

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 12.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd, 1884.

No. 27.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

JEWISH persecution has again broken out in Russia. The usual course has been followed. A story calculated to inflame popular hatred against the Jews was started at Nijal Novgorod. It was asserted that a child had been kidnapped by a Jew and taken to the synagogue, which was attacked by an infuriated crowd. Much property was destroyed. Many Jews were severely injured and several killed during the unreasoning tumult. The outbreak was at length quelled by the civil and military authorities, and numerous arrests were made.

DR. SCHLIMMANN began life as a friendless boy, employed in a grocer's shop, in which he usually worked each day from five o'clock in the morning until late at night. His salary was exactly forty five dollars a year. He was fond of reading, and became passionately attached to Homer, through a translation. This suggested his studying Greek, which he did without a tutor for some time; and his subsequent attention to other languages, which he picked up as best he could, was the means of his advancement into other spheres of life.

PRINCIPAL Dawson, of the McGill University, has returned to Montreal after an absence of nearly a year, during which time he visited all the principal cities of Europe, and made a journey through Egypt and the Holy Land. The public and his many friends will be pleased to learn that Dr. Dawson has profited very much by his trip and will be able to enter upon his collegiate duties this fall with renewed strength and energy. Dr. Dawson, during his stay in England did much to encourage the meeting of the British scientists in Montreal in August.

THE session of the Ottawa Ladies' College closed on Wednesday last with interesting and attractive exercises. The report of the work done by this excellent institution shows that it has attained a high position among the ladies' colleges of Ontario. It is gratifying to learn that its many advantages are being appreciated as they deserve. Principal Wood is rendering valuable service to the cause of higher education and culture. Prizes having been awarded, were presented to the successful competitors by Messrs. J. L. Macdougall, M.A., Auditor-General, D. B. McTavish, M.A., and Dr. Baptin.

THE London *Tablet*, the organ of the Roman Catholic Church, says: The ordinary expenses of the Holy See may be put down at about 5,000,000 francs, and certain other expenses may bring the total up to nearly 7,000,000. Formerly the Holy Father drew from the States of the church an annual civil list of 3,210,000 francs, which was employed in the maintenance of his court, of the Cardinals residing in Curia, of the personnel of the Punciatures, the various congregations, etc. That is the reason why the Italian Government offered Pius IX the annual State income of 3,200,000 francs. Since the seizure of the Papal States, many other expenses, which formerly were met by other means, have to be undertaken by the Pope's civil list. Leo XIII., moreover, spends about 500,000 francs in alms each year.

CHOLERA has again broken out with destructive force. It is causing serious mortality at Toulon. The first fatal case occurred there on the 4th inst., since which date this awful visitant has been advancing with alarming rapidity, as many as eighteen deaths have occurred in one day, though other accounts place the number much higher. Energetic measures have been taken to check the progress of the scourge. In the neighbourhood of Peking, China, a virulent form of the disease has been extensively and rapidly fatal, those attacked dying in a few hours. The strict enforcement of sanitary law is urgently demanded. In large cities especially, where population is dense, the laws of health should be carefully attended to. These

are better understood than formerly, yet there is still too much apathy and carelessness. The familiar maxim holds good: Prevention is better than Cure.

THE succession to the Dutch throne has become a matter of practical interest in European politics. What for some time has been a matter of speculative possibility has become an actual fact, by the death of the Prince of Orange. The illustrious house of Nassau has in the direct line become extinct. There will be the customary schemes and intrigues to secure the possession of the throne of Holland. It was feared that the German Chancellor had cast longing eyes on the land where bravery and enterprise had rendered a country with natural disadvantages, and crushed beneath the weight of Spanish despotism, one of the foremost in achieving freedom and prosperity. Assurances have been given that fears of German annexation are groundless and that Bismarck has no intention to interfere with the affairs of Holland. This may be so, but the language of diplomacy is not always free from uncertainty.

AT Hamilton, Rev. H. Carmichael, Church of the Ascension, preached a vigorous sermon on the methods adopted for the support of churches, condemning in unmeasured terms the niggardliness of wealthy country farmers, the worldliness in the Church and the habit of building churches on mortgages. His text was Matt. xxi. 13: "And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple." He also strongly attacked the questionable means adopted to raise funds to carry on the work of the Church, such as bazaars, tableaux vivans, theatricals, auctions, fan drills, broom drills and voting for the most popular man. He exhorted the members to do everything possible to place their church not only above suspicion, but to make it an example of righteousness to the world. A better and healthier tone is beginning to manifest itself in all sections of the Church on these questionable modes of filling depleted church treasuries.

