

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1895.

No. 48.

Notes of the Week.

The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for sick children was lately opened by Her Royal Highness, Princess Beatrice. The building is to cost about \$200,000.00. While going through it she presented each of the nurses with a silver commemorative badge.

The news, which we have not seen in our American exchanges comes to us from across the sea that, at the last meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Dr. A. T. Pierson received his certificate, disjoining him from the Presbytery, with a view to joining the Congregational Association of New York and Brooklyn.

From a book recently published on "Punch and His Contributors" it appears that many ladies have been among the illustrators and writers for that famous weekly. Miss Georgina Bowers drew for ten years for Punch, and among other lady contributors are such names as Mrs. Rimer, Miss Fraser, Miss Maud Lambourne, and many others well-known.

Rev. Professor Hastie, D.D., recently appointed to the Divinity Chair in Glasgow University, was introduced to the students by Principal Caird, in the Bute Hall, in the presence of a large audience which included the Rev. Donald MacLeod, Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Professor Story, and other members of the Senatus.

It is not often that men have the grace or courage to refuse the degree of D.D., especially when presented by a famous university. It has lately been done, however, by the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev. John Sheepshanks, for a reason which, taken with others, shows how well he was entitled to it. It was on the ground that "the money required to pay the necessary fees (about \$350) might be put to better use in his diocese." The Bishop of Norwich is a most sensible man.

The Presbyterian young men of the city of Londonderry are engaging in a volunteer effort to aid the Foreign Mission which proves that the rising generation in Ireland are not only not behind their fathers but are taking a step in advance. They have divided the city into districts, and have made a special canvass and collection, with the result that they have raised nearly £250. This is not a mere spasmodic effort. They mean to keep it up year by year, and as an earnest have undertaken to guarantee £200 a year to a missionary.

The *Presbyterian*, of London, England, of date 7th inst., comes to us enlarged, and enters upon a new departure which will no doubt add to the usefulness and, at the same time, attractiveness of the paper. It proposes to represent more fully in future Scottish Presbyterianism in all its branches, a step which has evoked hearty approval from representative men and promises of support from all. Public questions will be discussed as before free from a partisan spirit. High class fiction will obtain a place in its columns, and it has in contemplation, what should surely find a place from time to time in every Presbyterian paper, for the sake of the young as they are growing up, "a series of short articles dealing with the history and principles of Presbyterianism, intended specially for the youth in the congregations of the church." We wish our transatlantic Presbyterian contemporary all success in this new departure.

Up to the 15th inst., one hundred and forty-six students have been entered on the Manitoba College roll. More continue to arrive, however, and a few more may still be expected, so that the total will be slightly larger by Christmas. Fifty-three, an unusually large number, are enrolled for the first time. Doubtless many of these will not take a full course, there are always a considerable number who take a short course of one or two sessions. The quality of the classes is quite up to the average, and there is every prospect of a successful year's work.

The *Mid-Continent* comparing the giving of the Presbyterian Church (North) in the U.S. in 1895 with what it was at the time of the union twenty-five years ago, says: "The amount of contributions recommended by the General Assembly for the work of the Foreign Mission Board alone, for 1895, about equalled the total contributions to all the Boards in 1870." For all the Boards there have been contributed in twenty-five years nearly \$50,000,000, and for miscellaneous benevolence, and congregational support \$300,000,000. In tracing this vast stream of benevolence and mighty force for good to its source it says, and let the words be noted and sink deep into the heart of our own Church: "To the Home Missionary force, we may trace the geographic and numerical expansion of the united church."

The current number of Queen's University *Journal* extends a welcome to Professor Dale, who succeeds to the chair of Latin at Queen's, which was left vacant by the resignation of Professor Fletcher, who succeeded Mr. Dale in Toronto University. Mr. Dale was a class-mate of Professor Fletcher during their college life, and, like him, distinguished himself as a student. He has a high reputation as a classical scholar, a successful teacher, a liberal and broad-minded man who has the students' interests at heart. "Though he has been but a short time among us," the *Journal* says, "he has already won for himself the respect and esteem of his class, and we feel confident that, under his management, the study of Latin literature will continue to be one of the most popular among the different studies of our university course."

