arrived at his Highland retreat. A maiden sister, his only companion in life, accompanied him. A day or two after settling down, he wrote the following letter to Mr. Morrison—

"Athbreac House, Monday morning.
"My dear Sir,—You are doubtless aware that my brother, Colonel Craig, has taken the shootings of Glenartan for the season. I expect him and his family here to-morrow, Tuesday. They come in their yacht from Ouan. I should like to arrange a picnic party to the Caves of Each-uise on Thursday. I think me so early a date, because it is well to take advantage while we may of the beautiful weather we now enjoy. I propose to ask the Grahams to accompany us, and I should be delighted if Miss Morrison and you could join the party. Would you also kindly ask the young student McKay and his sister, if they could come? The Colonel has some friends from London on board who will, sans doubt, be glad of the 'poy.' I shall arrange all about conveyances, though some of the party, if the weather continues fine, may prefer to go by the yacht; and I wish it to

be quite understood that my sister and I provide all that is needful for our entertainment in the way of creature comforts.

"We shall start, say, at nine o'clock prompt.—I am, Yours respectfully,
J. M. CRAIG

Mr. Morrison accepted the invitation with cordial thanks, but his sister declined. The courtesies of life are too often at complete variance with candour and honesty, and many would have invented, if they had not ready to hand, some plausible excuse; but Miss Morrison told her brother simply to say, that while appreciating Mr. Craig's kindness, she had come to feel less pleasure than once she did in such enjoyments, and feared her presence would mar rather than enhance the happiness which she hoped the company would have in the day's outing.

Young McKay and his sister promptly intimated their intention to join the party, and tendered their best thanks to Mr. Craig for thinking of them at all. They were proud, but not vain, to think that, through the lawyer's kindness, they were afforded the privilege of mingling with not a few whose more exalted station in life they were ready respectfully to acknowledge. They were glad also to hear that their good friends the Grahams were among the invited, for this among other reasons, that they could fall back upon their society in the event of any restraint among the company generally. We say "among other reasons," for, speaking with all reserve, there were one or two of the little circle comprising the Grahams and McKays, who were never sorry for an excuse to meet one another. Perhaps this explains why, on the Tuesday, two days before the great event, Roderick McKay felt a special interest in watching for the appearance of the *Water-Cress* in the Bay. The arrival of her company would be a guarantee so far that the proposed excursion would not miscarry. He had some errand to the manse, and lured Dannie, Mr. Morrison's man, up to a little knoll near by, "just to have a look down the loch."

On the west, between them and the setting sun, already creeping down from his meridian height, Rudha-Gorm threw a dark shade over the waters, but to the left the calm sea and gray mountains were still bathed in living sunshine. Once on the height they rapidly scanned the loch, but no floating object was to be seen save a boat or two anchored off a beach near the mouth of the river. Not long, however, had they to wait.

The student had partaken so far of Dannie's hospitality by visiting his mull for a pinch, when, lifting his eyes from the lid as he tapped it down, he caught sight of a sail. At first, it seemed as if by some new and strange freak of nature one of the crags of Rudha-Gorm were swelling out over the waters, but presently, detaching itself from the headland, the vessel crept more fully into view.

"Colonel Craig's yacht, I have no doubt," said the student, with an interest and delight for which Dannie could assign to himself no adequate cause. "An' what it it be? Ye'll be looking as gled as our meenisters will be, when they get their Sustatin Fund, or Aggie doon there when she'll hear that Jemmie Macrae is back ta t' glen."

"Get away," said the student, with ever so slight a shade of embarrassment, and then added, half aside, "You can't appreciate a scene like this."

This explanation did not satisfy the speaker's own mind, and it is more than doubtful if it made the faintest impression on Dannie's receptive faculties, but it served as a full period to what had passed, and Roderick began again.

"Don't you think it is a yacht, at least?"

"Na, na," said Dannie, whose practised eye enabled him to detect more quickly what she was. "She'll no be a yacht, for ta sails be brown. She'll be a veshel from Irish with salts."

"From Irish with salts!" cried Roderick. A broad smile, which only the restraints of courtesy prevented from breaking into something more, stole over his face. Visions of some great epidemic of an inward nature which had afflicted, as it might seem, the entire population of the district, and which required a remedy equally active in quality and ample in quantity, rose to his mind. But now the cure was at hand, sent too from the Emerald Isle, mayhap by some modern and benign St. Patrick, to relieve the pains and sorrows of the sick and needy in Glenartan. Not a word of all this, however, did he communicate to Dannie, who might not see any humour in such a picture. The vision would keep at least till Thursday, and might be better appreciated by a more intelligent audience on that great occasion. By this time, straggling whirls of smoke came chasing one another in from sea, and presently the long, handsome *Water-Cress*, with her sandy coloured funnel and rakish masts, peered around the headland and crept swiftly forward into the bay.

The student was gladdened by the sight of the vessel, and even Dannie evinced a certain interest in her movements. Each of them acted after his manner. Roderick remained on the knoll, gazing over the bay, and speculating on various themes lighter than his usual studies; while Dannie hurried down the road to the village and on as far as the wooden jetty, where the party from the yacht were likely to land, and where he hoped to gather some useful gossip for after retail use. We may follow the latter to the shore, as we shall there make the acquaintance in a casual way of the Colonel, his family and friends. Dannie just reached the jetty as the anchor-chain of the yacht, with a prolonged whirr, ran out from the hawse pipe and brought her to a stand. Two boats from shore immediately fastened like parasites on her sides. Into one of these the baggage of the party was carefully stowed, while the other conveyed the owner and his friends to the land. Colonel Craig, his daughter Caroline, and two Misses Wyatt, with Mr. Wyatt, a London banker, sat in the stern of the boat; while Richard Craig, a barrister, and Lieutenant Ashby, were perched in the bow like horns on a creature of life.

The young ladies kept up a perfect rattle of talk and laughter from the vessel to the shore. As they drew near to land, their attention was attracted by a picturesque group of men and boys who had gathered on the jetty, and among whom were not a few "real natives."

"Oh how jolly!" exclaimed Nesta Wyatt. "Just look there at these men! Look at their kilt—every colour of the rainbow. Ruskin, or some one, has said, that Celtic art is primitive, because there are only straight lines in the kilt, but I say it's charming. These men are just lovely, aren't they?"

The Colonel only smiled at this sally, but the other ladies chimed in with their delight. His daughter especially, after deeply interested observation, expressed her sympathy in a species of contradiction, as ladies know so well how to do, by rallying her friend on her enthusiasm.

"I say, Nesta, this is intolerable. You mustn't lose your heart all at once. Do keep a little ecstasy for the scenery, and the fishing, and the other things we hope to enjoy."

Then the Lieutenant from the bow broke in with a fresh contribution—

"I say, old fellow," shouted he to the Colonel, "what do you call this place again? Glenartan? I baptize it anew. It's Glenartan! I see the deep folds on the ribbed mountain sides, and look at these striped rigs below the cottages. What a famous kilt for a giant—the real Mackay, is it not?"

"I am afraid," replied the Colonel, "I must give you some book of the clans to study, with illustrations fitted to help the juvenile mind. Your giant is not a Mackay, whatever he be."

"Better bring a troop of these men some day," said Miss Wyatt, trying to improve on the Colonel's proposal, "and we shall review them in state. I mean to learn all the tartans before I leave. It will be like a study of oils on the palette;—Terra Verde, Brown Pink, Payne's Gray and all the rest. What fun!"

The Colonel here found it necessary to change the subject abruptly—the rowers were the cause.

"Hullo there—back water. You don't mean to run the jetty down and give us all a ducking besides. Now she comes! There we are"—the latter assurance confirmed by a sharp bump against the side of the pier.

They were soon on the landing-stage, and passed in twos and threes through a line of silent but curious onlookers to the carriages. Ere the streaks of sunlight had stolen away with their pink hues off the hills, the party were snugly enclosed in the shooting lodge; and had begun to plan various bright projects of pleasure for the week to follow.

CHAPTER IV.—THE PICNIC—IN THE CAVE.

The weather continued delightful; and when Thursday came, there were all the indications of a settled fine day. The rendezvous was Mr. Graham's sheep farm, for there the road by which they meant to drive branched off to the westward. The various groups were punctually on the spot; a circumstance due to eager interest on the part of some (who would have been in time at five a.m. that morning), and on the part of others to the military precision of the Colonel, against which none of his circle dared to offend.

