

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ROMAN Catholic papers announce the appointment of a new Papal Alegate as successor to the late Bishop Conroy, and state that he will arrive in Canada at an early date.

WE beg to direct attention to the advertisement of the "Farmer's Advocate," published at London, Ont., by Mr. Wm. Wald. It is an excellent publication, and well deserves its widely extended circulation.

A TEA meeting in connection with the Lesheville congregation will be held in the new church there on Tuesday evening, 28th inst. Several popular speakers will address the meeting. It would be well if a number of Presbyterians from the city could make it convenient to be present.

A SUBSCRIBER at Ailsa Craig, who remitted us \$2.00 a few days ago forgot to give us his name. When he does so, due credit will be given. Mrs. Thos. Grange asks us to discontinue THE PRESBYTERIAN to her address without giving her P. O. We can not comply with her request until she furnishes us with this piece of information.

THE Rev. Mr. Torrance of Guelph, Ont., wishes it published that he mailed on the 11th January to every Presbytery Clerk two copies of the blank schedules for Presbyterial Returns of Statistics. He has endeavored to inform himself of changes made of Presbytery Clerks since the publication of the minutes of last General Assembly, but he is not certain that he has learned them all. If any Clerk has not received the copies intended for him he should correspond with Mr. Torrance.

THE Pope has sent to the bishops of the Catholic Church a very important encyclical letter, in which he speaks at length of the condition of the Church, the Holy See and society, and explains what he has already done and what remains to be done. The Pope's letter calls upon the bishops to combat Socialism, Communism and Internationalism by preaching the principles of the Church. Is it not an exceedingly strange thing that these evils are to be removed by the preaching of the very principles which brought about that state of society to which they owe their origin?

THE annual meeting of the congregation of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Montreal, was held in the hall adjoining, on Wednesday evening, the Rev.

J. Nichols in the chair. The Secretary's report showed the total revenue for the year 1878 to be considerably over \$2,000, which, considering the present state of trade, must be looked upon as very gratifying indeed. Under its present pastor, this congregation has increased greatly both in numbers and influence during the past two years, and the Board of Management are to be congratulated that its revenue reached such a creditable figure. A report of the Young People's Association of this church was read by the Secretary, and a report of the Treasurer of the Sunday-school showed a slight falling off in the number of scholars, caused by a large number of families removing from the district. New managers and trustees were elected in room of those retiring, and the meeting closed with the benediction.

THE London "Missionary Chronicle" gives the following account of the manner in which Rainilaiarivony, the Prime Minister of Madagascar, who is an earnest Christian, presided at a meeting held for the purpose of setting apart native evangelists for missionary work: "He began by reading passages of Scripture in slow meditative fashion, as though he loved the words that he was reading, and interspersed quiet remarks of his own, in a genial and fatherly manner, right through the reading. When he laid down the book he spoke quietly, deliberately and distinctly. By-and-by he warmed, and became somewhat confidential in his manner of address. Sometimes he fired, and then the sterling honesty of the speaker rung out at his lips and kindled in his eyes. He told us for an hour or more of the life, desire and purpose of the queen and of himself to spread the gospel and kingdom of Jesus Christ throughout the land. He told us in that vast assemblage of his desire that religion should be free, and his unmoved and unchangeable intent that there should be no state fetters on Christ's Church in Madagascar. He warned the evangelists against trusting in an arm of flesh; told them to trust in the living God and in the power of God's Word, if they wanted to do their work. He gave us some reminiscences of the persecution in the dark time when Christ's servants had suffered on that very spot."

PLYMOUTHISM now and again unexpectedly crops up in very remote places. Dr. Jessup, the veteran missionary to Syria, thus describes what its emissaries have been doing in that country: "The mission has also continued to be tried by the fanatical propagandism of the 'Plymouth Brethren,' a sect which may be regarded as the enemy of all order, edification, unity, and spiritual growth in the Christian Church. With the most specious and oily tongued professions of piety, brotherly love, and zeal for purity, it soon reveals a spirit the most intolerant, self-seeking, exclusive, and denunciatory. The five men who followed the Plymouth apostle in Beirut, will now neither commune with him nor with one another. The 'Brethren' break the Sabbath openly, going to the market and doing worldly business, as they are 'not bound by the law.' Teaching that in regeneration the 'old Adam' remains unchanged, they disavow all responsibility for their evil deeds. One of them, a young man in Hums, robbed the shop of a brother 'Plymouthite.' The rest called him to account. He replied that he had enough to do in looking after his new nature, and had no time to manage his 'old Adam,' for whose deeds he denied all responsibility. The Plymouth virus is about exhausted in Syria now, but it has left its brand of

spiritual indifference and disorganization on all who have fallen under its influence."

FROM a statement recently published by Mr. Millard, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it appears that up to within the last two years the Russian Empire has not been in possession of the entire Bible in the language of the people. "Up to 1876 they had indeed the New Testament, the Psalms also, but not the entire Bible. Previous to that time they had the Old Testament only in the ancient Slavonic language, as it is still being used in public worship, to a great extent quite unintelligibly to the people, and frequently not understood even by the priest." For some years previous to that period the British and Foreign Bible Society had the Russ translation of the entire Bible ready for the press, but the Russian Government would not allow it to be printed in the country, neither would they permit copies to be introduced if printed abroad. "But curiously enough," says Mr. Millard, "it was so ordered that if our Bibles could not go to the Russians, the Russians were to come and fetch them. In the year 1876 the first complete Russ Bible left the press; nobody thought yet of the Russ-Turco war. But when in the beginning of 1877, the Russians first crossed the Pruth, in order to march through Roumania into Bulgaria, the military—officers and common men—finding the Bible on their way, the Bible all ready in their own mother tongue, never yet seen in their own country, and now presented to them beautifully printed and bound at a marvellously low price, they eagerly seized upon it as a treasure. The demand is still so strong that every nerve has to be strained to keep up adequate supplies."

THE annual meeting of the congregation of St. James Square Presbyterian Church was held in the commodious school room on the evening of Wednesday the 15th. Refreshments provided by a committee of ladies were served from half past six to eight o'clock and a pleasant opportunity was afforded for conversation among the members of the congregation present. At eight o'clock, after devotional exercises by the pastor, the Rev. J. M. King, Mr. John S. Ewart was called to the chair. A printed copy of the report of the managers and of the treasurer's statement was put into the hands of the members present. These statements were of an encouraging kind. From the treasurer's statement it appears that the expenditure for ordinary purposes had been \$4,055 and the income \$4,009; making the balance in the treasurer's hand at the end of the year \$547. The financial statement of the building committee was also submitted in printed form, from which it appears that the cost of the new church and adjoining club rooms including \$10,000 paid for the site, had been over \$55,000, on which, including \$10,000 derived from the site of the former church, \$19,710 had been paid. This sum includes \$6,919 paid on a subscription list which up to date embraces \$20,388, and \$1,010 raised by the ladies towards the furnishing fund. Considerable additions are expected to be made to this list, and the congregation hope to realize something in the neighborhood of \$2,000 from the property in Sherbourne street after paying the mortgage upon it. The report was regarded as encouraging, and very cordially adopted. It was agreed by a unanimous vote that the church should be named the St. James Square Presbyterian Church. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Douglas the leader of the choir and to the members of the choir closed a very pleasant and largely attended meeting.