

GOOD WORDS.

THE number and cordiality of encouraging words from correspondents and in contemporaries have been a surprise to us, and call for grateful acknowledgment. These good words would fail of their purpose did they not incite to renewed and sustained endeavour to justify the good opinion of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN so generally entertained. Only a few out of many are here now sub-joined.

A worthy minister writes: I shall certainly call the attention of others to THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and recommend them to take it. Not to oblige you, but for the excellence of the paper; and I think, in the interest of morality and religion, that it should find its way into every house.

A clergyman at the Dominion Capital says: I am glad to have this opportunity of congratulating you on the excellent appearance of the paper's new dress. It seems to me that it compares favourably with any religious weekly on the continent.

A prominent business man and active elder in the Church in Western Ontario writes: I congratulate you on the marked improvement you have made. To me THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is far more interesting and profitable reading.

From an esteemed correspondent in British Columbia comes the following: Accept my hearty congratulations on the evidence THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN gives of substantial progress. I hope our people all over the Dominion will show their appreciation of your efforts in furnishing such a bright, healthy, handsome paper.

The Larger the Better.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN has got itself a new dress for the new year. This journal, staunch and yet genial and free from rancour and hysteria, is read with pleasure by others than Presbyterians. It is enlarged, and its readers will say, the larger the better.—*Toronto Globe.*

Invariably Turned to and Read.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN comes to hand enlarged and generally improved. It is a good paper and has some very interesting features. The highly interesting articles of "Knoxonian" are invariably turned to and read, even though our table is full of other exchanges.—*Berlin Daily News.*

Conducted with Tact, Taste, and Ability.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, now entering on its seventeenth year of publication, has come out in a new and enlarged form, which enhances its hitherto attractive appearance. It is conducted with taste, tact and ability, and deserves the cordial support of the influential denomination in whose interest it is published.—*Empire.*

Has a look of Prosperity about it.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN begins the new year with a handsome new re-arrangement of its make-up and an increase in size. THE PRESBYTERIAN has a look of prosperity about it.—*Toronto World.*

A Financial Success.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN opened the new year with a new dress. The paper is as bright and newsy as ever, and we are pleased to know it is proving a financial success.—*Napanee Express.*

A Credit to Presbyterianism.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN comes to hand commencing with the New Year, in an enlarged and greatly improved form. It is a credit to Presbyterians and the publisher.—*Barrie Gazette.*

"Knoxonian's" Papers a Valued Feature.

There is no better denominational paper in the Dominion than THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, which celebrates the holiday season by appearing in an enlarged form and a new dress. Fully fifty per cent. more matter is given than formerly, and every line of it is the very best. The papers by "Knoxonian" are alone worth the subscription price, and they are only one of many valuable features. No Presbyterian family should be without a copy.—*Cornwall Freeholder.*

A Manly and Judicious Exponent.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, the leading Church paper of the Presbyterian body in Canada, has been greatly enlarged and improved. It contains fifty per cent. more reading matter than it did before, and is now equal to the best church paper published on either side of the Atlantic. THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN has always been an able, manly and judicious exponent of the principles and polity of Presbyterianism, and should have the hearty support of every one belonging to the denomination.—*Stratford Beacon.*

Deserves to Have a Large Circulation.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN comes to us enlarged and improved with the new year. It is an excellent paper and deserves to have a large circulation.—*Brockville Recorder.*

Accurate and Comprehensive.

This old established and popular paper begins the New Year greatly enlarged and otherwise improved. It is ably edited and its news of church work, both at home and abroad, is accurate and comprehensive. It is now more deserving of support than ever from the Presbyterians of Canada.—*Dumfries Reformer.*

Ably Edited in all its Departments.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is one of the best of church papers, and is ably edited in all the departments, making it a fine and interesting paper, not alone to Presbyterians, but to all.—*Kincardine Reporter.*

A Valued Exchange.

Our valued exchange, THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, comes to us considerably enlarged, and otherwise improved. We congratulate our contemporary on these evidences of prosperity, and wish it every success in its important work.—*Canadian Baptist.*

Notes of the Week.

FOR some Sundays past, Professor Henry Drummond has discontinued his greatly appreciated services among the students of Edinburgh, because, as he puts it in his characteristically modest way, he had taught them "all he knew." The students, however, think differently, and, yielding to their urgent pleading, the Professor has promised to resume his meetings.

IN a special lecture delivered in Morningside Free Church, Edinburgh, on a recent Sunday evening, Rev. Alexander Martin remarked that the Revolution of France took its stand on the sovereignty of the people, pure and simple, and was atheistic; the American, on the sovereignty of God. The one was the wonder and the pity, as the other was the wonder and the pride, of all men to-day. Responsibility to God was the first lesson Democracy must learn. The mission of Christ to Democracy is, Fear God and reverence man. Fear God, for the first danger of Democracy is its shallow self-sufficiency, it promises to forget that it is God who ruleth the earth. And reverence man, for the second great danger of Democracy is regard for worldly comfort and external conditions, as if they were the chief end of life.

THROUGH Cardinal Lavigerie, the Pope has sent a gold medal to Cardinal Manning in token of his interest in the Cardinal's episcopal jubilee. In the letter of M. Lavigerie accompanying the medal, the Cardinal says: "Your English Protestants, quite different from the rationalists of other countries, have preserved the faith of their fathers in all the great doctrines of Christianity; they believe in the Holy Trinity, in our Lord's incarnation, in His redemption. They love and respect the law of God. Prejudices alone keep them apart from the ancient church, which is ever mourning for them, and ever opens to them her maternal arms." English Protestants, rejoins the *Christian World*, honour and respect men like Cardinals Lavigerie, Manning, and Newman, but the latter should cherish no fond illusions as to any return to the "ancient church." Three centuries of the open Bible and the exercise of private judgment have rendered that as impossible as a return to the life of the ancient Britons.

