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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

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## Notes of the Week.

AT a meeting of the Scottish Presbyterian Union Association, recently held in Edinburgh, the report of the committee of twenty-one seven of each of the leading Churches of Scotland—was submitted. In view, it stated, of the attitude of the several Churches in relation to Disestablishment and Disendowment, there did not appear to the committee to be sufficient ground in the meantime to proceed further with their meetings, there being no reasonable probability as yet apparent of effecting a union between the Churches in the present state of ecclesiastical relations in Scotland. A resolution was adopted receiving the report, and, with the intention of meeting again in the beginning of winter, the hope was expressed that the object which the association has in view may speedily be accomplished.

AFTER much uncertainty and not a little negotiation with their political opponents the British Conservative leaders have formed a Cabinet. They enter on office under unfavourable auspices. It does not appear that political opinion in Great Britain is gravitating towards Conservatism. In any case a general appeal to the country will soon take place, but meanwhile serious complications are sure to emerge. The dispute with Russia has not yet reached a settlement. Indications are not wanting that there may be a re-opening of the quarrel. If such should be the case, there is no saying how it might end. However pacific in disposition the principal members of the new Cabinet may incline to be, the Jingo forces would seize their opportunity and bring pressure to bear that would be difficult to resist. Should there be no disquietude in foreign affairs, there are domestic questions certain to arise to test the wisdom, strength and stability of the Salisbury-Churchill administration.

AN elective judiciary is not specially fitted to inspire a belief in its inflexible dispensation of justice. Where a manifest failure occurs, it does not necessarily follow that the judge is corrupt; the jury-box is, no doubt, more amenable to sinister influences than the bench. The Star-Route cases and the more recent escape of Short would-be assassin make painfully evident this inglorious uncertainty of the law's application in such a city as New York it is reassuring to see that Buddensick, who tried to build tenement houses that would not hold together, has been sentenced to imprisonment for ten years, and condemned to pay a fine of \$65,000. Should it be thought such a punishment is too severe, it has to be remembered that his offence was very serious, and that his criminal recklessness resulted only in the loss of one life is owing to no effort of his. Besides, it is not absolutely certain that he will languish in prison till 1895 or pay his fine at the rate of one hundred cents on the dollar.

THE closing exercises of the school year at Morvyn House, Jarvis Street, Toronto, took place last week, and consisted of the essays, selections of vocal and instrumental music, and recitations usual on such occasions. The annual report was read by Rev. John Burton, of the Northern Congregational Church, from

which it appeared that the senior studies during the year consisted of Grecian history, English literature (including a careful analysis of the play of Macbeth), the English, French, and Latin languages, elocution, mathematics, and a course of lectures on mineralogy and geology. Mr. Burton presented the prizes for scholarship in the various departments, for deportment, and for Biblical study. In a few remarks at the close he commended the patriotism and breadth of the essays, the simplicity which characterized the moral atmosphere of the institution, and the attention given to Biblical study. Professor McLaren, of Knox College, spoke approvingly of the evening exercises, and alluded to the good name the institution had had under its former management, and still maintained under that of Miss L. I. Haight, its present principal.

IN the report of the Committee on Colonial Missions of the Irish Presbyterian Church, the following paragraph occurs: The Church in Canada recognizes a serious and increasing responsibility in this matter. Its Home Missions stretch across the continent from Newfoundland to New Westminster—a wide field for present labour, and supplying room enough as a home for future millions, whose welfare for time and eternity will in some measure be influenced by the Church's diligence and action. We note with peculiar pleasure the increasing interest of the Canadian Church and people in this mission. Its Home Mission Fund proper obtained larger contributions this year than ever before. Considering the business depression that existed, this is convincing testimony that Christian people are realizing more fully their duty as workers together with God in building up Zion. Each Presbytery in this Church has its own mission field, and is responsible for its cultivation. In each the work has been carried on as in former years; and in several new ground has been entered on. Rapidity of growth and development are more apparent in the new provinces.

