

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 23.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th, 1894.

No. 3.

Notes of the Week.

Ireland, with all its political troubles, has been favored with a season that is ending well. It is freely admitted that this has been one of the most favorable years within memory for the growth and harvesting of Irish crops. The only exception is found in three or four of the south-eastern counties, which have suffered with England from the drouth. The autumn weather has favored the gathering of the potato crop, which both in quality and quantity is exceptionally good.

That full confidence in the financial ability of Canada is felt by the people is indicated by the fact that there are over \$42,500,000 on deposit in the government savings banks of the Dominion; and that this large sum is placed at 3½ per cent. interest, shows that many of our people are willing to take a low rate of interest for their money if the security is satisfactory. When the present over-production of all the necessaries of life is exhausted, these funds will find a more profitable use invested in productive industries.

"The most serious blow which has yet been struck at the retail liquor traffic," says the *Wine and Spirit Gazette*, is a late decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Indiana. The sum of the decision is that the license law of the State is constitutional, but that, despite the license, the proprietor of the saloon and his landlord are liable for damages to adjacent property. If the value of property is reduced by the presence of the saloon, damages may be recovered. The effect of the decision will be, it is thought, to drive the saloon business from the residence portion of cities and towns, and confine it to the business centres, or to the outskirts, where it would be less injurious to property and to morals as well. It is another step in the progress of making the saloon discreditable. The decision applies, at the present, only to the State of Indiana. But if it is good law in Indiana, it ought to be good law in the other States.

If it be true that "nothing succeeds like success," then prohibition is bound to succeed. The great majority of papers of all kinds continue to be filled with notes of triumph over the great victory. Some, it is true, affect to sneer at and belittle it. They are only whistling to keep their courage up. The people of Ontario are not fooling in this matter. Never were they more in dead earnest, and it will now be clear, we should think, to politicians of both parties, that temperance people can no longer be trifled with. The whiskey vote has had its day, and though there may be, as there will be, temporary delays in giving full effect to Ontario's voice and will as to the liquor traffic, yet its power and reign as a lawful, legalized traffic are broken, never, we hope, to recover strength again. This is one of those great reforms which never go back. Much yet remains to be done by temperance, but the union that has carried this decisive battle, the patient, active, persistent use of the means which have led up to it, will be found sufficient to assure all that yet remains. Only let it be fully understood that there can be no slackening of vigilance, no compromise, no being satisfied with what has been attained, but a steady pressing forward to the things which are yet before, and which, if the means are but used, are certain to be attained.

The *Mid-Continent*, under the heading of "Plain Facts about the Mormons," which it says are given by one who knows whereof she affirms, and which are mentioned in connection with the application of Utah to be made a state, relates some things worthy of the attention of Canadians, the more that the reality of the renunciation of polygamy by the Mormons who have taken refuge in our North-west does not appear to be so absolutely assured as could be wished. Among other things of a like nature, the article says: "Let not our readers think that the days of heathenish barbarity are past, or that Utah is fit for statehood. About a year ago, a valuable Christian young man who had

abjured the system, was shot through a window of his own house while reading Danish hymns to his mother, and recently a Scotchman, who had also been deceived by the spurious teachings of their missionaries and who no longer held himself subservient to the hierarchy, was attacked one evening by a prominent Mormon, and left apparently dead with a fractured skull, having been struck with a bar of iron. Those who are competent to judge affirm that polygamy is not abandoned, and that it will lift at once its defiant head should statehood be secured. Having grown bold in anticipation of this, the home of three lady teachers of the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions was lately surrounded one evening by roughs, who with jeers and shouts and the breaking of windows with stones, attempted to frighten them from their heroic work."

Without wishing to attach too much importance to it, and desiring to guard against being over sanguine as to its results, the public renunciation of the Roman Catholic faith on last Wednesday evening by Louis Joseph Papineau, Seigneur of Montebello, and son of the late distinguished and well known Mr. Papineau, is an event of no little importance as an indication, at least, of the great change which is slowly, but surely, taking place in the minds of our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen in the Province of Quebec. Although not many mighty, not many noble, are called, some of them are, and when they are, it is often the case that God has some special and important purpose to carry out by their means. It was rightly regarded as a just reason for devout thankfulness to God by those who have wrought and prayed long and earnestly in connection with our French Evangelization work. At the meeting at which Mr. Papineau was received into the Presbyterian Church, Russell Hall, Montreal, was crowded to overflowing. Besides Mr. Morin, the pastor of the congregation which meets there, there were on the platform, Rev. Father Chiniquy, Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Prof. Coussirat and Rev. Mr. Duclos. As well becomes the spirit of our church, the ceremony, though impressive, was simple. Rev. Mr. Morin read the usual questions, to which Mr. Papineau replied in a clear voice, and he then gave his adhesion to the standards of the church and received the right hand of fellowship. Brief addresses, songs of praise and the offering of prayer to God summed up and completed the reception of Mr. Papineau into the Protestant Church visible, for whom the prayers of the church may well ascend that he be kept "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