THE Rev. John McNeill preached his farewell sermon in the McCrie-Roxburgh Free Church, Edinburgh, to a crowded congregation. At the close of the service Mr. McNeill said that his office-bearers would bear him out when he said that he had no old scores with them to clear off. They and he had fought their battles honestly as they came up, but that day they met on the best of terms. There were no grudges among them. Of the congregation generally Mr. McNeill said that the membership had steadily increased, and the bond that bound the pulpit and pew together had been growing thicker and stronger week by week. He knew he had said things he should not have said, and had offended and shocked the sensibilities of some. His excuse was that he had striven, if ever man did strive, to bring them from death and hell to Christ and heaven. After the benediction had been pronounced, the choir sang the anthem, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee."

WE are glad to see, says the Belfast *Witness* that there is every prospect of an Assembly Hall becoming at last an accomplished fact. At the meeting of the committee recently, great warmth and enthusiasm were manifested, and some magnificent subscriptions announced. This project has been before the church for many years, and it is now time it should take some practical and tangible shape. We have every reason to hope that this will be speedily done, and that an Assembly Hall worthy of the church will soon be erected. We notice with pleasure an article in the *Derry Standard* highly approving of the scheme, thus showing that there are no petty jealousies as to the locality of the building. The *Witness* also adds: This week we have had the annual meetings of some of our best known and most excellent religious and philanthropic societies. There is evidently a large amount of good being done in Belfast and over the church. It is not too much to say that at no former

period in our history was there the same earnestness and activity in works of faith and labours of love.

THE nineteenth annual convention of the Y.M.C.A. Association in the Province of Ontario, was held at Ottawa, when a number of delegates were present. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. J. Wilkie, and after devotional exercises and the reception of reports from visiting associations, the Committee on Organization reported as follows, the report being unanimously carried: J. J. Gartshore, Toronto, President; James Gibson, Ottawa, First vice-President; A. Kingman, Montreal, Second vice-President; J. O. Anderson, Toronto, Third vice-President; Lloyd Harris, Brantford, Fourth vice-President; F. McCallum, McGill College, Montreal, Fifth vice-President; A. Weir, Toronto, Secretary; A. Gamble, Quebec, Ass. Sec. The report being carried, the president was conducted to the chair by representatives from Toronto and Quebec, and the meeting shortly after adjourned. At the evening session there was a very large attendance, and addresses were delivered by Vice-President Gibson, Rev. John Wood and Rev. J. Neill, Toronto; Rev. Dr. MacTavish, Toronto; Mr. McCulloch, Toronto; D. A. Budge, Montreal, and others.

THE Rev. Henry Rice, of Madras, makes a very spirited reply to Canon Taylor's article "The Great Missionary Failure." First of all he points out that Canon Taylor adopts a wrong method for estimating the results of mission work. The Canon assumes that the ratio of progress is a constant quantity, whereas the ratio increases at a rapid rate. While in 1851 there were only 91,000 native Christians in India proper, and in 1861 only 138,000, in 1881 there were 417,000. As to Canon Taylor's attack on the quality of the converts, Mr. Rice both denies that it is justified, and adds that, if it were, still native converts would compare favourably with English ones. He also denies that it is true that the missionaries sent out are of an unlettered and inferior character, but claims that men of the type of Carey and Ellis, who were both working-men, have often effected more than senior wranglers are able to boast of. To the Canon's demand that missionaries should dress as natives, Mr. Rice replies that they would not object to do so, but the natives themselves prefer them to appear as the foreigners they are. That missionary celibacy is desirable he controverts by pointing to the good work often done by missionaries' wives.

WE can hardly find, says the New York *Independent*, a parallel in his career for Prince Bismarck's back-down in his arrest and prosecution of Professor Geffcken. To see what is implied in the release of the Professor and the abandonment of the case against him, we must recall what was the occasion of his arrest. Very soon after the death of Emperor Frederick and the accession of his son William, the *Rundschau* published what purported to be extracts from Frederick's diary, written at the time of the war with France. These extracts exhibited Frederick in a favourable light, and seemed to show that he had been, more than Bismarck, the creator of the German Empire and the Prussian Kingdom. Immediately the publication was suppressed by the Government. Prince Bismarck wrote a letter to the young Emperor arguing that the diary could not, in its published form be genuine; strenuous efforts were made to get possession of all copies of the diary, even to the extent of trying to force the Empress Victoria to give up any copy she might have of her husband's writing, and bitter complaints were made of the supposed fact that she had sent her own manuscripts for safe keeping to England. It was charged that the publication of the papers, whether genuine or false, was an offence against the State, scarcely less heinous than treason. When it was discovered that Professor Geffcken had supplied the copy to the *Deutsche Rundschau* he was arrested and held without bail for trial. Now after all this vapouring and threatening he has been unconditionally released, it appearing that even so autocratic a Government as that which is conducted by Bismarck could not convict him. This great blunder, with that of Count Herbert Bismarck in encouraging the semi-official press to publish slanders about the British Ambassador to St. Petersburg, which he refused curtly to correct, might well shake the blind reverence which so many Germans have for their arbitrary Chancellor,