

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The United Presbyterian Church in the United States has already removed the ban against hymn-singing in their churches, and now the Irish General Assembly has also opened the doors of its churches to hymns, and a hymnary is soon to follow.

By a vote of 100 to 80 the Brooklyn Christian Endeavorers decided last Sunday evening to rescind the invitation to Mayor Schieren to address the State gathering of the Society to be held in Brooklyn in October. His attitude toward the excise question was the cause of their action. They think he is unjustifiably liberal toward saloon keepers and violators of the Sunday Excise laws.

Dr. Grose read a petition at the Boston Convention drawn by the Christian Endeavor trustees, to be presented to the President of the United States and Queen Victoria, urging upon them the terrible condition of Christian subjects of Turkey, and asking them to use their influence to give to that country a safe and just government. This was greeted with applause and cheering.

At the late Christian Endeavor Convention at Boston, Rev. A. C. Peck, of Denver, unrolled the roll of honor of 5,551 societies contributing sums of over \$10 each for missionary work. The aggregate amount was \$340,000. The denomination making the largest contribution was the Presbyterian. The Rev. A. C. Crews, of Toronto, presented to the Cleveland Union for the second time the token for the best work in promoting systematic and proportionate giving.

Rev. Dr. W. McCulloch, pastor emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of Truro, Halifax, N. S., died July 14th, aged eighty-four years. He was the son of Rev. Dr. Thomas McCulloch, founder of Pictou Academy and the father of higher education in Nova Scotia, and was himself one of the fathers of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia, having been pastor of the church in Truro for half a century. He celebrated his jubilee six years ago. He was well known throughout the bounds of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The death in India is announced by cablegram of Rev. Dr. James L. Phillips, whose name was mentioned a short time ago by Rev. Mr. Wilkie, of Indore. He was the representative in India of the International Sunday School Union, and for four years he had been energetically engaged in the task of spreading Christianity among the natives. He was for some years pastor of the Auburn Free Baptist Church, and during that period was also chaplain at the State institutions. He left Auburn about six years ago to accept a charge in Philadelphia, going from there to his work in India.

A party of about one hundred Presbyterian American ladies and gentlemen, organized by Rev. Dr. Field, editor of the *New York Evangelist*, is on a tour to places in Europe of historic interest from their association with the names of men who were the founders of Presbyterianism. At Queenstown the party divided, one portion going on to Drogheda, where they were met at the station by Rev. Alexander Hall, the Presbyterian minister, and conducted to many points of historic interest in the town and neighbourhood. From thence they went to Belfast, where they met with a very hearty welcome from a large reception committee with the Lord Mayor at its head. In the evening there was a large assemblage of invited guests and others and much pleasant as well as inspiring speech-making.

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Brooks, a brother of the late Bishop Brooks, died lately under circumstances especially sad. Only a brief month ago he sailed for Europe in the hope of finding surcease of suffering from the dread disease which had fastened upon him some time before. He was disappointed, and was returning to his home on the same steamer on which he had been an outward-bound passenger, when he died at sea. If he filled a less prominent place in the public eye than his distinguished brother, he was no less a man of sincere and eminent piety and devotion, possessing a high order of ability, and richly endowed with gentle gifts and spiritual graces.

Accounts from the United States, with which in numberless ways we are so closely connected, of revival of business and general prosperity, still continue, and create a general cheerfulness and hopefulness corresponding to the depth of the long previous depression. Some great industrial and manufacturing establishments are voluntarily advancing wages, which is a good sign. It may be hoped that in Canada, although some parts of the country have suffered so much from drought, we shall enjoy our share of the improved state of things. In Manitoba and the Northwest generally, if the prospects are realized, the yield of grain promises to be simply immense. Now the question of the prices to be obtained is the one which agitates the hearts of farmers, and if these should be fairly good, it will be a boon, not only to all our Northwest, but to the whole Dominion.

International arbitration as a method instead of war settling disputes that arise between nations is making progress and is one of the happy signs of our times. France has had a long standing boundary dispute with Brazil, and she has now expressed her willingness that this should be settled by arbitration, and the President of the Swiss Republic has consented to act as arbitrator. And even more important, the French Chamber has adopted a resolution requesting the government to negotiate a permanent arbitration treaty between France and the United States. The latter country in 1889 and again in 1892 took important steps in this direction, as by its freedom from many of the complications in which European nations are involved, it is in a position to do. Last month, in an address before the Harvard Law School, Sir Frederick Pollock made a strong plea for an international tribunal of arbitration for the settlement of all differences between Great Britain and the United States.

