

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1883.

No. 31.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE vestry of the Church of the Evangelist, Philadelphia, have presented charges against the Rev. Henry B. Percival, alleging that he has violated the canons of the Church in the introduction of ceremonies foreign to the laws of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Trouble has existed in the church for some time between the "High Church" and "Low Church" elements. The matter was finally carried into the courts and decided in favour of the "Low Church" party, who now present the charges against the pastor.

IN the German Empire Protestantism is gaining much faster than Catholicism. In 1867 the Evangelical Church numbered 24,921,000 individuals; in 1871 it had 25,583,900; and in 1880, 28,333,652; while its share of the whole population amounted in 1878 to 62.14 per cent., in 1871 to 62.31, and in 1880 to 62.64 per cent. Of professed Roman Catholics there were in 1867, 14,564,000; in 1871, 14,867,600; and in 1880, 16,234,475. The percentage of Roman Catholics was:—In 1867, 36.31; in 1871, 36.21; and in 1880, 35.88.

STILL another is added to many disasters that will make the present year memorable. Last week a large excursion party left Baltimore for Tivoli, ten miles up the Patapsco river. It was when the last trip to the city was to be made that the calamity occurred. The landing pier was crowded with people anxious to get home. The excursion barge struck the pier; it swayed and became a wreck plunging the dense crowd into the water, varying from eight to ten feet in depth. The night was dark, and the darkness added to the confusion and loss of life. Over one hundred perished. As usual in such gatherings many who lost their lives were young people and children. The morning began in pleasure; the day ended in death, swift and appalling.

THE Ninth Annual Calendar of the Brantford Young Ladies' College has been received. The institution re-opens on 5th September. The high degree of excellence to which it has attained has been the result of intelligent and well-directed effort. It enjoys the thorough confidence of all who are interested in its welfare. There is no necessity for elaborate commendations of its excellence. Its success as a training institution in the past is a guarantee for accomplishing the work it professes to do. But it does not live on its past reputation. Its directors are earnest in their endeavours to keep it in the front rank of Canadian educational institutions. Principal Macintyre and those associated with him in the work of instruction are eminently qualified to inspire their students with the love of learning.

THE Announcement of Pickering College for the year 1883-4 has just been issued. Among the training colleges of Ontario this institution has attained an honourable place in the front rank. The teaching staff under the superintendence of Principal William H. Huston, M.A., is mostly composed of first-class honour men of Toronto University, while the lady teachers are eminently qualified for the positions they occupy. All the branches requisite for a thorough education form a part of the curriculum. Pickering College, a commodious building, is situated in a healthy and beautiful locality. The supervision exercised over the students shows that their physical, moral and intellectual well-being is cared for. The success achieved by this first class educational institution is an indication that its merits are appreciated.

THE Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society have issued their Forty-third Annual Report. It presents in brief compass a view of the work of Bible circulation on the continent of Europe. The results of last year's operations are decidedly gratifying. The good work goes steadily forward. More ample details of the society's operations in its own proper field are given. Condensed statements from the agent's reports and extracts from the journals of the colporteurs supply an interesting outline of the work accomplished

during the past year. The directors have very wisely embodied these accounts with verbatim reports of the admirable addresses delivered at the annual meeting in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, by Dr. John Hall and the Bishop of Algoma in the July number of the "Bible Recorder."

EUROPEAN statisticians are generally revising and reducing their estimates of the population of China. The great famine a few years ago swept away millions, and there is good reason for believing that the population is nearer 300,000,000 than 400,000,000. Behm and Waener reduce their estimate for China and Corea from 434,500,000 to 370,500,000. Peterson reduces his estimate by 75,000,000, making the present total 350,000,000. Dr. Happer, missionary, believes this can safely be reduced another 50,000,000. Mr. Hipsley, Acting Commissioner of Customs, thinks 250,000,000 more nearly correct than 350,000,000. The losses by the Taeping and Mohammedan rebellions and by the famine and pestilence which swept the provinces of Chili, Shantung, Shansi, Shensi and Houan, are variously estimated at from 61,000,000 to 81,000,000.

STATISTICS lately published regarding the increase of suicide within the last thirty years are simply appalling. In the seven chief countries of Europe, while the population during that period has increased 19 per cent., suicide has increased 63 per cent. Comparing the decade from 1850 to 1860 with the seven years from 1871 to 1877, it is found that the yearly average of suicides has increased in England from 1,167 to 1,614, in France from 3,821 to 5,440, in Germany from 3,819 to 6,478, in Austria from 1,305 to 3,292, in Italy from 728 to 905, in Belgium from 189 to 388, in Sweden and Norway from 381 to 485. In the same two periods and in the same countries the ratio to every one million inhabitants has grown in England from 65 to 68, in France from 105 to 156, in Germany from 129 to 156, in Austria from 45 to 97, in Italy from 31 to 36, in Belgium from 46 to 71, and in Sweden and Norway from 76 to 81.

