

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## WESTERN GENERAL AGENT.

MR. JOHN MACAULEY is our authorized Agent for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. He will collect outstanding accounts, and take names of new subscribers. Friends are invited to give any assistance in their power to Mr. Macauley in all the congregations he may visit.

## THE PRESBYTERIAN FOR 1883.

IN answer to numerous inquiries, we have to say that the clubbing arrangement for some time in force is not to be continued. We are sorry to have to state that it answered no good purpose. The circulation was not extended, although the price of the paper was reduced ONE-FOURTH to clubs of twenty; while the net result was a heavy falling off in the receipts from subscriptions.

The clubbing plan was adopted in deference to a widely expressed wish that THE PRESBYTERIAN should be placed within the reach of our people at \$1.50, in the expectation that the circulation would thus be largely increased. A fair trial of three years has demonstrated that our constituency is satisfied—in common with the Methodist, Anglican, and other denominations—to pay \$2.00 for a Church paper.

The price of THE PRESBYTERIAN for 1883 will therefore be \$2, with balance of year free to new subscribers. May we ask all our friends to renew promptly? And, when renewing, will not everyone try and send along the name of at least ONE NEW subscriber? A word to a friend would in nine cases out of ten result in another name for our subscription list; and in view of the benefits which a largely increased circulation would confer on our Church and people, surely the word will be spoken!

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ANOTHER Royal authoress is added to the list. The Archduchess Valérie of Austria, following in her brother's footsteps, has composed several poems in the Magyar language, and is now writing a drama. The youthful writer is only fourteen.

THE session of the Edinburgh University Theological Society was opened with an address by the Rev. Dr. Story on "Church Reforms." The absence of liturgical forms, he contended, was not a true mark of Presbyterianism. Preaching, he thought, had lately improved, being more reasonable in length, more practical and more catholic.

ACCORDING to the census of 1880 there were 4,008,907 farms in the United States, but only 139,241 of these were farms of less than ten acres in extent. Small farming by peasant proprietors is the rule in France, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Prussia, and several of the German States; but there are many reasons why comparatively large farms should prevail in a country like the United States.

THE Thirteenth Annual Assembly of the Free Church of Italy has been held in Florence, thirty-four deputies, representing thirty churches, being present. The chief feature of the Assembly was consideration of the financial interests, which are not in a favourable condition. Little help has been received from America, and retrenchment was the order of the day. To avoid expense the Assembly is to meet triennially.

TORONTO, Guelph, Winnipeg, St. John, and other towns and cities in the Dominion are agitating the question of establishing free public libraries. In Ontario the Free Libraries Act renders the establishment of such libraries comparatively easy by making it competent for corporations to levy a tax for the purpose, when the wishes of the people have been duly ascertained. In Manitoba and New Brunswick the promoters of such libraries depend upon private

scriptions. Toronto and Guelph are to vote upon the subject within a few days.

THE Pope of Rome is said to have a "concern," to use a Quaker phrase, for the conversion of England. "He has ordered a collection of papers to be made from the archives of the Vatican relating to the separation of England from the Church of Rome. He hopes something may be found which will help to remove out of the way the difficulties which impeded the resumption of diplomatic intercourse between England and the Holy See." One of the English journals publishes all this, and then grimly remarks: "In this matter the people of England will have to be reckoned with."

WHEN old age and increased infirmities compelled Thurlow Weed to withdraw from the busy affairs of life, questions of a much higher order and of much greater importance arrested and interested his attention, as they had not done in earlier years. Not long before his final illness he said to a friend, with whom he was conversing, in regard to the great problem of a future life: "I cannot believe, and cannot be brought to believe, that the purpose of our creation is fulfilled by our short existence here. To me the existence of another world is a necessary supplement of this, to adjust its inequalities and imbue it with moral significance."

JOHN TOBIN, ex-President of the Hudson River Railroad, and at one time a power in Wall street, was arrested a few evenings ago near the Staten Island ferry in New York for drunkenness. Formerly a millionaire and a man whose operations set the Stock Exchange in an uproar and influenced speculation all over the country, he has become an utter wreck physically as well as financially. In the days of his prosperity his speculative schemes were on the scale of those of Cornelius Vanderbilt and Daniel Drew, and he dealt in shares by the hundred thousand shares. Now he is little better than a beggar, and the police say that he is rarely seen sober.

