

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 14.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 1885.

No. 49.

"In every respect a credit to the Presbyterian Church in Canada."—*Barris Gaultie.*

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE
Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

"Without doubt the best religious publication in Canada, and a well come visitor to thousands of families."—*Stratford Beacon.*

THE PRESBYTERIAN is recommended by the General Assembly as "worthy the hearty support" of the ministers and members.

An Agent wanted in every congregation in the Dominion. Liberal commissions to suitable persons. Specimen copies mailed free on application. Apply at once to

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Toronto.

Notes of the Week.

THE Young Men's Christian Association in connection with Toronto University is progressing encouragingly. The new building in course of erection will soon be finished, and the ladies connected with the city churches have undertaken to raise the necessary funds for its complete equipment and furnishing.

In connection with the proposed chair of Church History, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology the name of the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., is being mentioned. Mr. Fotheringham for a time occupied with acceptance the lectureship of Apologetics in Queen's College. He is possessed of eminent scholarly attainments.

IN the Southern States the Prohibition cause is making progress both steadily and rapidly. Last week Fulton County, Georgia, in which Atlanta City is situated, voted for prohibition by a majority of over 200. In this instance it cannot be said that only a fraction of the citizens voted on either side, since it is stated that a larger vote was cast than at the last Presidential election. Out of one hundred and thirty-seven counties in the State of Georgia, over a hundred have already adopted prohibition.

THE young King of Spain, after a ten years' somewhat troubled reign, has passed away. He has done nothing very brilliant by which his rule will be remembered. Though sometimes in danger of assassination he escaped the pistol of the would-be regicide, and died of disease. To his honour be it said that he displayed no little heroism while cholera was decimating the Spanish provinces; he visited his suffering subjects and did what he could to inspire them with hope and courage. His widowed queen has been appointed to the regency; but it is highly probable that stormy times are in store for Spain.

THE French people have found that their recent little wars have been inglorious. Tonquin has afforded anything but a brilliant field for French valour. The casualties attending the campaign have been disastrous, and the endeavour to subjugate the Hovas of Madagascar is not likely to shed lustre on French arms or French diplomacy. Twenty-six members out of a committee of thirty-three, appointed by the Chamber of Deputies, are in favour of the evacuation of Tonquin. This is opposed by the Ministry; but it is plain that the scheme of Eastern conquest is virtually abandoned. The French Ministry also announce that negotiations with the Hovas are in progress, the result of which will not be definitely known for about two months.

INDICATIONS of a springtime of spiritual health and power of a most encouraging kind are visible to observers. At several universities in Europe and on this continent marked religious awakenings have occurred. Last session at Edinburgh University a warm and vital interest in religion was manifest, professors and students taking an active part in the work. It is stated that in the Theological School at Frankfurt,

the students are working for God with great earnestness. In small companies they go to villages, sing, pray and sometimes preach. They often gather congregations of 500, and their efforts have met with good results. The recoil from the dreary rationalism so long prevalent in Germany is steadily growing in strength, and there are cheering signs that it will be replaced by a fervent and intelligent piety.

THE number of professors of Hebrew in the United States is something astonishing. *Hebraica*, in its October issue, publishes a list of Old Testament professors and instructors in the United States and Canada, and they count up to 153, mostly in theological institutions. The Roman Catholics lead the list with twenty-two professors, and the Presbyterians follow hard after with twenty-one. Then come the Baptists with fifteen, and the Methodists and Episcopalians with thirteen each. The Congregationalists have ten; the Evangelical Lutherans eight, and other Lutherans, eight; after which come other bodies with from one to three each. Only eleven are credited to institutions with no denominational control. With such a large number of Hebrew teachers there ought to be a good deal more Hebrew learning in the country than there is; but this *Hebraica* is evidence of a growing interest in the subject.

FOR many years, says a despatch to the *Montreal Witness*, it has been the custom in New Hampshire for clergymen to read from their pulpits the Governor's Thanksgiving proclamation on the Sabbath preceding that holiday. As is well known, Governor Currier is liberal in his religious views, and it so happened that in making up his proclamation this year the usual "Thanksgiving to Almighty God" was omitted. The people were merely called upon to observe the day as one of thanksgiving, recreation and rejoicing, without any recommendation that the people should meet in their respective places of worship and engage in religious exercises. Many of the clergy throughout the State refused to read the proclamation at all, while others read it with various comments and criticisms, and in many churches President Cleveland's proclamation, which suited the strict church-member, was read in the place of the Governor's.

