

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10th, 1895.

No. 28.

Notes of the Week.

Money is cheap enough in the English market. A temporary loan was recently made to the British Government at eleven-sixteenths of one per cent., and offers were made at varying rates of interest of ten times the amount required.

Madam Patti appeared recently at Covent Garden after an absence of eleven years, and charmed a crowded audience, the Princess of Wales, her daughters, and the Duchess of York being present. Madame Patti first appeared on the stage forty-five years ago, when a child.

Bishop Blyth, of Jerusalem, says the number of Jews returning to the Holy Land is remarkable. In 1841 there were only eight thousand Jews in Palestine. In 1883 they numbered 23,000, but now nearly 70,000, nearly double the number that returned from the Babylonish captivity.

In Chicago they are planning a great debate on the silver question by W. H. Harvey, author of "Coin's Financial School," and the witty ex-Congressman, Roswell G. Horr. Thus far the most exciting feature of the proposed debate appears to be the attempt to rule out newspaper reporters.

France proposes to decentralize her university. The French Minister of Education has presented to Parliament a scheme by which the academies in the principal towns will take the name of universities. Each institution will have its separate revenue, but according to the proposed plan the fees for examination and degrees are to go to the State.

Attention has been forcibly called by Bishop Pegwell to the flooding of West Africa with gin and rum. In an article on the question, the *Times* strongly denounces the traffic, and declares that the trade in spirits is made at the cost of the trade in other European goods. The native who buys gin buys little else. "The spirit trade, like a noxious weed, chokes every other growth in those districts in which it is allowed to flourish."

The New York *Christian Advocate* has the following: "Dr. John Hall, in connection with the movement among Presbyterians to raise one million dollars as a reunion memorial fund, suggests that Christian men who are unexpectedly having returned to them income tax money, which they had planned to do without this year, turn that amount over to their respective churches to be used in aiding the hard-pressed missionary societies." The *Congregationalist* speaks of this as "a bright idea." It certainly is.

Yet another daring scheme for reaching the North Pole is entertained by M. Andree, a Swedish engineer of considerable experience in ballooning. He proposes to make use of a balloon, to be prepared for him at Paris, and to have a capacity enabling it to float for thirty days at a height of seven hundred and fifty feet. It is to be fitted to carry three persons, instruments, a sailboat, weapons, and provisions. M. Andree has hopes of being able to steer the balloon by means of sails and rags. He is not the first to entertain a plan for discovering the Pole in this way, and one similar expedition was abandoned because it was believed that the winds circle around the Pole so as to make it impossible for voyagers to escape if they succeed in reaching their goal. King Oscar has furnished a large amount of money toward this undertaking, and it is M. Andree's purpose to start in the early part of next year.

The King of Italy in opening, lately, the Parliament of the country referred in very cordial language to the friendly relations with England, in proof of which, after the visit to Kiel, the Italian ships will "pay back to the British fleet a greeting of most intimate friendship." In Africa, he said, Italy and Great Britain are neighbors, and work in accord to carry the flag of civilization where more advanced forces energetically compete for the honour of extending their domains. While the Italian army confronted the enemy at Kassala the British Government gave Italy a fresh proof of its sympathy by preventing the barbarians in revolt from receiving supplies of arms through the ports under the British protectorate in the Gulf of Aden.

A late issue of the *Golden Rule* heads an article with the title "A New Crises in Missions." It gives a statement of debts there resting upon some of the churches in connection with certain of their large schemes. Although some of these debts have been lessened, and in a few, very few cases wiped out altogether, as with our own Home Mission deficit of \$10,000, yet what remains is formidable enough and makes somewhat sad and suggestive reading. The following is a partial list:—

	Deficit.
Presbyterian Church, U.S., Foreign Missions.....	\$174,883
" " Home " 	258,000
" " Freedmens " 	22,000
Congregational, American Board.....	116,000
American Missionary Association.....	66,000
Baptist, American Baptist Missionary Union.....	189,956
" Home Mission Society.....	108,000

Regarding the effort now being made to fix upon a new and suitable national flag for Canada the *Golden Rule* rises to remark: "They are earnestly discussing the question of a new flag for the Dominion. There is trouble, however, regarding the emblem. Some want the beaver, but to this it is objected that this interesting animal stands for nothing except industry,—an admirable quality, but not the only desirable thing in the life of a nation. Some want the maple leaf, so long Canada's popular emblem. The opponents to this urge its lack of significance, and that if it means anything it can hardly mean anything but frailty and separation. Still a third party are calling for a large white star with seven points, one for each Province of the Dominion, these points to be added to as the number of Provinces increases. Against this the chief objection seems to be that it is too great a reminder of the flag of the United States. But the United States has no private claim upon the stars. We do not even want the earth."

