

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

An intimation has been received from the Rev. William Miller, C.I.E., LL.D., Principal of the Madras College, signifying his willingness to accept the Chair of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, to which he was recently nominated.

The last number of the *Indian Standard*, published in Rutlam, possesses a special interest from its kindly mention of Rev. Mr. Wilson, our missionary at Neemuch. It says: "With this issue the *Standard* starts out with its former manager, the Rev. J. F. Campbell, who is already widely and favourably known to us in this capacity. Mr. Wilson, who has been transferred to Neemuch, carries with him our grateful remembrances. To his care and patience, any excellency which the late numbers of the *Standard* may possess, are largely due. In our inexperience we have profited largely by his advice and assistance."

At a meeting of the trustees of the Duff missionary lectureship, held recently at Edinburgh—Lord Polwarth presiding—it was unanimously resolved to ask the Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, of Glasgow, to accept the nomination to the next lectureship. Dr. Marshall Lang has signified his acceptance, and it is gratifying to know his nomination was proposed by Mr. Duff's son, and most cordially seconded by Dr. Andrew Thompson. The Free Church, as represented by Professor Thomas Smith and Mr. Gordon, was equally hearty in associating so eminent a clergyman of the Church of Scotland with the missionary lectureship founded by Dr. Duff.

The silliness and gullability shown in taking in as serious all the exciting news served up in the great newspapers at such a time as we have been passing through is well known to all intelligent people. Ballard Smith, the New York *World's* London correspondent, hits it very well in one of his last despatches: "Whatever may be the sensational reports in America about the destination of the flying squadron, they are the merest conjecture. Not even the Admiral will know his destination until he opens his instructions when putting finally to sea. The wild reports, apparently current in America, are denounced by the authorities here as most mischievous fabrications."

The news of the death of Prince Henry of Battenburg at sea, so far from home and all those tender ministries of love which would there have been lavished upon him, must touch the hearts of all who can feel with sadness. Towards the aged Queen, and her youngest daughter and faithful and constant companion and solace, there will be an all but universal outflow of genuine and very warm sympathy. It reminds one because of the needlessness of the exposure and sacrifice, and of the grief in royal circles which his death will cause, of the Prince Imperial in South Africa, which has clouded with sorrow the last years of the Empress Eugenie. Whatever comfort Her Majesty and her widowed youngest daughter, the second in the family, can derive from the sincere and widespread sympathy of millions of her subjects, are certainly theirs, and, besides the touch of nature which makes the whole world kin, the age of the

Queen, especially her high estate and the virtues and excellences of her character as woman, sovereign and mother will draw to her the sympathies of millions more in every land, and to her daughter for her mother's sake.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Australia, held its annual meeting in Melbourne at the end of last year. The retiring Moderator was Professor Rentoul. His opening sermon is described as "a masterly exposition of the teaching of the Epistle to Romans, and was listened to with close attention by an audience of ministers, elders, and the general public, which filled the Assembly Hall to overflowing." The new Moderator is the Rev. J. D. Robertson, of Yarrowonga, a minister who has done good work in a rural town, and who, by his genial yet dignified bearing, more than justified his selection for the Moderator's chair.

Mr. Gladstone with Mrs. Gladstone and some other members of the family are now enjoying themselves at Biarritz. The *Belfast Witness* which has had many hard things to say of the G. O. M. makes a kindly reference to the veteran statesman and adds: "There is something very touching to us in this historic picture. The old, old statesman, after weathering many a storm—storms created mostly by his own restless changes—now sunning himself serenely in the light of life's evening, his loyal old wife at his side, and his merry little grandchild playing all sorts of privileged pranks at his feet. He is surrounded by the books he loves so well, he is occupied with those theological questions that seem to fascinate him as they did Isaac Newton."

At the meeting of the Victorian General Assembly two new departures were made which will attract interest among ourselves, and possibly in time imitation. One, the licensing of students by the Assembly with a view to give added weight, solemnity and impressiveness to the act has received interim authority while it is being considered by Presbyteries; the other was agreeing upon the recommendation of a committee which has had the matter under consideration that women who desired to do special work for the Church should be especially trained and set apart. The Assembly authorized a series of lectures on women's work in the church, the principles of Presbyterianism, district visiting, sick visiting, cookery for the sick, etc. Much good, it is hoped, will result from this new departure.

The Manitoba elections have resulted as it was fully expected they would result, in a vote which is practically unanimous against any interference with its school system. In the face of the decision of the Privy Council that the control of the school legislation is within the power of the provincial legislature of its expressed willingness, nay readiness, to investigate into and redress to the utmost every well-established grievance, of its invitation to the Federal Government to make full enquiry before proceeding to legislate, and in face now of the overwhelming verdict of the people of Manitoba, amounting to a mandate to the local government to resist interference in this matter, it might well be hoped that no government of any party would persist in attempting to override the deliberately expressed wish

and determination of the people, in a matter which is within their rights, to manage their own affairs in their own way. An appeal to the wisdom, to the regard for its own interests, to the sense of right and justice is, in the circumstances, tenfold more likely to be effectual for the end desired, while interference is certain to provoke hostility and delay, if it does not altogether prevent that end.

