

# The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 20.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 21, 1895

\$1.50 per Annum

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

The highest churchmen we have says, *North and West* are in Colorado. They held their last Synod at Leadville, above the clouds. Two miles above the level of the sea! It is thought that no Synod ever met so near heaven before.

Arab papers announce that at a little town of Urfah, north of Aleppo, the ruins of an old temple have been discovered, which, it is believed, existed in the time of the Chaldeans. Urfah, which the Romans called Castellum Ur, is the "Ur of the Chaldees" of the Bible, the birthplace of Abraham, and a house declared to be that of the patriarch is still shown there.

"What we are really looking for," said a frank member of a supply committee the other day, "is a \$4,000 man who is now receiving about \$2,500 and who will be content to come to us at a salary of \$1,500." Now all of our pastorless churches are quite as outspoken in the expression of their desires, but we presume a similar condition of affairs prevails quite widely.

A record of the proceedings at the memorial service in connection with the funeral of the late Sultan of Johore has just been issued from the Singapore Press. The service was held in the Dewan, near the Istana, at Johore, by the Rev. G. M. Reith, M.A., Presbyterian minister of Singapore, addresses being delivered by the Rev. J. A. B. Cook, missionary to the English Presbyterian Church to the Chinese of Singapore and Johore, and by Dato James Meldrum, of Johore. Mr. Reith's prayer is printed *verbatim*, as well as the addresses. Fervent supplications were offered for His Highness Ibrahim, the new Sultan of Johore, a young man of twenty-two.

At the Norwich Church Congress a paper was read by Mr. F. C. Burkitt on the Syriac Gospels discovered in the Convent on Sinai by the learned Cambridge sisters, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson. Mr. Burkitt maintained that the discovery is of prime importance as a help to the determination of the original text of the Gospels, inasmuch as a careful examination of the peculiarities of the manuscript has led Syriac scholars to believe that it faithfully represents the earliest Syriac translation of the Gospels. If this conclusion abides the test of discussion, the Lewis manuscript becomes an authority in New Testament textual criticism of the highest antiquity and worth.

The Presbytery of London (England) North met in Park Church, Highbury, on Oct 31st, for the purpose of inducting the following a missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of England to China—viz., the Rev. Campbell N. Moody, M A, ordained minister, appointed to Formosa; the Rev Andrew Bonar Nielson, ordained minister, appointed to Formosa; Dr. David Landsborough, ordained elder, appointed to Formosa; Dr. Peter Anderson ordained elder, returning after furlough to

Formosa. These missionaries, accompanied by the Rev. Henry Thompson, who is returning after furlough to Amoy, sailed from London for China on Friday morning. The induction and farewell service was held on Thursday evening. The Rev. Peter Carmichael, B.D., Moderator of the Presbytery, presided, and addressed the missionaries. Short addresses were given by Mr. Hugh M. Matheson, convener of the Synod's Committee on Foreign Mission, and others.

Prof. Dorner of Berlin, said: "The Presbyterian Church is the muscular system of Christianity. Wherever the call is to dare and do for the truth, this church is in the van." Professor Lindsay, at the recent Assembly of the Free Church in Scotland, said: "More than a fourth part of all the missionary labor and danger of the Protestant Church of God falls to the lot of the Presbyterian Church."

South Carolina occupies the unique position among the States of the Union of being the only one which has not and never has had a divorce law. The constitutional convention has after a hard fight, by a vote of eighty six to forty-nine, adopted a section of the Constitution forbidding the granting of divorces for any cause whatever and not allowing recognition of divorces granted in other States.

Dr Lunn and the Grindelwald Conference recently replied to the Pope's *Epistola ad Anglos*, and Dr. Lunn, as Grindelwalder-in-chief, wished to have an interview with Leo XIII., and went to Rome for that purpose. The Pope, however, declined to grant the interview to Dr. Lunn in his capacity as President of the Conference because the reply which it had sent contained doctrines which the Pope held to be erroneous. But he expressed his willingness to receive Dr. Lunn as a private individual. As this was unacceptable to the President, the audience was declined. Seeing that it could have done no good, it was the best thing that could happen in the circumstances.

Some have maintained that the Bible history of primitive man has been derived from the Chaldean accounts of creation and the deluge. But Sir J. Willian Dawson says with justice that the Chaldean myths are related to the Bible in the same manner in which an historical novel is related to sober history. Any one considering the accounts of these legends given by Maspero and others, must see that whatever their original basis they have been amplified in a wildly imaginative manner which renders quite impossible the construction from them of the sober, prosaic narrative of Genesis. They deserve study because they show that the early Chaldeans had access to some of the sources of information possessed by the author of Genesis, and because they illustrate the remarkable difference between popular legends or poetical myths on the one hand and inspired history on the other. In any other point of view they are absolutely worthless.