M. REVEILLAUD writes that the Moody and Sankey meetings in Paris were undoubtedly successful. For six nights vast crowds gathered in the Church of the Oratoire. M. Reveillaud says: "Never before in our experience have we borne away from a religious assembly so deep an impression of these thousands assembled in one place, these bowed heads, these bended knees, this genuine gospel unity and brotherhood, which induces the pale-faced workman from Mr. McAll's meetings to rub elbows with the white-handed fine lady." On the last evening Père Hyacinthe was present among the pastors, perhaps to learn, in the wonderful success of the earnest evangelist, the secret of his own lamentable failure.

AN eccentric Scotch clergyman, Dr. Waddell, thinks he has found out what is finally to become of Satan, the father of all evil. The learned divine reads the solution of the problem in that revelation of an angel coming down with a chain and a key and binding the dragon and casting him into the bottomless pit. The angel, he says, is electrical science; the chain is a coil of telegraph wire, and the key is the telegraph key. The angel of the dream has come down with the coil and the key and is encircling the world with chain lightning. The preacher said that in exactly the proportion that electricity encircles the world evil will be defeated, and the regeneration of mankind will progress. In this view telegraph wire stretchers and telegraph operators will supplant preachers, and the electric light is a beacon of paradise.

AT the London (Ont.) Sessions the Grand Jury made the following reference to the punishment of juvenile offenders: "That they fully concur in the remarks which were made by the Court on the subject of the punishment of juvenile offenders, and trust that before long the Legislature will see fit to place it in the power of judges at their discretion to order the administration of a moderate amount of corporal pun-

ishment either with or without the addition of solitary confinement as they see fit. The jury deem that in the majority of cases this will be found far more efficacious than the present system, whereby the youthful culprit is sent to mingle with older and more hardened offenders, and as an inevitable result comes out of prison worse than he went in." Judge Price also at the opening of the County Court at Kingston, spoke out strongly on the propriety of using this method of treating juvenile criminals.

CANON BASIL WILBERFORCE says that he read the Archbishop of York's recent denunciation of the vices of workingmen. The particular sins which the Archbishop condemned were "sporting, drinking, and other debasing pastimes." The Canon says he turned over his newspaper after reading the above, and observed: 1. The restoration of the drinking and dancing license to a house notorious for aristocratic profligacy. 2. Graphic accounts of the gambling transactions of the aristocracy in a well-known West End racing club. 3. The betting upon the next horse race, chronicled in the same type as the news from Egypt and the doings of the Imperial Parliament. 4. Two highly aristocratic divorce cases. He is accordingly driven to the conclusion that "to scold the workingmen for sporting and vice, and not to carry the same crusade boldly into higher quarters, is to strain at national gnats and swallow national camels wholesale." It is but fair to add that the Archbishop of York has oftentimes dwelt in no gentle language on the vices of the rich.

THE ladies are coming to the front rapidly. Mr. Alfred P. Hensman, who took an active part in the movement which ended in the admission of women to the degrees of the University of London, calls attention to a remarkable result of the recent examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts. There were 237 candidates altogether, of whom 215 were men. Of these 215 men, 90, or about 42 per cent., obtained the degree. Of the 22 women who presented themselves no fewer than 16, or about 73 per cent., were successful. But further, only 58 of the 215 men, or 27 per cent., were placed in the first division, whereas 15 of the 22 women, or 68 per cent., succeeded in obtaining places in that division. To put it in another way, more than one in every three of the men who obtained their degrees were in the second division; only one of the sixteen women who became graduates failed to be placed in the first division. This is a great triumph for the ladies, whose average age we are told is not higher, but probably lower, than that of the male competitors for the degree.

THE experiment in co-education at the Royal Medical College, Kingston, has been subjected to a severe strain. On admitting ladies to the College it was understood that when dissecting they should occupy different rooms from those where the male students were engaged, and that the latter should attend lectures in the forenoon while the former were to attend in the afternoon. The dissecting is still carried on separately, but the professors finding it irksome to give the same protections twice a day had all the students together at the lecture room. Certain remarks at a recent lecture were felt embarrassing by the ladies, and to increase their discomfort some of the more thoughtless and unfeeling male students accentuated the painfulness of the situation by ill-timed applause. At a meeting of the faculty two letters were received, one from the ladies, complaining that the professor had not checked offensive demonstrations of the opposite sex, admitting that what was said by him might have been necessary for the interest of science, but that the applause of the males made the position an indelicate one for them. An attempt was made to overcome the difficulty by having the different sexes occupy different rooms during the lectures, as they now do when dissecting. Upon such conditions the ladies agreed to return to the classes, but the male students are now decidedly opposed to co-education, and seem bent on resisting all compromise.