

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## CHOICE BOOKS! WITHOUT MONEY!!

### Canada Presbyterian Premium List

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is now so well and favourably known as to require no words of commendation at our hands. The twenty first year of publication commences with the first week of January, and Publishers, Editors, Contributors and Correspondents, will unite in the effort to make the coming volume better and more useful than any that has preceded it.

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## Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. M. S. S. Johnston, D.D., senior minister of the parish of Minnigaff, died a short time ago. Dr. Johnston was over eighty years of age, and the father of the Presbytery of Wigton and Synod of Galloway. He was an able and eloquent preacher. Three of his sons are ministers of the Church of Scotland.

THE negotiations for union between the Irish General Assembly and the Eastern Reformed Synod are still progressing. There was a meeting of the Committee recently. The Conference was of a very satisfactory character. It is hoped that before the expiration of 1892 the Union will be an accomplished fact. The question is frequently asked why the Irish Presbytery of the U.P. Church of Scotland, consisting of some twelve or thirteen congregations, does not seek incorporation with the Irish Church. There seems to be no satisfactory answer.

A PUBLIC meeting was held the other week in the Protestant Institute, Edinburgh, to "Explain the nature and bearings of the serious Doctrinal Crisis in the Free Church." About 150 people were present. Rev. William Balfour condemned the change proposed by the Declaratory Act, and said it might have been appropriately called an Act to remove obstacles out of the way of a union with the United Presbyterians. Rev. Murdoch Mackaskill, Dingwall, moved the appointment of a committee to arrange for meetings throughout the country, and, if found needful, to issue an address on the character and effects of the Act.

THE Rev. William Hastie, B.D., has been presented with a silver salver and \$2,500, subscribed by one hundred and sixty ministers and other members of the Church of Scotland. In replying, Mr. Hastie alluded to the motives by which he had been actuated in undertaking his work in India; the confidence reposed in him by the Church at home; the sympathy and support he had received not only from the Christians in Calcutta, but also from the Hindoo community; the enthusiasm with which his teaching was listened to by the native pupils, and his endeavours to promote the efficiency of the mission.

THE Young Men's Christian Association building, Dominion Square, Montreal, was formally dedicated last week by a special service held in the beautiful new hall. The attendance was large. The president, Mr. Abner Kingman, occupied the chair, and on the platform were Mr. G. A. Hague, Mr. Yuile, secretary of the Building Committee, and Mr. D. A. Budge, secretary. Addresses were made by these gentlemen. Mr. Yuile spoke of the new building, giving its recent history. Mr. Hague went further back and gave a history of the Association since its organization in 1851. Mr. T. J. Claxton, the first president of the Association, also spoke of the work of the early years of the society. He related how the nucleus of the present noble library sprang mainly from contributions aggregating \$250, gathered by him from friends of the work in London. Mr. Budge and the chairman also spoke.

THE School for Christian Workers at Springfield, Mass., has just closed one of the most successful terms in its history. Marked progress and interest have been shown on all sides, proof positive that the school is rapidly increasing in usefulness and power. The entering junior class numbered

twenty-one, of whom two were women who entered the course for women, introduced some time after the term began. The additional courses in music and elocution have proven of especial value, while the two open literary societies have been productive of no little good. Arrangements for a correspondence course for Sunday school superintendents are now all under way and several have already made application. Arrangements have also just been completed for an entirely new, unique and practical course for Christian mechanics, whereby by working every other day at the machinists' trade they can pay all their expenses and devote the alternate days to a two years' course in Bible study and methods of Christian work. Ten men only can be admitted during January, so that whoever desires to enter must make application at once. It is hoped by such a course to give a practical education in Christian work to a large number of our young men, who, while not feeling called to devote their whole time to Christian work, still would be glad to be of more efficient service for the Master in connection with their trade.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Presbyterian Messenger* writes to that paper. That the Chinese Government is entirely serious in its wish that missions and missionaries may remain unmolested must be at length becoming plain to all Chinamen. The *Pekin Gazette*, the Government paper circulating amongst the official classes all over the empire, contains both the Emperor's proclamation, enjoining that Christian work be in no way interfered with, and the even more important Memorial of the Tsung-li-Yamen (the Council of Ministers), asking the Emperor to issue such a proclamation. In that Memorial, mission work and missionaries are spoken of in terms of cordial good will and admiration. The *literati* who read the *Pekin Gazette* will, perhaps, be constrained to cease from slandering bodies of men so warmly praised by the Emperor's advisers and by the Emperor himself. Of more consequence still are the measures being taken to ensure that the Memorial and Proclamation shall be known by the common people. Dr. Griffith John describes with much satisfaction how that in Hankow and the surrounding country copies of both documents are being put up in public places. He himself had some copies sent to him that the Christians under his care might see and exhibit them. If this be done over the whole of the disturbed districts, it cannot but have the happiest effects.

PROFESSOR KUENEN, the eminent Dutch theologian, and one of the chief exponents of the Higher Criticism, died at Leyden recently. He was born at Haarlem in 1828, and began life as an apothecary's boy. After a distinguished career of theological study, he was in 1855 appointed Professor of Theology at Leyden; and was Rector of the University in 1861-62. He delivered the Hibbert Lectures in London and Oxford in 1882, his subjects being "National Religions and Universal Religions." He presided over the Congress of Orientals held at Leyden in 1883. Kuenen's first important work was his "Historico-Critical Investigation into the Origin and Collection of the Old Testament Books," in three volumes, published between the years 1861 and 1865. Bishop Colenso published in 1865 a translation of the earlier chapters under the title of "The Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua Critically Examined." Kuenen's work had great influence both in England and Germany. His view of Old Testament criticism has since been made familiar to Englishmen through the work of Wellhausen, and his disciple Robertson Smith, and was developed further by Kuenen, in his best-known book, "The Religion of Israel in the fall of the Jewish State." Other works of Kuenen's are "The Prophets and Prophecy in Israel" and his Hibbert Lectures. Besides these Kuenen has made numerous contributions on Biblical questions to the reviews. Dr. Kuenen was engaged, at the time of his death, on a revised edition of his "Investigation," was superintending a comprehensive translation and commentary on the Old Testament by Dutch scholars, and was re-casting his "Religion of Israel."