Of work, as of making books, there is no end. Whether this is well or ill everyone must judge for himself. It would appear as if the time usually allotted for rest would soon be, if it is not now altogether absorbed with work. In Canada, we have in the Province of Manitoba, the Summer Session of Theology. In Halifax and in Cleveland summer schools are to be held, and in Northfield, Mr. D. L. Moody's home, work of some kind appears to go on all the year round. From the 9th inst. to September 3rd, there is to be a Y.M.C.A. Encampment, of which those interested may learn particulars from Prof. Jas. McConaughy, East Northfield, Mass. From the 20th to the 30th inst., there will be "Young Women's College Conference" and from August 3rd to 15th, a "General Conference of Christian Workers." Mr. D. L. Moody will be present during the summer, and will personally conduct many services, besides preaching from time to time. Rev. H. W. Webb-Peploe, of London, and Dr. R. A. Torrey, of Chicago, will spend the entire month of August in Northfield, and will conduct at least six services weekly after the close of the conferences.

The services in connection with the celebration of the centennial of the formation of the Picton Presbytery, to which we hope to draw fuller attention when the report reaches us, cannot but be of the most interesting kind. On the 7th inst., one hundred years ago this Presbytery was formed, and on the 10th public commemorative religious exercises will begin at 2.30 p.m., in James Church, New Glasgow, N.S. In addition to suitable devotional exercises. The following well known ministers will give addresses as follows: Address by Rev. George Patterson, D.D., on "The Formation and Early History of the Presbytery," with moving of Presbytery minute. Seconding of minute by Rev. Alexander McLean. Address on "State and Work of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion, 1795 and 1895," by Rev. P. M. Morrison, D.D. Address on the "Progress of the Christian Church During the Last Hundred Years," by the Rev. E. D. Millar. Address on "Social Progress During the Last Hundred Years," by the Rev. G. M. Grant, D.D. Address, "What of the Future?" by Rev. Donald McRae, D.D.

There will be a summer school of Theology held at the Presbyterian College, Halifax, from July 16th to 26th. In addition to lectures by the staff, Principal Grant will lecture on Comparative Religion, and Dr. McCurdy, of Toronto, on subjects connected with the Old Testament. It is hoped that Rev. D. J. Macdonnell may find it possible to be present. The evening session will be devoted to subjects bearing directly on the practical work of the ministry. The College with its unrivalled situation affords excellent opportunities for boating, bathing, and general outing. The fee for board and lectures is \$10, or \$2 for the lectures alone. There is still we understand some accommodation in the building, and should it be exhausted, there will be no difficulty in securing suitable rooms and board in the city. Ministers from Ontario and Quebec who may purpose attending the Christian Endeavor Convention in Boston will find the arrangement of time convenient for allowing them to attend the school after the close of the convention. It is to be hoped that some of the brethren from the West may be able to avail themselves of a holiday offering such advantages at a very moderate cost. Full information can be obtained from the Rev. Prof. Currie, D.D., Pine Hill, Halifax.

How the Roman Catholic Church counts up its members so as to enable it to show such an immense membership as compared with some Protestant bodies is thus explained in the *Interior*, of Chicago: "It numerates as members all the members of a family and all who attend even occasionally a Roman Catholic Church, so that some parishes report as high as 14,000 members. If the Protestant Churches followed the same plan, it would double their assumed numbers. The United States census (1890) gives the Roman Catholics numerically the lead of the churches in that Republic: 6,231,417, the Baptists following with 3,429,077 and the Methodists with 3,450,330. As a matter of fact, adopting the same method of reckoning, either of these two denominations has a larger membership in the United States than the Roman Catholics. The total number of members of all the churches was 20,612,806, or about one-third of the total population. But if the Protestant churches were enumerated as the Catholics are it would add fourteen millions, and give the grand total at thirty-five millions, or over half the population. The church property foots up to near seven hundred millions (\$679,630,139). There are forty-six thousand sitting, and one hundred and eleven thousand ministers. The Episcopalians have the most money per capita, followed next by the Presbyterians, and they by the Congregationalists, and so on down to the Southern Baptists who have not much of anything in this world's goods."