

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XII.—No. 23.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 12, 1895

\$1.50 per Annum

OVER LAND AND SEA.

Russian scientific men have ascertained that out of 597 trees struck by lightning in the forests near Moscow, 302 were white poplar. They advise farmers to plant poplars as natural lightning conductors.

A princess, a countess, a duchess and the daughter of a reigning prince were among the four thousand thieves, professional and unprofessional, arrested in Paris during the first six months of this year.

These are trying times for churches, and in such times churches ought to stand nobly by their pastors. Churches that treat their pastors badly will pay dearly for it. The Lord will not prosper a congregation that makes a record of ill-treatment to His prophets.

The Danish people, realizing the terrible effects of the drink habit, have petitioned the Government in large numbers for the introduction of scientific temperance instruction in the schools of that country, and the Government has given favorable answer to their petition.

Fifteen French priests have recently left the Church of Rome. The Bishop of La Rochelle is much concerned because one of his own priests, Frederic Bonhomme, had the audacity to preach from his own pulpit on this subject, "Why I leave, and why you ought to leave the Church of Rome."

The various General Assemblies of Australia and Tasmania have federated their courts into one. It has the expenditure of all moneys for Foreign Missions, and is securing a uniform system of theological training, with the same standard of qualification for the ministry. The doctrinal basis is the Bible, the Confession of Faith, as a subordinate standard, with a declaratory statement similar to one that was in use by the Victorian Presbyterians. Australasia is a little ahead of us in federation.

Arrangements for the International Conference of the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Glasgow next summer are being rapidly pushed forward. The council was formed in 1874, since when five Conferences have been held—in Edinburgh, Philadelphia, Belfast, London and Toronto. At next year's gathering, which will open on June 17th, probably in the St. Andrew's Halls, representatives will be present from Canada, the United States, India, Australia and the Continent, all bodies holding to the Presbyterian form of Church Government being represented in proportion to their numbers.

"I have just heard," writes a correspondent, "a rather good story of Chinese readiness in the matter of pecuniary compensation for outrage. A mandarin was the bearer of a cheque for £6,000 to a British officer, the sum demanded by our rightly offended Government. He expressed himself in but indifferent English, the sum

and substance of which, however, was as follows: 'Here is the money, six thousand pounds. We have taken it from the funds which your good ladies in England subscribed for the sufferers from the Yangste inundations.'"

The *Christian Leader*, Glasgow, says, "During the year 1894, in Scotland, no fewer than 155,000 persons were charged with some sort of crime or offence. This would mean that one person out of every twenty-six of the population passes into the hands of the police in a year. For instance, in Aberdeenshire, the police cite or arrest one person out of every 96 individuals; while in the county of Selkirk, it is one in 24. If, on the other hand, we take the case of towns, we find that in Edinburgh one in 24, and in Glasgow one in every 12 of the inhabitants comes within the action of the police."

The beautiful gambling casino at Monte Carlo is responsible for about fifteen suicides every month. The other day the Countess Jomdes and her sixteen year old daughter were found dead in their hotel in Monte Carlo. They had taken poison. On investigation it was found they had, in their week's stay, lost \$60,000 at the tables and become practically penniless. It is a satisfaction to know that this gambling hell is not so well patronized as it was some years ago, the receipts to the Casino company showing a diminution last year of \$600,000. The charter of the company does not expire till 1913.

The value of the American Bible Society's work is illustrated by the following extract from the *Catholic News of Trinidad*:

"That most pernicious of all pernicious sects—the Protestant Bible Society—is again at its murderous work. Its false prophets are galvanized into temporary activity, and this time it is the 'benighted' Catholics of Spanish America who are to have the peace of their homes invaded and the sanctity of their religion vilified by psalm-singing swaddlers, gospel tramps and ignorant hirelings, who are about as competent to explain the Word of God as a Hottentot is to lecture on bimetallicism.

"Those paid emissaries of a Society that gather into its coffers the savings of dyspeptic old maids, these self-constituted apostles, laymen clothed in clerical garb, carry on an infamous traffic in a Bible which they cannot understand, and yet profess to explain to the addle-pated dupes who are weak enough to listen to them.

"All honor then to the Catholics of South America who have expelled the evangelical carpet-baggers. The priests and people of Spanish America will not remain passive while the slimy serpent of Heresy endeavors to imprint its poisonous fangs in the souls of their little ones. If the Venezuelans are ignorant of anything, it is of the use of tar and feathers, a judicious application of which would be sufficient to keep the brawling ranters of the Bible Society at a safe distance from their shores,"