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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.

ON the 8th of February there were connected with the Presbyterian Church in the Territory of Utah forty-four commissioned missionaries. Eleven of these are ministers and thirty-three are teachers. Of the teachers thirty-one are ladies.

RECENTLY a whole family, consisting of nine persons, were baptized in the Free Church, Calcutta. The head of the family was brought to Christ through the influence of his wife, and she received her instruction through the zenana missionary.

"THE spirit of missions," wrote Livingstone, six months before his death, "is the Spirit of our Master, the very genius of His religion. A diffusive philanthropy is Christianity itself. It requires perpetual propagation to attest its genuineness."

JUST before David Livingstone went to Africa, he and his aged father talked over the prospects of Christian missions. They agreed that the time would come when rich men and great men would think it an honour to support whole stations of missionaries, instead of spending their money on hounds and horses.

CONSUL GARDNER, of Chafoo, China, in a survey of twenty years just past, is struck by the vast strides which Christianity has lately made, and compares the condition of China to that of the later Roman empire, when faith in the older religions had almost entirely died out. "The spread of Christianity is inevitable."

THE receipts for the Sustentation Fund of the Free Church of Scotland, for eight months, were £105,007—an increase of £4,508 over the same period last year. The income, from all sources, of the United Presbyterian Foreign Mission Fund in Scotland during the past year was £37,665, as against £34,530 in the previous year.

THE Irish Presbyterian Church issues three monthly publications, and they say: "If our people are to contribute to missions, they must be informed as to the spiritual darkness which exists, and the efforts which are being made to bring both the Jews and Gentiles to Christ. If the splendid openings for the truth which now exist at home and abroad were better known, more would be done to feed the hungry with the bread of life."

THE discussion over Dr. Crosby's late manifesto on total abstinence, still goes on among our neighbours, with apparently ever growing bitterness. The Dr. explained his great plan for the cure of drunkenness, to a very small and very unsympathetic Toronto audience, a year or two ago. The address was certainly delivered in very trying circumstances, in which even a much greater man than the Dr. could

scarcely have been expected to do either himself or his subject justice. Whether or not it was a fair specimen of the learned Chancellor's efforts, we are not in a position to say. It called forth at any rate, no criticism, either hostile or laudatory, and those who listened to it were not surprised at the silence.

CANON FARRAR has been at it in the Abbey. In the most glowing and eloquent terms he recently glorified the most pronounced Erastianism. Not merely did he advocate State aid and defend the Establishment principle, but he boldly avowed his thorough preference for the supremacy of the State in things sacred, and closed his vigorous discourse by entreating his hearers not to seek to exchange something infinitely better than King Log for something infinitely worse than King Stork, and to substitute thousands of petty and degrading tyrannies for one loving, impartial, and sacred supremacy. Canon Farrar evidently forgot, when he was speaking thus, that under this sacred and loving supremacy of the State, Messrs. Dale and Enraght were, for their Ritualistic vagaries, spending their days and nights in prison.

A CORRESPONDENT of one of our exchanges gives the following:—"Many years ago I heard a discourse delivered by a somewhat noted revivalist, which was so full of anecdotes that a German professor who was present inquired of the preacher, after service, if the sermon to which he had just listened was a fair specimen of his preaching. The minister replied that it was; at the same time requesting the reason of his asking this question. 'Why,' said the German, 'I do not call that preaching at all. Story-telling is not preaching. Your discourse was little more than an hour in length; and in that time, by actual count, you told twenty-seven anecdotes.' Being a witness of this scene, while of course I could not approve of the blunt method adopted by the professor in administering reproof, the maxim itself, 'Story-telling is not preaching,' made an indelible impression on my mind, which was not without its influence on my own pulpit habits."

"NO one thing in Canada has done more to hold back the proper development of the people than the prevalence of the drinking habit. It is pleasant therefore, to note the fact that the good and illustrious example of Mrs. Hayes is beginning to be followed at Ottawa, by the wives of leading members of the Cabinet Ministry dispensing with wines at their grand receptions. Perceiving how harmful, how disastrous the habit of indulgence in intoxicating drinks has become, the unwillingness of these officials and their wives to appear to encourage the popular habit is vastly to their credit." So says an exchange. We are glad to hear that such is the fact, and surely it deserves to get a much wider amount of publicity than it has hitherto received, if a tithe of the stories about the "jolly" proceedings among our legislators in Ottawa, has any foundation whatever. What need those two or three hundred gentlemen who are certified by some of themselves, as being about the "soberest" in the Dominion, have of two "bars" in the parliamentary buildings, it might puzzle a conjuror to make out. Is it that medicine may be at hand in case of sickness?

