

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 15.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th, 1884

No. 15.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

At the spring assizes held throughout the Province of Ontario there has been a notable decrease in the number of criminal cases coming up for trial. In several counties the pleasing ceremony of presenting a pair of white gloves to the presiding judge has been performed. Such a state of things speaks well for the people of the province generally. We have occasionally had what were not inaptly termed epidemics of crime. Now happily we have the rare satisfaction of seeing a greatly diminished criminal record. May this cease to be exceptional, and may the same immunity from crime continue to characterize the Province of Ontario!

THE *Osservatore Romano* publishes a circular by the Propaganda Fidei to bishops, stating that all legacies and donations given to the Propaganda will henceforth be received in foreign branch establishments. Branches are to be established in the principal European capitals, and at New York, San Francisco, Quebec and Toronto. The *Moniteur de Rome* mentions a rumour that Malta has been selected as the centre for the administration of the funds of the Propaganda, under the sanction of the British Government. This probably gave rise to the subsequent rumour that the Pope was to remove to Malta, which has been authoritatively denied.

THE recent rumour that the Pope, who considers himself a prisoner in the Vatican, was about to forsake Rome, was denied, but it is again in circulation. An archbishop has been telling a representative of the *Times* that although the Pope is reticent on the subject, he inclines to removal. Before his elevation, it seems, he favoured the idea of leaving. The archbishop interviewed is reputed to have said: "That sooner or later he will have to leave, I foresee clearly." It is just possible that the resuscitation of the rumour whenever the Italian government encroaches on the prerogatives of the Pontiff is a ruse for diplomatic purposes mainly. It is, however, certain that Rome of to-day is not the congenial home of the Papacy it once was.

ACTIVE preparations have begun for the purpose of giving a grand welcome to the illustrious guests whom Canada expects to receive in the month of September. The British Association for the Advancement of Science is to meet this year at Montreal. In that city an energetic committee has been making arrangements for the fitting reception and entertainment of the illustrious members of this widely-famed association. Excursions on a large scale have been mapped out for them, and all who wish may go clear across the continent. Toronto will most likely get a glimpse of the *savants* while on their way to visit the Falls of Niagara. The Dominion Parliament has voted a sum of \$25,000 to assist in defraying the expenses incurred by our distinguished visitors to the meeting of the British Association at Montreal.

THE sudden death of the Duke of Albany has awakened a feeling of profound regret. The youngest of Her Majesty's sons, Prince Leopold, was universally respected. All that was generally known of him was highly creditable. He maintained an unblemished personal reputation. From time to time there were hints that he inclined to enter the ministry of the English Church. He took a deep interest in educational questions and sought to promote every movement that had for its object the moral and social elevation of the people. The address voted by the Canadian Parliament on the occasion of the Prince's death, appropriately expresses the general feeling. "Your Majesty's bereavements have indeed been many and grievous, and the interest which you have so often and so graciously shown in the afflictions of your subjects, of low as well as of high degree, has intensified our sympathy with your own."

THE Hon. George W. Ross, Minister of Education, has given close attention to the immediate require-

ments of his department. New regulations relating to the examination of teachers have just been issued. They are intended to remedy some defects to which attention has been recently called. It has been felt that too little care has been bestowed on reading and penmanship. Every candidate for examination will now be required to read a passage selected by the County board of examiners. Excellence in penmanship, hitherto overlooked, will now be required. For both these subjects marks will be given. To encourage the study of music and drawing in the school, examination in either or both subjects may be passed and the marks obtained will count with those obtained in the other subjects. The distinctive feature of the new regulations is the requirement of a fee of one dollar from every candidate who enters examination for a teacher's certificate. As candidates at law examinations have to pay the costs incurred, so it is thought to be only fair that applicants for teachers' certificates should bear their share of the cost of these examinations.

THE excitement occasioned by the so-called miracles at Knock, Ireland, was great about two years ago. Things have changed since then, as will be seen from the following extract from the *Christian Irishman*:—We give ourselves credit for having written so strongly in condemnation of the Knock miracles at the time they were attracting so much public attention. The anxiety of the Railway Directors to increase their dividends was not hard to understand, though it is not often that directors in this country resort to artifices so disreputable. It was more difficult to comprehend the part played by a minister of the Gospel in so responsible a position as Canon Cavanagh. He is said to have made a good many crutches out of the transaction; but, like the directors, he made something much more valuable at the height of the popular fever. Those who held the imposture up to ridicule were exposed in some instances to violence. What will be thought of the "miracles" now? What has Canon Cavanagh to say for himself? We have never yet seen his confession. The best confession would be the restitution of all the moneys that poured in upon him like a golden river, for months together, from the ends of the earth.

