

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The *Herald* and *Presbyter* mentions that it was recently reported to the Pennsylvania Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at its meeting in Philadelphia, by a committee appointed to investigate the matter, that eighty per cent. of the evangelical churches in that State now use unfermented wine at the communion services.

For thirty-five years the United Presbyterian Church in the United States has had a net increase in membership of from four to five persons each day of every year. During the same time the missionary contributions of the Church have increased at the rate of seventeen dollars for each day of every year. The "good old times" were not altogether better than these.

The Report of the Committee on Statistics, of the Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia, among other matters of information, stated that there were now 445 ministers in the Presbyterian Churches of Australia; of these, there were 220 in Victoria, 149 in New South Wales, 39 in Queensland, 18 in Tasmania, 15 in South Australia, and 4 Western Australia. There were, in addition about 150 ordained ministers in New Zealand—making in all, 600 in Australia and New Zealand.

In the *Review of Reviews* for April Mr. Stead makes a preliminary announcement of a library of masterpieces for the million. He intends to begin with "The Penny Poets," the first number of which will give Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome*. The next number will be devoted to Scott, the third to Lowell, and the fourth to Byron. After the "Penny Poets," in 48 weekly numbers, the publication of other penny classics will be taken in hand. Mr. Stead is also offering to supply villages with periodical supplies of the best books, so that on easy terms they may institute reading clubs.

The financial statement of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions of the American Presbyterian Church North, for the year ending April 30th, 1895, shows that the total receipts were \$866,378 against \$841,553 for the preceding year. The total expenses, including appropriations for the fields, Church at Home and Abroad, etc., were \$1,015,757. To this must be added the deficit at the beginning of the year \$102,597, making a total liability of \$1,118,354. Deducting the income there remains a deficit of \$251,976, which through other sources of one kind and another is lessened to \$174,883.

Evening after evening, nearly a thousand people in Bombay gathered to hear the gospel. The *British Weekly* speaking of the evangelist McNeill and of his work in India, says: Mr. McNeill is always racy and humorous. His addresses have often been powerful and soul-stirring as well. And the impression made upon many hearts has been very real and very deep. Numbers, both of men and women, have turned unto the Lord in sincere penitence; others are now seeking Him and His salvation; backsliders have returned upon their ways; and Christians in all the churches have been stirred up to more lively faith and more earnest work.

While all are watching with more or less interest the result of the negotiations for the entrance of Newfoundland into Confederation a union, has taken place of which the *Presbyterian Witness* of Halifax says: "We hope the amalgamation of the Presbyteries of Newfoundland and Halifax will result in good to the cause of Presbyterianism. Isolated though Newfoundland is from the centre of the Halifax Presbytery, yet the day is not far distant when facilities will be afforded by railway

and perhaps by a fast ferry across to the Cape Breton shore, that will make the ancient colony easily accessible. In the meantime careful oversight is required and advantage should be taken as opportunities offer to advance the cause of Presbyterianism."

On Sabbath, the 5th inst., there was set in the city of Hamilton an example which might well be followed in all the pulpits of the land. Reference was made to the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, either in the way of a sermon on the subject of the humane treatment of the brute creation, or else by a special reference to the subject in connection with the regular service. The objects of the society were strongly commended to the attention and sympathy of the members of the congregations. We hope many may take the hint and go and do likewise.

The great progress that is being made against the liquor traffic is becoming more and more apparent not only on this continent but in Europe. Even in Paris the agitation has spread, and is bearing fruit. Before the Academy of Medicine, Dr. Lancereaux summed up the results of the great growth in the consumption of alcohol as follows: "A mortality greater than that from the greatest epidemics, the ruin of labour, the steady diminution of riches, and—what is already startlingly evident in France—the diminution of the very population of the country by the extinction of the family."—From the Paris correspondence in the *New York Tribune*, March 25th. Let no temperance agitator grow weary. Victory is certain.

It may be questioned if there is any greater or more needy mission fields any where to be found than in many of the great cities of the Old and New Worlds. On four days recently some of the principal members of the staff of the Manchester Wesleyan Mission visited four Lancashire towns to gather funds for their organisation. On each occasion the Rev. S. F. Collier, the superintendent of the work, described the various features of the Mission, and was followed by Gipsy Smith, and Sisters Ada, Margaret, Myra, and Patti. Gipsy Smith in the course of his speeches declared that he had seen all the great Methodist Missions in England, Australia, and America, and he had found nothing equal to Manchester. In connection with this undertaking more than 10,000 people hear the Gospel every Sunday.