A LETTER from a Protestant in Belgium states that the slumbering war between Liberals and Catholics will soon break out afresh. Two questions are before the Belgian Chamber: "The reduction of the bishops' salaries and the inspection of convents, which the Liberal majority appeared determined to vote, as soon as the Government shall take the initiative by bringing forward the two bills. While awaiting this battle, the Liberals have occupied their leisure with the school question, as under the consideration of the Parliamentary Commission. The constitution of that Commission is not satisfactory, nor its proceedings free from partiality or suspicion. It has, nevertheless, served to make known some curious details of the action of the clergy and their friends in favour of what they

style "instruction according to God." Some of the facts disclosed are hardly credible concerning the pressure and intimidation brought to bear upon 'the liberty of fathers of families,' with a view to emptying the lay schools. The priests pursue their efforts to the bed of death. Take, for example, the case of one poor man, who in the very agonies of dissolution was urged to promise, before witnesses, to withdraw his children from the communal school, on pain of being refused absolution."

FROM tables prepared recently by the "Journal of Applied Science" it is learned that the annual consumption of beer in Europe amounts to the enormous aggregate of 2,716,500,000 gallons. Of this enormous quantity Great Britain consumes 1,050,000,000 gallons, and Germany 900,000,000, figures which will materially change the opinion so generally held that Germany is the greatest beer-drinking nation on the globe. In this connection the following table is of interest:

	Quantity brewed, gallons.	Number of breweries.	Consumed per head, gallons.
Great Britain.....	1,050,000,000	26,214	82
Germany.....	900,000,000	23,940	22
Austria.....	270,000,000	2,448	7½
Belgium.....	180,000,000	2,500	33
France.....	150,000,000	3,100	4¾
Russia.....	50,000,000	460	¾
Holland.....	33,000,000	560	9
Denmark.....	30,000,000	240	12
Sweden.....	20,000,000	5
Switzerland.....	17,000,000	400	6
Norway.....	16,500,000	8

A contemporary argues that "it is a statistical fact, worthy of careful consideration, that in those countries where brewed liquors are extensively used as a beverage, there is a very limited indulgence in strong alcoholic drinks, and cases of intoxication or of excessive indulgence are rare," and this contemporary is probably labouring under a very erroneous impression, for the statistics just given prove the contrary. Probably nowhere is intoxication more prevalent than in "merry England," nay, throughout Great Britain, and right here is where the greatest quantity of malt liquors is consumed. Malt and alcoholic stimulants are so related that the appetite for the first named class of beverages creates a demand for the other.

ONE of the stations of the London Missionary Society's (Tanganyika Mission) is at Mtowa, in Uguha, on the western shore of the Lake. Mr. Hutley, in the February number of "The Chronicle" of the Society, gives a very interesting sketch of the country and its people. The part of Uguha in which the station is situated is north of the Lukuga, and contains 15,000 or 20,000 people. The Waguha are peaceable and industrious generally, and indulge in drink chiefly after harvest; but liquor does not make them "at all quarrelsome"—quite the reverse. They have numerous slaves who, with their wives, assist them in their gardens or catch fish for them in the lake. The people give great attention to the dressing of their hair, the women are profusely tattooed, and the men have their front teeth chipped. Their clothing is somewhat scanty. The freemen live in one part of a village and the slaves in another. The chiefs have very many wives, sometimes several hundred; the freemen usually two or three. The houses, which resemble a beehive outside, are built of wattle and mud plaster. The young people, and sometimes the women, dance, but Mr. Hutley never saw the men dancing. One of the singular customs is that each household has two sets of kitchen utensils—one for the males and the other for the females. The sets are always kept separate; and, more than that, if the fire in one kitchen goes out, it must be lighted from another fire of the same kind, otherwise it is not *mbara*. When a native was invited to eat with Mr. Hutley's servants, he first asked them where they got the fire to cook with; and, on learning, he refused to touch the food, saying it was not *mbara*. All wear charms, for protection from evil spirits. Their idea of Heaven is that it is a place where the good are gathered, and whence the bad are shut out.