Yet some were absent. Miss Morrison, as we know, declined to come; and Richard Craig, taking with him Archibald Graham for company, had gone by the yacht, because her boats would be needed at their destination. The farmer himself, Mr. Graham, excused himself by pointing to the enclosure near by, where hundreds of sheep were gathered from the hills, and where, seated on benches of stone and turf, a dozen men were busy shearing the flocks of their wool; but he was most useful in seeing that all was right with the horses and traps, and gave them as they bounded away, a hearty "bon voyage" by repeated oscillations of his hat over his head. The first part of their journey was a long and tedious ascent, till, in a narrow gorge, they lost sight of Glenartan behind; then came broad tracts of brown moorland, relieved only by dark silent tarns and yellow strips of the road, seen here and there like broken pieces of ribbon as they advanced. Finally, their course lay along the cliffs overhanging the sea, where at intervals they touched the inner edges of deep gorges, whose rugged rocky walls cast sombre shadows over the restless waters between.

The scene chosen for the day's enjoyment was full of peaceful and rustic beauty.

It was a secular bay, flanked by bold rocks at either end, with steep grassy banks between. In front lay a broad sweep of golden sand, striped here and there with accumulations of broken shells which shone with a silvery whiteness in the sun. Above the brown line which marked the high level of the tides, a sward of rich green, its margin lotted with sea-pinks, lay between the beach and the slanting ridges whose summits bounded the upward view. Rising above this, clumps of young trees clung to the sloping banks, and a wild torrent, escaped from the dull restraints of its flat moorland banks, fought its noisy way in alternating cascade and pool, from the sky line of the ridge above to the beach below, there to sink unseen into the great deep. Sweet wild flowers of every genus and hue enriched alike the level sward and the rough slopes with their beauty. The shady nooks among the cliffs, the brown roots of the trees, the ragged edges of the torrent's bed, the flat patches of oozy ground, the rugged masses of rocky fragments—each yielded its congenial contribution of brilliant flora. Bluebells and buttercups and daisies tinged with their varied colours broad patches of the prevailing green. Among the trees, the ancient found shelter for its delicate petals of blue; the tiny eyebright sprinkled the cliffs with its sweet white blossoms; the proud foxglove, with its bright pyramid of bells, crowned the grassy banks. Ragged Robin hid his spider-like fingers beneath the low shrubs; and the cuckoo flower, with its blossoms of pale white, nestled in the trecking ditches. Thick colonies of tiny fire found grateful protection under the iris, which filled and brightened the hollows with its flowers of yellow and blades of deep green. Such were a few of the wild flora with which the steep were adorned, though many of them hid their beauty from any but an observant eye. Looking from the shore over the whole sweep of the hillside it seemed as if every inch of ground was clothed with the fresh green of the bracken, bearing in graceful loops from the confinement of its knotty roots.

When the party, dismounting from the carriages, had scrambled down the slopes to the lower level of the bay,

they found that extensive preparations were already in progress, to promote their comfort and enjoyment. A horse, released from all harness save the collar and a loose bridle, grazed at his sweet will over the rich grass; while the cart from which he had been detached stood, laden with boxes, in a shady corner, and was the centre of busy operations. Two stalwart gillies in full Highland costume, the one of Macpherson, the other of Mackenzie tartan, were ably assisted by Dannie from the manse, who took at least his full share in the active run of lanter and wit with which they enlivened their labours. Boxes and cases and packages of all sizes and shapes were rapidly emptied of their contents; piles of dishes were arranged on one side ready for use, and pitchers of cream (carefully closed) deposited in a running pool to preserve their coolness and sweetness. Near by the cart, three straight and sturdy tree tops, set in a rude triangle, were planted in the ground, the apex securely bound with a rope of twisted heather. From this a strong chain was suspended, on which to hang kettles and pots; and underneath, a lively fire of wood crackled and spluttered and roared.

(To be continued.)

A COSSACK BURIAL.

Many a touching, little burial service have I witnessed among the Cossacks, but none more moving than one which I accidentally saw in the beginning of winter. We had been making a rapid forward movement, and had captured a pass in the Balkans. In the late afternoon, after the engagement was over, I was making my way by a short cut across the hills to a point where I expected to find the headquarters, when I came upon a singular scene. Near the top of a bare knoll, strongly relieved against the sunset sky, three riderless horses came out in sharp silhouette. A little to the right of them, and on the very summit of the knoll, two Cossacks were stooping over, busy with something, I could not see what. The landscape, desolate, sombre and brown in the near foreground, deepened to intense purple in the middle distance, and beyond on either side of the knoll, which was the dominant object in the scene, the jagged mountain tops sharply cut the wintry sky. The glory of a rich sunset mystified the tails of the masses, while it seemed to sharpen their contours and heighten their contrasts. It was one of those evenings when there steals into the mind a sense of the solemnity of the hour almost amounting to religious fervour, and when one contemplates the departure of the daylight with an inexplicable feeling of sadness, and a scarcely formed, but still vivid realization of the fathomless mystery of the near future.

As I approached the group the two men rose to their feet, and, without looking in my direction, uncovered their heads and stood motionless. Between them a long low mound disturbed the rounded outline of the hill, and a rude cross made of an unhewn tree trunk added its unexpected silhouette to the shapes of the men, seen as irregular masses against the deep crimson of the western sky. I involuntarily paused, and waited, cap in hand, until their silent prayer was finished, and they had slowly turned away toward the three horses; then, skirting the knoll crowned by the mound and cross, kept on my way. All that friendly hands could do to honour the victim of the day's fight had been religiously done by his two comrades. In the midst of the turmoil of war he had been given a decent, dignified, Christian burial. And what more impressive funeral could be than the one I saw in the twilight of the glorious Balkan sunset? The place, the hour, the simple ceremony, the symbol of Christian faith, and proof of comrades' love—it was the poetry of a soldier's burial.—*F. G. Millet, in Harper's Magazine for February.*

LINCOLN'S FORTUNATE ESCAPE.

The authors of the *Century* "Life of Lincoln" thus refer to Lincoln's escape from becoming a resident office-holder under the Washington Government, after his Congressional term had expired: "It was in this way that Abraham Lincoln met and escaped one of the greatest dangers of his life. In after days he recognized the error he had committed, and congratulated himself upon the happy deliverance he had obtained through no merit of his own. The loss of at least four years of the active pursuit of his profession would have been irreparable, leaving out of view the strong probability that the singular charm of Washington life to men who have a passion for politics might have kept him there forever. It has been said that a residence in Washington leaves no man precisely as it found him. This is an axiom which may be applied to most cities in a certain sense, but it is true in a peculiar degree of our capital. To the men who come there from small rural communities in the South and the West, the bustle and stir, the intellectual movement, such as it is, the ordinary subjects of conversation, of such vastly greater importance than anything they have previously known, the daily and hourly combats on the floor of both Houses, the intrigue and struggle of office-hunting, which interests vast numbers besides office-seekers, the superior piquancy and interest of the scandal which is talked at a Congressional boarding-house over the which seasons the dull days at a village tavern,—all this gives a savour to life in Washington, the memory of which doubles the tedium of the sequestered vale to which the beaten legislator returns when his brief hour of glory is over. It is this which brings to the State Department, after every general election, that crowd of spectators, with their bales of recommendations from pitying colleagues who have been rejected, whose diminishing prayers run down the whole gamut of supplication from St. James to St. Paul of Loando, and of whom at the last, it must be said, as Mr. Evans once said after an unusually heavy day, 'Many called, but few chosen.' Of those who do not achieve the ruinous success of going abroad to consulates that will not pay their board, or missions where they only avoid daily shame by hiding their penury and their ignorance away from observation, a

great portion yields to their fate, and join that fleet of wrecks which floats forever on the pavement of Washington.

"It is needless to say that Mr. Lincoln received no damage from his term of service in Washington, but we know of nothing which shows so strongly the perilous fascination of the place as the fact that a man of his extraordinary moral and mental qualities could ever have thought for a moment of accepting a position so insignificant and incongruous as that which he was more than willing to assume when he left Congress. He would have filled the place with honour and credit—but at a monstrous expense. We do not so much refer to his exceptional career and his great figure in history; these momentous contingencies could not have suggested themselves to him. But the place he was reasonably sure of filling in the battle of life should have made a subordinate office in Washington a thing out of the question. He was already a lawyer of skill and reputation; an orator upon whom his party relied to speak for them to the people. An innate love of combat was in his heart; he loved discussion like a mediæval schoolman. The air was already tremulous with faint bugle-notes that heralded a conflict of giants on a field of moral significance to which he was fully alive and awake, where he was certain to lead his hundreds and his thousands. Yet if Justin Butterfield had not been a more supple, more adroit and less scrupulous suitor for office than himself, Abraham Lincoln would have sat for four inestimable years at a bureau-desk in the Interior Department, and when the hour of action sounded in Illinois, who would have filled the place which he took as if he had been born for it? Who could have done the duty which he bore as lightly as if he had been fashioned for it from the beginning of time?

