

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 15.

TORONTO WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 1886.

No. 8.

NOW READY.

## *The International Scheme of S. S. Lessons FOR 1886.*

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The Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.,  
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## Notes of the Week.

IN most respects the eighth in the series of Monday Popular Concerts was a delightful one. The selections from Beethoven, Schubert and Haydn were exquisitely rendered by the string quartette, while the piano solos composed by Liszt, Chopin and Rubinstein were finely interpreted by Mme. Burmeister-Petersen, a pupil of Liszt. Miss Kate Percy Douglas was the vocalist.

THE recent telling denunciation of Chicago's immorality and the perversion of justice, by the Rev. Dr. A. E. Kittredge, has roused the ire of one of the judges, who has instituted a suit for defamation against the Doctor. His congregation are disposed to give him their moral and material support. A full and fair investigation of the methods by which convicted criminals are permitted on payment of a nominal fine to escape cannot fail to call attention to a state of matters standing in need of immediate reform.

AN investigation into the methods employed by the Florida land sharks in England reveals some curious facts. The swindlers, in a majority of cases, are Englishmen who have never seen Florida. They advertise liberally and talk glibly of the advantages of settling in "the healthiest State of the Union." Their victims are enticed by special inducements, and persuaded to buy worthless sand heaps and waste lands that are of no value for any enterprise in the absence of railroads. Hundreds have been lured to Florida by such agencies, only to discover on their arrival that they had been outrageously swindled, like the party of Scotchmen who went to the Sarasota district lately.

IN Toronto there are good Christian workers who are mindful of the welfare of strangers and others who merit sympathy. In the Y. M. C. A. Rooms, Shaftesbury Hall, these very interesting classes are held. One gentleman devotes his attention to deaf-mutes, and is painstaking and successful in his efforts to communicate religious instruction to this deserving class. Another directs his attention to the Italians who pass the winter in the city. The Chinese are also cared for. As the difficulties of teaching them are greatest, each pupil is instructed by a young lady. All seem to appreciate highly the efforts put forth on their behalf. Last week pleasing socials were held in connection with these classes.

THE *New York Independent* remarks that an unpleasant ecclesiastical case in Missouri leads Dr. John Fulton, one of the ablest clergymen in the Episcopal Church, to believe that a court of appeals is needed in the Episcopal Church; and he suggests that laymen learned in the law ought to be members of it. He makes this remarkable statement, which has some justice: From the days of Caiaphas until now, I must confess that priestly tribunals have often failed of the justice which is rendered in the courts of Cæsar. Pilate had at least the grace to say: "I find no fault in this man." It was the high priest who coldly found it "expedient that this man should die, whether innocent or guilty." In Churches, presbyterially or congregationally governed, the laymen sit in such courts.

MR. PARNELL'S leadership of his party has hitherto been almost despotic. During the recent elections it was not the respective Irish constituencies, but the leader of the Nationalist party, who selected the parliamentary candidates. Some of the rank and file of the party have become restive. Events connected with the Galway election last week make it clear that, absolute as it appeared, Mr. Parnell's authority has its limits after all. When the determined opposition of Healy and Biggar has to be encountered, it is plain that Mr. Parnell cannot trust too much to the implicit obedience of his following. True, Messrs. Healy and Biggar may not carry much weight; but a split among the Home Rulers would frustrate the aims of Mr. Parnell.

THE quiet, industrious and God-fearing people in a community are not generally obtrusive. This fact moves the Pittsburg *United Presbyterian* in vindication of that busy region to say: There is a community that for temperance, good order, orthodoxy, charity and general good character has but few superiors, and yet it is spoken of sometimes as a place "notorious" for crime, and perhaps the impression of those living far away is that it is a godless neighbourhood, full of rogues and outlaws. The reason is that a few crimes committed within its limits by people coming from the outside caused it to be so advertised, while its other side, its good one, was left without description. It is thus that the press is doing a constant injustice, not intentionally, but through carelessness and a wish to please the ruder classes of readers.

THE Bill for the declaration of the Independence of Church Courts, submitted by Mr. Finlay, M.P., has failed to arouse the enthusiasm of Scottish Presbyterians. A Free Church Conference, after considering the proposed measure, declared that "the only solution conducive to the religious well-being of the nation, and the peace and harmony of the Evangelical Churches, must include Disestablishment and Disendowment." As might be expected the United Presbyterian Committee are equally outspoken. They maintain that the United Presbyterian Church "has ever been favourable to union with other Churches on a Scriptural basis, and though ready to co-operate with the ministers and members of the Established Church in all common Christian work, no proposal could be entertained which made the retention of establishment a condition of union."

