

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 25.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15th, 1896.

No. 16.

## Notes of the Week.

An interesting note of the new method of reckoning time introduced only a few years ago, and which it cannot be said has come as yet into very common use, is contained in the following notice taken from a Winnipeg paper: "Two trains will arrive from the east this evening, the first one at 18.25 o'clock with nothing but excursionists, and the second at 20.50 o'clock with ordinary passengers and a number of excursionists."

The industrial development in Japan during the last year has been quite as remarkable in its way as the military successes of the year before. The increase of manufactures and railroads, and of the industries they involve, is bewildering. She is rapidly building a new navy of a hundred and twenty ships, and the merchant marine is composed of some of the best ships afloat. In 1884 Japan's total imports and exports were \$63,500,000; in 1894 there were over \$230,000,000, and in 1895 nearly \$300,000,000. There are now in the Empire 26,000 schools, with about 3,400,000 pupils, led by the Imperial University of Tokio with 1,300 students. And the publishing of books and the circulation of newspapers have fully kept pace with the advance.

As bearing upon our own position in Canada with reference to education and Romanism, the language of Sir Archibald Campbell at the close of the winter session in Edinburgh of the Protestant Institute of Scotland, is worthy of note. He said, "That those who took any interest at all in looking at the progress of affairs, and the way in which matters were going with regard to Protestantism and Romanism, saw that the line of attack was being directed very much upon the education of the young, and that the effort which Rome was putting forward was to get hold of particularly appropriate and necessary that those who undertook the defence of Protestant and Reformation principles should see to it that they were not behind in doing what they could to fortify the rising generation."

A circular has been issued by Rev. Dr. Matthews, secretary of the Presbyterian Alliance, notifying delegates and others of the meeting of the Alliance to be held in Glasgow from the 17th to the 26th of June. The sermon will be preached in the Glasgow Cathedral by the Rev. J. Marshall Lang, D.D., on the 17th, and the other meetings will be held in St. Andrew's Hall, Berkley Street. A brief outline of papers to be read is to be printed for circulation among members as an aid to intelligent discussion, and those of more than 2,000 words cannot be printed *in extenso*. After reporting at the office of the Alliance their arrival in Glasgow, members will be furnished with tickets of membership and a metal badge which will secure admission into the reserved portion of the Hall, and also be a passport on many other occasions to those wearing it. On the evening of Wednesday, 17th June, the Civic Authorities will give a reception to the delegates in the Municipal Buildings. On Saturday, the 20th June, there will be an excursion on the Clyde, while on some other day admission may be obtained into one of the famous Ship-building yards.

Rev. John Watson (Ian Maclaren), preaching in his Church at Sefton-park on a recent Sunday, pleaded on behalf of the suffering Armenians. "He would not," he said, "enter into the political aspect of the matter, or venture to express an opinion as to what might have been done or what should be done; but he would simply say that if Oliver Cromwell had been alive at the present day the British fleet would have been at Constantinople months ago, and the Ottoman Government would to-day have been a thing of the past."

The Presbyterian Church of the United States (North) is making most strenuous efforts to complete before the meeting of the General Assembly, the million dollar fund needed to clear off the indebtedness which accumulated last year. Most naturally the women of the Church are taking an active part in this work. The following method among others is being tried: "Representative women of the Presbyterian Church will issue, on April 30th, 1896, for the benefit of the fund, a Woman's Edition of the *Presbyterian Journal*. This edition will present the needs of the various missionary boards of the Presbyterian Church. It is hoped that all the women of the Church will heartily co-operate, and that a substantial sum may be realized to aid in carrying out the noble work that these boards are doing at home and abroad."

A very large and most important work is being done in a quiet and unobtrusive way by the Book and Tract Society of Ontario of which the Rev. Dr. Moffat is the efficient representative, and by a kindred society in the United States, the American Tract Society. A meeting in the interests of this Society was held on a recent Sunday in Washington, D.C. An audience which filled the Church listened to addresses by the rector, Rev. Dr. Alexander Mackay Smith, one of the vice-presidents of the society, and Rev. Dr. William A. Rice, the missionary secretary. The report of the home and foreign work of the society showed 200 colporteurs laboring in the United States and Canada, and in the foreign field co-operation with evangelical missionaries by grants of money and electrotypes for Christian publications in various languages. In these two departments of work about \$100,000 are expended annually.

At a meeting held lately of what is called the General Purposes Committee of the Presbyterian Church in England there was discussed ways and means of saving the time of the Synod. What will many of our sticklers for use and wont say to the proposal to do away for this end with the Moderator's opening sermon? At the meeting discussion principally turned upon this. Three motions were before the Committee, viz., "Incoming Moderator's address only," "Retiring Moderator's sermon only," and "Address and sermon as before." The final vote was taken as between the first and third motions, and it was found that the votes were equally divided. According to the usage of the Church, the Chairman (Mr. Thos. Bell) gave his casting vote for the "as you were" motion. The Committee agreed to suggest, with a view to the further saving of the time of the Supreme Court, that Conveners of Committees when giving in their reports should bear in mind that the reports as embodied in the Blue Book have been read already by the members of the Synod, and that it is therefore inadvisable to quote largely from them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballington Booth proposed to give to their new secession organization the name of "God's American Volunteers." Apropos to this the *Occident* remarks: "We dislike the name given to Ballington Booth's secession movement, both on ethical and literary grounds." The *Independent*, very properly remarks: "We cannot congratulate Mr. Ballington Booth on the choice of a name for his new movement, 'God's American Volunteers.' We do not like to have the name of the Deity brought into a title to be used very often flippantly, as it will be in the description of a popular organization. It will tend, we believe, to irreverence, and does not seem to us from any point of view a happy designation." The name, we see, has been changed to simply, "The Volunteers." The uniform for the female officers is of a stylish cut, and is blue in colour, and the poke bonnet has been discarded for one more becoming.