WORDS.

Words too lightly spoken
Come not back again,
And sweet buds are broken
By the softest rain.

Words may strike as arrows,
With too cruel smart;
He who heeds the sparrows
Heeds the wounded heart.

Words may be good angels,
Winged with love and light,
Bearing God's evangel
To the homes of light.

Words may be as devils,
Slaying where they fall,
Oh! the bitter evils
Coming at their call.

Guard the might thus given,
Sowing weeds or flowers,
Spreading hell or heaven
With these words of ours.

AMONG THE GAS-WELLS.

A group of burning wells north of Washington, Pa., has presented many grand and beautiful night scenes. Though several miles apart they appear, at a distance, to be close together, and their light intermingles. On a dark night, with all of them burning, they make a great show. These wells in full blast—with those flanking them on the right and left, with the broad glare of those at Wellsbury, W. Va., showing twenty miles to the north-west, and with those at Murraysville, Pa., thirty miles to the north-east—make a scene which would terrify a stranger, if he should come upon it unaware of the existence of such things as burning gas-wells. It would only need columns of fiery lava to convince him that the whole region was full of volcanoes. And his terror would doubtless be complete when he saw a great fiery column shoot skyward, unless he was made aware of the real cause of the phenomenon, when he would remain to admire what a moment before had filled him with alarm. The explanation of the sudden burst of flame is that it is necessary often to "blow out" the wells and the pipes leading to the regulator, to keep them from being clogged by the salt which gathers in the pipes from the salt water thrown up by the gas. The flow of the gas is stopped for a moment; and when again released, the gas drives everything before it into the open air. This escaping gas is burned at the regulator. The effect of the suddenly-increased pressure is to shoot a tongue of flame, hissing and roaring, high in air. On a misty night, when the light is broken up and diffused,—the snow-covered hills sometimes adding their reflection—the whole sky is brilliantly illuminated, and the scene is grand and beautiful.—*Samuel W. Hall, in St. Nicholas for February.*

ONE month's drink bill of the United Kingdom equals all the money spent in churches, schools and hospitals in a year. A ten days' drink bill equals all that is raised for missionary enterprise in twelve months.

A NEW YORK gentleman has bought a tract of land on an island in the Lake of Memphremagog, on which he is to erect buildings suitable for the entertainment of a large number of poor boys from New York for a few weeks in the summer.

A BANKER's clerk said at a Young Men's Christian Association prayer meeting recently that while counting a package of money he noticed a \$20 bill, on the back of which was written with indelible pencil: "This is the last of \$30,000. Whiskey did it."

THE trustees of Princeton College have rejected the proposition of President McCosh, and the advice of several of the Alumni Associations to make that institution a university. The reason for this action was that Princeton College has not professional schools, such as those of law and medicine, and does not intend to have them.

British and Foreign.

THERE are at present nearly forty Welshmen occupying London pulpits.

A LIFE of the late Bishop Bickersteth, of Exeter, by his son, will appear soon.

THE Mormon elders have been expelled from Buncombe County, North Carolina.

BOTH Houses of the Nevada Legislature have passed a bill to disfranchise Mormons.

A WILL case is on trial in one of the courts in New York City that was commenced in 1848.

THE Duke of Westminster has been elected President of the London Temperance Society.

THE Alabama Legislature has passed a law prohibiting the running of freight trains on Sunday.

FOUR hundred converted Jews are clergymen in the Church of England, three of whom have become bishops.

A COMPANY has been formed for the construction of railways in the Congo State, and the settlement of that territory.

NEXT year the Mikado will order English to be adopted as the second language in Japan, Chinese having been abandoned.

IT is stated that 13,000 Roman Catholics and 7,000 Protestants were committed to prison in Liverpool last year for drunkenness.

MR. SPURGEON has returned to London from Mentone in good health and spirits, and was expected to resume regular preaching.

ALL the medical men and all the Christian ministers in Amsterdam oppose the total abstinence movement, which, nevertheless, is making way.

THE Duc de Nemours has sold his mansion in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, Paris, to M. Maurice Ephrussi, the rich Jew banker, for 3,400,000 francs.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. Leopold von Ranke has been placed in the reading-room of the Royal Library of Berlin, just opposite the likeness of Newton and Locke.

THE New York Assembly Judiciary Committee recently, by a vote of six to four, decided to report adversely to Mr. Hoadley's Bill to abolish the death penalty for women.

IT appears that during the last seven years there have been 2,658 persons killed by railroad accidents in the United States and Canada, and just over 12,000 injured.

THE Committee of the French Chamber of Deputies on the Abrogation of the Concordat has affirmed by 110 to nine the principle of the separation of Church and State.

IT is understood that Principal Rainy, after consultation with some of his friends, has decided to oppose the movement in the Free Church for the revision of the Confession of Faith.

A SIX HOURS' service was held last week Thursday in the First Presbyterian Church, Syracuse, in connection with the union revival meetings. The day was appointed for fasting.

THE proportion of the native Christian students of the University of Bengal who have become Masters of Arts is twenty three times greater than of the Hindu and Mohammedan students.

THE Republican Legislature of Pennsylvania has given the people of that State the opportunity to vote on the question of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the State.

TWENTY-FIVE thousand of the 75,000 prisoners at present confined in the different gaols throughout India, for different offences, were released recently as an act of clemency to commemorate the Queen's jubilee.

A NEGRO, named Calvin Garmany, has been found near Greenville, S. C., who has just discovered that he is a free man. He has been working for a brutal master, and had not heard of the Emancipation Proclamation.

A REMARKABLE series of simultaneous meetings has been held in London, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, to advocate the claims of the heathen and Mohammedan world on the Church of Christ.

REFERRING to a letter of the Rev. Matthew Kerr, the Irish correspondent of the *Presbyterian Messenger* makes the startling assertion that the vast majority of Presbyterian ministers in the South of Ireland sympathize with Mr. Kerr, and are in favour of Home Rule.

THE *Budapester Tagblatt* announces that the celebrated Arminius Vambery, one of its editors, will accept the invitation extended to him to visit England, and lecture in the English cities on the possibility of a war between England and Russia in Central Asia, and its probable results.

THE International Arbitration and Peace Association have drawn up a petition to Parliament in favour of the establishment of an Anglo-American tribunal for the settlement of any disputes that may from time to time arise between this country and the United States.

AN edition of the Gospel of Mark, in Mandarin, has been published in England in raised Chinese characters, for the use of the blind in China. This is the two hundred and fiftieth language in which portions of the Scriptures have been printed for the blind, after the Moon system.

THE *British Weekly* has a fac-simile of a note by Mr. Gladstone, saying: "It is understood that Mr. Gladstone is accustomed to cite Aristotle, Saint Augustine, Dante and Bishop Butler as the four authors by whom he believes himself to have been most influenced.—W. E. G., Jan. 25, '87."

FUNERAL sermons were preached in First Ballymacarrett Church, Belfast, recently by the Rev. Dr. Johnston in the morning, and the Rev. James Martin in the evening—two of the oldest friends of the late venerable Doctor Mcneely. The church, which was draped in black, was densely crowded at both services.

Ministers and Churches.

At the annual meeting of West Church, Toronto, the receipts reported by the managers—apart from the balance from 1885—amounted to \$4,968.87. In addition, the special services under the direction of the Session cost about \$400, which, along with several other items, brings up the whole amount to \$5,700. Members received since last report numbered 275; members on the roll, 670; contributions to the poor fund, \$125; at the Sabbath school, \$30 scholars, with some sixty officers and teachers, and \$397 collected by Sabbath school. The Ladies' Aid Society collected \$205.81 during the year, and paid the managers \$120. There is a large and flourishing Young People's Association, and a Band of Hope, with about ninety members. The attendance is large both at the Sabbath services and the weekly prayer meeting.

