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JUST OUT: The "Presbyterian Year Book,"

EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON.

This valuable ANNUAL for 1881 is unusually full of excellent and suggestive reading. The paper, by the Editor, on the proceedings of the Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia, occupying forty pages, is worth the price of the book; while the general articles are exceedingly complete and interesting.

The N. Y. "Independent," in noticing the volume for 1879, says: "It is one of the best ecclesiastical Annuals published in THE WORLD."

The present issue is better than any previous one; and every office-bearer, at least, should have a copy.

Mailed free on receipt of twenty-five cents.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
PUBLISHER,

5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE last annual statistics shew that Germany paid for intoxicating drinks 650 million dollars, France 580 millions, Great Britain 750 millions, which, added to the 720 millions of the United States, makes a grand total of \$2,700,000,000.

IN introducing the bill rendering primary instruction compulsory and non-religious before the French Chambers, M. Paul Bert said that, notwithstanding the progress made of late years, one-seventh of the children of France receive no kind of education.

A PROTESTANT defensive union has been formed in Jersey with the object of counteracting the influence of the Jesuits recently established in the island, who are said to be diligently propagating their views by domiciliary visitation and the establishment of schools.

THE "Scotch Sermons" have received a curious welcome from the infidel paper of Boston, thus: "One thing is noteworthy. You don't find these Scotch Presbyterians, when they leave the house of Egyptian bondage, and turn their faces to the promised land of absolute free thought, stopping in their travels, even for a night, at the rickety, old, half-way house of entertainment called 'Unitarianism,' with its leaky roof and broken windows, its rotten and sinking floors, and its rooms cold and cheerless as death, and haunted by the small spirits of dissimulation and Miss Nancyism."

IT would be of little use for a weekly newspaper to chronicle minutely the thick coming incidents of the struggle in Ireland, or to speculate on the issue, for long before its words can be in print, succeeding occurrences may make what is now new and startling, old and stale. The violence of the Home Rulers has apparently given the victory to Gladstone. If so, that statesman has now the opportunity of crowning a noble career by the mightiest of all his achievements—viz., by giving justice and peace to Ireland. Perhaps he may be unsuccessful, but if so, we know of no living man who need make the attempt.

THE French Protestant deputation in behalf of the Basutos were very kindly received by the English Colonial Secretary, Lord Kimberley. The deputation represented that the Basutos accepted the British government, understanding that they would retain their arms, and under a distinct pledge that they should be separately governed. They are now fighting to keep their arms, and to avoid the wholesale confiscation of their lands, with which, the missionaries say, the Colonial Secretary has threatened them; but if their grievances were redressed and an amnesty granted they would yield. Lord Kimberley said he was desirous of peace in South Africa; but there had been so much excitement that a reasonable policy was made most difficult.

THERE is much to be learned from the following paragraph, which we quote from the New York "Evangelist": "I have a friend in the ministry who is always labouring for a revival. On one occasion he found a field of which he complained that he could not do anything in it. There was an Old-school Presbyterian church there of several hundred members that overshadowed everything, and they had never had a revival, and the people did not know anything about one, and he could not get up any interest. I was interested at once in that church, and I have always thought I should like to be its pastor—a church that never had a revival, and manifestly did not need one, that without this had so leavened and pervaded the community that there was nothing for the revivalist to do. And a look at the last annual report shews that this good old church is still holding on its way and increasing in numbers and strength."

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON SMITH'S lectures on "The Elements of Biblical Criticism" are well attended in Glasgow. There are to be twelve in the series, and they are to be heard also in Edinburgh. In his first lecture in Glasgow he said to his hearers that he had undertaken to deliver a course of lectures to them not with any polemical purpose, but in answer to a request for information. He was not there to defend his private opinion upon any disputed question, but to expound, as well as he could, the elements of a well-established department of historical study. Biblical criticism was a branch of historical science, and he hoped to convince them that it was legitimate and necessary. The first business of the Protestant theologian was not to crystalize truths into doctrines, but to follow the manifold inner history which the Bible unfolded, until he realized its meaning. In the Bible, God and man met together and held such converse as was the abiding pattern and rule of all religious experience. In that simple fact lay the key to all the puzzles about the divine and human sides of the Bible, about which so many were exercised. Now, we heard people speak of the human side as if it were something dangerous, that ought to be kept out of sight; but that was un-Protestant and un-Evangelical, and a revival of the mediæval exegesis. The first condition of a sound understanding of Scripture was to give full recognition to the human side; and, indeed, the whole business of scholarly exegesis lay with that side, as all earthly study and research could do for the reader of Scripture was to put him in the position of the man to whose heart God first spoke.