PRELIMINARY agreements for a Conference of the Powers on the Egyptian question have now, to all appearance, been satisfactorily reached. France and England have come to a mutual understanding. It is proposed that the English occupation cease at the beginning of 1888. The neutralization of Egypt is also proposed, so that its place among the powers will be like that of Belgium. In explaining the situation to the British Parliament, Mr. Gladstone stated that no decision come to by the conference would be of any force until Parliament gave its assent. Should the conference reach a harmonious conclusion, the Egyptian question may continue to be as perplexing and troublesome as ever. Much may transpire in four years. There is no certainty that the conclusions of the conference will be carried out. If the proposal lacks definiteness, in the meantime at least, it restores English and French co-operation in Egyptian affairs and is in line with the humane and progressive policy of the age.

THE commencement exercises at the Brantford Ladies' College were held last week. The past has been a successful year in the history of this useful institution. A reception by the Alumnae Association commenced the series of interesting ceremonies connected with the close of a satisfactory session. In Zion Church, on Sabbath evening, Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Toronto, preached an appropriate and useful discourse based on Ruth i. 14-17. On Monday evening an excellent concert was given in Wycliffe Hall, at which Principal McIntyre presided. The commencement exercises proper took place on Tuesday evening, when the honours and prizes earned by successful competitors were awarded. The Rev. John Laing, D.D., Dundas, presided. Suitable and stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A., Toronto, Dr. Beattie, Guelph, and others. This college fills an important place in the educational system. It has done its work well in the past, is ably conducted, and deserves the encouragement and sup-

port of Presbyterians, specially those of Western Ontario.

THE looked for summer vacation, welcome alike to pupils and teachers, is at hand. The usual closing ceremonies are taking place, and diligent students are carrying off their hard-won honours. Among the various institutions, finishing their sessions with gratifying success, must be mentioned that of Morvyn House, where the annual closing exercises took place on the 24th ult. Under the able management of Miss Sarah E. Haight, this high-class school has earned an excellent reputation. The principal feature of the entertainment was a thoroughly enjoyable concert, consisting of tasteful and artistic music, vocal and instrumental, recitations, etc. The performers, chiefly pupils, acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner, to the great satisfaction and enjoyment of the numerous visitors, amongst whom were the Revs. Professor Gregg, H. M. Parsons, John Burton, Mr. Darling, President Toronto Board of Trade, and others. Prizes were presented to the successful students by the Hon. S. H. Blake, who, in a very happy and appropriate address, commended the institution for the thoroughness and efficiency of its training.

M. BERTILLOU has recently published some statistics of divorce which are interesting in connection with recent debates in the French Chamber. The countries in which divorces and *separation de corps* are most rare are Scotland, Russia, and Italy. In these three countries the number of divorces varies from one to five per thousand marriages. In the United States the proportion is twenty-eight in every thousand marriages. The conjugal tie proves most irksome in Saxony; and, indeed, M. Bertillon observes that there is a much larger proportion of divorces among Teutonic than among Latin nations. Even in the German cantons of Switzerland divorces are more frequent than in the others. The great army of the divorced and separated is composed in very large proportion of brain workers and members of the liberal professions. M. Bertillon's figures show that in nine cases out of ten it is the woman who desires the divorce, and that the greater the disparity in the relative ages of the parties the more frequent are the divorces. Thus, where the wife is from ten to five-and-twenty years older than her husband, there are 480 divorces per 100,000.

THE commissioner sent by the *Globe* to investigate and report on the working of the Scott Act in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has completed his task. The results are embodied in a series of clear, readable and impartial letters that appeared from time to time in that journal. These letters have thrown considerable light on the present aspect of the temperance question. They contain statements of fact which ought to be generally known. The conclusion to which the commissioner comes is just what every fair, honest minded man would have reached in similar circumstances. He shows that the adoption and enforcement of the Scott Act has greatly diminished the import and use of intoxicating liquors, property has not depreciated in value; on the contrary, the circumstances of many people have improved, and there will be a yet larger increase of prosperity and comfort when the Act has been in force and faithfully applied for a few years. He effectively disposes of a current objection to the Act in the following: It is absurd to argue that the Scott Act should be denounced as a farce and a failure in cases where it has failed absolutely to suppress the trade in liquor. It is most unjust to expect the Scott Act to accomplish what no law in the history of the world ever accomplished—the absolute observance of its provisions. There will be law-breakers under the Scott Act just as there are law-breakers under every other statute designed to promote the public well-being; but, if the law punishes and repeats the punishment until the violator of the statute is compelled to yield obedience or retreat beyond the limits of respectability and decent citizenship, it has largely discharged its duty to society.