The original New Orleans University singers gave an entertainment in Stayner, on the evening of the 17th inst. Just before the arrival of the company by the noon train, it was ascertained that the hotel keepers had resolved upon refusing admission to them. On arrival, they proceeded to the Cameron House, as their agent had previously made a contract with the proprietor for their board and lodging. The proprietor, however, denied them the hospitality of the house, not even permitting them to sit at the table which was served for dinner. Arrangement had meanwhile been made for their accommodation, and the singers were conveyed to private houses. The reason for this outrage upon unoffending strangers was, as is well known, not that they were persons of colour, but that the profits resulting from the entertainment were to be given to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for charitable purposes.

The Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and North-West Territories, writes: Permit me through THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN to inform your readers of the new terms offered by the C. P. R. to commissioners to the General Assembly, summoned to meet in Winnipeg in June next. The company will grant return tickets to all commissioners—ministers and elders—and their wives, from any point on the company's lines in Ontario or Quebec, for \$30 all rail; \$35 going by rail and returning by boat, or going by boat and returning by rail; and \$40 going and returning by boat. These figures do not include Pullman fares. On the boat meals and staterooms are included. An excursion will be organized from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific, and the fare will be equally low with that to Winnipeg no doubt. This will be announced in due time. Persons leaving by train on Monday will reach Winnipeg on the morning of the day on which the Assembly meets.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Milton, took place on Thursday evening week. The attendance was good. The Rev. M. C. Cameron, B.D., occupied the chair. The manager's report was read by the secretary, Mr. Hugh Campbell, which was received enthusiastically by the congregation. It showed that the congregation was in a healthy, vigorous condition. Their handsome new manse is completely free from debt. Mr. John Lawson read the treasurer's report, which showed the progress of liberality during 1886. The Sabbath collections were \$87 in advance of last year's. The Schemes of the Church were better by \$842, with Augmentation yet to report. After paying every demand the treasurer was left with a balance on hand of \$86.03. The pastor stated that there were twenty-eight members added to the charge; he had made 401 pastoral visits, baptized twenty, and attended seven funerals. The Sabbath school, after paying large demands for new library, mission calls, had a balance on hand of \$18. The benediction was pronounced, which brought to a close one of the most harmonious and prosperous meetings ever held in Knox Church.

On Friday evening last Knox College Missionary Society held a most successful public meeting in Convocation Hall, which was filled to its utmost capacity, with a most appreciative audience. Mayor Howland presided, and delivered an unpretentious but fervent address. A paper, "Among the Eskimos in Labrador," giving most interesting particulars concerning the people, and the labours among them of the Moravian Missionaries, was read by Mr. G. A. Webster, B.A. Mr. J. Goforth, who soon intends proceeding as a missionary to China, gave an impassioned address, brimful with startling facts, and striking issues on "Our Treatment of a Great Trust." This was followed by an admirable paper on "The Great Dark Continent," by Mr. A. J. McLeod, B.A., and the concluding address was by the Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., on the "Apologetic Value of Missions." The speech was a telling one. The choir led the singing, and a quartette was rendered with excellent taste and effectiveness. If the fine feeling and enthusiasm pervading the college is an indication, it is evident the missionary spirit has a large place in the hearts of the students of Knox College.

ZION CHURCH, Teeswater, held their annual soiree on Thursday evening, the 10th Feb. A good report was provided in the basement. After full justice was done to it, there was an adjournment to the church. At eight p.m. the pastor, Rev. A. R. Linton, B.D., took the chair. A number of anthems was well rendered by the choir of Zion Church, under the leadership of Mr. George Wilson. Appropriate addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. Hartley, of Bluevale, and Potter (Mr. Hodson), of Teeswater. Readings were given by Messrs. Linton and Ritchie, also a recitation by Rev. A. Potter. The attendance was large, and would have been much larger but for the state of the roads. The other Churches were well represented at the soiree. On Friday evening there was a social for the Sabbath school children, which was well attended. The children, after getting their tea, passed a pleasant evening, singing from the Sabbath school Hymnal. A couple of readings were also given. The proceeds of the soiree amounted to \$150. We are happy to state that good feelings exist between the different congregations in the village, and that each can rejoice in the prosperity of the others.

The congregation of Union Church, Smith's Falls, held their annual missionary meeting on Thursday evening, 3rd inst. The large church was filled. Able and telling addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Barclay, of Montreal, Rev. Mr. Ross, of Perth, and Rev. Mr. Scott, of Manotick, the latter gentleman singing one or two solos. Rev. Mr. Mylne, of St. Andrew's Church, was on the platform, and took part in the opening and closing exercises. The addresses of the reverend gentlemen were brief, practical and very earnest. This was the first time the people of Smith's Falls had heard Mr. Barclay, and they were certainly not disappointed in him. All were very much pleased and gratified that he, at considerable inconvenience to himself, had responded to their solicitations, and came so far to set before them so earnestly and forcibly their duty in the cause of missions. Mr. Ross, so favourably known, held the attention of the audience closely in the efforts being made in connection with home missions in the North-West and other portions of the Dominion. Rev. Mr. Crombie, the pastor, presided; the choir, ably led by Mrs. J. A. Clarke and Mrs. F. T. Frost, rendered several beautiful hymns during the evening. The collection was a good one, amounting to \$387.24. The meeting was brought to a close at about half past nine.

AFTER the Week of Prayer last month, special evangelistic services were held in the First Presbyterian Church, Brandon, Man. The first meeting held was one of much power and blessing. A plain, pointed talk about personal relationship to the Christ of God sent some to their homes in great joy to tell of the precious blessing they had found, and others to spend much of the night in prayer, seeking the gift of God, which is eternal life. The pastor was then joined by Mr. Winchester, of Manitoba College, who remained one week. His services were much blessed among the young men. The meetings, although this is the fifth week, are still well attended, and much religious interest is manifest throughout the town. Two meetings are held each day. The people are thoughtful and earnest, and open to conversation on personal religion. After the second week the pastors of the other Churches were invited to aid in the work and since then they have been carried on as union meetings. Providence seems to speak to the people through the disappointed hopes and the heavy afflictions which visited the town last autumn. The Salvation Army have come upon the scene, and they are now emptying the bar-rooms by their meetings every night, and for the time being Brandon seems to be a place of special blessing.

The annual meeting of Erskine Church, Duncannon, was held recently. The reports from all departments were encouraging. The Building Committee report only a little over \$100 of debt on the church and sheds. The Managing Committee report a small balance on hand. The Session reports twenty-one added to the Church by profession in both charges, making a total membership of 100. The Sabbath school is growing in interest. An interesting feature of the children's social was the presentation of a beautiful silver medal by Mrs. Cameron to Thomas McKay, for the highest number of marks in an examination on the whole of the Shorter Catechism, those only who were present every Sabbath during 1886 being eligible for competition. Shortly afterward, a number of the members and adherents of Erskine Church met at the manse, in the form of a surprise party, when Mr. and Mrs. Cameron were each presented with a very handsome chair (arm and rocker) as a mark of the esteem in which they are held by the congregation. Mr. W. P. Grierson read a neat and kindly address expressive of the esteem in which the pastor and his wife are held by the congregation. Mr. Cameron then made a few suitable remarks on behalf of himself and Mrs. Cameron, thanking them for their kind expression of their confidence in him, shewn by the presentation they had just made.

The anniversary services commemorative of the opening of the Presbyterian Church, Norwood, were held on Sabbath, the 6th, and on the evening of Monday, the 7th inst. The Rev. M. Macgillivray, M.A., of Perth, occupied the pulpit on Sabbath, and delivered two really eloquent, thoughtful and practical discourses. The church, at both diets of worship, was well filled, and the worshippers evinced their appreciation of the sermons by the eagerness and attention with which they listened to their delivery. On Monday evening tea was served in the cheery and commodious schoolroom. Tea over, all repaired to the church. The pastor, Rev. J. Carmichael, took the chair. He said that the congregation is steadily increasing in membership and influence; that during his incumbency the additions to the membership have averaged twenty-eight annually. Rev. Mr. Anderson, in a few happy remarks, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present. Rev. Mr. Thomson, of Hastings, gave a unique and humorous address on "Music." Mr. McArthur, of Havelock, gave a pointed and practical address on "Motive." Mr. Macgillivray, of Perth, gave a thoughtful and well digested address on "Woman's Place and Work in the World"; and Mr. Hay, of Campbellford, a well arranged and most timely address on "Socialism in the Church." The remark may be made that such addresses tend much to elevate the moral and intellectual tone of a community, and are surely more becoming the character of the Gospel ministry than the light and frivolous stories that are so constantly indulged in at tea meetings. Between the addresses, solos, quartettes and anthems by the choir were rendered in a truly artistic and happy manner, and reflected great credit on the attention and care which had been given to this part of the evening's entertainment. After the customary votes of thanks and the benediction, the large audience dispersed in a happy and pleased mood. The proceeds were \$142.

