

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The Japanese Government notify through the British Foreign Office that Formosa is now pacified and open to foreign trade, subject to specified regulations.

It was the custom up to the present to give the black labourers in Africa every Saturday with their week's wages a bottle of brandy, in part payment, or as an addition. The German Colonial Government have just forbidden this custom to their employees in the Cameroons, in Togo, and its possessions in the South-West Coast of Africa.

As a straw may show which way the current flows, so the slightest incident may truly indicate an undercurrent of public feeling not evident on the surface. Of this kind is the following:—The National Bible Society of Scotland reports that an Italian colporteur recently found his arrival awaited by the family of an Italian marquis. The lady of the house spoke to him of the treasure she had found in the Scriptures, her only regret being that it had not come into her hands sooner. She had begun to gather her servants together to read the Bible to them.

The death is announced of Dr. Peter Bayne, who was born in 1830 at Fodderly, Scotland. He was educated at the University of Aberdeen, which in 1879 conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. He devoted himself to literature and journalism, and was the successor of Mr. Hugh Miller on the *Witness*. Amongst other periodicals, he has been associated with the *Christian World* and the *Literary World*. He was an extensive contributor to periodical literature, and is the author of biographies of Hugh Miller and Martin Luther, as well as of several volumes of literary and miscellaneous essays.

The Chinese soldiery are ill-fed and ill-paid, and as a rule their passage through cities, towns, and villages is marked by rapine and disorder. It was, however, the general testimony in various parts of China, during the war with Japan, that they had behaved in a most exemplary fashion. One of the church members at Ping-yao said recently that they "ought to praise God for the orderly way in which the soldiers are returning from the war, as it has not been so in China before." It is a real mark of the growth of Christianity that, whether it be the real explanation or not, it should have been offered that "this is due to the presence of so many of God's children in all parts of China."

The report having gone abroad that the Turkish Government had refused passports to persons desiring to go to the relief of the Armenians in the distressed districts, in consequence of the officials there having seized for the payment of taxes the money which had been sent for relief purposes, it will be satisfactory to know that the British government when interrogated said they had heard nothing of any such action, and that the ambassador had been directed to make inquiries. A resolution of sympathy with the Armenians by a Liberal member passed without a division. In the debate which took place it was stated by Mr. Curzon, as bearing upon the question of English interference, that "between any

port at which Great Britain could land an armed force and the scene of the outrages there would have to be encountered 200,000 Turkish troops. The government would not in the future abate its efforts in behalf of the Armenians. Regarding the past Mr. Curzon said he expected the House was convinced that the Government could not have gone farther than it had."

The case of the *Canada Review*, with which our readers who read the article upon it lately published in our columns by the Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, will be familiar, is a most important one. A committee has been formed in Montreal to receive subscriptions with which to carry the case to the Privy Council. Mr. C. S. J. Phillips, 1755 Notre Dame Street, has been appointed treasurer for the fund. Judge Archibald's dissenting judgment gives the publishers and their friends the highest hopes of a reversal of the Quebec judgment by the Privy Council if they can get it there. Their own resources and those of their friends are now exhausted, hence their appeal for assistance which we hope will be successful. A circular presenting the case will shortly be issued.

At last it is going to be applied to our politicians. The dead line has for some years back, in this country at least, been a familiar and a rather dread thing amongst the clergy. It has been supposed to run somewhere about fifty. That is hardly thought of yet as the mark to be applied to the politicians, but there is no saying how soon it may come to it. The combined ages of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Frank Smith, Sir Charles Tupper, and Sir Donald Smith is 300 years. It is altogether too bad, the younger men are beginning to think, that men will persist in living, or at least working so long, and keeping young bloods out of places which they are so much more competent to hold, and even as they think to fill. It is to be hoped that these old fogies having got the hint will make haste to get out of the way.

That unfortunate "Coercion Bill" is having a hard time of it. Were it an animate thing and could but speak it would surely say that life is not worth living." Its lot is a most unhappy one. More feared than loved, dreaded even by the fathers and friends of it, it is cursed by some, hated by more, and befriended by none really but a few Romish priests and dignitaries. It has now received the most unceremonious treatment, and unkindest cut of all at the hands of Principal Grant, who, to an interviewer, has given it an unmerciful riddling, torn it to shreds and tatters, and now in the public press the poor fluttering rags are exposed to the ridicule or contempt of the whole country. What will Bishop Cleary think of his quondam friend? But why in the name of all that is fair and right should the Dominion Government of any party wish or attempt to coerce any Province in a matter clearly within its rights, to do what it believes is hurtful to its best interests? If this business is once initiated, because of a real or fancied grievance of a small minority of Roman Catholics, it will be impossible to stop with them, because there are many more people in every province who can conjure up grievances for which, if once the door is opened, they will be very ready to go and demand redress from the Government of the day.

