

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The Rev. Andrew Murray, who returned last month to Cape Colony, has addressed a letter to his English friends in which he acknowledges the warm welcome he received in that country. One of Mr. Murray's brothers, who labours at Worcester, England, is far from well, while another brother, Mr. Charles Murray, whose church at Graaff-Reinet is one of the most beautiful structures in South Africa, has also been suffering from severe illness.

An American syndicate shows its appreciation of the money value of religion in a striking way. It has been laying out a new town, and it offers a site and money to any church which will start work there "A town without a church," says the president of the syndicate, "is no good. The difference between the price of lots in Zululand and the United States is just Christianity." That president's motives may be mixed, but he has struck on the true philosophy of modern civilization.

The amazingly rapid improvement in the building and armament of war-ships in England is most strikingly illustrated in the statement of the *New York World's* correspondent: "Eleven years ago the best fleet of England assembled in this same harbor of Portsmouth. Thirteen war vessels were then gathered there of the best type extant at that time. Either the *Majestic* or the *Magnificent* of the present channel fleet could send the whole thirteen to the bottom before any one of them could reach her. Of the thirteen only three are now in commission, and are practically superannuated. The others have been sold as marine rubbish."

Oanon Scott Robertson's twenty-fourth annual summary of the sums contributed by all sections of Christians in the British Isles in support of foreign missionary work shows that, for the financial year 1894, the total voluntarily contributed was £1,375,571. Only in one year (1891) has this total been exceeded. The channels of contribution selected by the British supporters of Christian missionary enterprise in 1894 were as follows.—Church of England Societies, £572,712, Joint Societies of Churchmen and Nonconformists, £211,486, Nonconformist Societies in England and Wales, £379,550, Scotch and Irish Presbyterian Societies, £195,941; Roman Catholic Societies, £15,879; Total voluntarily contributed for 1894, £1,375,571.

Iceland is an interesting country in itself, and it is made all the more so because of our having in the west so large a contingent from it as settlers. It has 72,000 inhabitants of the Lutheran faith. The Bible is diligently read, and although the children do not receive education in schools, but from parents and ministers, every Icelander can read and write. A recent traveller says that the Icelanders have a better average culture than any European people. There are 297 churches, of which 12 are of stone, 246 of wood, and 29 of turf. In the inside they are extremely plain, with bare walls. Only 51 churches possess a harmonium. Even the cathedral of Reikiavik has no organ, but only a large harmonium. Church services are well attended, and the position of the clergy is one of high respect.

The following speaks for itself and is just what we would expect from one who has so many ties on both sides of the Atlantic. At a recent meeting of London, England Presbytery, North, Dr. Gibson moved a resolution expressing "horror and a sense of shame" at the recent threatened war between Britain and the United States of America, and strongly urging the formation of a permanent Court of Arbitration for the settlement of all disputes between the two countries, thus giving practical effect to a principle which had already been approved of by both nations. The motion was seconded by the Rev. Principal Dykes in a singularly able and eloquent speech, and was unanimously and cordially agreed to.

Besides being as we believe scriptural in all its main features, the system of Presbyterian polity in church government commends itself so to common sense by its happy practical working as to secure for it in this respect many incidental tributes and confirmations. The Baptists, as is well known, are congregational or independent in their church government, but in order to obtain what apparently is not secured under that system, but which Presbyterianism at once gives, the Baptists in New York are preparing to organize a permanent council to consist of the pastor and one layman from each church in a certain district, whose duty it shall be to advise the churches, settle pastors and bind the brethren together. Why not adopt at once the Presbyterian system? Extreme independency, it is felt, involves weakness, but in mutual co-operation and concerted effort there is strength.

A step has been taken by the Educational Department Committee of the Central Y.M.C.A., of this city, which we are glad to see and which must commend itself to all Canadians. It consists in giving free a series of Canadian talks upon Canadian subjects. As arranged so far, they are as follows: "Canadian Heroism;" "Canadian Literature;" "The Young Canadian in Municipal Life;" "Canada's Resources." The first was dealt with last Thursday evening in Association H. by Hon. G. W. Ross, minister of Education. It was a subject after his own heart, and we know of no one more competent to do it justice, and by means of it to deepen and broaden sound and true Canadian feeling and sentiment. Every such endeavour to promote in a legitimate way the Canadian's loyalty to and pride in his native or adopted land should receive enthusiastic support. The example might be copied with good effect all over the land.

The *Montreal Witness* has been celebrating with pardonable pride its jubilee. It has had a long and upon the whole, because no newspaper claims perfection or infallibility, a most honourable record. For all that time it has been going into thousands of Canadian homes as a weekly visitor, and exercising upon old and young a moulding, formative influence for good, so that Canada to-day is a better land in every respect to live in because of the influence the *Montreal Witness* has all these years been exercising in the country. It would be difficult to mention any good cause which during the last fifty years has come to the front and has not got a helping hand from our contemporary. The *Witness* has become in many a family a household name, and has come down from father to son so that many could hardly

remember the time when they had not got the *Witness*, they could also hardly understand how they would get on at all without it. We heartily congratulate our contemporary and fellow-worker in the cause of human progress and well-being, and wish for it that its next fifty years may be marked by even greater progress than the past, and that with the growth of our Dominion it may also grow and flourish, and ever be found doing battle valiantly in the cause of truth and righteousness.