The annual missionary meeting of St. James Square Presbyterian Church was held on Monday evening week. The attendance was not so large as it ought to have been, and certainly would have been under other circumstances. While a keen political conflict is at its height the ordinary current of affairs is disturbed. The Rev. Dr. Kellogg occupied the chair. The reports of the various missionary organizations were presented in concise form by Mr. Robert

Darling, sec.-treasurer of the mission committee of the congregation. He was able to state that the year's contributions were in advance of last or any previous year in the congregation's history. For Home Missions, the sum of \$1,132 was raised; Foreign Missions, to which the Home Cleaner Mission Band contributed \$450 \$1,277.23; Collegiate Education, including \$125 to Manitoba College, and contribution to Knox College Endowment Fund, \$1,948.33; French Evangelization, \$179.53; Augmentation Fund, \$826.81. Among other objects benefited by special contributions, amounting to \$840.75, may be mentioned Jewish Missions, \$45.50; and the McAll Mission, Paris, \$30; Foreign Missions \$128, of which one member contributed \$100. The adoption of the reports and the appointment of the Mission Committee for the year, of whom Dr. Kellogg is president, and the Hon. Oliver Mowat, vice-president, was, on motion of Principal Kirkland, seconded by Mr. C. B. Robinson, carried unanimously. A most interesting address on mission work and its claims in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, was delivered by the Superintendent of Missions, the Rev. James Robertson. The Rev. Hamilton Corbet, from Chefoo, then gave a most graphic description of his field of labour, the character and customs of the people and the blessed results that have followed the acceptance of the Gospel by them. The earnest and devoted missionary was assured of the deep interest in which his future labours would be viewed by those who had listened to him.

EIGHT years ago on the 2nd of February the new church at Eymondville was opened, Rev. James Sievewright, B.A., of Goderich, and Rev. William Graham, the retired pastor, conducting the services of the day. On the following Monday Joseph McCoy, M.A., was ordained by the Presbytery of Huron, and inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation. During the eight years which have elapsed since then, the congregation has made substantial advancement. One hundred and twenty-nine have been added to the membership, with a net increase of fifty-five, making the present membership one hundred and eighty-four. The debt of about \$1,100 on the church building has been all wiped out, and a comfortable new brick manse, costing about \$3,000, has been erected, on which there is still about \$1,700 debt, but which, no doubt, will be paid in due time. The anniversary services were held on Sabbath, February 6, and the annual social was on the Monday evening following. Rev. Dr. Beattie, of Brantford, delivered two able discourses to large congregations on Sabbath. In the morning the sermon was largely doctrinal, though by no means dull or wanting in practical appreciation; in the evening the practical talked largely. The social on the following evening was a decided success. Though the weather was anything but favourable—the rain and sleet having fallen all the Sabbath and Monday—and the roads exceedingly slippery, yet the attendance was large at all the meetings, as may be judged from the collections on Sabbath, and proceeds of tea meeting, amounting to \$103. Many friends came up from Seaford, showing their interest in their neighbour congregation. The refreshments furnished in the basement, by the ladies of the congregation, were excellent; the music by the choir was very fine, and the speeches by Rev. A. D. McDonald, of Seaford, Rev. George Jamieson, of Walton (retired), and Rev. Dr. Beattie, on "Church Etiquette," were above the average in that mingling of amusement with solid teaching which is so desirable in soiree speeches.

The annual meeting of Chalmers Church congregation, Woodstock, was held lately. There was a large attendance present. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Mackay, B.A. After a few remarks by the pastor, in which he expressed his devout thankfulness for the state of the congregation, Mr. Peter Craib was elected chairman, and Mr. F. Chalmers, secretary. The first report read was from the Session. It congratulates the congregation that through the grace of God the past year has been one of pleasant activity and progress. The communion roll now was 222 persons in active membership, thirty four having been added during the year—nineteen by certificate, and fifteen on profession of faith. It summons all the people to renewed consecration and effort during the present year. It refers to the regular and increasing attendance at public service, and urges more attention to the Wednesday evening prayer meeting. It reviews the work of the missionary societies, and Sabbath school teachers, and directs attention to the class of young people every Wednesday afternoon for the practice of singing. The report from the Board of Trustees showed total receipts during the year \$3,159.82, of which \$1,450 was paid to the pastor; the balance of which, with the exception of \$600, was spent on general expenses. The report shows an increase over 1885 in all the means of revenue. It commends the free pew system, and hopes that during the year it may be adopted. The last paragraph says: Your trustees would conclude their report by expressing the hope that the harmony and good feeling which has existed in the congregation during the past year may be continued in the years to come, and that our esteemed pastor may long be spared to go in and out among us breaking into us the bread of life. The following is an abstract of the Sabbath school report: There are twenty-eight teachers and officers, and 248 scholars on the roll; the largest attendance was 175; the smallest, 118; the average 151; the total collections were \$81.81. The missionary report covers only a period of nine months, ending with December, 1886. The total amount raised during that time was about \$200. The report urgently appeals to the people to exercise greater liberality in their contributions to missions. A Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was formed and much is expected from it. The following are the names of the new Board of Trustees: F. Chalmers, James McKay, W. Griffith, D. Robertson, W. B. Thomson, James Gunn, V. Schwalm, D. Dodge, H. H. Wallace, W. P. McClure, Thomas Amos, George Robertson, John Heald and J. Weir. Auditors: W. F. Ross and John A. McKay, secretary; C. W. Oliver, Treasurer. A vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring Board of Trustees, to the missionary collectors and to the choir.

THE annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church, Cobourg, was held in the lecture room recently. It was largely attended, and was one of the most successful of the series held in the history of this prosperous Church. The pastor, Rev. Mr. McCrae, after opening the meeting, spoke of the benefit derived from social intercourse with each other and acquaintance with the spiritual and secular work of the congregation for the past year. The first report was read by Mr. Joseph Hendersen, the Session Clerk. It gave a clear and interesting account of the spiritual results of the preaching of the Word, the holding of regular and cottage prayer meetings, the Bible class and Sabbath school, and showed that through these instrumentalities, many—especially young people—had been induced to declare for the Master and ally themselves with the Church. The next reports related to missionary work. Mr. Jeffrey, on behalf of the Ladies' Missionary Association, read a very interesting statement of the work carried on by them and of the contributions received during the year. Mr. Joseph Holmes, treasurer of the regular missionary society, stated the amount paid to him by the collectors, but as the annual meeting had not yet been held, he was not in a position to say to what Schemes it would be allocated. The total amount at present paid in to both associations is \$466. This sum will be increased at the annual meeting. Mr. N. F. Macnachten read the next two reports: one on behalf of the lady president of the "Willing Workers"; the other, the report of the Young People's Association. The "Willing Workers" are the ladies of the congregation, who are at all times ready to visit the sick, care for the poor and do other good work. They hold weekly sewing meetings, and the proceeds of their handiwork are devoted to assisting a fund for the erection of a new Sabbath school and lecture room. The Young People's Association has the same ultimate object in view, but is carried on in a different manner. Its organization aims to bring the young people together, and by readings and lectures to give them a taste for a higher class of literature than what is generally found in the hands of the young. The report of the managers, read by the secretary, Mr. Spence, gave an account of the various work done by them during the past year, and mapped out new schemes for the coming year. The last report was that of the treasurer, Mr. E. A. Macnachten. The treasurer had been enabled to pay all amounts due by the congregation, amounting to \$2,750, and still has a balance on hand, besides unpaid contributions. The building fund debt was nearly extinguished, the last instalment, \$100, due in July next, having been arranged for. Before the meeting adjourned refreshments, Mr. Macnachten said he had been deputed by the congregation to express the high esteem which they entertained for Mr. McCrae as their pastor, and for Mrs. McCrae as his co-worker. They desired him not only to convey this in words, but in the more tangible form of a cheque for \$100. The reverend gentleman was taken by surprise at the unexpected gift. He thanked Mr. Macnachten and the congregation for their manifestations of love and esteem, and assured them he would ever cherish the kindly feelings which prompted the action and on behalf of Mrs. McCrae and himself, sincerely thanked them for their kind wishes and liberal gift. Afterward new managers were elected in the place of those retiring, and votes of thanks passed to the choir for their efficient services, to the gentlemen who had presented reports, and to the managers for their careful government of the temporal affairs of the Church.