Egyptian affairs are becoming more inexplicable than ever. It is usual for the British Government, when it undertakes the task of reducing an anarchic state to the reign of law and order, to press that work forward with all due energy and speed. No sooner had Arabi Pasha risen in revolt against the Khedive than rumours of the False Prophet's approach were industriously circulated. Arabi gave out that he hoped to effect a junction with his forces and the two would make common cause against the British. Arabi's rebellion was speedily subdued, and the English forces withdrawn, but El Mahdi continued to advance. He inflicted telling blows on his Egyptian opponents, and the country was at his mercy. English troops were then sent, and under General Graham the forces of Osman Digna were defeated. No sooner was victory gained at Tamanieb than orders were given for the withdrawal of the British troops to Suez. Friendly Sheikhs and their followers complain that they have been deserted. General Gordon is virtually shut up in Khartoum. He expects British soldiers to come to his relief, but no advance has been ordered. The apparent purposelessness of the present Egyptian campaign is puzzling. Is it Cabinet division or foreign complications that hinders the prompt and decisive pacification of the Soudan?

CASES of lawlessness are of frequent occurrence in the United States. It is not often, however, that such scenes as those that disgraced Cincinnati last week are enacted. Not since the dreadful riot, occasioned by the draft for soldiers to fill the ranks of the Northern Army in 1863 has an outbreak so fatal in its results been chronicled. The uncertain punishment meted out to murderers has often exasperated otherwise law-abiding citizens to such a degree that an appeal to Judge Lynch was regarded as highly proper. The

case that occasioned the disastrous rising in Cincinnati was so clear, and the verdict given by the jury so surprising, that a feeling of indignation seized the popular mind. The populace attacked and fired the prison, then set fire to the court-house. In defence of law and order the police, the militia, and finally detachments of United States regulars took part with steadiness, firmness and courage. The undisciplined mob were helpless, and the fatalities of the collision were numerous and saddening. Several persons taking no part in the rising were shot down on the streets. In published lists of the dead and wounded German names predominate. Germans usually have great respect for law and order. They must have believed that their provocation was great. The United States judiciary is greatly in need of reformation. Political corruption is disastrous to a nation's welfare. Judicial corruption poisons the life blood of national existence.

OCCASIONALLY the press has to defend its freedom. Irate corporations and individuals do sometimes invoke the protection of the courts and demand the punishment of offenders. It is not long since the *Montreal Witness* was sued by the Allans for giving a too realistic description of a steamer passage across the Atlantic. In justice to the company it should be stated that the abuses exposed by the *Witness* were unknown to the officials. Now it has been the turn of the *Ottawa Free Press* to defend itself in an action for libel against the Beaver Steamship Company. The evidence disclosed a state of affairs that was scarcely supposed possible nowadays. Journalists who let in the light on negligence and abuses permitted on board passenger steamers are performing a duty they would be culpable in omitting. The course of the *Free Press* has been vindicated by the courts. Edmund Yates has not fared so well in London. The so-called society papers, because of their constant flow of malodorous gossip, are eagerly and extensively read, feared and despised. A paragraph aspersing the character of Lord Lonsdale appeared in Yates' paper, *The World*. He was at once notified that proceedings would be taken against him. He apologized, even promised to give up the name of the writer of the scandalous paragraph—a titled lady it appears, but all in vain. The result of the trial is that the fashionable lounge in the parks and the clubs will form another instance of the calamities of authors, if his appeal from the decision is unsuccessful. He is sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—This week we again see a temperature very markedly above the normal, while we further notice that the humidity and the amount of cloud have both been above the normal. The effects through the prevalence of southerly winds have been fairly favourable to the general health. The diseases of the respiratory organs still maintain the most prominent position. Influenza especially being, along with Bronchitis, of unusual prevalence. The most noticeable advances are, however, in the amounts of Neuralgia and of Rheumatism: the former occurs amongst the six prevailing diseases in all the ten districts, while Rheumatism appears in seven out of ten. But their actual prevalence is likewise indicated in their percentage of prevalence, Rheumatism especially having very noticeably advanced. Pneumonia and Consumption retain much of their previous prevalence, the former being still high. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent is rapidly advancing in a manner similar to that in the spring of 1883. Typhoid does not appear prevalent. Amongst the contagious zymotics there is nothing worthy of note, unless it be the slight upward tendency of Measles and Diphtheria as compared with last week. There does not, however, seem to be any notable outbreak of any contagious disease reported to the Board. Diarrhoea is very markedly increasing. Whether this be not due to infiltration of surface water impregnated with organic materials into wells and water supplies hardly admits of question. Care in the removal of such materials from proximity to wells seems to be enforced by such facts.