

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 10

TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 1882.

No. 7.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is a very important religious question discussed in English Church papers, whether Bishop Fraser's chimere is a cope or not.

DR. DONALD FRASER has been in London, England, not quite twelve years, during which period his congregation have raised \$375,000—an average of over \$31,000 a year.

THE Hungarians of New York city have now a church in which regular services are conducted in the Magyar tongue. They are Calvinistic in doctrine, and Presbyterian in Church government.

IT is pleasing to find the opinion expressed in American papers that even if Guiteau's relatives should accept the proposal to sell his body for exhibition, the public authorities would make a speedy end of the experiment, as an indecency not to be tolerated for a moment.

By letters recently received in Winnipeg from the Rev. Prof. Bryce, it appears that the scheme for the endowment of Manitoba College is received with favour in Scotland, and that considerable donations have already been secured. The Professor is publishing a work on Lord Selkirk. It will make a handsome volume of 380 pages crown octavo, and will supply much valuable information regarding the country.

THE New York "Independent" says: "We observe with pleasure that the ministers of the country are beginning to speak out on the subject of Mormon polygamy, and not only to speak from their pulpits, but to engage in movements for bringing the matter to the attention of Congress. Congress must act in order to crush this relic of barbarism, and Congress will act when a strong and earnest public sentiment demands action. Ministers can do much toward the creation of such a sentiment."

THE following enumeration of the alterations made in revising the New Testament is given in the "Students' Edition" of the revised version: "There are 18,358 words changed by a substituted rendering of the Received Text; 4,654 words added in translation of the Received Text; 550 words in translation of additions in the Greek text; 1,604 words which translate an altered Greek text; and 222 words taken from the margin into the text; in all 25,388 words changed out of 179,914, or seventeen per cent."

MODERATOR ADAM, of Victoria (Australia) Presbyterian General Assembly, in his address referring to the cry against creeds of one age binding subsequent generations, said confessions, if true, must be cast-iron, for truth was as unalterable as the perfections of God. Something might be done in the way of explanation, and a little pruning might be useful. A revision of the Confession of Faith would no more alter the fundamentals than the revision of the New Testament had removed any of the old essential doctrines.

An important unpublished work by Thomas Carlyle has been discovered lately. It is entitled "A Tour in Ireland in 1849," and comprises notes on the moral and political condition of that country of the most striking character and greatest interest. This manuscript was unknown to Mr. Froude, and it was submitted to his examination. He was so delighted with it that he volunteered to write an introduction, when it is published in book form. Meanwhile it has been secured by Edmund Gosse for "The Century Magazine," where it will shortly begin to appear as a serial, simultaneously in London and New York.

THE signs of a religious awakening throughout France are not confined to the cities. In the town of Lisieux, where there were only seven Protestants,

the pastor earnestly prayed that the Lord would send any one, "a child even," to help him. Two English ladies were soon after travelling through the town, and announced a woman's meeting, which was crowded with eager listeners. Lord Radstock then went there, took a room in a factory, and preached to audiences which numbered three hundred on weekdays and six hundred on the Sabbath. The people carried away copies of the Gospel and tracts to read at home, and seemed deeply interested.

THE "Home and Society" department of "The Century Magazine" will be devoted, during the next three or four months, to a subject of first importance to home life—the proper construction of houses with reference to protection against fire, and the dangers to health arising from imperfect drainage, bad ventilation, and damp walls. The articles will be written by experts, whose aim will be to give practical hints to persons intending to build, so that they will be able to examine intelligently the plans of architects and the work of builders. In the March number will appear the first of the series, by George Martin Huss, on "House Foundations," in which attention is also given to remedies for damp walls and cellars.

IN a lengthy notice of the late Dr. Bellows, written for the "Evangelist," Dr. Prentiss, of New York, says: "Dr. Bellows was very strong in his dislike of certain features of Calvinism, and sometimes expressed this dislike with no little severity; although certain other features of Calvinism he seemed greatly to admire. Had he approached the system by a different path, dwelt less upon its 'five points,' and looked deeper into its spiritual genius and history, perhaps he might have found some reason in the opinion of Coleridge, when commenting upon Bishop Jeremy Taylor's 'Unum Necessarium,' viz.: 'That Calvinism (Archbishop Leighton's, for example), compared with Taylor's Arminianism, is as the lamb in the wolf's skin to the wolf in the lamb's skin; the one is cruel in the phrases, the other in the doctrine.'"