PRESBYTERY OF HURON.—This Presbytery held a meeting in Clinton on the 1st February. Mr. Barr, Moderator, presiding. The remit on co-operation with other Churches was disapproved of. Mr. McDonald, on behalf of the committee appointed to consider the remit on marriage with a deceased wife's sister, read a report recommending that the remit be not approved of, and giving reasons therefor. Some of the reasons were adopted, and a committee appointed to draft a deliverance in accordance with the reasons and the discussion thereon, and report at next meeting of Presbytery. A deputation was appointed, consisting of Messrs. McCoy and McLean, to visit Kinburn and the congregation of Burns Church, Hullitt, with the view of organizing a station at the former place. It was resolved to hold an open conference on the State of Religion at the next meeting of Presbytery, during the afternoon sederunt. Messrs. Musgrave and Simpson were appointed to address the meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Presbyterian Society at next meeting of Presbytery. The next meeting is to be held in Clinton on the second Tuesday of March at half-past ten a.m.—A. McLEAN, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The annual report of St. Paul's Church, for 1886, has just been issued in printed form. It is a pamphlet of thirty-six pages, tastefully printed, and with certain new features not usually found in such reports. Besides a calendar for 1887, and the names and addresses of all heads of families, it has a brief statement of the several Schemes of the Church, and on a large folded sheet a plan of the interior of the church, with the arrangement of the pews and the names of those occupying them. The communicants number 590, a net addition of fifteen during the year. The pew rents realized \$7,801, and the Sabbath plate collections, \$3,443. The expenditure for purely congregational purposes was \$13,530. There is no debt on the church property. The missionary contributions by the schedule system amounted to \$5,097. These range in amounts from \$1 to \$500; the highest contributions from individuals being one of \$500, one of \$400, one of \$350, one of \$250, one of \$200, one of \$150, one of \$130, one of \$125, one of \$105, three of \$100, one of \$85, one of \$75, two of \$60, twenty of \$50, etc., etc. In addition, the congregation raise \$1,200 annually for the support of a missionary in India. The total contributions last year were \$26,010, of which \$11,245 were for congregational and \$14,765 for missionary and benevolent purposes. The average contribution, per communicant, was \$44.08, namely: \$19.06 for congregational and \$25.02 for benevolent objects.

An interesting lecture was delivered in Erskine Church, by Mr. A. C. Hutchison, before a large audience, on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Young People's Association. The subject was "Northern Italy," and the lecture was illustrated by Mr. Hutchison by a series of stereopticon views. It was highly appreciated by those present.

Mr. A. G. Nichols, son of the Rev. J. Nichols, delivered a lecture on Tuesday last, in the hall of St. Mark's Church, on "Water," illustrated by numerous chemical experiments. There was a large attendance of the members and friends of the Mutual Improvement Association of the Church, and the entertainment was heartily enjoyed. Mr. A. G. Nichols is a young man of much promise. He was one of the best scholars that ever passed through the high school here. He is now a student of the first year in McGill, where he takes a foremost position.

The students of the Presbyterian College here have just contributed the sum of \$25 for the support of a native teacher under the Rev. J. W. Mackenzie, Efata, and a similar sum for a teacher under Rev. H. Robertson, Eromanga. This is the third year in succession that the students have raised \$50 for the work in the New Hebrides.

Last year was one of the best in the history of St. Andrew's Church, Lachine—Rev. J. Cormack, pastor. With forty-eight families and eighty-four communicants, there were raised by pew rents, \$789, and by plate collections \$607. The contributions for the Schemes of the Church amounted to \$571.25; the average giving per member being \$16.60 for congregational and \$6.80 for missionary objects—a total of \$23.40 per communicant. After meeting all expenses, there remained a balance on hand of \$356 at the close of the year. Though few in numbers, this congregation pays its minister \$1,000 per annum and manse, and the large excess of receipts over expenditure seems to indicate that they are not to rest satisfied very long with giving even this sum as salary.

A number of years ago Presbyterianism was regarded as equally "strong—numerically and financially—in Toronto and Montreal. Toronto has made very rapid strides in recent years, and to day the membership of our Church there is fifty per cent. greater than in Montreal, the figures being in round numbers, Montreal, 4,000 communicants, Toronto, 6,000. Comparing the two Presbyteries, we find the disproportion about the same as in the cities—Montreal Presbytery having 3,000 communicants, and Toronto Presbytery 12,000. In Toronto there are some seven congregations not self-supporting; while no fewer than sixteen of the congregations in the Presbytery of Montreal require assistance in the support of their ministers. Comparing the congregations in the two cities we find that there is raised:

IN MONTREAL CITY,		
For salaries	\$29,276	Average \$7.32
For Schemes	19,603	" 4.92
For all purposes	\$4,466	" 22.36
IN TORONTO CITY,		
For salaries	\$32,900	Average \$5.48
For Schemes	25,778	" 4.29
For all purposes	135,575	" 22.59

The average given per member is therefore nearly the same, for Church purposes, in both cities, and if this could be ascertained, it would probably be found that the giving power on the average is about the same.

The Rev. R. V. McKibbin was inducted to the pastorate of West Farnham on Friday evening—Rev. Messrs. Fleck, Dewey, Macfarlane and Cruikshank taking part in the services. Though the congregation is at present small, the town is growing, and there is a fair prospect for our cause. The church is very neat and substantial, and there is room on the property for a manse, which it is hoped the congregation may be able to erect soon. Mr. McKibbin is their first pastor, and it is hoped his ministry may be greatly blessed.

Sir J. W. Dawson lectures on Friday evening in the David Morrice Hall on "Christian Missions in the East," under the auspices of the Students' Missionary Society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Dr. Reid has received from A Young Friend, \$2, equally to Home and Foreign Missions; A Friend, \$5, Pointe-aux-Trembles; E. H. G., Ottawa, \$10, Home Missions; A Friend of Missions, \$50, Home Missions, and \$50, Church and Manse Building Fund; Friend, \$2, Home Missions, \$1, Foreign Missions; W. R., \$8, Home Missions, \$8, Foreign Missions, and \$4, Widows' and Orphans' Fund; E. C., \$1, Jewish Missions; A Friend, Paisley, \$20, equally to Home and Foreign Missions, French Evangelization, Pointe-aux-Trembles and Jewish Missions.

Sabbath School Teachers

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Mar. 6 } **ABRAHAM OFFERING ISAAC.** { Gen. 22:
1887 } 1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering."—Gen. xxii. 8.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 12.—God sustained a direct and intimate relation with man in his state of innocence. He entered into covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement binding on those who are parties to it. God promised man an everlasting continuance of His favour on condition that man should yield a perfect obedience to the will of God. It was a willing obedience that was required, for no other could be perfect. The test of obedience was not to eat of

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was not the eating or not eating in itself that constituted the first transgression; it was the disobedience of God's direct command, and the violation of God's covenant. The test of man's obedience was not only prompted by the promise of life, but there was the deterring effect of the penalty that should follow disobedience; that penalty was death—physical, spiritual and eternal.

INTRODUCTORY.

Abraham had removed from the neighbourhood of Hebron and was sojourning in Southern Palestine, near Beer-sheba, the well of the oath, so named from the covenant entered into and ratified with Abimelech. It is computed that Isaac at this time was about twenty-five years of age. Josephus makes a statement to that effect.

I. Faith Tried.—The lesson opens with the statement that God did tempt Abraham. When the Authorized Version was made the word tempt had a wider significance than now attaches to it. It does not and cannot mean that God would tempt any one to do wrong. That is impossible. The Revised Version brings out the true meaning—God did prove Abraham. In the trial of Abraham God had a purpose. It was not merely to test the strength of faith and try the character of Abraham only for his own sake, but in his representative capacity as the Father of the Faithful. This was the supreme test of Abraham's whole life. To God's command Abraham makes a prompt response. As he had learned to trust God, so he is ready to obey Him implicitly. The command is, "Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and offer him for a burnt offering." This was God's command. Abraham could have no doubt about it. It was no mere imagination. Frequently God had spoken to him before, and he cannot suppose that he is mistaken now. To what a strain this puts his whole nature. The father's heart would bleed for his son, his only son, the son of his love, even Isaac, so long promised, through whom all the nations were to be blessed. He was to take his son of promise to a distant mountain which God would indicate. If the strain is marvellous, so is the obedience. There is no questioning of God's command. He who had interceded for the city of Sodom does not plead for escape from this terrible trial. The submissive self sacrifice of Abraham has no human parallel. In the morning all preparations were made, and father and son, with two attendants, set forth on their memorable journey. On the third day the place that God had designated was seen. It is generally believed that Mount Moriah, where the temple was afterward built, and near where the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God was offered, was the place where Abraham built his sacrificial altar.

