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JUST OUT:

## The "Presbyterian Year Book,"

EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON.

This valuable ANNUAL for 1881 is unusually full of excellent and suggestive reading. The paper, by the Editor, on the proceedings of the Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia, occupying forty pages, is worth the price of the book; while the general articles are exceedingly complete and interesting.

The N. Y. "Independent," in noticing the volume for 1879, says: "It is one of the best ecclesiastical Annuals published in THE WORLD."

The present issue is better than any previous one; and every office-bearer, at least, should have a copy.

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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

PUBLISHER,

5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WE are informed that President Hayes contemplates issuing an army order, which will have the approval of officers high in the military service, forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors at forts and army stations. It would be an admirable order, and would fitly crown the good example set by the Executive.

THE elections for the Municipal Councils all over France have been favourable to the present Government. Even Nimes, so long under clerical rule, has cast off the "white" party, and chosen the "tricolour." The violent men of the late Commune—scarlet-red—have been beaten, together with the clerical party, almost everywhere. In Paris they have been resisted manfully. So there promises to be full scope for the wise reforms in view, or already commenced.

THERE is a genuine temperance revival all over the west. In Iowa it is likely to make some political overturning. In Indiana the liquor dealers are frightened and the temperance advocates determined. The bill before the Legislature requires the applicant to get to his application the signatures of the majority of the legal voters in his town or ward, the signers' names to be published and he to prove the signatures genuine. He must pay \$250 annually, and give a bond of \$3,000 to cover any damages. Selling without a license is punished by fine and imprisonment.

FROM the Australian "Presbyterian" we learn that the number of Presbyterian congregations in New South Wales is 70, with 328 preaching stations; that there are 113 permanent churches, 83 of which are free of debt. The Church has buildings to the value of £216,151, with a debt of £10,864. There are 21,036 sittings, and an average attendance of 14,093. There are 5,101 communicants and 15,578 adherents. The Sabbath schools number 109, with an attendance of 5,554 scholars. The average stipend is £260, or \$1,300. The total sum raised by the Church for all purposes was last year £23,608. Only 23 per cent. of the available sittings are let. The average rental per sitting 13s. 6d., or \$3.37½.

THE London "Lancet" says that Mr. Anderson, stationed in Formosa as agent of the English Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society, writes: "The Chinese make, on the whole, very good patients. Occasionally some of them try our patience not a little. One gets a four days supply of medicine away with him, the recipe bearing on it, 'A teaspoonful three times daily after each meal.' He comes back next morning for more, thinking to flatter you by stating that he drank the former quantity at one dose. Another has his arm carefully put up in splints, and on his next

visit he brings his dressings in a separate parcel. They are great believers in internal administration, and although he have only a cut finger it is difficult for a Chinaman to see why he should not get some medicine to 'eat.'"

MR. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary of the English Liberation Society, writes: "After the passing of the University Tests Abolition Act a well-known member of the University of Oxford said to me, 'The best thing you can now do is to get Nonconformists to send up their most promising young men to the universities;' and, if I may judge from the results, Nonconformists appear to have been of the same opinion. For this year, as last year, the Senior Wrangler at Cambridge is a Nonconformist. The second on the Mathematical Tripos list is also, I am told, of Nonconformist origin; and the third is the son of a Nonconformist minister. Another Nonconformist stands tenth on the list. This is the fourteenth time in twenty-one years that the Senior Wrangler has been a Nonconformist—a surprising fact, considering that a large majority of the under graduates at Cambridge are members of the Church of England. It shows what Nonconformists lost by the ecclesiastical restrictions of past times, and, inferentially, what the nation probably lost also."

LETTERS received by the Church Missionary Society from Kagei, Central Africa, dated September 27th, state that Mr. Mackay had not been able to cross the Lake to Uganda. He had received letters from Mr. Pearson, who is at Mtesa's capital, which shew that the King, whose health is declining, is more capricious than ever. He has renounced his ancestral religion once more, and embraced Mohammedanism; in consequence of which the insignia of his Christianity, the hoisting of a flag on Sunday and the firing of a gun, have been discontinued. It is said that the changeful monarch was induced to become a Moslem by the influence of a dream, in which he beheld the moon surrounded by ten other moons. The central moon grew larger, and the other moons were subject to it. He also saw two angels, who ordered him to call on Allah. The French Catholic missionaries expressed themselves as indignant over the reports in the French papers that Mtesa had driven the Protestant missionaries out of Uganda. They declared they had never made such a statement.

