

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 3.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1880.

No. 47.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. MOODY, the evangelist, intends to visit San Francisco about the 1st of October, to commence a series of meetings in that city, which will be continued during the winter.

MR. GLADSTONE'S scruples led him to positively refuse to go to sea in the admiralty yacht "Enchantress," as he does not approve of public goods being used for private service.

THE "Pilgrim's Progress" can now be bought in readable shape for six cents. It is one of the marvels of this marvellous time of cheap production. And as there is no more pleasant story than that of Christian and his friends for either old or young, it ought to be read by everybody.

THE American Bible Society have procured a new stop-cylinder press, upon which alone a whole Bible can be printed every minute. This is the briefest and most significant commentary possible on the achievements of modern invention in the dissemination of the ever living Divine Word.

IT is reported that at Manhattan Beach each clergyman who has this summer preached has received a fifty dollar bill from the hotel company. This is a fresh verification of the superior wisdom of the children of this world. A large number of the children of light pay next to nothing.

A CALCUTTA despatch to the London "Times" says: "The Bombay Government is ready to undertake relief measures if necessary. Unless copious rains occur in the next few days, there will be apprehensions of a scarcity, if not of famine, over an area almost co-extensive with that of 1876. There was, however, some rain on Saturday."

HENRY VARLEY, the well-known English evangelist, writes to the London "Christian," that at the last election for members of Parliament, the whole town of Northampton was cowed by the friends of the notorious Bradlaugh, and that the Rev. Mr. Arnold, a Congregational minister, was threatened with the burning of his house and chapel if the infidel candidate was not elected.

MR. FAWCETT, the British Postmaster-General, has a new plan for facilitating the small savings of the poor. A saving child may now get an official strip of paper intended to hold twelve stamps, add a stamp at a time to it as he can save a penny, and when it is full take it to the post-office and get a savings bank receipt for a shilling, the minimum deposit which it will pay the post-office savings bank to take.

THE Waldensian Church has now one hundred agents in evangelizing Italy—not foreigners, but Italians by birth, by civil rights and privileges. They constitute a native agency. The Gospel is preached by them in forty-seven towns and villages. The number who attend public worship under them is about 4,000, and of these 2,414 are communicants, the majority of whom have come out of the Church of Rome.

KINIPPLE & MORRIS, London (Eng.) engineers, have been appointed to build a railroad in Newfoundland for the purpose of developing the mineral and agricultural resources of the island. The road is to be 300 miles in length. It will commence at St. John's and terminate at Green's Bay, to the north of the island, and in the vicinity of the principal mining districts, and will pass also on its route through good agricultural land for settlements.

DR. RYLE, the new Episcopal Bishop of Liverpool, in the course of his reply to an address of welcome presented, on his installation, by the Nonconformists of the town, said: "There is work for all in the great city of Liverpool, and I think our only contention

should be who can do most for Christ. No one feels more than I do that England owes a great debt to the Protestant Nonconformists, and I hope their good services will never be forgotten."

A CONSTANTINOPLE despatch to the "Manchester Guardian" says: "A policy of reaction must be expected here. Fanaticism is rapidly increasing. Last week the Imam of the Mosque, in the presence of the Sultan, denounced him as an unworthy successor of the Caliphs, upbraided him for listening to those who wish to make Christians and Mussulmans equal, and told him that the Christians must be protected and cherished as children are by their parents, but must be kept in subjection and not treated as equals."

OF all ungrateful things, grumbling at the weather is most ungrateful and silly, and yet we do it every day. It is too warm, and we murmur at the blessed sun which is ripening a million fields. It rains, and we shall get wet, but the streams, the cisterns, the fountains which feed the thirsty earth are rejoicing. The wind blows, and ruffles our serenity, and we fret and complain, forgetful of the health borne everywhere on the wings of the blast, which drives far hence the seeds of pestilential death. God gives us the weather, in accordance with wise law. Let us accept it thankfully.

THE special correspondent of the London (Eng.) "Standard," travelling in Ireland, sums up the conclusion at which he has arrived by saying that Ireland is far from being in a disturbed state; while those living at a distance, and deriving their knowledge only from what they see in some newspapers from day to day, naturally enough imagine the darkest spot on the horizon is Ireland. He remarks that the sympathy of the people is with agrarian crime, and this is so great that, after the murder of Mr. Boyd at New Ross, the strongest words of disapprobation heard from the country people were "It was the wrong man that was shot."

