

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN

Vol. 2.—No. 47. (New Series).
Whole No. 398.

Toronto, Friday, September 19th, 1879.

\$2.00 per Annum, in advance.
Single Copies, Five Cents.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

REV. SHELDEN JACKSON, D.D., in his recent trip to Alaska made a canoe voyage of 250 miles along the coast in order to visit some of the mission stations.

At Rhode, in Germany, during a recent storm, Herr Cordes, a Roman Catholic priest, had just finished hearing a confession, when a flash of lightning struck the church, entered the confessional, and instantly killed the priest.

REV. MR. MARSHALL, a Baptist missionary, writes to the Lucknow "Witness" that in Orissa, 400 Hindoos have renounced caste and become Christians. There are among the 400 many of the highest caste and of considerable wealth.

THE Rev. Dr. William Taylor has declined his London call and returned to his labours at the Broadway Tabernacle, New York. During the coming season he will deliver a course of lectures on "Miracles" before the Princeton Theological Seminary.

THE Rev. W. D. Russell, a graduate of Montreal College, of 1878, has returned from a year's sojourn in Scotland with health restored. Mr. Russell had to decline two calls before he left Canada, and we are glad that he is now able to assume the work of the ministry.

THE best known of the recent hymns of Sankey, Bliss and others are being translated into the vernacular by the Rev. Isaac Fieldbrave, native pastor of the Hindoostani church at Lucknow, India. The boys and girls in the mission schools are already singing about fifty of them.

FIVE Maori children and those of five white settlers in New Zealand were recently examined together. The white triumphed in writing from dictation and reading aloud, the natives in grammar and in writing, and solved twenty-two out of thirty arithmetical problems, whilst the others worked only fourteen.

THE last annual report of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, to which reference was made last week, shows a combined clerical and lay membership of 11,656. The society is organized into branches called "wards," and of these there are 155 in England and nine in the Colonies. The "Intercession P per" has a monthly circulation of 11,000 copies.

THE Orillia "Packet" says: "We cordially endorse the suggestion that the churches unite upon a Sabbath for Thanksgiving Day, made by a correspondent of

the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. When a week day is chosen, the attendance at the places of worship is humiliatingly small, while the attendance at the grog-shops would indicate that Bacchus received the bulk of the offerings—and probably of the praise. By all means let us return to the Apostolic custom in this matter, by having the people assemble to render praise and thanksgiving, and to bring offerings, 'on the first day of the week.'"

ON the 10th of August, 1877, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D., and Mrs. A. R. McFarland reached Fort Wrangell to commence Presbyterian missions in Alaska. After making the necessary arrangements for the mission Dr. Jackson returned to the States, leaving Mrs. McFarland in charge. In August, 1878, the mission was reinforced by the arrival of Rev. S. Hale Young. On the 3rd of August, 1879, Mr. Young taking advantage of the presence of Rev. Henry Kendall, D.D., Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D.D., Rev. A. L. Lindsly, D.D., and Rev. W. H. R. Corlies, M.D., proceeded to the formal organization of a church. Twenty-three members were received, of whom eighteen were Indians. Among the latter were several chiefs of the Stickeen nation. Thus we are in a position to report the organization of the first Protestant church in Alaska.

ON the evening of Monday, the 8th inst., a very interesting meeting was held in Knox Church, Woodstock, in view of the departure of the Revs. Robert and W. N. Chambers as missionaries to Turkey. Rev. W. T. McMullen presided, and addresses were given by the Messrs. Chambers, Rev. W. A. McKay, M.A., of Chalmers' Church, and the Rev. John McLewen of Ingersoll. The County of Oxford is surely supplying its share of men both to the Home and Foreign Fields. Among these is the Rev. G. L. McKay of Formosa, correctly described by Mr McMullen in his opening address as one of the most successful missionaries of modern times. The county town now furnishes two missionaries, and these from one family whereof a third member is already in the Presbyterian ministry in the United States. Their father, Mr. Robert Chambers, is a respected elder in Knox Church, Woodstock. The Messrs. Chambers left on the 9th for Erzeroum, where they are to labour under the auspices of the American Board.

