

Official Notices.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF B.N.A.

The forty-fourth session of the College will be opened with a public service in Calvary Church, Montreal, on the evening of Wednesday, September 20th, at which the students are expected to be present.

The matriculation and other examinations in the Faculty of Arts of McGill College will begin at 9 a.m., September 15th.

Candidates for admission into the College are requested to forward to me their applications, with the recommendation of the churches to which they belong, as soon as practicable. My address until September 10th will be *Cacouna, Province of Quebec*.

GEORGE CORNISH, LL.D.,
Secretary, Cong. Coll., B.N.A.

THE ST. FRANCIS ASSOCIATION.

The above Association will hold its next meeting with the Congregational Church of Melbourne, Que., on Tuesday, the 5th day of September next, at 4 o'clock p.m. For assignments of work on that occasion, see the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT for May last.

A. DUFF, Scribe, S. F. Ass.

Sherbrooke, Que., Aug. 17, 1882.

Literary Notices.

MISSIONARY LIFE AMONG THE CANNIBALS. (James Bain & Son, Toronto).—This work is the life of Dr. John Geddie, the first missionary to the New Hebrides, written by Dr. George Patterson, of Nova Scotia. The New Hebrides are a group of islands of Western Polynesia, first explored by the great English South Sea navigator, Captain Cook, and forming part of the truly dark places of the earth. John Geddie, sen., living in the quiet old town of Banff, Scotland, came under the great revival movement with which the name of Haldane is associated, and became a member and deacon in the Congregational Church established there. Financial disaster drove him to seek a home in Nova Scotia, his son John, the subject of this volume, being an infant at that time. Early was the child consecrated to God, and nobly was that consecration justified. The family in Nova Scotia connected themselves with the United Presbyterian Church, and through the energy of our missionary, that Church, even when in most straitened circumstances, formed a Foreign Mission, with John Geddie as its first missionary. In the chapel at Aneiteum, where he was wont to preach, a tablet to his memory bears this touching record: "When he came here, there were no

Christians; when he went away, there were no heathens." And yet his bodily presence was weak and his speech contemptible, but his soul was a flame. Dr. Patterson has done good service in preserving the record of such a life. The Nova Scotia Presbyterian Church may well be proud of its Mission; and our readers will do well to secure the book for prayerful reading. The work is well written, in a pleasing style, full of varied items of interest, though we notice that our author still keeps to the old but erroneous notion that the coral reefs and islands are built from the sea bottom by the coral insects. A reference to any recent and good encyclopædia will correct this notion.

THE REVISERS' ENGLISH.—G. Washington Moon, F.R.S.L. (Funk & Wagnalls, New York. 20c.)—We remember well the pleasure with which we read the late Dean Alford's papers, in *Good Words*, on the Queen's English, and our sympathy with him as he pleaded for some expressions we were unwilling to lose, more idiomatic than grammatical. We remember, too, our annoyance when Mr. Moon appeared to criticise the Dean's English, and were only sorry in being compelled to own that as a whole the Dean came out from the duel second-best. We certainly did not in our heart thank Mr. Moon for his moonlight. The annoying part was, that but seldom could we discover a really weak point in Mr. Moon's grammatical criticisms, his chief fault being his faulty faultlessness. There was, without doubt, the uneasy consciousness that no writer was secure in the presence of such a critic; and now, after fifteen years, he appears anew to disturb our equanimity as we read that great work of this last decade, the Revised New Testament. Mr. Moon enumerates two things as essential to a good translation: a faithful expression of the ideas intended to be conveyed in the original; and a grammatical expression of the same, according to the idiom of the language into which the translation is to be made. We venture to suggest that our revisers had still another end in view, viz., to place before a purely English reader the peculiarities of the Greek original. In serving this purpose, the English has without doubt frequently been the loser in simplicity and beauty of expression, but the constant use of the New Testament as a volume of proof texts goes very far towards justifying the revisers in giving a translation so literal as to appear occasionally needlessly so. But Mr. Moon is a grammatical Shylock, and must have his pound of flesh according to the Syntactical bond. We have not forgiven him for his too successful attack on the Dean's English. We confess to something like the sentiment of Arthur's queen: "He is all fault who hath no fault at all." At the same time, we must also confess that his criticisms are deserving of close attention, and that these letters, like to his former ones, will well repay the careful reader.