THE coloured population of the United States is anything but dying out. According to the returns of the recent census, in the fifteen ex-slave States not including Texas, that population in 1880 was 5,643,891 against 4,242,003 in 1870. This is an increase of more than 33 per cent. The increase for the ten years between 1860 and 1870 was about 5½ per cent., and in the previous decade when slavery was in full force the increase was only 19 per cent., while between 1840 and 1850 the increase was 25 per cent. In short the coloured population of the States has never increased so rapidly as during the last ten years, the threats and the prophecies of the pro-slavery advocates to the contrary notwithstanding. This shews a wonderful and most gratifying improvement in their material and social condition, and proves to a demonstration that the old talk about the negroes needing some one to take care of them is pure nonsense, if not something a great deal worse. We were told that as soon as slavery ceased the coloured people would die off like flies, that the most of the children could not survive infancy, etc. The answer to all this, as given by the census return, ought to be sufficient for a good while to come. In fact the increase is greater than that of the whites, though of course there has been in the case of the coloured population no immigration to swell the numbers. The whites may just as well sooner or later settle that the negroes are in the States to stay and try to make the best of that fact.

THE war with the Boers instead of being ended, as was last week generally supposed, is farther from that than ever by the late defeat and death of General Colley. A great deal of wild not to say fantastic

talk is being indulged in on both sides of the Atlantic over the "noble patriotism" of those Boers and the cruel tyranny of the British. If the British had never done anything worse in South Africa than what they have done to the Boers their record would have been a much purer and a much nobler one than unfortunately it is. Supposing the United States had abolished slavery in the South and had given the slave holders compensation for the loss of their human chattels—making the bills in payment payable in Washington and not in New Orleans, in order that they might be more valuable; suppose that Yankee pedlars had persuaded these slave holders that the notes they had received would never be paid, and that it was simply in kindness that they bought them at ten cents on the dollar; suppose when payment was made that these Southrons instead of believing that they had been cheated, had said that payment had been made because the pedlars were Northerners, and in disgust had gone off to Mexico in order to establish their authority there with slavery as the corner stone; suppose the people of the United States had said "No, you are under our authority and under it you shall remain," and had fought with them once and again and beaten them, but had at last, in a fit of disgust, recognized their independence on condition that there was to be no slavery allowed and that certain other terms were to be complied with; suppose that notwithstanding, slavery had been re-established in that new country, and every one of the other conditions set at naught, and the States had withdrawn from these men the recognition of independence, the more especially as a great number of these very people were anxious again to become citizens of the United States, would there have been any great ado made over the people who had stolen the country they occupied and enslaved the servants they possessed? We rather think not. And yet this is but a faint representation of the past history of the recusant Boers of the Transvaal. They have oppressed and enslaved the natives whenever they had a chance. By their masterful ways they have embroiled themselves with the surrounding populations and made a war of races imminent once and again. They have stolen the country they profess to be fighting for as if it were their "beloved and native soil;" have expelled Christian missionaries who protested against their oppressions; have gloried in the idea that they were to enact the part of the Israelites under Joshua against all natives who would not acknowledge their authority and would not allow their children to be taken as their slaves. In short they are not unlike the Border rieviers of the olden time in the debateable land between England and Scotland, only a great deal worse, and the flood of ink shed and idiocy that are being poured out over their "patriotism," "simplicity," and "Christian character" may for pity's sake and decency's well be spared. It may have been bad policy for Britain to withdraw her recognition of the Independence of those two wretched Dutch Republics, but the flagrant iniquity and injustice of that step are not so easily made plain. But for the disgust of the Boers over the loss of their slaves forty-seven years ago, there would have been no withdrawal from British authority and no such Republics as those which are now so much talked of and bespattered with so much ignorant sympathy and praise. The wrongs done to the South African natives both by the English and Dutch are of a much darker colour than any the "patriots" of the Transvaal can righteously complain of. While we say this we not the less earnestly express the hope that the curse of war in South Africa may speedily be stayed. The white people in that far-off land have too generally been so smitten with the "land fever" that they have been very little careful about respecting the rights of others who were weaker and had received from heaven a darker skin. Out of all these dreadful complications perhaps it may by-and-by be more clearly understood than apparently it has ever yet been, that there are very many others in Southern Africa who have more need to have their rights looked after and their liberties respected than the Boers of the Transvaal.