There will be but one feeling of pain and sorrow at the unhappy break of friendly feeling among the heads of the Salvation Army. Although it appears very difficult to get at the real cause or causes of it, there seems little reason to doubt that it is largely a family affair. The division may not be the less difficult to heal on that account, for a brother offended is hard to be won. The Army has successfully gone through the stages which mark the history of every such movement, ridicule, contempt, and persecution, until it has established a place for itself as one of the most successful, beneficent and blessed-of-God religious movements of the century along certain very much needed lines of Christian work. We most earnestly hope that the breach may be healed, and in such away as not to interfere with, or in the smallest measure detract from the public confidence in, or the perfect success of, the great movement for the uplifting of the sunken, degraded and fallen in which the Army is engaged.

At the meeting in Convocation Hall of Queen's College, on Sabbath afternoon of March 1st, Principal Grant drew the attention of the students, of whom a large number was present, to the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. After referring to his course as a student, Doctor Grant spoke of Mr. Macdonnell's relation to Queen's, and of the blows the university had received this session in the deaths of Dr. Williamson and of Mr. James D. Stewart; the retirement of Mr. John Cormack from failing health; the deaths of Dr. Fenwick and Dr. Saunders; and now "the death of one to whom we owe more than to any other single man." "It will not," added the Principal, "hurt the feelings of the friends of any of the others if I say that the last loss has been the greatest, for there was this unique charm about him, that no one ever envied him any success he might gain." He then referred at length to features of his character as student, pastor, churchman, and citizen, and drew lessons from them for guidance in life.

The following incident, which took place in Santiago, Chili, suggests at the present moment a comparison as to the power of the hierarchy in at least one country in Roman Catholic South America, and the power of the same hierarchy in the Dominion of Canada, a Protestant country. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Santiago a few months ago launched a decree of excommunication against a daily newspaper (*La Lei*), whose ideas are too liberal for him and his clergy. All concerned in its production and sale, and all who should persist in reading it, he placed under a ban. Once in a Roman Catholic country, like Chili, this would have been a terrible sentence, but to-day it is mocked. The circulation of *La Lei* at once increased. The city was moved with mingled indignation and laughter. A fortnight after the issue of the excommunication, a great open-air meeting was held. Resolutions were unanimously passed congratulating the newspaper on the Archbishop's censure, and appealing to the Government to enforce the law for the expulsion of Jesuits from Chili. Throughout the country the defiance of the ecclesiastical censure has been heartily approved. Archbishop Cameron of Antigua would not fare so well in Roman Catholic Chili as he does in Protestant Canada.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Dr. George Macdonald: I never could be indifferent to what people thought of me; though I have had to fight hard to act freely as if I were indifferent, especially when upon occasion I found myself approved of. It is more difficult to walk straight then, than when men are all against you.

Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.: Following Christ brings some uphill climbs, but victory and holy joys await us at the top; crosses then will turn into shining crowns. Coming to Christ must not end with the coming; it is those who follow His leading and endure to the end who will be saved. "Abide in Me, and ye shall bear much fruit;" and that is the one sure way to be delivered from the curse and infamy of a barren life.

Christian Advocate: Newman Hall visited the summit of Mount Snowden in Wales. A large number of Welshmen on an excursion were there. As soon as it was understood that Newman Hall, author of "Come to Jesus," which had been translated into Welsh, was present, a desire that he should lead in prayer was expressed. At first he objected, on the ground that none of the people could understand him, but being assured that some knew English, he prayed. Such was his fervency that for many years afterward he received information of the conviction and conversion of persons who felt the power of his prayer, though they understood not a word.

R. S. Storrs, D.D.: He who has followed God's messages on earth has at last another message to follow, and according to the faithfulness with which he has heard and obeyed here will be the confidence and gladness with which he will follow the last. One messenger comes to us concerning whom there can be no mistake that he comes from God; it is the angel of death. One message comes in regard to which there can be no doubt that it is a divine message: it is the message that we are to pass from this world to enter the unseen. . . . God help us to follow every voice of His providence which leads us to his service here that when the last voice comes, before which the human spirit naturally shrinks and sinks, we will rise up and follow, doubting nothing, and swiftly go up, clasping the hand of the angel until we clasp the hand of Christ himself.

Dr. John Hall: One effect of the inadequate support of the ministry is the discouragement of young men brought up in comfortable homes, when they think of the ministry as their life work. It would be easy to establish and illustrate this statement, if necessary. It would be easy also to furnish statistics contrasting the salaries of men with little education, ordinary character, and liberty to "live as they list," with the fluctuating incomes of thousands of educated, high-toned, hard-working occupants of pulpits over our land. Christian readers! if you care for the credit of our national Constitution, for the strength of the Church of Christ, the greatest elevating and purifying power in our land, and for the glory of the Master, consider and demonstrate what is due to his servants cut off from other modes of raising means, and pledged to lay out all their strength for the abiding good of their fellow-men.