The Beecher family is again brought into notice for a passing hour by the death a few days ago in the ninety-third year of his age of the Rev. Dr. Edward Beecher. He was the third son of Dr. Lyman Beecher. He graduated from Yale in 1822 and after teaching a few years was ordained to the ministry and became pastor of the Park Street Congregational Church, Boston. He next became president for fourteen years of Illinois College, Jacksonville. He then went back to Boston, and with Rev. Drs. Storrs and Parks founded the *Congregationalist*, and wrote largely for its pages. He was also the author of "The Conflict of Ages," and "The Concord of Ages," two separate works. He was next a pastor in Galesburg, Illinois. In 1872 he went to Brooklyn and became the assistant of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, his brother. In 1885, when eighty-two years old, he received a call and became again a pastor. In 1889 he met with an accident, from the effect of which he never fully recovered. He had a great affection for his brother, Henry Ward Beecher, and during the famous trial in Brooklyn never left his side.

A speaker at the Boston Christian Endeavor Convention drew attention to the "amazing and beneficent change that has taken place, and is still taking place in the Roman Catholic Church," and he instanced among other things as evidence of this, "increasing regard for the public schools." We in Canada do not see very much of this latter evidence on the part of the Hierarchy at least. We shall need to see a great deal more before we become convinced of the great change for the better taking place in that church. It is only going on apparently where it is side by side with Protestantism, and is compelled to change by this or some other equally potent force if it would live at all. Where is this evidence in countries where it is all-powerful, as in South America for instance. "Only six days before these remarks were uttered," says *Christian Work*, "there was in Boston itself a Catholic riot directed against the model of a 'little red schoolhouse' that was carried in a patriotic procession on the Fourth of July. For that the Catholic priesthood and the Catholic city officials of Boston are held responsible by the best of the public press of that city. This riot sprang from a hatred of the public school system."

The elections in Great Britain have been the absorbing topic of interest for some time. That the Liberal party would be beaten was a foregone conclusion, but that the rout would be so utter and the defeat so crushing as it has turned out to be, was hardly expected. While many causes have no doubt conspired to bring about this result, it was evident from the first that Lord Rosebery had a most difficult place to fill, if it were only following a man of the strong and over-mastering personality of Mr. Gladstone. Internal divisions, the ill-health of the Prime Minister which necessitated his withdrawal from public affairs at a time and with a party which needed very much the hand and constant attention of a master, an indifference, to say the least, to the religious opinions of a large section of Nonconformist supporters, and the sickening of the country on the subject of Home Rule, not to mention the opposition of the whole liquor interest are enough along with combinations of straight Conservatives and Liberal Unionists to account for the great political overturn which has taken place. To all appearances the control of public affairs in Britain and throughout the Empire will be in the hands of the Conservative party for a long time to come if the coalition between it and the Liberal Unionists can stand the strain to which it will inevitably be subjected.

The Boys' Brigade is a recent, if it is not the latest of organized Christian societies. It is unique in that it is specially for boys. The first national encampment of the United Boys' Brigades of America is to be held at Highland Park, near Chicago, from the 22nd to the 29th inst., and is to be designated "Camp Wannamaker." Each boy is expected to take with him a Bible and Gospel Songs, 5 and 6; a suit of knock-about clothes and hat (besides uniform); a change of underwear; a rubber coat or blanket (if possible); a pair of dark blankets; a knife, fork, spoon, tin plate, basin and cup, soap, towels, clothes brush and comb. Companies should see that each are provided with shoe blacking and brushes, and one bed tick for every two members. Each member will deposit, on or before August 15th, with their proper company officers, \$2.25 for his ticket. This will cover all the necessary expenses for railroad fare, board and camp privileges during the encampment. The health of the boys will be well cared for, while for their moral and religious training there will be daily religious meetings, song-services, and stereopticon lectures under the immediate supervision of the Rev. Dr. Rusk, assisted by many eminent workers among boys who are promised a rare treat in the eminent speakers and musicians provided for them.