THE established Presbytery of Edinburgh has done a strong thing. A course of nine Sabbath evening lectures in the Old Greyfriars' Church, to commence on the 8th inst., had been advertised. The topics were a strange mixture—Dickens, Historical and Literary Review of the Century, Catholic Reformers of the 16th Century, Early Struggles of Science, Reformers of the Bible, True and False in History, Revivals, Mohammed, Spinoza—and they were by different types of men, clerical and lay. The Presbytery was specially called together, and prohibited the course. The first lecture, on Dickens, was therefore, on the evening of the 8th, taken to the Oddfellows' Hall; and it was conducted as an old cross between a religious service and a platform exhibition, evoking applause, and compelling the chairman at one stage to request the audience to shew less hilarity in their behaviour. The event vindicated the Presbytery.

THE January number of the Scottish "Free Church Monthly" contains Professor Bryce's appeal in behalf of Manitoba College—from which we have already given extracts—and the following editorial notice: "The appeal from Manitoba by Professor Bryce, in this number, will secure, we are sure, earnest and generous attention. It would be unjust to the Canadian Church to leave to her alone the supply of the means of grace to the huge influx of population to that vast territory. Presbyterians form a large portion of the immigration, many of them being quite recently from our shores. Our Home churches are bound on every ground to assist, and that with a liberal hand. The utmost the committee can do will bear to be largely supplemented by individual givings. The Manitoba College is fitted and intended to be a great source of evangelistic power. There are to be trained sons of the soil to carry a pure gospel to their fellow-countrymen throughout the Province. That it should be endowed and thoroughly equipped is most desirable."

THE Halifax "Witness" speaks of the Governor-General's Sabbath breaking as follows: "We regret that duties of State were considered so urgent that the Governor-General had to travel—on his arrival in Canada the other day—during the whole of the Lord's Day! We are not informed as to what those urgent duties were. We are not told of any great emergency requiring the presence of His Excellency at the capital. We say now, as we have often said before, that we see no objection on social or religious grounds to 'works of necessity and mercy.' But when the head of the State travels on Sunday merely to gratify a whim or to avoid some slight inconvenience, we must say that he exposes himself to severe censure, and sets an example before the people which the people should carefully avoid. We hardly think that when His Excellency leaves Canada for good he will reflect with much satisfaction on the part he has taken in breaking down the barriers of public morality, however old-fashioned that morality may seem to him to be. Lord Dufferin was an active and busy man; but we do not remember of his offending on any occasion against the law of Sunday rest. In this respect we submit that Lord Lorne would do well to follow his predecessor's example."

THE sudden destruction by fire, on the morning of the 31st ult., of the building containing the offices of the "New York Observer," "Turf, Field and Farm," "Scottish American Journal," "Press," and other papers, is thus described by the "Evangelist": "Tuesday of last week will long be accounted an historic day in the newspaper quarter of New York. The Potter building, which took fire at about ten o'clock, and was consumed with all its contents with incredible rapidity, was the home of several newspapers, as also 'The Times' building adjoining, and which endured the ordeal of heat almost unscathed. A heavy snow-storm prevailed all the morning, and those who were just entering the building were occupied with the adhering flakes, umbrellas, etc., on their way up the wooden stairways to wooden partitioned rooms. But they were not to remain there long, or to go out as leisurely as they came in. The security and comfort of years was to suffer an innovation. And presently there was a sense of danger more imminent than the somewhat familiar odour of charring wood, and then ensued the quick alarm, the stifling smoke, the on-rushing, all-consuming flames, seemingly as the lightning which shineth out of the east even unto the west, for celerity. Preoccupied editors, just in the stress of going to press, half-angry at intrusion, looked into the halls, and turned not back again for any cherished thought or thing. Dr. S. I. Prime and son gained the street none too soon, the former without hat or overcoat, while his brother and son-in-law, staying an instant to close a safe, were obliged to trust to the narrow ledges of the signs on the front of the burning building. Mr. A. M. Stewart, of 'The Scottish-American Journal,' was writing his final paragraph for the week when suddenly made aware of danger, and opening his door found himself absolutely cut off by the flames. Happily for him there was a rear window, and in a moment a ladder. But for this one of his men could not wait, and met his death on the sidewalk below, as did a poor woman who fell back into the fire from an adjoining window. 'The Journal' establishment lost everything save an old and inaccurate subscription list deposited elsewhere. The 'Observer' was more fortunate in this respect; but alas! its foreman, Mr. Cunningham, and his assistant, Mr. Harris, and one of its compositors, perished in the flames. The former had been in the office longer, we believe, than even the senior editor; and apparently hesitating a moment as to what to save, copy or clothes, he lost his own life, as did his assistant. If we mistake not, Mr. Harris was a worthy elder of the Old Spring street Church. . . . Our sympathies are with the bereaved, and with those who have sustained severe losses, albeit they doubtless count themselves specially favoured of God in having escaped from this maelstrom of fire with only their lives."