

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 20.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25th, 1891.

No. 47.

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Notes of the Week.

THE International Peace Congress, which has been holding its Convention at Rome, discussed the means of educating children in the interests of international peace. It also adopted resolutions in favour of partial military disarmament, the creation of an international bureau of arbitration, and the establishment at Berne of a permanent international peace bureau.

A FAREWELL reception was tendered the Rev. Robert Chambers, well known in Canada, in the Calvary Presbyterian Church, New York, by the congregation of that church, whose pastor, the Rev. Dr. James Chambers, is a brother of the honoured guest of that evening. Mr. Chambers was recently appointed a missionary by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to labour at Bagchejuh in Western Turkey.

THE Birmingham Free Library Committee have taken a bold but effective step to remedy a grave abuse of their institution. It was found that a low class of betting men frequented the room and practically monopolized the daily papers for the sake of the sporting news. The librarian suggested the entire obliteration of these portions by blacking them over; this suggestion was unanimously adopted by the committee, and has come into effect.

A COMPLAINT to the Synod of New York against the action of the Presbytery in dismissing the Briggs case has also been entered, signed by the Rev. Dr. Shedd, the Rev. Dr. R. R. Booth, and about thirty other ministers and elders subject to the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of New York. This complaint, except as to formal matters necessary to distinguish it from an appeal, is substantially the same as the appeal, and is based upon the same grounds and specifications of error.

A NOTED American preacher is quoted as saying that the question of the day is not "How to reach the masses," but "How to reach the classes." We move an amendment. Strike out "masses" and "classes"—of which Christ said nothing at all—and insert "sinners," and we shall have the simple Bible truth. There is a great deal of useless playing with words in this matter of stating the needs of the hour. The question, then, of the day is "How to reach sinners?" That question was asked 1860 years ago. And the answer came at the same time: Lift up the prostrate and preach a living Gospel to all.

A FORMAL statement, says the New York *Independent*, that the Behring Sea dispute would be submitted to arbitration has been made by the Attorney General of the United States. The details, however, have not been given. The announcement has called forth many expressions of congratulation in England, as well as in this country. We are glad of the official announcement of what the public had already been fully assured would come to pass—the submission of the Behring Sea dispute to arbitration. This is so eminently wise that it has always seemed to us inevitable. When two great nations cannot peaceably agree let them call in arbitrators.

PRESBYTERIES in the United States are discussing the Revision of the Confession of Faith. In some instances it is evident that their action is viewed differently by different persons. Thus the action of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, some consider as a disapproval of the Report of the Assembly's Committee; to others it seems to be a virtual, if not very specific, approval. The Presbytery of Allegheny is the only one, thus far, that unequivocally and strongly takes action against Revision without depreciating the labours of the Committee; it earnestly presses upon the General Assembly the question, whether in view of the "dangerous doctrinal errors which have appeared, against which the historic and venerable Confession has ever been the sufficient bulwark," it is not best to discontinue the work of Revision, at least for the present.

THE Rev. J. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, writing to his fellow-workers, from Shanghai, says that the recent outbreaks against mission work in China were mainly directed against Roman Catholic founding institutions, but adds that a Wesleyan missionary and a custom-house officer, who came to his rescue, were murdered by the mob. While admitting the dangerous position in which the missionaries are placed, he exhorts them not to think of military protection, but relying amidst all perils on the defence of an ever-present Saviour, to pursue their work and "hold the fort." Pointing out the moral effect of such Christian heroism alike on their converts and on the heathen, and that of old the martyrs' blood was the seed of the Church, he concludes a noble letter by directing the thoughts of his fellow-labourers to their great Defender: "The Lord is on my side, I will not fear."

THE *Christian Leader* says: Sir John Lubbock, on opening a new library building at Kensington, adduced some striking figures to show that from a monetary point of view alone it paid to spend largely on education. Since 1877, when the great Educational Act began to tell on the population, the number of persons in prison fell from 21,000 to 13,000; had it increased with the population it would have been 30,000; and the saving was the difference between \$50,000,000 and \$20,000,000. Eight prisons have been closed, and those subjected to the heavier penalties are but one fourth of what they were in 1864. Only one prisoner in 620 can be called an educated person, and only one in thirty can read and write well. Since 1870, the paupers have decreased from forty-seven per thousand to twenty-two, and expenditure has decreased in proportion. Education, therefore, is really an excellent investment and not an expense, apart from the higher quality of lightening and brightening human lives.

