

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 20.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 1891.

No. 49.

IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to request demands for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath schools, as well as preparing the returns asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 10 cents each. Address—

PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. (Ltd.)
5 JORIAN ST., TORONTO.

Notes of the Week.

ONE of the penalties of distinction, remarks the *New York Independent*, is to be made the mark of a madman's pistol. Such was the misfortune of Dr. John Hall last Sunday morning as he came out of his Church. But, more fortunate than President Garfield, he was not hit by any one of the three bullets fired at him by a crazy German. It was a wonderful escape, for the man was but a few feet away, and Dr. Hall is not a small mark. With thousands of his friends we are grateful for his escape.

CANON SCOTT ROBERTSON calculates the total contributions in the United Kingdom to missions during 1890 to have been \$6,507,895, of which he credits the Church of England societies, \$3,500,000. His apportionment is: Church of England societies, \$2,776,690; joint societies of Churchmen and Nonconformists, \$1,075,700; English and Welsh Nonconformist societies, \$1,658,015; Scottish and Irish Presbyterian societies, \$950,590; and Roman Catholic societies, \$46,900. The total is \$1,365 less than in 1889.

IN Spain, the agitation for rest on the Lord's Day is being championed by those high in authority. Minister President Canovas del Castillo has introduced a law into the Cortes to the effect that no person under sixteen be allowed to do any work on Sunday, that in all State, provincial and municipal establishments Sunday rest is obligatory, that labour on Sunday is allowed only in cases where it is absolutely necessary, in which cases special permission must be secured; and that in all cases employers must grant their employes sufficient time to perform their religious duties.

ONE of the most remarkable examples of religious zeal witnessed in modern times is the departure for India of Mr. Munro, late Chief Commissioner of the London Police, as a missionary. Mr. Munro is a man of substance, and enjoys a pension from the Indian Government. His entrance on the mission field is therefore an act of the purest piety and unselfishness. He goes out as the agent of no society, and the advocate of no particular creed. He is what may be called a Bible-Evangelical Christian and he will preach to the natives the great elementary truths of Christianity. He commences his work with one great advantage. He knows Hindustani and will be able to speak at once to the natives of Bengal in their own tongue.

THAT New York Presbyterians, says the *New York Independent*, should be advanced in their views on revision of the Confession is no wonder, but that the Chicago Presbyterians should completely outdo them in this matter was not to be expected from the vicinity of McCormick Seminary. Two of the most influential members of the General Assembly's Committee on Revision belong to that Presbytery, President Roberts and Dr. Herrick Johnson; and notwithstanding their support of the revision report the Presbytery, after three days' session, defeated revision by an overwhelming majority and declared that it believed that the effort should cease and that a new creed thoroughly Scriptural and evangelical in its character should be put in its place.

ADVICES from China report the advance of a large rebel force from the Province of Manchuria toward Peking. On reaching the city of Takau, a station of the Roman Catholic mission, there was a most atrocious massacre in which not only foreign missionaries, including the nuns, were tortured and killed but the native Christians were put to death with fiendish cruelty. The Government immedi-

ately sent a force of four thousand men but they were defeated by the advancing rebels. Additional forces have been sent from Tientsin, but there is fear lest, if these forces do not overcome the rebels, the whole country around will rise in opposition to the Government. The missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Tsunhua, which is directly on the route of the rebels, have been notified that they cannot be protected and have withdrawn with all their effects. Other missionary stations to the east and west are in danger. There is great excitement among the foreigners resident along the coast, and they demand that if the Chinese Government does not succeed in putting down this rebellion and enforcing order, the foreign governments shall step in and act with the greatest promptitude and decision.

AT a meeting of Greenock U. P. Presbytery the members were for half-an-hour absorbed with a motion by ex-Provost Wilson as to the appointment of a layman as Moderator of Presbytery. Mr. Wilson moved. That in the opinion of this Presbytery elders as well as ministers are eligible to be appointed Moderators of Presbytery, there being no express law of the Church to the contrary. The Moderator, on being appealed to, ruled that it was not a competent motion, as it dealt with the constitution of Presbyterianism, and the proper way to deal with that was by overture to the Synod. The Clerk said for 150 years it had been the rule of the Church, with a single exception, and that a remarkable case in itself which was altogether exceptional, and which therefore proved the rule, that ministers had invariably acted as Moderators of Presbytery. He held that they had no right to change that custom and law without consulting the Synod, as they would be placing themselves in an exceptional position amongst the Presbyterian Churches of the world and the Presbytery would not be faithful to its unity with other Presbyteries and with the Synod. On a show of hands the ruling of the Moderator was sustained by eighteen to two. Mr. Wilson gave notice that at next meeting he would move an overture.

