

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 1895.

No. 42.

Notes of the Week.

In memory of John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet of freedom and the home, a club has been organized in Haverhill, near Boston, where he was born and bred, and among its objects is the preservation and restoration of the Whittier homestead. Lovers of the poet in all English-speaking countries will be glad to hear of this organization, and many of them will doubtless wish to participate in carrying out the design of the club.

As bearing on the present difficulties in China, the following statement made in one of the discussions in the Victoria Institute of Great Britain is worthy of notice. The writer is the head of a Chinese high school. "The question as to the effect upon nineteenth century international relations of the sacred edict, 'cast out foreign sects,' is a very practical one in China: That edict is by law read publicly by high officials every month throughout the land of China."

An interesting and appropriate figure at the celebration meetings of the London Missionary Society's Centenary, held in London, England, has been the African ruler, King Khama, with his attendant chiefs, Sebele and Bathoen. Khama has come to England on a diplomatic mission, and one of his objects is to secure the right to exclude intoxicating liquors from his territories, because of their baneful effect upon the natives. What an object lesson is presented to English-speaking rulers everywhere in the conduct of this African Chief.

The pew-holders of the First Presbyterian Church, in Washington, the church in which President Cleveland "worships," have voted unanimously to invite Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage to act as co-pastor with Rev. Dr. Sunderland. When the proposed call was talked of, a few weeks ago, it was pretty generally thought that Talmage, who is nothing if not Talmagian, would not consent to "play second fiddle" to any man, but the dispatch announcing the action of the pew-holders states that it has been said by Dr. Talmage that he would become co-pastor of the church if the pew-holders would make the call unanimous. This they have done, and Talmage will probably be at his post in a short time.

The average American is so filled with the sense of superiority of everything American over what is to be found in any other country that it is refreshing to come now and then upon an exception. The Boston *Congregationalist* says that the marked superiority of the British system of representative government over our own, is that unwritten law which compels parliamentary representatives to answer directly to the people for their conduct as legislators. Dr. Parkhurst does well to insist that this custom should take root in the United States, if for no other reason than to teach the average legislator who made him. Too many of them think they made themselves and have no one to answer for and to."

Writing lately to a friend in England, Rev. Dr. Watson of the New Hebrides, whose fame is world wide says: "In my seventy-second year, I cannot be expected to be long spared to carry on the work of our mission and help to raise its expenses, but I hope God will raise up one to take my place when he calls me, for though the servant Jesus lives, and carries on his own work, and will do till the world sings the praises of his redeeming love. Here my time is spent in teaching, preaching, translating, correcting translations, visiting the sick, dispensing medicine, and doing all else

required to carry on the work of a Christian mission station. Our mission has now twenty missionaries and over 200 native teachers, and God has given us some 15,000 converts and a glorious work rapidly advancing."

The Pope has sent a very sensible letter to the Catholics in Belgium in view of the great disturbances there over the Socialistic movement and education. He urges them to be willing to waive personal opinions and preferences, and endeavor to labor solely and zealously for what seems to truly tend to the public welfare. To this end they should antagonize the socialistic Propaganda, endeavoring to keep the kingdom free from sedition, improve the schools, and secure general accord in the duties of a religious life. Above all, he urged them to unite "against the wickedness of socialism, which evidently threatens to bring about great injury and evil, and ceases not from turbulently promoting its designs against religion and society, striving continually to confound all rights human and divine."

A portrait of the Rev. B. B. Warfield, D.D., LL.D., who this week is giving a course of theological lectures in Knox College, adorns the first page of last week's issue of the *Pittsburg Messenger*, which says: "He needs no introduction to our readers or to the Presbyterian Church. As a professor in the Western Theological Seminary and in the Princeton Theological Seminary, as editor of the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* and as a writer on all current theological topics, his name is well known, not only throughout the Presbyterian Church in this country, but throughout the Christian world." The Rev. Doctor is well known to our ministers in Canada especially by his varied and able contributions to the *Review* named. It will be a great pleasure to many to see him face to face, to hear his voice and profit by his lectures.

