

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OUR Baptist friends are to be congratulated on the success that has attended their efforts to advance the cause of ministerial education. McMaster Hall has taken a place in the front rank of theological seminaries. The closing exercises were very interesting not only as showing the solid and substantial work already accomplished since the opening of the institution but by the fine display of fraternal feeling existing between the various denominations whose representatives, as the French say, assisted at the Convocation.

ONE of the fathers of the Canadian press, Dr. E. J. Barker, registrar of Kingston, died at the advanced age of eighty-five years. In 1834 he founded the *British Whig*, and in 1844 began the publication of the *Daily British Whig*, the first daily in the Dominion. Some twelve years ago he retired from journalistic duties, the paper passing into the control of his grandson, E. J. B. Pense. Last New Year's eve the paper celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and the eighty-fifth birthday of the veteran editor. The deceased was an energetic worker, a vigorous writer, and one who did much towards laying the foundation of our Canadian Constitution.

THE Executive of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and also the Committee on the Augmentation of Ministers' Salaries met in Kingston last week to wind up the business of the year ending with 30th April. The Rev. R. H. Warden states that the receipts of the year are sufficient to reach the end sought by the General Assembly, viz., to give every minister an income of \$750 per annum and a manse. A considerable sum, over and above the \$60,000 asked for Home mission work has actually been received, and there are still subscriptions due. From the Montreal Presbytery there has been nearly \$18,000 received, including \$10,000 from the late Mr. Mackay, of that city. In addition to the amount for Home mission and Augmentation purposes, nearly \$150,000 have been raised by the Presbyterian Church of Canada for Foreign and French missions and for collegiate education.

HAMBURG lotteries have existed for many years. They carry on a great business still. Parties interested in them are quite cosmopolitan. They do not confine their efforts to find dupes in the Vaterland. Circulars are sent broadcast over the world. The Canadian papers have referred to the reception of these circulars all over Canada. Mr. Munderloh, German Consul, at Montreal, states that he was continually being applied to by parties in that city to know if the venture be genuine or no. He believed it to be genuine, but as the prospectuses sent were signed by an agent and not by the company, that agent might be a fraud. Mr. Munderloh advised all who received such circulars to destroy them, for, said he, even providing the lottery were genuine, the chances were so fearfully against one winning and the excitement attendant upon such ventures so demoralizing, that it was folly to have anything to do with them.

HITHERTO we have been familiar with dynamite scares at a distance. The Atlantic has been between us and them. Now we have had a narrow escape from a terrific explosion in the orderly and peace-loving city of Toronto. Three large dynamite cartridges were found concealed in the cellars of the Parliament buildings. The loss of the venerable but unornamental structure in which the Ontario legislators air their wisdom and eloquence would not have been irreparable, but its contents would. Still more terrible would have been the results had these destructive agents exploded. Innocent lives would have been sacrificed and no object gained except a malignant triumph to the wretched dynamiters who trade on their own inhumanity and the credulity of the victims who pour their hard-earned money into the

skirmishing and other funds by which the dynamite dastards manage to live.

THE committee appointed at the anti Music Convention of the United Presbyterian ministers, held in Pittsburg, Pa., last summer, to take action to secure the repeal of the rule permitting the use of instrumental music in their churches, met again recently. It was decided to memorialize the General Assembly to declare the use of instrumental music in the church to be unlawful, until the question shall have been decided by the Church, after the manner laid down by the constitution, to be lawful. The constitution provides that the question of the repeal of any of the rules of the Church shall be referred to the different Presbyteries to vote upon individually. This course of action, the gentlemen who compose the committee claim, has not been taken. Gen. James A. Ekin is chairman of the committee. He will present the memorial at the meeting of the General Assembly at St. Louis this month, and he predicts that the contest will be close and exciting.

A LATE number of the *London Tablet*, a leading organ of the Romish Church, in speaking of the aid given to Foreign missions, deploras the evil against which their missions have to contend, the scarcity of funds, and the ever-present Protestant missions, whose activity is everywhere felt. It then compares the sums given in Great Britain and Ireland by the Catholic Societies for the evangelization of Pagan and Mohammedan lands and the contributions raised for the same purpose by the Protestant societies, and the following are its statistics—Catholic societies, two only, £6,772; Protestant societies, seventy-three, £1,102,178. If we take into the account what the missionary organizations of the Roman Catholic Church raised in Christendom through the famous "Propaganda at Lyons," the "Leopold Propaganda," and the "Society of the Holy Childhood," we have a total of about \$1,500,000. The amount contributed in the past year in Great Britain and the United States alone for this cause was nearly \$8,000,000.

