

PAY UP.—Notwithstanding the fact that we have frequently asked our tardy subscribers to pay up, comparatively few have yet done so. This is unjust to us. We cannot afford to furnish paper, ink and labor for years for nothing. Come gentlemen, let the better dictates of your conscience prevail and remit by the next mail. Do not put it off until you forget again, or you are reminded of your duty by the bailiff.

## Agents for the Grey Review.

G. H. Middleton,  
A. G. Webster,  
C. G. McFayden,  
Daniel Keith,  
Alexander Taylor.



## THE REVIEW.

Durham, October 28, 1880.

The "organ question" of the Durham Presbyterian Church has at last received its quietus, at all events, so far as the Saugeen Presbytery is concerned. At a meeting of this court held at Mount Forest on Thursday last, it was resolved that the prayer of the petitioners be granted, that is, that those who have withdrawn from the existing congregation here, be organized into a separate charge. Both parties have thus an open opportunity of exemplifying to the world, their disinterested devotion to the cause which they profess to serve.

The state of discontent among the rural population of the South and West of Ireland is daily becoming more perilous for the peace of the country. Panel and his fellow demagogues seem to be determined to make themselves notorious, and from present appearances they will not have long to wait for the opportunity. The British Government have determined to prosecute the more prominent of the disturbers of the peace, in which list are included ten M.P.s and the leaders of the Land League Association. It is also said officially announced that unless the ordinary police force proves sufficient to protect life and property, troops will be employed for that purpose. There can be no question as to how this matter will end, but unfortunately the people themselves will be the chief sufferers.

## THE NORTH-WEST LANDS.

In the course of the discussions on the building of the Pacific Railway and the policy of the Dominion Government in regard to that work, the fertile belt has been referred to as of comparatively unlimited extent. Its area has been reckoned by the hundreds of millions, and the trodden down populations of the Old World have been told that here they might find peace and plenty. Recently, however, attention has been more closely directed to this matter, and as with the mirth that begins the weary traveller, there is too good reason for concluding that the hundreds of millions will be narrowed down to tens, and that if the really good and arable land will accommodate 1,500,000 persons, or at the most 2,000,000 persons, all will be accomplished that can be reasonably expected. An observant traveller writes of the land of the Saskatchewan, as being bounded on the north by a huge forest, on the west by a large mountain, on the south by an immense desert, and on the east by an immense marsh. The huge forest is the Great Sub-Arctic forest which extends for some hundreds of miles to the north, the gigantic pines of the south gradually diminishing in size, and finally giving place to the white spruce, in which the growth of centuries scarcely brings the circumference of thirty inches. From this forest to the American desert which stretches far towards the Saskatchewan, there lies a tract of land varying in width from 40 to 150 miles, and from the Red River marsh on the east, to the Rocky Mountains on the west, it extends for eight hundred miles, as we are told, in every varying phase of undulating fertility. This is the Fertile Belt, the home of future millions, the El Dorado of Conservative politicians. That the soil is of passing fertility throughout a large district is beyond question; but the fertile area is of a limited extent, it is traversed by large rivers, and dotted over by many lakes and lakelets, so that, if in terms of the Railways policy of Sir John Macdonald, 25 millions of these fertile acres are given away to a railway company, as much more sold to settlers and speculators, half as much reserved for the claims of the Hudson Bay, schools, roads, and the Indian tribes, it will at once be apparent how visionary are the Colonization schemes of Sir John and his colleagues.

Sir Richard Cartwright addressing his constituents the other day at Goderich referred to the real extent of our wheat-growing land in the North-West, and said that he doubted whether after deducting the appropriation to the Pacific Railway and other claims, there would be left any arable land at all between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. The Hon. gentleman went on to say "that even if we do possess a belt from the western boundary of Manitoba to the longitude of Fort Edmonton, averaging from 120 to 150 miles in width, perhaps 700 miles in length, most of which is fertile land, you will observe that this land all told is barely from 90,000 to 100,000 square miles—a very valuable and extensive tract no doubt, but one which gives us but little room to keep any land for other public purposes if you assign 25,000 to the Pacific Railway, and 10,000,000 for Hudson Bay, schools, roads, and Indian reserves. One hundred thousand square miles after all, are hardly more than 60,000,000 acres, and even if we suppose, what we know very well is not the case, that all this land is perfectly fertile, we

would not, as you see, have reserved a single acre to ourselves till after you pass Fort Edmonton, on the edge of the Rocky Mountain range." Of course if the gentlemen of the Syndicate, whoever they may be, are willing to accept all or part of their allotment in the Peace River district, my objection *pro tanto* is answered; but if they should decline so to do, and should insist on getting good land between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains, I very strongly suspect that they will make a perfectly clear sweep of everything between the two points I have named—of everything, that is, which is likely to be of any practical value in this generation at least, and of every bit of land which could be utilized for the construction of those colonization railroads which are very nearly as important to the effectual settlement of the country at an early date as even the Pacific Railroad itself. Briefly I would say that this is a case for great caution in disposing as yet of any great mass of public lands on the assumption that we possess such inexhaustible quantities that we can afford to give away twenty or thirty millions of acres and never miss them, and I would further add that where as if am mistaken no possible mischief can accrue from little over-caution, on the other hand it is only too obvious that a very serious injury may be sustained if I should prove to be correct, and if the whole available public domain should be indiscriminately given away under a false apprehension of the real facts of the case."

If these things are so, and there is no reason to believe that there is no exaggeration in the statement of these facts, it is certainly with no ordinary anxiety that Canadians can contemplate the locking up of all the valuable lands of the North-West in the hands of railway men and land jobbers. Ontario has already suffered from this policy, but the injury she has sustained is as nothing compared with the evils which will result in it from the North-West."

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

This Church has of late made great progress in numbers and influence. Hitherto it has consisted of what was known as the Western Convention in Ontario, and the Eastern in Quebec. But, animated by the spirit of union which is steadily gaining strength among all religious denominations, these have recently formed an alliance, and now constitute the Baptist Church of Canada. By the last Church census, the new body contains three hundred and thirty-one churches and 12,700 members. Last year the Literary Institute was transferred from Woodstock to Toronto, and by the liberality of one of its most distinguished members, the Hon. Mr. McMaster, a Theological Hall was added. By these arrangements its students, which already number 20 in the Literary and nine in the Theological department, will have the opportunity of acquiring that higher educational training so necessary, in our day, to the successful work of the ministry. 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