In a recent lecture on "Life in the Highlands," Mr. Connell, of Regent-square Presbyterian Church, London, England, said that one characteristic of Highland religion was an atmosphere of gloom, which had developed into a kind of fatalism, strengthened no doubt by storm and tempest. Very few of the Highland preachers have the breezy outlook, say, of Charles Spurgeon. That kind of preaching had induced indifference, which is one of the saddest things in the Highlands today. In conclusion, Mr. Connell said he was one of those who believed that the Highlands had a future. Many things might pass away, but something will remain. Our scenery will remain; our deepest characteristics will remain; our language may die, but some of us hope that the qualities of courage and constancy which have shone on many a battle-field will remain.

An incident well worthy of note from the point of view of Canadian literature was the receipt recently by the publisher of Mrs. Traill's lately-issued work, "Pearls and Pebbles," William Briggs, of this city, of an autograph postal card from Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the book. Mr. Gladstone wrote as follows: "Dear Sir, I think it extremely kind of you to send me the book produced by Mrs. Traill, and I beg to transmit my congratulations on the past and my hearty good-

wishes for the future of a lady who belongs to the now scanty band of my seniors." Lord Dufferin also, always so loyal to everything Canadian, has written the authoress an autograph letter from the British Embassy, Paris, expressing his satisfaction at receiving a copy of the book, he adds:—"I have been delighted with the chapters of your book which I have had time to read in the midst of many pressing occupations. The freshness and beauty of nature breathes through them all."

The tablet erected in the Free High Church, Inverness, to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser, was the proposal of Mr. George Black, banker. It is composed of beautifully polished white marble, is Gothic in character, especially designed to suit the surroundings, and set upon a background of polished pale-blue dove. The inscription cut upon the panel is as follows:

In Memory of  
The REV. DONALD FRASER, D.D.  
Minister of the Congregation from 24th March,  
1859, to 4th January, 1870,  
Afterwards Minister of Marylebone Presbyterian  
Church, London.  
Born at Inverness 15th January, 1826;  
Died in London 12th February, 1892.  
A devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and  
an earnest and eloquent preacher of the  
Word of Life.  
Erected by members of the Free High Church,  
Inverness, and other friends who were  
connected with the congregation  
during the ministry of  
Dr. Fraser.

The following statement respecting education in India, from the latest number of the *Indian Standard* which has reached us, is full of interest and encouragement: "If we leave out the Parsees, the Jains, and the Jews, who are not only small sects, but generally of the rich or well-to-do class, and have the greatest inducement to acquire education, the Christians are ahead of all the others although they are chiefly of the lower casts, and are generally poor. From the last census we find that 51 per cent. of the Christian boys were under instruction, as compared with 41 per cent. of Buddhists (nearly all in Burma), while the Hindus and Mohammedans were only 15 and 11 per cent., respectively. In female education the contrast is much more marked. The Christian girls under instruction were 32 per cent. of all of school age, while the Hindus and Mohammedans were not 1 per cent. The contrast would have been still more marked, if the Christian population had not included the Roman Catholics, who are but little, if at all, better educated than the Hindus.

The American Institute of Sacred Literature holds annually a number of Summer Schools in connection with various institutions throughout the country. For the summer of 1895 the following schools are announced to be held at Chautauqua, N. Y.; Central New York, Chautauqua; at Ottawa, Kan.; at Monteagle, Tenn.; at Lakeside, O.; at Lake Madison, S. D.; at Bayview, Mich., and at Winfield, Kan. All these summer schools will be conducted by eminent specialists. At that of Chautauqua, N. Y., from July 6th to August 16th, which most concerns Canadians, courses in Hebrew will be offered by Prof. D. A. McClenahan, of Allegheny Theological Seminary; Prof. Ira M. Price, of the University of Chicago; and Prof. Frank K. Sanders, of Yale University. Prof. R. F. Weidner, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Chicago, and Prof. Rush Rhees, of Newton Theological Institution, will give courses in New Testament Greek. In the English Bible School, President William R. Harper, of the University of Chicago will give a course, taking up groups of Psalms. Hebrew history will be studied under the direction of Profs. Price and Sanders. The English New Testament work in the school will be conducted by Profs. Weidner and Rhees. President Harper will also give six Sunday morning Bible studies on the general subject "The men who mark critical periods of Israelitish history."