Previous to the meeting of Synod the great committees and Boards of the Presbyterian Church in England meet to prepare their business for presentation to the Synod. Their committees and boards number twenty and it is interesting to note that even in England the Home Mission Committee is that which has the largest amount of business. There came before it nearly 50 applications for grants of various descriptions, ranging in the amounts asked for from £1 to £1,400. One of the provisions of the new Home Mission rules with regard to building is that when a Presbytery proposes the erection of a working men's church in a densely populated neighbourhood, the Committee may make a grant of three-quarters the cost of the church, provided the Presbytery raises the other quarter. The first application made under this excellent provision came from the Newcastle Presbytery. The Organising Secretary of the Church Building and Debt Extinction Fund reported as to the progress of the fund in the various Presbyteries, and was able to intimate a total up to date of subscriptions and donations of £17,037 of the £50,000 wanted.

The distress in Armenia continues in Great Britain, and we are glad also to say in Canada, to excite deepening interest and call forth increasing help. The Duke of Argyll, President of the Armenian Relief Fund, having forwarded to Mr. Gladstone a statement of the deplorable destitution and the urgent needs of the sufferers in Asiatic Turkey, drawn up by the Duke of Westminster, Chairman of the Executive Committee, in which it is shown that the British Consuls estimate that 200,000 survivors of the massacres are still depending upon charity, and that £100,000 is required to keep the people alive, has received the following reply:—"Dear Argyll,—I am glad to hear that the philanthropic labors in which you are sharing, on behalf of the Armenians, though pursued under much disadvantage, have resulted thus far in sending the sum of £31,000 for their relief. But, although this does much honor to the energy and assiduity of those who have taken part, it is, I fear, still very insufficient for the purpose in view, and I hope the humanity of the country will afford further supplies to the extent of the need. No one, I hope, will suppose that the deplorable and ignominious failure of Europe in its duties to Armenia and the East, as a whole, in any way diminishes the force of the present appeal to the sentiment of Christian charity, which it ought rather to enhance." Mr. Gladstone has given £100 to the Relief Fund.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

The Globe: The Prussian Government made a profit of \$51,051,000 from its railway systems last year. The system of building railways at public expense for private corporations is evidently not the best in the world.

Rev. George Matheson, D.D.: I believe ritualism is a step in the wrong direction. What we want is spiritual development, a commending of the things of God to the conscience or consciousness: not a rubric. I am the opposite of a sacramentarian.

Cumberland Presbyterian: Half a dozen consecrated voices constitute a better church choir than half a hundred unconsecrated voices, however cultured; and it remains yet to be demonstrated that a whole congregation of earnest singers is not better than either.

The Interior: Dr. Talmage is a startling and eruptive orator, and we have no question that he has in his own way done a great deal of good. Nevertheless his career has not been one of glory to the Presbyterian Church, nor has it redounded to the replenishment of the treasuries of the missionary society.

Jas. Green in Montreal Witness: By this division of the taxes the Protestant pays nine dollars of every ten of the taxes, and his schools receive back three dollars of every ten, while the Roman Catholic pays one dollar of every ten of the taxes, and his school receives back seven of every ten. This is one way of spoiling the Egyptians.

Westminster Teacher: We are all in danger of losing Jesus out of our life. We can do it only by drifting away from him. If we go into sin we shall certainly lose him. We may do it, too, by carelessness, by neglect. He will never leave us, but we may leave him. If we have lost him, there is only one right thing to do—to return to where we missed him and to seek him until we find him. He never wants to remain lost to us. It grieves him when we leave him.

Jas. Green in Montreal Witness: By the parish system in Quebec wherever a small section of Roman Catholics can be grouped so as to get children enough to form a school, it is set off for a parish and all the Protestants within the limits are roped in and made to pay their taxes to the majority, or dissent, and they cannot dissent if they have not enough children of their own to form a district. In that case there is no help for them. They must pay to the Roman Catholics.

Westminster Teacher: One frequent good result from trouble is that it sends people to Christ. It is probable that this paralytic would never have gone to Christ with his sins, and therefore would never have received salvation if it had not been for his bodily illness. His paralysis made him think of his sins and want to be healed. Many a soul is saved through a suffering body. A man who had been all his life very busy, with no time for religious thoughts, was stricken down and lay helpless for years. He said once to a friend that he had never learned to live until he was unable for activity. He had looked at his life and had turned to Christ while sitting powerless in his chair.