

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

THE universities of Austria, like those of Germany, have now the largest attendance in their history, namely, a total of 13,000. Vienna has 5,007, Graub has 1,215, Innsbruck has 863; the German University of Prague has 1,496, the Czech University of Prague has 2,035, Kraukau has 1,138, Lemberg has 1,101, Czernowitz has 240.

LAST week the following gentlemen were elected members of Queen's University Council: Rev. J. Cumberland, M.A., Stella; Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., Toronto; R. W. Shannon, M.A., Kingston; J. S. Muckleston, B.A., Kingston; Dr. Herald, M.A., Kingston; Dr. Anglin, Kingston; and J. J. Bell, M.A., Brockville.

ONE of the causes of the French Malagasy War was the refusal of the Queen of Madagascar to wink at the foreign slave trade. That trade has now been re-opened between the west coast of the island and the French colony of Réunion. Many thousands of the poor natives of Madagascar were carried off to Réunion, and not one has ever been known to return. The slaves cost the French pirates—they are nothing less—about \$25 each, and they are sold for six or seven times as much. The French flag might well blush at its dishonour.

THE New York *Sun* states with a degree of boldness that seems reckless if there can possibly be a doubt in the case, that \$50,000 was raised in New York and Brooklyn from liquor dealers for the purchase of votes in Albany for defeating the High License Bill, and that the money was kept by the lobby agents of the liquor men instead of being paid out for votes. The *Sun* says that six Republican members, enough to defeat the bill, had agreed to take \$3,000, but the lobby men wanted them cheaper, and so kept all the fund. But the *Sun* isn't a Republican journal.

PROFESSOR DE MORGAN, the famous English mathematician, was not suspected during his life of having any religious faith, and his sharp irony was directed against the Churches. But his will began with a solemn committal of his soul to Jesus Christ, "of whom I believe in my heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and whom I have not confessed with my mouth in the sense ordinarily attached to these words, because in my time such confession has been the only way up in the world." Strange that a heart belief like that expressed led to no open confession. Belief in Christ implies and requires obedience to His will.

THE *Quebec Gazette* contains the following: Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, at its present session, for an act to incorporate the Society of Jesus. This, it is surmised, is a step preliminary to claiming the estates held by the order before its suppression. Jesuits, like all other exiles, have never been refused asylum where British freedom prevails, but that is no reason why special privileges denied them in most Catholic countries should be conferred upon them in Canada, more especially as they systematically seek the suppression of free institutions wherever they secure foothold.

THE Supreme Court of Georgia has decided, in a case involving the right of compensation to the owners of a brewery for damages to property resulting from prohibition, that the State is not liable. Part of the decision is as follows: The Local Option legislation of this State being constitutional, as a valid exercise of the police power, it follows that the incidental effect, upon the value of property, such as a brewery and its fixtures, resulting from the inability of the owners to adjust their old business to the new law, is *damnum absque injuria*. The law does not take or

damage their property for the use of the public, but it only prevents them from taking or damaging the public for their use. The matter is yet to be submitted to the United States Supreme Court.

THE St. Louis *Evangelist* makes a suggestion worthy of consideration this side of the boundary lines at the present time. The notices for the stated meetings of Presbyteries suggest that it may not be amiss to remind Church Sessions of the importance of full and accurate reports as required in order to make returns to the General Assembly. The blanks should be procured in time to make a careful statement for each session, and incorporate the same in the minutes of Session. It would be a good plan to have the report read to the congregation in order to give the information it contains, and thus increase the interest of the people in the work of the Church. Ignorance of what has been done, and of what is needed, is the opiate that lulls Christian life into a stupor, indifference and worldliness.

IN the presentation made by the Grand Jury at the Simcoe Assizes the following paragraph occurs: We would regard it inconsistent with duty not to intimate that we believe the Canada Temperance Act has largely contributed to the high moral status alluded to by your lordship, and as shown in the small number of violators of the law now in our gaol—only five—and while regretting the laxity of its recent enforcement, we are in full and hearty accord with the spirit of its provisions, believing it has resulted in much good to the county so far, and that much of its supposed failure has been the result of the doubtful if not wrangling conflict between the Local and Dominion Governments as to which has the jurisdiction over its enforcement, and now that a decision has been reached upon that point we fully believe that with a reasonable effort upon the part of our Government to enforce the Act, we can readily reap the larger benefits which we believe are obtainable under the Act. And we therefore recommend that this Act or one not less restrictive in its provisions be continued in force.