DR. SCHAFF, writing to the N. Y. "Observer" from Bohemia, referring to the persecutions of Protestants by the Austrian Government, says: "The latest fact in this connection is a document just issued in the name of the minister of public worship (a Roman Catholic) by the Evangelical Oberkirchenrath, the highest Protestant Council at Vienna, dated June 18th, 1879, of which a copy (in German) lies before me. It is addressed to the Reformed ministers of Bohemia, and warns them against the foreign support and influence which have of late proceeded especially from the Free Church of Scotland and which must be closely watched. The Oberkirchenrath claims the exclusive right of intercourse with foreign churches; but, in fact, it has no such intercourse and cares nothing about it. I am told that one of the delegates to the Council at Edinburgh was deprived of his former governmental grant of 100 guilders, to supplement his scanty salary, because it was supposed that he did not need it if he could travel to Edinburgh, and because his report of that Council in a newspaper did not meet the approbation of his superiors at Vienna."

THE French savant Dr. Bertillon has given the results of his study of the mortality statistics of every country of Europe. He comes to the conclusion that marriage is conducive to health, long life, and morality, that it is, so to speak, a limited insurance against disease, crime, and suicide. He says that a bachelor of twenty-five has not a better prospect of life than a married man of forty-five; that among widowers of from twenty-five to thirty the rate of mortality is as great as among married men of from fifty-five to sixty. Taking the French bills of mortality, he shows that while the annual death rate among married men between twenty and twenty-five years of age is rather under 10 per 1,000, bachelors of that age die at the rate of 16, and widowers at the rate of 19 per 1,000. These figures apply to the whole of France, while taking Paris, it appears that the rate for men of between twenty and twenty-five years of age is 15.7 per 1,000 for married men, 27 per 1,000 for bachelors, and 32 per 1,000 for widowers. With advanced life the difference goes on increasing.

As reported in another column of this issue, the Presbytery of Guelph, having met on Tuesday, the 9th inst., in Knox Church, Guelph and transacted ordinary business, adjourned to meet in the same place in the evening for the purpose of ordaining Mr. William Wilkie, and for his designation as a missionary to India. The Presbytery met accordingly at the appointed time in the body of the church. Besides the members of Presbytery there were present several ministers from a distance and a large assemblage of the friends of Mr. Wilkie who were anxious personally to wish him God speed in the important work marked out for him. Mr. Wilkie is a native of Guelph and a member of Knox Church in that city. Many friends have watched his career with deep interest, and they seem fully to appreciate his ability, his determination, and the devotedness with which he has given himself to missionary work. The services were commenced with devotional exercises, after which Rev. W. S. Ball preached an eloquent and impressive sermon from John viii. 12: "I am the light of the world;" and Matthew v. 14: "Ye are the light of the world." After propounding the usual questions, and receiving an assenting answer to each, prayer was offered up by Rev. Mr. Ball and laying on of hands was performed. The right hand of fellowship was afterwards given by all the clergymen and elders present. Professor McLaren, in his capacity as Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee then addressed the newly ordained missionary, and presented him with a Bible as his commission. Rev. Mr. Smellie addressed the congregation very ably, showing in clear language the assistance that missionaries should receive from them. He held that a high distinction had been conferred upon Knox congregation and their pastor, by having one of them leave on such an important mission. He urged upon Presbyterians the necessity of feeling that they had a common interest, and should cheerfully furnish the means for prosecuting the work. Mr. Thos. McCrae followed in an able address. He considered it an honour to Guelph that one of their number was to be sent to a distant land as an Ambassador for Christ. Our duty was to sustain the missionary not only by our prayers but with our substance. We should also seek out others to follow in the missionary's footsteps. The meeting, which throughout was of a solemn and interesting character, was closed with the benediction.