THE sixth annual assembly of the International Christian Workers' Association was held in Washington, D.C., November 5th-11th. The delegates were mostly from the United States and Canada, and represented every kind of Christian work. Addresses of welcome by Mr. Wanamaker and others were responded to by the Rev. R. A. Torrey, the chairman. The report was read by the Rev. John C. Collins, of New Haven, Conn., the Secretary. The addresses and discussions covered the whole field of Christian work, though special attention was paid to that in the cities for fallen men and women and for prisoners. Reports were presented from a number of institutions, industrial homes, rescue missions, etc., and accounts given of organizations in other countries, such as "The Christian Police Association of Great Britain." The meetings were well attended, and much interest was manifested in the subjects presented. It is probable that the next meeting will be held at Atlanta, Ga., although the decision rests with the Board of Governors.

PROFESSOR ORR, D.D., delivered the inaugural lecture for the Session of the United Presbyterian Theological Hall in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh. Principal Cairns, who presided, on entering the hall

was received with an outburst of applause from the students, two or three hundred of whom were assembled in the centre of the building. When he rose to introduce the Professor the applause was renewed. He expressed his thankfulness that he was permitted once more to hear and see the opening of the Theological Hall. He was not desirous of saying much, but he could not refrain from expressing his deep gratitude to the College Committee and other friends who had shown sympathy with him in the indisposition under which he laboured, and most of all to those brethren, Dr. Mair and Dr. Wardrop, who had so kindly, at the request of the College Committee, undertaken the work suggested to supply during the winter session his lack of service. He had to thank those brethren and their congregations who had entered so heartily into this arrangement. Professor Orr dealt with some recent theories of Early Church history.

THE *British Weekly* says. The Christian Literature Society for India is the new name of the Christian Vernacular Education Society for India, as agreed upon at a conference of the members of Committee and others. It indicates a new departure without any abandonment of the old work for education, but all increase of funds is to go for Christian books for schools and zenanas and general readers. It is meant for a great effort to use the press for the spread of truth in India. Government and missionary societies have gone on, the one for sixty years the other for a century, educating the youth of India to read, and have done nothing to give them anything worth reading. They have created an intellectual appetite in twelve millions of our fellow subjects in India, and have raised no food to satisfy it. The enemy has sown tares enough, but of wheat there is almost none. The Society wisely resolves to meet this great and growing want by providing sound literature in all its branches, written in a Christian spirit even when not on directly Christian subjects. In doing this it lays every mission in India under obligations, and confers a benefit on Government and on the masses of India. Missionary societies are sensible of the benefits conferred by work like this, and we see that every great society in England and Scotland, except one, has united in testifying to good done by the past labours of the Society, and in urging their subscribers to contribute to its funds, as the auxiliary of all societies working in India.

THE following reminiscence of Sir Walter Scott is taken from the *Sunday at Home*. The late Dr. John Kennedy, of Dingwall, was a delegate to the English Presbyterian Synod held in Liverpool in April, 1876. During his stay he was a guest in my house. His conversation was rich in Scottish story. One point of great interest I will give as nearly as I can in his own words: I called on Dr. Macintosh Mackay at his house in Dunoon, a few months before his death. I was ushered into his library, and noticed a bookcase filled with Sir Walter Scott's works in all the pomp of library edition and morocco binding. I said: "You seem to be a great admirer of Sir Walter." "I am," said Dr. Mackay. "He was my dear friend on earth, and I hope to spend a happy eternity with him. You know he invited me to spend a few days with him before he went to Italy. I arrived on Saturday, and Sir Walter told me there would be service in the drawing-room the next morning. He asked me if I would preach on our Lord's Divinity, as there were some in his house who doubted it. Next day I preached as he requested. After service, Sir Walter asked me to go to the woods with him, and be his 'Sunday pony instead of poor Tom Purdie.' He was soon wearied, and sat down on the trunk of a tree. 'Ah, doctor,' he said, 'that is what I need—an atoning Saviour.' He struck the trunk of the tree with his hand as he said, 'I could cut this right hand off if it wrote against true Christians.' And so I bade farewell to my dear friend Sir Walter, and, as I said, I hope to pass a blessed eternity with him. Such was Dr. Kennedy's story. Perhaps there may be still living friends of Dr. Macintosh Mackay who have heard it from his own lips."