BUT a short time since the Hon. William Elder became Provincial Secretary in the Blair administration in New Brunswick. The other week the University of New Brunswick honoured itself by conferring on him the merited degree of LL.D., and now his death is announced. It appears that the end of a busy, useful and honoured life has been hastened by overwork. For some time past Mr. Elder has been engaged in a multiplicity of duties that would have taxed the energies of more than one strong man. The late Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick was a native of Malin, Donegal county, Ireland. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Edinburgh and Glasgow. He came to New Brunswick as a Presbyterian minister. After a time he entered on the profession of journalism, in which he has been eminently successful. Through his efforts the St. John "Telegraph" has attained a foremost place among the newspapers of the Dominion. It is to-day a fine example of the fact that, with intelligence, literary ability and good judgment, a daily journal can attain an influential position without descending to the personal and sensational methods that some seem to think the readiest passports to journalistic success. In public and private life Mr. Elder was held in the highest estimation on account of his personal merits and worth. He leaves a record that ought to inspire those who seek to live noble and useful lives.

FOR several weeks it was announced to be the intention of Captain Webb to swim the Niagara whirlpool. Occasional protests came from the papers. It was held that the authorities ought to interfere to prevent him from engaging in such a foolhardy adventure. Still many people imagined that the attempt would never be made. Captain Webb was not given to bluster. For a man of his achievements he was rather unobtrusive. Without much ado, when the time appointed came, he was ready to go on his last adventure. Quietly floating down the stream as far

as it was safe to go in a boat, he jumped into the rapid current of the Niagara a short distance above the old suspension bridge, and was borne down on the wild swift current of seething water into the whirlpool where he disappeared from sight. So passed away the bravest swimmer of modern times. Having crossed in safety the English channel, he perished in the turbulent eddies of the Niagara whirlpool. In the former case reasonable precautions for his rescue were taken, in the last fatal venture there were none. The only thing possible was to have prohibited him from committing a striking and picturesque suicide. Captain Webb was no charlatan. He was a brave and capable seaman, but his last undertaking showed a judgment decidedly at fault. This melancholy end of a brave man's life ought to deter from the recklessness with which certain people risk their lives without any adequate reason. The arm of authority ought to prevent those foolhardy enough to peril their lives without the slightest justification. Life has nobler tasks awaiting accomplishment than the successful swimming of the Niagara whirlpool.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN—The atmospheric conditions during the week have not been characterized by any peculiarities which can be said to have affected in any special way the public health. In fact the temperature having been below the average, would tend to lessen those diseases characteristic of the season. Yet, as will be seen, in spite of this, Diarrhoea has advanced to the first place in degree of prevalence. The night temperatures have been in some cases abnormally low, and have tended to some extent in continuing if not promoting colds. Hence Bronchitis, Consumption, Tonsillitis, and Pneumonia, all show some increase in percentage of prevalence over last week's Report. Neuralgia and Rheumatism have not altered in any great degree their relative prevalence; and Anæmia still has the widest area of prevalence of any disease. Among the Fevers, Intermittent, almost retains its previously high degree of prevalence, while in area of prevalence it appears amongst the six most prevalent diseases in five out of the ten Districts. In only one District, III., Muskoka and Parry Sound, does Typho-Malarial appear amongst the six most prevalent diseases, and seems to take the place which Intermittent occupies in other Districts amongst the settlers living along flat or low places near water. It will be remembered in this connection that District III, is largely a forest area. Enteric Fever has as yet made its appearance but slightly. Amongst contagious Zymotics, Measles and Scarletina have disappeared from the list of the twenty most prevalent diseases. Diphtheria, while somewhat less than last week, still bears out the previous remark made concerning its persistent endemicity in almost every part of the Province. Whooping Cough, last week reported as prevalent in a small degree, has made a rapid and great advance. This must be explained by its being reported from several localities as having an extreme epidemic prevalence. Fortunately, the disease does not in this Province seem to be attended with fatal results in the same degree as in Great Britain. Referring to the whole class of diseases, of which Diarrhoea is the prominent sign, we have them, as already remarked, greatly on the advance. Diarrhoea represents 10 per cent. of all diseases reported, Cholera Morbus some 4 per cent., Cholera Infantum 2.8 per cent., and Dysentery over 1 per cent. Without attempting to enter upon any special explanation, it is well to call attention to what has been before remarked, that the decay promoted by heat and moisture which goes on in organized matter of every kind, whether in air, in the soil, in water, or in food, seems to be the prime factor in producing the widespread and often fatal results of such complaints. Complaints are made from various localities of the general prevalence in them of decomposing refuse of every kind, while but little attempt is made to remove or destroy it, and thereby prevent injurious consequences resulting from it. The general relation which Asiatic Cholera has with Diarrhoeal diseases, makes the urgency of sanitary precautions at present doubly apparent.