OUR readers, says the *Christian Leader*, will be glad to have authentic information regarding the progress of the projected union between the Waldensian and Free Italian Churches. The recent Waldensian Synod delayed the matter for a year, in order to consult fully the Churches inside and outside the Valleys, but re-affirmed its desire for union, applauded the unanimity of the committees which prepared the articles of union, and sent a fraternal greeting to the Free Italian Assembly, which lately met in Florence, returned the cordial greeting of the Waldensian Synod, and, then, after two days' discussion, by acclamation approved of the articles of union, with a few trifling alterations. The Assembly was a very happy one, and we hear that the union spirit is even growing in strength, although a year's delay caused much disappointment. It seems that there is some difficulty outside the Waldensian Valleys with regard to the name of the united Church, namely: "The Evangelical Church of Italy," which forms the fifth article of union: but it is the general belief that God will graciously remove the difficulty in answer to the prayers of all the friends of Italy.

WITHOUT the full text of the Encyclical lately issued by the Pope, it is not possible to form a just estimate of its meaning. The published excerpts in some degree indicate its intent. Leo XIII. does not re-echo the *non possumus* of his predecessor. Pius IX., under Jesuit inspiration, it was said, fulminated his Vatican thunderbolts against modern progress. The Roman Pontiff of to-day speaks in more cautious strains. He recognizes the growing political power of the people, scientific progress and modern invention. Where Romanism is not in the ascendant, its representatives properly claim equal rights with those who ad-

here to other forms of religion; but what are we to think of the undiminished arrogance of the following assumption. There is no just cause that any one should condemn the Church as being too restricted in gentleness, or inimical to that liberty which is natural and legitimate. In truth, the Church judges it not lawful that the various kinds of worship should have the same right as the true religion. Still, it does not, therefore, condemn those governors of States who, for the sake of acquiring some great good, or preventing some great ill, patiently bear with manners and customs so that each kind of religion has its place in the State. Magnanimous Rome!

THE *New York Independent* has not joined in the interested and one-sided torrent of abuse heaped on Mr. Stead by his London contemporaries. A recent article pronounces him "one of the heedless heroes who are resolved to save the world at any risk to themselves," and concludes as follows: Mr. Stead was convicted and must suffer. Not one person suffers who broke the law with vile intent, only those who broke the law for a good intent, while acting as detectives, with a view to improve the law. Thus is the execution of law made a ghastly and shocking farce. Those escape who would make void the law, and those suffer who magnify the law. The home festivals of Britain will be more happy for the great improvement in legislation effected through Mr. Stead's efforts, but many a household will remember that the man to whom they owe the protection of their girls and the salvation of their families occupies the felon's cell. But the object was worth the sacrifice. Other laws we need for defence of our homes. Our homes are ruined rather by the laxity of laws which loosen the bonds of marriage, and make children fatherless or motherless. During the joy of our home festival, let us take a moment to ask whether our easy divorce laws are not digging away the very foundations of the home, and do not constantly imperil the morals of the community.

AN article in the *Interior*, on the Order of Means of Grace, concludes thus. Honour put on the regular means of grace would concentrate Christian activity. The Church would work together with an energy which is always the precursor of success. Thus, it is often said, when an evangelist comes into a town and secures the hearty co-operation of all the ministers and churches, that if the same rallying could be had around the pastor, or pastors, the result would be the same. It is true. What caused the rally? Perhaps the evangelist's reputation. He has been so successful elsewhere, it is believed if the conditions are repeated the success will be repeated. And so, perhaps, on the reputation of a man, the Church as one person flies into the work. Suppose, now, the faith in the man were transferred to God and His Gospel. Suppose a Church should conclude that, as God has promised His work should be efficacious, He would certainly keep His promise. Suppose, further, a recollection of the past should confirm that faith. Then, suppose on that noble faith and confidence in the truth of the Lord, the Church should look for blessings at every prayer meeting, and pray every sermon into the hearts of the people, and conduct every Sabbath school in the conviction that God's Word would not return unto Him void. What then? Would that God who blesses the expectations that gather around a special service withhold His blessing from those ordinary means that are baptized with the tears and lifted with the believing prayers of His own people? If the honour we sometimes thoughtlessly put on men were given to God, we would rejoice in unending streams of salvation. And churches are often dry and lifeless, because they are waiting for a "series of meetings," forgetting that they have a series of meetings the year through, every one of which might be charged with living and saving power. It is the ordinary rainfall that beautifies the world. It is the invisible nightly dew that keeps the vegetation fresh. And God says, "I will be as the dew unto Israel."