The Romish hierarchy are persistently and insidiously doing their utmost to destroy, or at least impair, the efficiency of the common school system of the United States, by seeking to obtain grants of public funds for the support of parochial schools in connection with the Romish church. This policy unhappily prevailed in Ontario when our public school system was established, and we hope the false step will yet be some day retraced, as we refuse to believe that any one generation has a right to bind all succeeding generations to continue a policy which time and the course of events show to be injurious to the public good. Here is what Senator O'Connor, of Binghamton, N.Y., a Roman Catholic says, and rightly we believe, of seeking to subvert common schools by a system of separate schools: "The Public School system is the salvation, the safeguard, of this country. It is the bulwark of the nation. For myself, I am opposed to any bill of any character or kind that seeks to divert school money from its proper channel. It is a suicidal policy to mass sectarian children by themselves, and to keep them, educationally, from all other children of the community. To my mind, the Public School is the public educator. Now, as far as the Public Schools are concerned every American believes in them. My faith in them is so strong that, Catholic as I am, I send my children to them. The Public School is the place to teach the American child what it is to be an American. For myself, I am opposed to all hyphenated Americans. It is time an end was put to these designations of Irish-American, German-American, French-Ameri-

can, and the like. There is nothing so productive of the Know-Nothing spirit as this constant slap in the face of Americans by these hyphenated Americans."

The Christian Endeavorers in the United States are with an increasing intensity and power turning their attention to two subjects of the utmost practical moment in their effect upon the public well-being, these are temperance and Christian citizenship. In nothing perhaps was this intense purpose more evident than in the attitude of the five hundred delegates who met in the last Illinois State Christian Endeavour Convention. A circular was distributed among the delegates, which among other questions asked:

Are we ready each for himself to take such a stand, and strive by voice, influence, example and vote, to secure the reign of righteousness and purity in the public affairs of this nation, and in the name of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of states and nations as well as individuals, do our utmost to achieve the following:

1. To exterminate the saloon as the greatest enemy of Christ and the church?
2. To prevent, by personal effort, the election of corrupt candidates, and the enactment of corrupt laws in city, state and nation?
3. To secure fidelity on the part of officers entrusted with the execution of the laws?
4. To preserve the American Sabbath?
5. To purify and elevate the elective franchise?
6. To promote the study of social wrongs and remedies?
7. In general, to seek the reign of whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report?

Attached to this was a blank, the signing of which indicated the signer's purpose to give his best endeavors towards achieving the reforms indicated. A large number of these blanks were signed at the convention, and others are being received daily. Societies in the State are requesting supplies of the circular and blank for use among their members and friends. With all our heart we wish success to every endeavor put forth by our cousins to attain to the noblest citizenship. The example and attitude of Ontario at present with regard to prohibition, which implies of itself much as to good citizenship, may well be taken as an encouragement.

References are being made in not a few papers over the country, to the powerful speech made by Rev. Dr. Robertson, our superintendent of missions in the North-west, in the Presbytery of Toronto at its last meeting. Strong confirmatory testimony to what Dr. Robertson said in his speech, which in brief is being sent over the country in leaflet shape, is given in the report of the proceedings of the South Brandon Farmers' Institute held lately. This report says that the grievous burdens laid upon the farmers of Manitoba by the high customs tariff and the exorbitant freight rates charged by the railways for their transportation of his products to the markets of the east, together with the low price of wheat have brought very many face to face with actual want. The report goes on to say that the Provincial Exemption Act has failed in its intent and purpose, namely, to secure to the farmer the ability to earn money to pay his debts. Many who were over-persuaded to mortgage their exempted goods and chattels have had these mortgages foreclosed and the stock, grain and implements necessary to work their farms sold at a mere fraction of their cost, and have no alternative but to throw up their farms and leave the country. In every aspect of it, this is a most serious state of things, for which legal remedies are about to be sought, and so far as at all possible ought surely to be granted. At present, we as a church are most deeply concerned by the effect this state of things is having upon the ability of our church members to meet their engagements to their ministers. In a great number of cases, for this year at least, it is a simple impossibility for them to do so. A self-denial week, or month if necessary, observed all over the church would carry all our schemes successfully over this time of difficulty. Good faith, loyalty to our missionaries, a feeling of brotherly sympathy, faithfulness to Christ and His cause, gratitude to God for His distinguishing mercies, all call upon us to come to the help of our fellow-countrymen in the west at this juncture.