IT is unfortunate that temperance legislation has been made a political football by the Dominion and Ontario Legislatures. The passing of rival and conflicting Acts does not help the cause of temperance. As the Provinces possess the power to regulate the traffic, a Dominion Act was, in the circumstances, quite superfluous, but political exigency has much to answer for. Some foolish remarks in a stump speech had to be "justified." This led to the passing of the McCarthy Act. Then came the opportunity of the Ontario Legislature, fortified by the Privy Council's decision in the Queen v. Hodge appeal. Amendments were made in the Crook's Act, and an injudicious discrimination in the matter of fees against those who sought licenses from the commissioners under the Dominion Act. The next move in the game has been the disallowance of the Act passed last session by the Ontario Legislature. These retaliatory measures are, in the interests of temperance, to be deplored. While it has been agreed on both sides that a test case is to be submitted to the courts, it is needless to complicate matters still further by partisan interference.

A CIRCULAR has been issued stating that it is proposed to form a Temperance Club and Library in Toronto on the following basis: The mutual advancement and social improvement of the members, with a view to increased interest and usefulness in the temperance cause, especially among young men and women. The furnishing of suitable rooms for reading, debating and social purposes; the formation of a library of Temperance Works; Public Lectures and discussions; distribution of Temperance Literature, etc. The membership to consist of life and ordinary members, who must be total abstainers. Life members to pay the sum of not less than \$25, which shall entitle them to all privileges for life. Ordinary members—entrance fee, gentlemen \$2.50; ladies \$1.50. Annual subscription payable half-yearly—Gentlemen,

\$2.50; ladies, \$1.50. In the formation of this Club it is not proposed to compete with existing temperance organizations, but rather to assist them by providing workers by the means of social union and mental improvement. The office and reading-room of the club would afford opportunity for information and announcement of the work and meeting places of all existing temperance societies. Parties desiring further information respecting this laudable effort can obtain it by applying to Mr. Robert Rae, secretary-treasurer, 22 Church street.

THE annual examinations of Pointe-aux-Trembles mission school took place last week. A steamer left with a large number of former pupils and friends on board, among whom were the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Rev. Professors Scrimger, Coussirat, Rev. James McCaul, Rev. Theo. Lafleur, Rev. R. H. Warden, Rev. C. A. Doudier, Rev. R. Campbell, Rev. G. C. Heine, Rev. Mr. Oxley, Rev. Mr. Hill, Rev. Mr. Dey, Rev. Thomas Cumming, Rev. J. Patterson, Rev. Mr. Rivard, Mr. H. Morton, Mr. W. Drysdale, Mr. Morin and Mr. L. E. Rivard, besides a large number of ladies. The Rev. Dr. MacVicar presided at the examinations. The pupils were examined in French and English reading, geography, grammar, composition, Latin, arithmetic, etc., and the answers were clear and satisfactory, especially on Bible doctrines. The secretary, Rev. R. H. Warden, stated at the close of the examinations that ninety-seven pupils, of whom sixty-three were boys and thirty-four girls, had attended the classes during the session, forty-three being Roman Catholics, fifty-three converts and one of Protestant parents. The schools were visited about five times during the session and examined on each occasion. The schools had been maintained in a state of thorough efficiency, turning out this spring many boys and girls carefully trained in the elementary branches of knowledge. Rev. Messrs. Mackay, Lafleur, R. Campbell, Casey, Coussirat and MacVicar delivered addresses, replete with good advice, in which they expressed their satisfaction at what they had seen and heard. Mr. Bourgoin, principal of the boys' school, and Miss Cairns, principal of the girls' school, together with their staff of teachers, deserve much praise for the marked success attained by the schools during the session.

THE annual meeting of the Upper Canada Tract Society was held in Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, lately. The president, Rev. William Reid, D.D., occupied the chair. The devotional exercises were conducted by the pastor of the church, the Rev. G. M. Milligan. The report was presented by the secretary, the Rev. A. F. McGregor, from which the following particulars are gleaned: Issues during the year—By sales—Books, large and small, 32,000; Bibles, Testaments, and Psalms, 8,350; periodicals, 120,000; tracts, handbills, cards, etc., 154,000; total, 314,350. Gratuitous—Books and periodicals, 5,000; tracts, handbills, etc., 180,000; total, 185,000. Total issues, 499,350. Total issues since the commencement of the society, 14,717,199. Details of gratuitous and half-issues in pages, 1883-4.—Toronto Y. M. C. Association, 206,400; Welland Canal Mission, 123,900; city churches, at half-price, 91,500; Knox College Missionary Society, 33,600; railway work of Y. M. C. A., 31,200; branch societies on half-subscription account, 68,200; city subscribers, half-subscription account, 12,600; sundry city grants, 63,500; sundry country grants, 64,200; Water-side mission, per Mr. Salmon, 81,800; issues by colporteurs, 23,600; Gaoi mission, per Mr. Taylor, 16,000—total grants in pages, 816,500, being 68,200 pages in excess of the gratuities of previous year. The income for the past year amounted to \$20,705.46, and the expenditure was \$20,684.05. Mr. J. K. Macdonald moved and Rev. J. K. Smith, Galt, seconded the election of the gentlemen whose names were submitted as constituting the General Board. The Revs. Thomas Hall, Kingston, and Isaac Tovell addressed the meeting. This useful but unobtrusive Christian agency has been doing its work for the last fifty years and its vigour and usefulness are today greater than ever.