THE Rev. A. Ben-Oliel, Presbyterian missionary in Jerusalem, has published an account of the "Persecution of the Presbyterian Mission in Jerusalem" by the previously established London (Episcopal) Jews' Society. Mr. Ben-Oliel went out to the Holy City to preach to the large numbers of the Spanish Jews in their own language. These are the oldest Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem, the most learned and religious, the most accessible to the Gospel. No missionary in Jerusalem is conversant either with their dialect, or is able to converse in Hebrew with the rabbis, now so numerous. His mission therefore seems to be not only useful but necessary. He wrote to Dr. Popham Blyth, the Bishop of Jerusalem, a kindly and respectful letter, pointing out that there would be no friction but only harmonious Christian work. The bishop replied that "whilst isolated evangelical agencies may do good to individuals (and that is a high aim) I think that of all peoples to whom the Gospel is preached the Jews require the system, organization and creeds of the Church with its divinely ordered ministry." This correspondence has been only the beginning of a constant succession of attacks on the Presbyterian mission in Jerusalem by the representatives of the older and richer mission. Mr. Ben-Oliel shows in his pamphlet that he is quite able to defend himself. The work is deserving of the cordial support of all evangelical Christians.

THE *Christian Leader* says. To speak of men vegetating like oysters is open to two criticisms. It blurs the distinction between molluscs and plants, and is therefore physiologically wrong, it confounds things that differ in one simile, and is therefore a rhetorical flaw. Much may be said for it, notwithstanding; for in a world where zoophytes have an existence the borderland between herb and animal is not so clear as it might be thought. It is sometimes credited to animals that they have powers of locomotion which plants have not, but it is doubtful whether, after the spat stage, an oyster has much power of self-movement, if any. It is fixed and simply feeds and fattens on what may flow to its

open shell, growing after its kind till the dredge drags it up and demits it to human gullets. It has these vegetable qualities, then. It has no locomotion, it neither moves its shell nor leaves it, and it grows by opening its mouth and seeing what the waves will send it. It fits the type of those sluggish souls who settle under a gospel that drops fatness, and never bestir themselves beyond opening their mouths, shutting their eyes and taking what Providence sends them. They neither move themselves nor others, nor are they moved, inert and inactive, they sit under a "blessed ministry," till death, the dredger, comes and they fall into the jaws of the devourer. They are a confusion of molluscs and religious qualities—they are only "Oyster Saints."

MESSRS. MOODY AND SANKEY lately attended a meeting of Christian workers in Carubber's Close Mission Hall, Edinburgh. The meeting comprised representatives from every evangelical Church. Professor Simpson presided, and Rev. Mr. M'Murtrie explained the circumstances in which they met. Mr. Moody said that three years ago he had made up his mind to go to India and had written to that effect to the people there. He had not been able to keep his promise and that had led to great disappointment. Ever since that time he had been planning to go there. He had everything arranged to go to India for a year when the call from Scotland came. What he ought to do he did not know till, only a few days before that meeting, his path was made clear by his physician telling him it would be dangerous for him to go to India in consequence of the effects left by a sunstroke he had received during the American War. He was anxious to be at the exhibition in Chicago in 1893; but in the meantime he would fulfil the many promises he made to visit various places in Scotland. He could only be one year in the country; and he would like to conduct five day missions in the smaller towns and then come to Glasgow and Edinburgh. Mr. Moody's statement was received with much satisfaction, and Bathgate was suggested as a suitable place where to begin. Mr. Sankey was also most cordially welcomed. The meeting then resolved itself into the noon prayer meeting in which Mr. Moody and Mr. Sankey took part.

A MEETING of the Executive Commission of the Eastern Section of the Presbyterian Alliance was held recently in Edinburgh and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. Blaikie. A minute was read, which had been adopted at the Foreign Mission Committee, in reference to the recent attacks on missionaries in China, and which recommended that a "united representation, on behalf of all our Presbyterian and Reformed Churches having mission agencies in that country, be made to Her Majesty's Government in reference to these Chinese outrages, and that the Convener and the Secretary be a sub-committee to arrange for the same." The Section very warmly approved of the resolutions, adopted them as their own, and instructed the General Secretary to send a copy of them to the Foreign Mission Boards of each of the Churches represented in the Alliance. In the absence of Dr. Lang the General Secretary reported from the Continental Committee that he had lately conferred with the Lausanne and Geneva Spanish Societies and found these very desirous of having some closer connection than exists at present established between the different Spanish Evangelical Societies, that he had attended the recent meetings of the Reformierte Bund at Barmen and of the Swiss Evangelical Union at Olten, and that both unions expressed their desire to become connected with the Alliance as associated societies whose delegates would have seats in the Alliance without votes, that he had also visited Warsaw, and found that the very difficult circumstances of the Reformed Churches in Russian Poland called on us to abound in prayer on their behalf, while in Moravia and in Bohemia he had found the Churches, notwithstanding many difficulties, persevering in their evangelistic labours. It was reported that the Hungarian Reformed Church would hold the tenth Decennial Meeting of its General Conventus in Buda-Pest on December 4, when the General Secretary was instructed to attend that meeting and to represent the Alliance on the occasion.