THE Instrumental Music Question continues to agitate the Irish Presbyterian Church. This is the sixteenth year in succession in which the subject has given rise to prolonged and animated debates. The excitement was greater than anything ever witnessed in the Assembly before, and culminated in the anti-instrumental party, led by Dr. Petticrew, Dr. Corke, and Mr. Archibald Robinson, withdrawing from the Assembly. Altogether eighty-two memorials had been received; ten against enforcing prohibition were signed by 6,472, while forty-eight for enforcing prohibition were signed by over 18,000. Dr. Petticrew in a long speech moved the rescinding of the resolutions passed in 1883 and 1884 granting liberty and urged the enforcement of the prohibitory law passed in 1882. Dr. Wilson, of Cookstown, moved an amendment giving liberty. The calls for a division when Dr. Petticrew rose a second time to address the house on the amendment led to a scene of the most extraordinary excitement and confusion, one anti-instrumentalist in the gallery unfurling a flag with an inscription, and eventually the anti-instrumentalists withdrew, one of them declaring that "They would not submit to tyranny." The same evening a deputation from the Assembly waited on those who had withdrawn, who were holding a meeting across the street. The only terms on which they would come back were that both motion and amendment should be withdrawn, and Dr. Petticrew's notice of motion allowed to remain on the books for discussion next year. This was eventually accepted by the Assembly, and the seceders returned and tabled a protest against the unconstitutional conduct of the Assembly in raising clamour and stifling debate. It was stated by one of themselves that the protestors numbered 200. They held a subsequent meeting and resolved to continue a vigorous agitation against the use of instrumental music in public worship.

THE Rev. Alexander McGillivray, of Williamstown, Glengarry, who is at present representing the French Canadian Evangelization Board in Great Britain, addressed the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church at its recent meeting in Belfast. The

*Belfast Witness* reports that the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Limerick, moved the following: The Assembly cordially welcomes the Rev. Alexander McGillivray as deputy from the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Having listened with much interest to the statement made by him relative to the great and growing mission work carried on throughout the Dominion in the Western district, in Manitoba and the North-West, and by the French Evangelization Committee, and rejoicing in the prosperity already attained, this Assembly tenders through him to the Church in Canada its cordial greetings and sympathy, and prays that yet greater success and richer blessings may attend the efforts being made for the establishment and extension of Christ's kingdom in all parts of the Dominion. The Assembly requests the Moderator to convey the thanks of the House to Mr. McGillivray for his presence and interesting address this evening. The motion was passed by acclamation. The Moderator, in conveying the vote, said he thanked Mr. McGillivray for the information he had given. The Canadian Church had a great claim upon them because they were a mission Church, and a missionary Church most earnestly devoted to the cause of the kingdom of Christ. It was somewhat interesting for them to hear that they were extending their missions at the rate of forty a year—just as the white man pushed his way out into the wilds of the West, their missions were keeping pace with him. He thought they had a special claim upon them because that amongst them were friends and brethren of their Irish families, who had gone out to the Far West and settled there. He supposed there was scarcely a single family in all Ulster who had not some branch of it in the Dominion.

IN connection with the closing exercises of the Ladies' College, Ottawa, the Rev. W. T. Herridge, B.D., in the course of a sermon addressed to the students said: If you wish to succeed you must have a lofty ideal before you, to the attainment of which you must address yourselves with all the energies of your nature. To you who are content to be measured merely by your companions, you may feel at times a kind of exultation in the consciousness—whether well founded or otherwise—of your own superiority. But if you look forward into the great future, if you contemplate the goal of human effort, if you reflect how little you know compared with what you do not know, how unworthy you are compared with what you ought to be; if, in short, you come to a right understanding of the nature of life, you will be in no danger of falling into that fatal self-complacency which is the effectual barrier to all further progress, but will rather be visited from time to time by a merciful unrest and discontentment which alike in knowledge and in faith will make you leave the things which are behind and reach forth unto those things which are before. All of you sooner or later will go forth into the wider school of life where mistake meets with graver punishment, and wise industry with more glorious reward. . . . The true goal of education is the perfecting of your nature in Him. You have not yet reached the Divine standard, but every day you may be moving nearer it. Even now it stands before you, like a bright star, your unerring guide, your constant inspiration. In its presence let all other sights grow dim. At the music of the voice from heaven, let all other harmonies be silent. By the grace of God, you may move forward as destined citizens of the New Jerusalem whose length and breadth and height are equal. Your lives, fragmentary and imperfect as they now seem to be, may yet attain a glorious symmetry. For it is yours to toil and strive not only for the present but the future; not only for the things which are seen and temporal, but for the things which are unseen and eternal. The culture of your being does not end in time. The arena of earth is too small for the display of God-like powers and faculties.

All that is beautiful shall live,  
All that is base shall die.

Your best possession is integrity of soul; your richest hope the promise of life eternal; your deepest, purest love, the love of Jesus Christ your Lord and Saviour.