Illinois has now a law providing for the retirement of public school teachers after twenty-five years' service in the case of men and after twenty years' service in the case of women. The fund is to be maintained by the deduction of one per cent. each year from the salaries of all public school teachers employed in the state. At first glance a deduction of one per cent. a year from salaries for twenty-five years seems grossly inadequate to provide a pension of fifty per cent. each year thereafter. It is possible, however, that by the retirement of probably nineteen teachers out of twenty because of marriage, or for other work, and by the introduction of the tontine principle the deduction proposed will be sufficient. If the effect of the law is to make easier the retirement of teachers who have ceased to be efficient, this form of old age pensions will find defenders among those who would not like to see the principle of compulsory insurance extended.

Four hundred and seventy-six delegates from ten countries met lately in Basle, Switzerland at the International Alcohol Congress. The Pope was represented by the Bishop of St. Gall and the French Minister of Education was also represented. The secretary of committee of arrangements was Dr. John Hay, an English gentleman long resident in Basle. The president was the well-known Professor Burckhard. Among the English delegates was the Dean of Hereford, Joseph Malins, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Osborn, Mrs. Selmer and other well-known temperance workers. Valuable papers were read by eminent authorities proving from many points of view the disastrous effects of alcohol in every way upon the human system. On the last day's session it was resolved with but three negative votes that the "Congress decides respectfully

to approach all the European governments requesting them to take effective steps for the total and definite Prohibition of the traffic in spirits among the natives of Africa."

Under the auspices of an advisory council in London, England, composed of men and women whose names are a guarantee for wise and Christian management, an important movement has been inaugurated in the decision to found a missionary settlement for university women at Bombay. That city contains a Parsee population of 60,000, as yet almost untouched by missionary effort, and it is believed that among the women of this enlightened race, unhampered by Mohammedan and Hindoo restrictions, excellent missionary work can be done on educational lines. Parsee converts would become a powerful instrument for the evangelization of the races around them. In districts about one hundred miles from Bombay there is pressing need for lady doctors, among 2,000,000 native women, and a medical mission would find the fullest scope. The reflex action of the work, it is believed, would be most beneficial on the colleges at home. Offers of service have already been received, and if the necessary funds are secured, it is hoped to send out a first band of workers in October, 1896.

The centenary month just passed of the London Missionary Society has been the occasion of recalling, in various aspects of it, a marvellous history, and one of the utmost beneficence to mankind. Not only the cause of Christ but even trade and commerce have incidentally been mightily advanced by its means; not only heathen and unenlightened races have been lifted out of barbarism and heathenism, but the science and learning of the most educated peoples have been greatly furthered. The names of many of its missionaries have become household words not only in Christian but in all intelligent homes; John Williams, Moffat, Livingston, Morrison, Medhurst, Ellis, Mullens, Gilmour and Dr. Mackenzie of Tient-sin are in the galaxy of its illustrious names. Its chief fields of labor are China, with twelve chief centres; North India, the Madras Presidency and Trancore, Madagascar, South Africa, Central Africa, West Indies, Polynesia and New Guinea. The possibilities of going forward are simply limited by the means of going forward. Of a centenary fund of \$500,000, \$160,000 have been promised.

It is said to be an open secret, and whether it is actual fact or not, it may very well be that the later Viceroys of India have been chosen with due regard to the capabilities of their wives in one particular direction at least. If it be so, what a flood of light does it pour upon the advance of women and the regard for the claims of Indian women upon the interest and help of their sisters in Britain. This direction is in that of medical assistance for them. The scheme now known as Lady Dufferin's was suggested and talked over by Her Majesty long before it became an accomplished fact, and no one takes a deeper and more practical interest in the provision of female medical assistance to the women of India than the Queen, and Lady Elgin, the wife of the present Viceroy of India, is in constant private communication with the Queen concerning the medical education of native ladies. Lady Elgin is shortly to start with her husband on a seven week's tour to all parts of the empire, and while she is impressing on the native mind the fact that India is under one rule, and that the Governor-General is the great Queen's right hand, she will use her time in consolidating and organizing the Queen's Hygienic Association for the women of India.