The great event upon which all eyes have for some time been set, the election in Cape Breton, has come and gone, and it has ended as everybody expected it would end. It has furnished, along with other bye-elections, an admirable opportunity which they have not been slow to use, for the Roman Catholic clergy to employ their favourite weapons when they have any object to gain for the Church. The Cape Breton election is only an incident in the Manitoba School case. It is this mainly which has given it its unusual significance. The result will intensify the bitterness and sense of wrong done to it by the Province of Manitoba, that the vital interest of the election lay in the effect it is likely to have in forcing upon her a system of education, which, by an overwhelming majority, she has just said she does not want and will not have. What must be thought of this nefarious attempt by every fair and impartial mind was well-expressed Sabbath evening a week ago by Rev. Dr. Thomas, pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church of this city. "To enforce upon a great Province for political ends, a school system which has been found to be not only without efficiency, but in the very spirit of it subversive of the general interests of the population, is the most humiliating exhibition of unstatesman-like servility this generation has witnessed."

At the meeting of the Toronto Presbytery held on the 4th inst, nominations were made and votes were taken upon names which were proposed to fill the two vacancies now existing in the staff of Knox College. In the proposing of names and the speeches made on behalf of their nominees by the men who proposed them, an onlooker could not but be struck by the perfect openness and frankness, the entire absence of everything like wire-pulling or caucussing on behalf of any one man. The speeches made were most frank and manly, and every word expressed the sincere and conscientious conviction of each speaker that the man whom he nominated and supported was the best qualified obtainable one for the place. While everyone who proposed had much to say, and with truth, in favor of his nominee, not a single unkind word was said of the man preferred by another. In this respect the conduct of those who took part was a perfect model of Christian courtesy, and gentlemanliness. And as name after name was dropped, till the last choice was reached, it was very beautiful to see the perfect good-will and heartiness with which all joined to make unanimous the name of him who at last got the majority of votes. We believe the choice made by the Toronto Presbytery has been a good one, and there can be no doubt that should the gentlemen chosen see fit to accept, and finally be the choice of the General Assembly, they will be welcomed with open arms by the whole Presbytery of Toronto.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Rev. E. L. Farnham: All those who believe that God is always on the side of the heaviest battalions can be excused from Gideon's army.

United Presbyterian. The greatest opportunity that can come to any one is the opportunity of doing the little acts of love and service every day.

Bible Reader: The man who studies the Bible merely that he may teach, may be up on the meaning of Jegar-sahadutha but he does not know how to spell love.

The Interior: The Sultan can not stand the sight of the Red Cross. It is a terror to him. The most terrible sight possible to the finally lost would be the Savior of men. The Lamb of God is as the lion, also, not because he tears, but because the view of him makes the repentless wicked tear themselves.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: There is a call, in our day, for a more pronounced Presbyterianism. A Church distinguished for its grand and comprehensive doctrine, for its noble principles, for its excellent polity, for its missionary zeal, for its worthy ministry and for its active membership, is entitled to a generous support to maintain it in preference to all others.

Presbyterian Witness: The white mark of leprosy on the forehead is not more appalling than the lurid mark that is painted on the face of the drunkard forewarning him of his doom. There is help, there is hope, there is a sure remedy; but you must try it in thorough earnest and not tamper with the fell destroyer: you, especially, who are already on the highway to ruin.

Harper's Weekly. There is no doubt, however, that Great Britain will remain by far the strongest power in South Africa. Her colonies occupy most of that part of the continent in which white men can live and work, and her colonists are not only more enterprising, adventurous, and aggressive than those of other nations, but they are permitted to give their energies free rein, not being constantly looked after and regulated in their movements by government scribes or drill sergeants.

Zion's Herald. In the measurement of moral values the "how" and the "why" count for a good deal more than the "what." In other words, the spirit and the motive are of more importance than the mere amount of accomplishment. Quality rather than quantity is the thing to be closely looked after. A small sacrifice made in humble, hearty self-forgetfulness and genuine devotion is more pleasing in the eyes of God than the greatest sacrifice made for show and the aggrandizement of self. There is a world of comfort in this for the lowly and the weak in that it puts them on a level, before the Master with the strong and gifted. There is a world of warning in it, also, for the latter class not to presume upon their powers, and fancy that because they have accomplished what seems great good in the eyes of men therefore the Lord will praise them. Their service will be spoiled if self creeps in. To keep him out requires ceaseless vigilance.