THE right to inflict the death penalty for murder has not yet ceased to be a practical question. Switzerland abolished capital punishment, and has recently re-enacted it. The State of Michigan substituted a long term of imprisonment for hanging, and a week ago the subject again came up for consideration in the State Legislature. It was shown that, with one exception, there were more murders committed in Michigan than in any other State. In most cases where convictions have been obtained, and the criminals sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, the pardoning power was exercised, permitting the convicted murderer to escape with a nominal punishment. The motion for the restoration of the death penalty did not pass, but there was a unanimous determination that the sentence imposed should be carried out. Maine has just decided to abolish the death penalty for murder in the first degree, and substitute solitary imprisonment for life, with no pardoning power in the Governor and Council, unless the convict is afterward proved to be innocent. This, though a severe penalty, is not an improvement upon capital punishment in murder cases.

OCCASIONAL hints of the awful depravity said to exist in lumbering camps have found their way into newspaper columns. It may be that these accounts are greatly exaggerated. Still startling statements have been made, and they are of such a nature that they ought either to be proved or disproved. A British Columbia journal states that girls are purchased from their parents in China. What lies may be told by the *comprador* who obtains them goodness only knows, but his explanations are probably as truthful as the advertisements that catch the Canadian girls whose lives are sacrificed in the Michigan woods. Having been purchased, they are shipped to

British Columbia, and there the Government steps in and demands its share. We believe the department considers that \$50 for each girl is about the square thing, and, having received this, allows the trade with the masters of the Chinese brothels to go on. The girls are handed over to their purchasers, and enter on their life in Canada. A certain number, we understand, are shipped into the interior, and of their lives there probably the story of the Michigan girls may be *pari passu* a faithful account. We have already called attention to this matter, and the organs are silent upon it. But we do not believe that the Canadian people desire to become partners in a slave trade of any kind, and, least of all, such a slave trade as this.

A PARAGRAPH which appeared in the Dundas *Banner* will be of interest to many of our readers. It relates to one who will long be remembered: Mr. Robert Williamson, who has a fine farm in Beverly, near Galt, is a brother-in-law of Hugh Miller, the celebrated geologist, and has an interesting memento of him in a well-worn stonecutter's mallet, once his property, and first made use of by him in hewing an ornamental dialstone for his uncle, and the dial stands in the garden where it was first erected. Some years after the death of Hugh Miller, the Duke of Argyll and the Marquis of Lorne, the late Governor-General of Canada, were visiting Cromarty, and went to see the dialstone. This little mallet referred to has, in the hands of Hugh Miller, left some first-class work in the old chapel of St. Regulus, in the burying ground of Kirkmichael, in the churchyard of Nigg, and in the parish burying ground of Cromarty. If the mallet could speak, it would tell volumes regarding its original owner. It was with mallet in hand that Hugh Miller first met Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Professor Pillans and a host of the most noted men of his day. In "Schools and Schoolmasters," at page 475, mention is made of the little mallet. Mr. Williamson says: The fact is, that the greatest powers and best traits of Hugh Miller's character were to be seen and felt when he had the mallet in hand, and for that reason it is the best relic of this great man.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Montreal *Witness* speaks out very plainly on a subject which ought to receive more consideration than it commonly does. The prevalent sin of lying is too much overlooked. He says: There are men, high in Church and State, actually useful, self-denying and honest in many things, who, upon certain subjects, and in certain spheres, are not at all to be depended upon for veracity. Indeed there are multitudes of men who have their notions of truthfulness so thoroughly perverted that they do not know when they are lying. With many it is a cultivated sin; with some it appears to be a natural infirmity. I have known people who seem to have been born liars; the falsehoods of their lives extended from cradle to grave. Prevarication, misrepresentation and dishonesty of speech appeared in their first utterances, and was as natural to them as any of their infantile diseases, and was a sort of moral croup or spiritual scarlatina. But many have been placed in circumstances where this tendency has, hour by hour and day by day, been called to larger development. They have gone from attainment to attainment, and from class to class, until they have become regularly graduated liars. The air of the city is filled with falsehoods. They hang from the chandeliers of our finest residences; they crowd the shelves of some of our merchant princes; they fill the curb-stone from sidewalk to stone-facing. They cluster around the mechanic's hammer, and blossom from the end of the merchant's yard-stick, and sit in the doors of churches. Some call them "fiction," "fabrication," "subterfuge," "disguise," "delusion," "romance," "evasion," "pretence," "fable," "deception," or "misrepresentation," but, as I am ignorant of anything to be gained by hiding such an outrage under a lexicographer's blanket, I will chiefly call them what my father taught me to call them—lies.