

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 16.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13th, 1887.

No. 29.

Notes of the Week.

BULGARIA has at last secured an occupant for her vacant throne. Prince Alexander had more than enough of royalty and declined to offer for re-election. The Sobranje has decided upon Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a relative of Albert the Good. He has indicated his willingness to accept the doubtful honour of nominally guiding the destinies of the Bulgarian people. Russia may be expected to be friendly or hostile to the new ruler, as it may best suit her purposes. The Bulgarian throne is lacking in stability.

MANY sorely-taxed brains, says the *British Weekly*, will now find rest. For the Jubilee has sorely exercised the wits of writers and preachers, and to little purpose. The bard of the *Daily News* had the napkin removed from his cage, but was not equal to more than the striking statement that the Queen was a "wondrous sight"—a very doubtful compliment, by the way. On Sunday we heard one of the greatest and most original preachers in London declare that "as a mother, wife and Queen, our Sovereign was equally admirable." To do the preacher justice, he delivered these revolutionary remarks with bowed head and faltering accents.

SEVERAL years since a believer in spiritualism, Mr. Henry Seybert, offered \$60,000 to found a philosophical chair in Pennsylvania University, on condition that the Faculty should appoint a commission to investigate alleged spiritualistic facts. The commission, composed of competent scientific men, have completed their investigation, and published the results. They are not flattering to believers in the spiritualistic delusion. Slate-writing, "spiritual" photography, summoning limbs from the spirit world, rapping, etc., were demonstrated to be deceptions of the most palpable description. The day of the spiritualistic fraud is over.

SYMPATHY is usually extended to those overwhelmed with misfortune, especially if disaster has overtaken a man who fairly and honestly tried to achieve success, but failed. There are some, however, who make visible success the sole criterion of merit. If a man prospers, they pay court to him; if he recedes on an adverse billow of misfortune, they neglect and despise him. Jacob Sharp, the notorious but wealthy New York schemer, has been found out in his villainies, and a pitiable spectacle he presents. He has amassed millions, but in his old age he has been discovered and disgraced. It almost appears that the worldly-wise maxim, "honesty is the best policy," may again come to be believed.

ABOUT fifty ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of Dr. J. C. Brown's invitation to attend the Dr. John Brown centenary celebration at Haddington. There was no formal programme, and the speaking was of a free-and-easy character. After dinner in the Assembly rooms, the company adjourned to the old United Presbyterian manse, where various relics of the author of the "Self-interpreting Bible" were shown. These included the Greek Testament, which, according to the well-known story, was presented to the founder of the Brown family by the St. Andrew's bookseller, on condition that he read a portion of it; a lock of his hair, two old communion tokens, portions of the MS. of his great Commentary on the Bible, etc. On Sabbath the pulpit of the East United Presbyterian Church was occupied by the Rev. David Cairns, Stitchell, in the forenoon and evening; and by Rev. Mr. Nelson, Haddington, in the afternoon.

SO far as returns have been received the following were the collections on Hospital Sunday in London: At St. Paul's Cathedral the collections amounted

in the morning to \$740, and the afternoon to \$200, and in the evening to \$220—a total of \$1,615, as compared with \$1,390 last year. The collections at Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle amounted to \$1,265. At St. Michael's, Chester Square (Rev. Canon Fleming's), the sum of \$5,115 was raised. Other collections being—St. Margaret's, Westminster Archdeacon Farrar's, \$850, Westbourne Grove Presbyterian Church, \$350, Society of Friends, Stoke Newington, \$120; Brixton Unitarian Church, \$290, Chislehurst Wesleyan Church, \$210, Marylebone Presbyterian Church, \$280; St. Andrew's, Wells Street, \$570, Gower Street Baptist Chapel, \$115. The total sum thus far paid into the Mansion House amounted to \$30,000, including \$5,000 from the executors of the late Dr. Wakley, editor of the *Lancet*.

THE *Christian Leader* says that the jubilee of Dr. Robert Macdonald, of North Leith, was celebrated recently by a social meeting, at which congratulatory addresses were presented by his congregation and brother ministers in Leith. Dr. Bonar, in the course of an address abounding in deeply interesting reminiscences, produced a walking stick which had been presented by Dr. Macdonald to M'Cheyne of Dundee when the latter set out on his journey to Palestine. Dr. Macdonald said it seemed but yesterday since he became alive to the glory and enthusiasm of early manhood. Were it possible for him to live for fifty more years he would go on as before preaching the grand old Gospel. Principal Rainy remarked that one could not look back upon the men with whom Dr. Macdonald has been associated in the great time of the Disruption without being struck by the number who impressed them as men of singular purity and dignity of character. Dr. Macdonald eminently belonged to that class.