As was expected, there was a large attendance at the McAll Mission meeting in the lecture hall of Knox Church on Thursday evening last. The Rev. Dr. Reid, who has been zealous in advancing the interests of this mission in Toronto, presided and gave a very clear and attractive outline of the origin, history and success of the work accomplished by this excellent evangelical agency. The Rev. H. M. Parsons, in nominating a ladies' committee, made a forcible plea in behalf of the work carried on in France by the McAll Mission. In seconding this motion the Rev. Principal Caven detailed the condition of France and more especially Paris, showing what urgent need there was for planting the Gospel among the Parisian populace. There are many cogent reasons why Christian people of all denominations should give the McAll Mission their fervent prayers and hearty support.

BY the generous munificence of their wealthy friends some of the educational institutions in the United States are splendidly equipped for their work. The Library of Princeton Theological Seminary has been moved into the new building erected for it by the late James Lenox, LL.D., of New York. The library now contains about 46,000 volumes, chiefly theological, including, in addition to many rare and costly works, the large and unique collection of pamphlets presented by the Rev. Dr. Sprague, the libraries of Drs. Ashbell Green, John M. Krebs, John Breckenridge and others. The library has, from the generosity of Messrs. R. L. and A. Stuart, a fund of \$10,000, and from the estate

of the late Mr. John C. Green, an additional fund of \$25,000, whose annual proceeds are devoted to its maintenance and increase. It is open three hours every week-day for reading and consultation, and for drawing books. Text-books may be kept out during the entire term. May our Canadian colleges soon be similarly furnished!

ANOTHER practical illustration of the inharmonious relations of capital and labour has been supplied in Toronto. The employees of more than one establishment went out on strike last week. Differences of opinion as to modes of payment were very pronounced. Each side took "no surrender" for its motto, strong things were said and at first no efforts were made to reach an understanding. It is generally admitted that strikes are disastrous. They entail great loss on both employer and employed, they serve to widen the breach between those whose relations ought to be of a friendly and cordial character; but up to the present time workmen have had no other resource. They have as much right to combine for the defence of their interests as the employers of labour. It is just as freely conceded that arbitration would be a most reasonable means for the settlement of disputes between employers and their operatives; but, strange to say, no effective steps have yet been taken to employ so obvious a remedy.

THE desire, says the *United Presbyterian*, to get things cheap is a natural one, and the chaffer that goes on between buyers and sellers has part of its cause in this universal fact. This does not mean, though, that people always want the poorest articles, but only the cheapest as to price. Even in the Church, and relating to so sacred a thing as preaching the Gospel, this process of bargaining goes on, sometimes properly, and sometimes sordidly, on the part of both preachers and people. But they who get a service done for them ought to be willing to pay for it, and if they are rightly taught and are true in heart they will try to do so. To get things cheap because they can be so obtained, no consideration being given to their value, essential or relative, is to show a spirit that is not far from the verge of dishonesty. The rustic deacon, whose remark had point enough to get it a place in the newspapers, was not doing himself much credit, but he was uttering a sentiment that is too prevalent when he said: "We can get as good preaching as we want for \$400 a year."

THE Boys' Home in Toronto has the reputation of being a well managed institution. Last week the twenty-sixth annual meeting was held, Dr. Daniel Wilson presiding. From the annual report submitted it is learned that the total number of inmates in the Home during the year was 252, including those in residence on the 1st of January, 1885. Of these twenty-seven were sent to situations in the country. One hundred received temporary shelter. Two were sent or returned to England. Twenty were removed by parents or friends. Ten ran away and ninety-three remained in the Home. During the past year five boys had completed their terms of apprenticeship and were now in positions which enabled them to support themselves. At the present time, there were eighty-nine boys of various ages serving their time with farmers. The demand for boys from the Home was constantly growing greater. Occasionally a boy left his place, but inquiry generally revealed the fact that he was enticed away by persons who told him he ought to be making more wages during the harvest, forgetting that the boy must be fed and clothed during the winter. The receipts for the past year were \$5,660.79, and consisted of the Ontario Government grant, \$544; City Corporation grant, \$500; boys' board, \$448; donations, \$367; subscriptions (including interest on Michie fund), \$3,230; bequests, \$541; the interest making up the balance. The disbursements amounted to \$5,256. The chief items were groceries, \$1,476; matron's salary and servants' wages, \$1,113. The amount to the credit of the boys' investment fund was \$1,891.