II. Faith Triumphant.—When they neared the spot of the awful trial father and son went on alone, the attendants being left behind. Whether they had discoursed together while journeying thither the narrative is silent. Now, however, Isaac speaks wonderingly and inquiringly as to the sacrificial preparations. Behold the fire and wood; but where is the lamb for the burnt-offering? Abraham's faith does not fail at this supreme moment. He answers, no doubt, with intensity of feeling, "My son, God will provide Himself with a lamb for a burnt-offering. The destined place is reached, the altar is erected, the wood laid in order upon it. Isaac is bound as sacrificial victims were bound, and he was laid on the altar. Wonderful also is Isaac's submission. Neither murmur nor remonstrance is recorded. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. The trial of Abraham's faith and obedience is now complete. Having gone so far, he cannot falter now. God interposes. In that awful crisis, welcome beyond the power of expression would be the voice of God. Twice is Abraham's name called and his quick response is, "Here am I. Then comes the command, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad: . . . now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from Me."

III. The Substitutionary Sacrifice.—Abraham had proved that he was willing to give up what was dearer to him far than his own life. The most precious possession he had was freely and obediently laid on God's altar. In the case both of Abraham and Isaac the surrender is complete. Apart from the voluntary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus there is no more complete example of self-consecration to the will of God than that recorded in these verses. On looking round Abraham saw a ram caught in a thicket, that he takes and offers on the altar for a burnt-offering in the place of Isaac. With thankful heart he names the place, Jehovah-jireh, the Lord will provide. Often, in his previous life history, he had experienced the truth of this saying, but now he had seen its most impressive instance. When surrounded by difficulties and dangers, his descendants remembered the trial of Abraham's faith, and it is said Jehovah-jireh became with them a proverbial expression. It may be that Abraham did not understand God's purpose when he was called upon to make this the greatest sacrifice of his life, but there is nothing far-fetched in the idea that the sacrifice enabled him to see more clearly than ever the need of the one true sacrifice for sin. Jesus said, Abraham saw my day afar off, and was glad. In the offering of Isaac by Abraham we see the sacrifice of Christ typified. There was entire self-surrender in the case of both. Christ said, I delight to do Thy will. Abraham was prepared to give his son as a sacrifice, but God gave His only begotten Son, and for Him there was no substitute. He endured the cross.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Whatever is most valuable is subjected to the severest tests. So is it with faith and character.

We may often wonder at the nature of the trials to which we are subjected, but we may be sure that if they are submissively borne, they will be productive of blessing.

Faith and obedience always go together. The trial of faith should ever result in more complete consecration.

The Great Sacrifice has been offered and accepted. Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.

MARVELOUS CHANGES.

WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BR TO THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE.

Is this country unconsciously undergoing a wonderful change, is the change to take place before we are aware of the fact, and when it has taken place, will we wonder why we did not see it before it was too late?

Those that see the changes early avail themselves, early, and thereby receive benefit. The shrewd iron man sees the iron interest transferred from Pittsburg and Pennsylvania to Birmingham, Alabama, and in his far-sightedness sees the furnaces in Pennsylvania torn down, and deserted for this new and prolific field.

We have seen the grain-growing centres of this country shifted to the West. We have seen the pork-packing industry sit from Cincinnati to Chicago, and from thence to Kansas City and Omaha. Southern cotton mills undersell New England and American markets, and challenge the world.

We have seen and are seeing all this take place before our eyes, and know that other changes are taking place equally as prominent, and we wonder as we behold them. Ten years ago the insurance companies only required an analysis of the fluids when they were taking insurance for very large amounts.

To day no first-class company will insure any amount unless they have a rigid analysis of the fluids passed, and if any traces of certain disorders are apparent, the application is rejected. In their reports they show that the death of sixty of every 100 people in this country is due either directly or indirectly to such disorders. The Brompton Hospital for Consumptives, London, England, reports that sixty of every 100 victims of consumption also have serious disorders of the kidneys.

Among scientists for the treatment of this dread malady the question is being discussed: "Is not this disorder the real cause of consumption?"

Ten years ago the microscope was something seldom found in a physician's office; now every physician of standing has one, and seldom visits his patients without calling for a sample of fluids for examination.

Why is all this? Is it possible that we of the present generation are to die of diseases caused by kidney disorders? or shall we master the cause by Warner's safe cure, the only recognized specific, and thus remove the effects? It is established beyond a doubt that a very large percentage of deaths in this country are traceable to diseased kidneys. For years the proprietors of Warner's safe cure have been insisting that there is no sound health when the kidneys are diseased, and they enthusiastically press their specific for this terrible disorder upon public attention. We are continually hearing its praises sounded.

This means wonders! Cannot the proprietors of this great remedy, who have been warning us of the danger, tell us how to avoid a disease that at first is so unimportant, and is so fatal in its termination? Are we to hope against hope, and wait without our reward?

The most significant of all changes, however, that we of to-day can note is this radical change of view to which the public has been educated: It was formerly thought that the kidneys were of very small importance; to-day, we believe, it is generally admitted that there can be no such thing as sound health in any organ if they are in the least degree deranged.

BEFORE the wedding day she was dear and he was her treasure; but afterward, she became dearer and he treasurer.

A FAMILY FRIEND.—No family should be without Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain Killer. It can be given to the infant for the Colic, and to the adult for Rheumatism. There is scarcely a disease to which it may not be beneficially applied. It contains no deleterious drug, but may be used for the various ailments of mankind.

"WHEN is a man in his prime?" inquired somebody of Lord Palmerston. "At about seventy-nine; I am past my prime, for I am just eighty."

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES GIVE PROMPT AND EFFECTUAL relief in all Throat troubles. Mr. Amos P. Peachy, Hungerford, Berkshire, England, writes: "Change of climate (from South Africa) nearly cost me my life, as it produced the most violent prostration from Ulcerated Throat and Bronchial Inflammation. My friends were astonished at the remarkable change in my health from the time that I commenced using Brown's Bronchial Troches."

Sparkles.

FIRST CONNOISSEUR: There is a certain ingenuousness about the picture that I admire exceedingly. Second Connoisseur: It is certainly artless, if that's what you mean.

M. L. HOLBROOK has written a book on "How to Strengthen the Memory." He omits the most fashionable of strengtheners, that of tying a string about the forefinger.

"DONALD, man," said a Highlander to a friend, "is a bumble-bee a beast or a bird?" "Hoot, Sandy," was the reply, "don't disturb me wi' relegendous questions when I'm takin' a dram."

COVETOUSNESS IN DISGUISE.—The wonderful success of James Pyle's Pearlina has given rise to a flood of imitations with an "ine" to their names, evidently to have them sound like Pearlina. Many of these imitations are quite liable to be more selfish than beneficial.

BERTIE: Pa, who's that a picture of? Pa: Father Time with his scythe. Bertie: But, Pa, he's nearly bald. Pa: Yes; most old gentlemen are. Bertie: But, say, Pa, I thought Time had a forelock.

CONDUCTOR: Here, my good fellow! Don't you know that if you pull that strap in the middle you will ring both bells? Mike: Faith, an' Oi know that as well as yerself. But it is both ends of the car Oi want to stop.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLIC IN HORSES.—Contents of small bottle Pain Killer in quart bottle, add pint warm of water, sweeten with molasses, shake well, and all mixed, and drench well. Give about half at once, then balance in ten or fifteen minutes, if first dose is not sufficient. This will be found a never failing remedy.

GENTLEMAN: I am sorry, Uncle Rastus, that I can't do anything for you this morning, but charity, you know, begins at home. Uncle Rastus: All right, Mister Smil—all right, sah. I'll call round at yo' house 'bout seben dis ebenin', sah.