The conduct of one of the lawyers for the defence in the Holmes trial, which was lately closed by the finding of him guilty of murder in the first degree will, it may be hoped, meet with swift and condign punishment. It appears that this lawyer, Shoemaker by name, actually suborned a witness by the payment of \$20 to testify falsely on behalf of the accused. To the full, clear and instant exposure of his guilt in open court, the villain had hardly a word to say. Next in guiltiness to the doer of such deeds as Holmes is accused of, is the man who for money, or a professional triumph, or for any reason, would attempt by any unfair means whatever to baulk justice, to screen guilt and let such a monster as Holmes loose on society. The moral obtuseness and utter depravity of the man who could be guilty of such conduct, ought to drive him forever from the ranks of the profession, to meet with universal abhorrence and cover him with disgrace.

It has for some time been well-known that Mr. Gladstone, who is in several respects the most wonderful man of his day, has been engaged in the work of preparing a new edition of Baker's *Analogy*, which will shortly make its appearance in two volumes. In the current number of the *Nineteenth Century* appears the first of two papers from his pen on this immortal work, which may be regarded as the first fruits of the coming volumes. "His pen," says a writer in the *Presbyterian* (London), "has lost none of its cunning by increasing years. He is as keen a controversialist as ever, and in some respects more vigorous than in his earlier writings. His reply to the critics who are

held by some to have demolished Butler's *Analogy*, is a close piece of reasoning. Though defending Butler from his modern critics, he frankly admits that his work, faithfully adjusted as it was to the needs of his own day, is inadequate to the needs of ours; yet it stands as one of the most powerful works of Christian apologetics in the language."

In 1837 the split took place in the Presbyterian Church in the United States by which it became divided into what was popularly known as the Old School and the New School. In 1870 they became again united and this being the semi-jubilee year of that union it is naturally a year when the now happily united church takes a backward and also a forward look. There are many aspects of a church's life and work which cannot be tabulated and set down in figures. Others can in so far. Referring to the advance in organization and numerical strength, *The Mid-Continent*, of St. Louis, gives this illustration:

	1870	1895
Churches.....	4 526	7 496
Ministers.....	4 238	6 797
Communicants.....	446 561	922 704
Sunday School membership.....	448,857	994,793

That is the increase has been in Churches 70 per cent., in ministers nearly 60 per cent., and in communicants and Sunday School membership over 100 per cent.

The whole Church will be deeply interested in the announcement which we have the pleasure of making that "From Far Formosa," the work to which Rev. John A. Macdonald, of St. Thomas, has given so much loving labour, and which contains the narrative of the experiences and work in Formosa of our honoured missionary there, Rev. Dr. Mackay, was published in New York on Tuesday the 19th, and is by this time in Toronto. It is very fully illustrated, and a friend who has seen an advance copy says of it, that "it looks exceedingly well." It is unnecessary we know yet nevertheless we do bespeak for it, a warm reception. We know of no missionary work of our day which has to a greater extent illustrated the same apostolic zeal, courage and consecration to one great and holy purpose, or which has received in a more striking degree evidences of the divine blessing in the success which has crowned it. The story of this work for Christ in far Formosa will be read with interest by all everywhere who have a missionary spirit, and with greatly intensified interest by young and old in our own Church, to whom the name of Dr. Mackay is a household word, and whose privilege it has been to see his face and hear his burning words.

The following cutting from the *British Weekly*, we think it is, will make to many nothing less than a revelation, as to the state of feeling in the Episcopal Church in Britain, on a subject which deservedly engages much anxious attention amongst ourselves, a state of feeling which, owing to the power and influence of that church, is fraught with the greatest danger to religion and morals, and the well-being of the whole Empire in every way:

"At the Church Congress recently in Norwich, England, one speaker recommended 'golf and lawn-tennis as very suitable occupations on Sunday afternoons.' Another advocated the opening on that day of museums and picture-galleries, saying 'it would give the young people an opportunity for respectable courting.' Some Scottish Episcopalians have just declared in Edinburgh for the Continental Sunday—that is, Mass in the morning, followed by recreations and sports in the afternoon, ending up with a ball at night." The writer adds, "Really these High Churchites, in their desire to get away from Puritanism as far as possible, are losing their heads altogether. The Continentals themselves are nowise proud of their Sunday, many look wistfully towards the comparative rest and peace we enjoy here. All tired people need the complete rest. All people, tired or not, need respite and pause for worship and the things of the soul. As a faculty withers and dies if not exercised, so would spiritual religion suffer atrophy without a full observance of the Lord's Day. But the observance must be spiritual, holy, happy, and on New Testament lines."