THERE is fear that another famine is to visit Northern India. A great drought has prevailed, imperilling the rice crop on which the lives of millions depend. Should this calamity occur, the British troops may be in more danger than from the Afghans with whom they have been warring. The Government have in recent years planned extensive works for the artificial irrigation of these districts. Had the money wasted in Beaconsfield's campaign for advancing the "scientific frontier" of India been devoted to completing these works, it would have been more to the glory of Britain and the welfare of her colony. The "Times" tersely says, "The victors of Candahar would be better employed in canal-cutting within their borders than in throat-cutting beyond them."

AT Mr. Moody's Convocation for Prayer at Northfield, Thursday evening, a summary of the numerous letters received from all parts of the land was presented. It shewed that over 600 letters, containing between 2,000 and 3,000 requests, had come in, one of them containing as high as 180 special cases. 157 letters were for endowment with power, 38 from workers for blessings, 8 requests for meetings, 13 mothers for sons, 48 wives for husbands, 15 from Young Men's Christian Associations, 60 from pastors for themselves and their churches, 40 for conversions of friends, 11 from backsliders, 12 for physical healing, 32 from members of churches for themselves. Large numbers of letters were of greeting and sympathy. One full hour followed in the presentation of verbal requests, and was succeeded by earnest and prolonged prayer by the assembly.

IT has often been said in England that too much was spent on education. But in Mr. Mundella's statement, introducing the estimates for education to the British House of Commons, he shewed that, while rich England pays \$10.50 per scholar in the board schools, poor Scotland pays \$10.87; and while England pays in the voluntary schools \$8.52 per scholar,

Scotland pays \$9.50; so that the poorer country valuing education most, pays more for it than the richer country. So in fees paid by the parent Scotland pays considerably more per pupil than England. So Scotland pays more attention to the education of the older scholars, and Mr. Mundella shews that England needs to learn important lessons from north of the Tweed.

THE French wine dealers have been themselves puzzled about where all the wine comes from. There has been a very short crop this year, and the dealers naturally laid in stocks of Spanish and Italian vintages against the deficit. They found, however, that no deficit occurred, that the vine-growers were never at a loss to supply the demand however great. On examination they found the absence of grapes to be made up by fermented raisins, "cut" with Spanish or California wines for colour and tone, and a little white wine for vivacity. All kinds of fermentable substances were also found to be used in place of raisins, and a variety of dye stuffs for colour. If these things be done at the vineyards, what pure wine ordered by doctors and sold by highly respectable and religious grocers can be trusted? This is the "generous" rubbish through which our sick people are supposed to recover health and strength.

WHATEVER may be the advance made by the Church of Rome in the provinces, it would appear from recent events that instead of progressing she is gradually, but perceptibly, retrograding in London. The Polish Chapel situated at Hatton Wall, and which was opened about eighteen months ago with great pomp and ceremony by Cardinal Manning, has just been closed for want of support and a falling off in the numbers of the congregation, the priest who had been placed in charge of the mission having returned to Austrian Poland. This, taken in connection with the abandonment of the "mission" stations of St. Bridget, Baldwin's Gardens, and the closing of the chapel of the Holy Family at Saffron Hill, two populous neighbourhoods colonized by large numbers of Irish, shews a significant diminution not only in the list of chapels, schools, and "missions" in London, but a large leakage of "the faithful" to some other form of religious belief. A very successful church and school have been opened close to the Italian church in Clerkenwell by the Rev. Dr. Passalenti, a converted priest, and is attended by large numbers of Italians who have abjured Romanism. Both church and schools are under the patronage of the Bishop of London.

AN appalling act of cruelty is reported from Pontremoli, in Italy. A female lay servant, employed in the Carmelite convent, had been detected in the act of stealing some bread, the property of the sisterhood, and for this offence she was tried, about ten days ago, before an impromptu tribunal consisting of the abbess and two of the senior nuns. Pronounced guilty, the sentence passed upon her by these pious ladies condemned her "to undergo the torments of purgatory." At once self-constituted judges and executioners, the abbess and her reverend coadjutors proceeded forthwith to enforce their barbarous sentence in the following manner. Having conveyed their victim to a cell in which an iron stove stood out from the wall, they caused the stove to be heated in her presence, and then, tying her hands tightly together behind her back, held her face down for several minutes close to the surface of the glowing metal. Her struggles and heartrending entreaties for mercy were of no avail. The pitiless nuns, deaf to her outcries, protracted her martyrdom until her scorched eyes had lost their sight for ever, and her whole face was converted into one huge blister. So profound was the horror generated throughout the sisterhood by the unheard-of torture, that its perpetrators, despite conventual discipline, were denounced by several members of the community to the local authorities, who, after instituting a searching inquiry into the circumstances of the case, have consigned the abbess and her confederate tormentors to prison, where they are now awaiting their trial.