THE ladies' college and a conservatory of music is an institution which is now being established in Halifax, and is designed to provide a first class education in all its branches, which will be within the reach of the young women of the Maritime Provinces. There will be junior academic preparatory departments in connection with it, enabling pupils to begin and finish their education in the institution. The course of studies embraces English, mathematics, science, fine arts, music, calisthenics, etc., though pupils may attend for one or more of these branches. The college, which will be pleasantly situated, is in connection with the Presbyterian Church, but is open to all denominations, and will employ a staff of teachers who are thoroughly proficient in their different departments. As far as practicable they will be university graduates of home or foreign colleges. The school year will be divided into three terms: Fall term, 7th September to Christmas holidays; winter term, 1st of January to Easter; Spring term, Easter to mid-summer holidays.

THE Uxbridge *Guardian* states that at the close of the service on a recent Sunday, the Rev. Mr. Cockburn made brief reference to the recent outrage perpetrated on Mr. Armstrong. In the course of his remarks he said that he thought it his duty to speak on the subject that had cast a gloom over the place, and defamed the fair name of the town. He trusted to the intelligence of the congregation for them to form an opinion as to where the wretched plot originated. Mr. Armstrong was an elder of the Church, and a vigorous advocate of the temperance cause, and merely for this, without doubt, was the attempt made to ruin him. No true man could stand by and see the intense suffering of those poor dumb animals without his whole nature being aroused. Another event which has happened recently he took the opportunity of commenting upon, namely the receiving of several anonymous and threatening letters, unfit, we believe, for publication, by prominent men of the town. It is greatly to be hoped that some clue can be obtained for the unravelling of these infamous proceedings.

THE objects of the Canadian Chautauqua Assembly are stated in the prospectus to be to make this beautiful summer home contribute to the intellectual development of its visitors, by carrying out the Chautauqua literary and scientific course of study . . . and using the methods employed at Chautauqua, which, while it gives a "college at home" nine months in the year, adds a season of varied and rare enjoyment with those who are studying the same curriculum, thus rounding up and completing the year's work. We have the promise of the co-operation of the Rev. Dr. Vincent, Chancellor of the Chautauqua University, who will probably be present each year and present certificates and diplomas to those who pass the examinations. It is designed also that there shall be held each year an Inter-denominational Sunday School Assembly, for the promotion of normal class work, improved Sunday school methods and everything that will aid this important department of Christian work. The grounds will also be a meeting place for temperance demonstrations, Christian conventions, and other meetings of the highest moral and religious character. The course begins on inauguration day, July 23, and extends to August 28.

SCOTLAND, remarks the *Baltimore Presbyterian Observer*, is the land of Presbyterianism, and shows the power of thorough indoctrination in the faith of the Gospel. The years of training—the centuries of religious culture—there have not been in vain. It is pre-eminently the country of church goers. Some, it is true, have been lately proclaiming that the attendance of the people upon the services of the sanctuary is waning, but statistics disprove the averment. The Presbyterian Church, including the Established Church, the Free and the United Presbyterian, foots up 1,084,334 members, while other denominations number 90,813. If we adopt the usual mode of determining "the young people of a church-going family," we must multiply this aggregate by three, when we will have a church attendance of Protestants of 3,252,241. Nor must we forget that there are about 400,000 Roman Catholics in Scotland. If these be added to the Protestants, there is the grand total of 3,652,241. Now, when we remember that "the population of Scotland, at the close of last year, was only estimated at 2,920,000," we see that those who talk so glibly about "the lapsed masses" in the land of Knox have no just ground for their statement. All honour to the system of truth and teaching that makes such a noble showing.

IT is the opinion of the *British Weekly* that there will be few acts added to the Statute Book this session, and the bill for the Abolition of Prosecutions against Laymen for Opinion on Matters of Religion has little chance of being proceeded with. Still it is well to know that such a measure exists on paper, and may even pass some day. It is quite time to alter the law which vet stands against "schism, heresy, apostasy, blasphemous libel and atheism," if only for the reason that prosecution can never convert. But the bill does not only repeal, it enacts; and one of its provisions is that any person who, in a public place, utters any word which might wound the religious feelings of another shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and liable to fine and imprisonment. Cases could easily be named that might justly have been dealt with in such a manner, but who is to discriminate when the question comes to be one of feelings? It may be a point of criticism fair or unfair; it may only be a matter of hysteria. The editor of every newspaper in the country would be in peril certainly; the freedom of the preacher would be gone. No, no; if religion cannot endure some misrepresentation, a little sarcasm, it is a millinery affair, and had better be kept in a bandbox at home. The secularist lecturer is often an ugly nuisance, the fanatic anti-Romanist is quite as bad when he makes a vulgar parody of the mass. It is best, however, severely to ignore all such and leave them to the just dealing of time, without any of those enactments which are so easily misapplied.