THE Aberdeen Free Presbytery, with which Professor Robertson Smith is connected, has voted by a majority of one to send an overture to the General Assembly censuring the Commission for suspending Prof. Smith. This is the only Presbytery, so far, which has carried such a motion. The overture in question is to the following effect: "Whereas, by the laws and constitution of the Free Church, every office-bearer who is accused of propagating unsound doctrine has a right to be tried by the authorized standards of the Church, before the ordinary courts, and according to the form of process; whereas the Commission of the Assembly of 1880, at an *in hunc effectum* meeting, held in Edinburgh on the 27th of October, instructed Prof. W. R. Smith to abstain from teaching his class for the current session, without trying his opinions by the 'Confession of Faith,' without reference to the Presbytery of which he is a member, and without reference to the form of process; whereas the effect of this action by the Commission is to supersede the ordinary Presbyterian government of the Church by kirk-sessions, Presbyteries, provincial Synods, and General Assemblies, which all office-bearers of the Church are bound to maintain, support, and defend to the utmost of their power; and whereas such course of procedure is further fitted to introduce confusion into the Church and to make the settlement of grave doctrinal questions exceedingly difficult, it is hereby humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Aberdeen to the venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to take the premises into consid-

eration, and to take such steps as in the circumstances are needful." It was carried by the following vote: thirteen ministers and seventeen elders were in its favour; and eighteen ministers and eleven elders against its transmission.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba College was lately held in Knox Church, Winnipeg. About fifty students were present in their caps and gowns. From the report read it appears that there are fifty-four students at present in attendance, and that of these eight are studying theology. After the different prizes had been distributed, the following motions were severally put to the meeting and carried unanimously: Hon. J. W. Taylor moved, seconded by Rev. Prof. Hart, "That the solution of what has been a great educational difficulty in other lands, viz., the multiplicity of degree-conferring bodies, has been happily obtained for this Province by the establishment in its early history of a University to which all chartered colleges are or may be affiliated; that the harmony and good feeling that have characterized the proceedings of the University Council in the laying down of a curriculum and conducting examinations for the past three years, have been surprisingly noticeable; and that the hearty and loyal manner in which all the existing colleges have attached themselves to the University is full of hope for the future of sound learning and the preservation of a high standard in the distribution of academic distinctions in the North-West." Rev. Dr. Black moved, and Hon. C. P. Brown seconded, "That the existence and continued progress of Manitoba College and its sister colleges have conferred a great benefit on the Province by obviating the necessity to a considerable extent of those desiring a higher education having to go abroad to obtain it; that the community owe a debt of gratitude to the several colleges of the Province for the unwearied efforts of their instructors in inculcating sound views in general knowledge, as well as in the duties of public and private life; that it is for the best interests of the country that as many young men as possible should avail themselves of the facilities so liberally offered; and that the increase in University and theological students in Manitoba College this year, as well as the fact that a continually increasing number is coming from different parts of the Province, are features calling for special remark." After these resolutions had been put and carried, the third resolution was moved by Mr. W. F. Luxton, seconded by Mr. Stewart Mulvey, as follows: "That this meeting trusts that the efforts of the College Board of Management to find a suitable site in as convenient a situation as possible will be forwarded by the liberality of landowners in this city, that a site may be chosen where the convenience of as many as possible will be served, and that a building worthy of the institution and an ornament to the city may be erected at an early date." After the resolution had been carried, Rev. Mr. Robertson moved the following resolution, seconded by Mr. D. Macarthur, "That on account of the public benefits accruing from the existence of this the only College within the city, as well as that neither by the Provincial or City Governments are the citizens called upon to contribute in any way for the support of higher education, a fair obligation rests on our citizens to assist by subscription to the 'Site and Building Fund' of the College, and to give their hearty support in the onerous undertaking of the Board in their efforts to provide this, another of the elements of progress of our rising city." The college property at Point Douglas has been advantageously disposed of, and the college building to be erected during the coming summer for immediate use is to cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This is only part of the design, which, when completed, will cost \$50,000. A site of five or six acres beyond the city limits has been offered as a gift, but one more central is thought preferable. We are sorry that our space will not allow us to give the speeches in full. They were all excellent and breathed an admirable spirit. We have no doubt the enterprise will be crowned with complete success.