The opposition to missionaries in China is, as is well known, largely confined to the official class, although they put the mob in the front. A correspondent of the *London Times* says: "The influence of Western civilization, in whatever shape it manifests itself, is an abomination in the eyes of the rulers of China, whose days would be counted were it ever to permeate the masses. The hatred directed against the missionaries is only a peculiarly virulent form of the hatred directed against Europeans generally, and it is easy to understand why it should be a peculiarly virulent one. Missionary work is practically the only agency through which the influence of Western civilization can at present reach the masses. The life which the missionary lives, whether it be the ascetic life of the Roman Catholic or the family life of a Protestant Missionary with wife and children, is in itself a standing reproach to the life of gross self-indulgence led by the average mandarin." This is still further emphasized by the missionary's treatment of the people, being, as compared with that of the officials, "a continuous object-lesson of justice and kindness, of unselfishness and integrity. It is this aspect of missionary work which goads the official Chinaman into fury, and incites him to traduce the character of the missionaries by those foul calumnies which invariably precede every outbreak of so-called popular feeling."

Whatever hard things may have been said of Joseph Chamberlain for his desertion of Gladstone, and the radical views he began his political career with, everyone will admit he is British to the core, and the vigor and wisdom of his colonial policy are winning for him and the government of which he is a member golden opinions. In a speech which he made the other day he gave utterance to some sentiments which will meet with a hearty response over the whole Empire, and strengthen a legitimate and patriotic pride in her greatness and her achievements. "The solidarity of the Imperial sentiment made it impossible for a blow to be struck or a chord sounded in the most distant part of the Empire without its being re-echoed in every part of her Majesty's dominions. Great Britain alone among the nations of the earth had been able to establish and maintain colonies in all parts of the world. She had to recognize that her success, however legitimate, was imputed as a crime, that her love of peace was taken as a sign of weakness and her indifference to foreign criticism as an invitation to insult. No better service had been done the nation than the expressions of those feelings of dislike towards her which had lately been shown for it had enabled her to show her face to the world. England, while resolute to fulfil her obligations, was equally determined to maintain her rights. England, if isolated, stood secure in the strength of her own resources, in the firm resolution of her people without respect to party, and in the abundant loyalty of her children from one end of the Empire to the other."

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: Joy has a new meaning when we have learned what sadness is.

Chicago Record: The "sick man of Europe" is certainly sick enough to need much stronger medicine than any which is now being administered by his neighbors.

Ram's Horn: The secret of Daniel's power and promotion at Babylon is explained by the lattice open toward Jerusalem. Fidelity to the Holy City made him premier at the Pagan court. Prayer padlocked the jaws of the lions.

Dr. Parkhurst: It is life and not precept that gives to the boy his bent. Solomon could cover an entire acre with astute and prudent proverbs, but that was of no account with his son Rehoboam, who took his cue from his father's behavior and not from his father's philosophy.

Chicago Standard: The religious newspapers once more have shown not only their independency of thought but their real power and influence. While the daily papers were printing "scare heads," and, according to these, British gore was soon to flow through the gutters of our great cities, the religious press, almost to a paper, was advocating peace and advising caution.

J. Guinness Rogers: He is one of the most regular and devout worshippers; but it is in the practical life of every day that his highest worship is rendered. If I were to single out one virtue by which, more than another, he is distinguished, it is his magnanimity. I have talked somewhat closely with him on political subjects, but I never heard him utter an unkind word of political opponent. The resentment which some of us have often felt at the ungenerous and truculent, at times almost brutal, attacks directed against him, was not shared by himself.

Archbishop Ireland: I am not looking for the millennium, but we can reduce the number of drinking men so that it will be the accepted saying that no drunkards are among the Catholics. The American saloon is the vile den of intemperance. It is laden with blasphemy and sensuality. Temptations are there created which bring men to drink. I make no reference to the personal characters of saloon keepers, but the business is bad. It is the enemy of good and the country. Let the day soon come when we shall not see the name of a Catholic above the portals of a saloon. Those in the saloon traffic should seek a more worthy calling.

Rev. John Watson (Ian Maclaren): So far as I know, government can only be carried on by parties, the law of action and reaction; and therefore what a Christian man has to remember is this, that no party has ever existed, I suppose, in civil history without containing patriotic men, and no party has ever labored for the commonwealth without doing it service. Any party that declares itself to have a monopoly of purity and a monopoly of honesty; any party that declares that the other cares only for its own interests, but that they alone care for the well-being of the people, is condemned there and then. It ceases to be a party of patriotism; it becomes a party of Pharissism.