MR. C. F. KEARY, we are told, has written an essay for private circulation on the "Evolution of Money, and Heredity and Variation in the World's Coinage." If he wants a good Darwinian-sounding title for his book, he might surely call it "The Origin of Specie."

A CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.—Opium, morphine, chloral, tobacco and kindred habits. The medicine may be given in tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person taking it, if so desired. Send for stamps for book and testimonials from those who have been cured. Address M. V. Lubon, 47 Wellington Street East, Toronto, Ont.

DR. THOMPSON, of Oxford, was a very witty man. But in all of his witticisms there was a sharpness, a sting. Of one of the tutors he said: "All the time that Mr. — can spare from the adornment of his person, he devotes to the neglect of his duties."

"Oh, my friend, my beloved friend, whither do you think your footsteps are leading you?" exclaimed a pious person the other night on meeting a jolly fellow who was staggering all over the street. "Blest if I knowsh," was the reply; "wantsh go home; legs don't seem to see it."

QUICK RELIEF.—"One bottle of Haggard's Pectoral Balsam cured me of a sore throat and loss of voice. One trial relieved me when all other medicine failed." says Miss J. McLeod, Belfountain, Ont.

OIL BROKER (to former customer): How d'ye do, Mr. Lamb? I am glad to see you looking so well and prosperous. Mr. Lamb: Yes; I've been on the right side of the market now for some months. Oil Broker: What side have you been playing? Mr. Lamb: The outside.

WAITING for her to retract—"Orlando, I didn't see you with Miss Brown at the concert last night." "No, Percy. I'm not calling on her any more. I can't, until she retracts what she said the other week." "Ah—what did she say? Well, she said I needn't call any more."

AN OBSTINATE CASE.—"In the spring of '83 I was nearly dead, as everybody around my neighbourhood knows. My trouble was caused by obstinate constipation. One bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters cured me entirely." This statement is made by Walter Simson, of Gorrie, Ont.

"BEAUTIFUL sport—beautiful," said the drummer. "Sixty birds in two hours and only missed two shots." A quiet gentleman sitting in a corner of the hotel office, put down his paper, rushed across the room and grasped him warmly by the hand. "Allow me to congratulate you sir," he said, "I am a professional myself." "Professional sportsman?" "No; professional liar."

Miscellaneous.

ICED ORANGES.—Divide and ice them as you would cake, allowing them to become perfectly dry.

A FAIR PROPOSITION.—There could be no offer more fair than that of the proprietors of Haggard's Yellow Oil, who have long offered to refund every cent expended for that remedy if it fails to give satisfaction on fair trial for rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat and all painful complaints.

SOFT CUSTARD.—One quart milk, small cup sugar, boiling; add yolks of five eggs, salt, cook until it thickens, stirring constantly; when cold add teaspoonful of vanilla. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth, scald over sieve, drain, pile lightly on top, and, if desired, may be garnished with bits of jelly on the white.

THE Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. Co. has published a pronouncing Dictionary containing 320 pages, 32,000 words and 670 engravings. Teaches everybody how to pronounce correctly. Send sixteen cents in stamps to Paul Morton, G. P. and T. A., C. H. & O. R. R., Chicago, Ill., and get a copy of the Dictionary—the cheapest book issued.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE.—One pint cream, kept on the ice five or six hours, or till very cold; beat until stiff. Take a large teaspoonful of gelatine, dissolve over the fire in a little milk; when cold, mix with the cream; add one-half pound powdered sugar, two teaspoonfuls vanilla extract; put into molds lined with sponge cake. Set on the ice till perfectly cold.

MINNIE HARK Buys a Knabe Piano. Messrs. William Knabe & Co. are in receipt of the following substantial tribute to the merits of their instruments from the celebrated prima donna:

"New York, December 20, 1886.

"Messrs. Wm. Knabe & Co.,

"Gentlemen,—The grand piano you furnished me for my concert tour, just ended, has still further convinced me of the superiority of your pianos. They are, indeed, unequalled, and I have determined, therefore, to purchase the above 'Grand' for my London residence, and have directed my agent to make the necessary pecuniary arrangements with you. Please make shipment by early steamer to my address, London, England, care of Messrs. Metzler & Co., and believe me, your sincere friend, "MINNIE HARK."

OYSTER PATES.—Drain all the liquor from a quart of oysters, and put it over the fire to heat. Strain it through a cloth; when it boils put back on the range and add a heaping tablespoonful of butter rubbed in two great tablespoonfuls of flour; as the mixture thickens, pour in gradually a cupful of warm milk. When smooth, add the oysters, minced with a keen knife and a bit of soda not bigger than a pea; stir slowly and gently for five minutes after the boil begins, draw the saucepan to one side and leave in boiling water five minutes longer. Have ready some heated "shapes" of pastry, fill them with the oysters and serve.

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An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send you of charge to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French, English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noves, 150 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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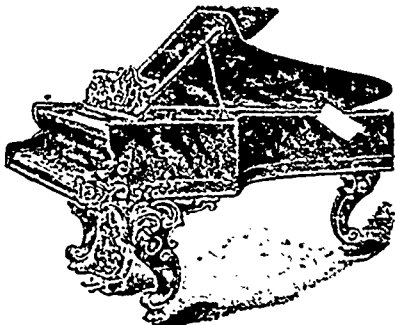
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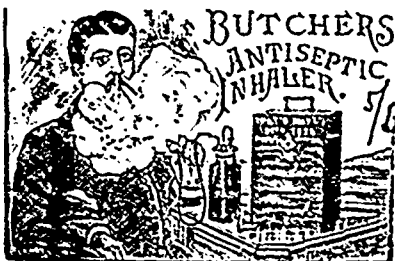
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MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY.

REGINA.—At Moosejaw, on the first Tuesday of March, 1887.
CHATHAM.—In the First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, on Tuesday, March 15, at ten a.m.
QUENBE.—In Morrin College, Quebec, on Tuesday, March 20, at ten a.m.
WINNIPEG.—In Knox Church, Winnipeg, on Tuesday, March 8, at half-past seven p.m.
BRUCE.—In Knox Church, Paisley, on Tuesday, March 8, at two p.m.
BRANDON.—In Portage la Prairie, on Tuesday, March 8.
SAUGEEN.—In Knox Church, Palmerston, on the 15th March, at ten a.m.
BROCKVILLE.—At Morrisburg, on March 1, at half-past one p.m. Special meeting at Cardinal, on January 17, at two p.m.
SARNIA.—In St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, on Tuesday, March 15, at one p.m.
LONDON.—In the First Presbyterian Church, London, on the second Tuesday of March, at half-past two p.m.
MAITLAND.—In Huron Church, Ripley, on March 15, at two o'clock p.m.
KINGSTON.—In St. Andrew's, Hall, Kingston, on Monday, March 21, at three p.m.
PARIS.—In Knox Church, Ingersoll, on Tuesday, March 8, at half-past one p.m.
WHITBY.—In the new church at Dunbarton, on Tuesday, April 10, at half-past ten a.m.
TOWNSHIP.—In the lecture room of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on Tuesday, March 1, at ten a.m. Commissioners to the General Assembly to be appointed at three p.m.
ORANGEVILLE.—In Orangeville, on Tuesday, 8th of March, at eleven a.m. Session Records to be produced for examination at this meeting.
GUELPH.—In Knox Church, Guelph, on the third Tuesday of March, at ten a.m.
STRATFORD.—In Knox Church, Stratford, on Tuesday, March 8, at half-past ten a.m.
MIRAMICHI.—In the hall of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, on Tuesday, March 15, at eleven a.m.
BARRE.—Adj. ned meeting at Barre, on Tuesday, March 1, at eleven a.m. Next ordinary meeting at Barre, on March 29, at eleven a.m.
HARVARD.—In Clinton, on the second Tuesday of March, at half-past ten a.m.
PETERBORO.—In St. Paul's Church, Peterboro', on the 22nd of March at ten a.m.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.
NOT EXCEEDING FOUR LINES, 25 CENTS.

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On the 14th February, at 70 St Albans Street, Toronto, the wife of Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, of twin daughters.
MARRIED.
At the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. M. D. M. Blakely, B.A., on Tuesday, the 15th inst., the Rev. D. H. Hodges of Oak Lake, Manitoba to Miss Jennie M. Arthur McLeese, second daughter of Mr. William McLeese, of Ross, Ont.
DIED.
At her late residence, Woodville, on the 15th of February, Christina Grant, wife of Mr. John Gunn, in the sixty-eighth year of her age.

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