

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 22

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1893.

No. 10

Notes of the Week.

Lord Rosebery, Foreign Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Government, has conveyed to the principal Canadian actors in the Behring Sea Arbitration case, in very cordial, and evidently very sincere, language, the thanks of Her Majesty, and also of the Government, for the ability and zeal which they have displayed in the conduct of that very important international arbitration.

While not a few English Presbyterians seem to regard Principal Dykes' intended motion with reference to the Established Church of Scotland as inopportune, Irish Presbyterians, for the most, are in sympathy with it, and would be glad to see it carried. It is to be remembered that for a number of years the Irish Assembly has had an interchange of deputations from the Church of Scotland.

By the Empress of India, the Rev. Dr. Mackay, our well-known missionary in Formosa, has arrived at Vancouver on his way to visit Canada and his old home in Woodstock. Mr. Mackay has been a missionary for twenty-five years, and was the first to enter Northern Formosa. Mrs. Mackay is a native of China, and Mr. Mackay was very much displeased, and justly we should say, at being compelled to pay poll-tax by the Customs officials, claiming that she was a British subject.

During Mr. Laurier's late visit to St. Thomas he was sought out by Principal Austin of Alma College, who for half an hour set before the leader of the opposition the cause of the Prohibitionists. He gave him to understand that the movement had made much more rapid progress in the country than the Reform party had made in it, and that the time was rapidly approaching when its advocates would take united political action. Although Mr. Laurier is not a professed Prohibitionist, Principal Austin is sure that he does not misrepresent him when he says that should a large majority demand the destruction of the liquor traffic, he would gladly, if leader of the government, obey the behests of the sovereign people.

The Scottish form of oath, is rapidly, in English courts, superseding that which has been so long the practice. At first, there was a disposition on the part of some justices of the peace, to resent the new custom. A circular on the subject, by Mr. Asquith, Home Secretary, is doing away with this. But witnesses are now themselves taking the initiative, and the provisions of the Oaths Act are being carried into effect. Much of the credit for the substitution, of the cleanly and impressive method of swearing witnesses in use in Scotland, is due to the action of the Parliamentary Committee of the British Medical Association. In Scotland, as in some parts of this country, the witness holds up his right hand as a sign and token that he is under oath. "Kissing the Bible" is objectionable on several grounds, and ought to be given up.

Although Presbyterians are not given to whining, and still less to threatening the Government of the day, for being denied public offices of trust and importance, because we are liberal and sensible enough to recognize that not religious belief, but the necessary political

experience, ability, and upright character, are the proper qualifications for public posts, yet it is gratifying to know, that Senator Boyd, who has just been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, and W. B. Scarth, ex-M. P., who, it is thought, is likely to be appointed to a similar high office in Manitoba, are both Presbyterians, and that both appointments are popular with those more immediately concerned. We trust that they may both do honour to the important places they have been called to fill.

The following statistics are taken from the report of Mr. E. Payson Porter, Statistical Secretary of the International Sunday School Convention, which met lately in St. Louis, U.S. This was a carefully prepared statement of the strength of Sunday-schools in North America. These are the figures for Canada:

Province.	Schools.	Officers and Teachers.	Scholars.	Total
Ontario.....	4,683	45,946	383,346	429,292
Quebec.....	715	4,867	42,433	47,300
Nova Scotia..	1,372	8,961	73,704	81,665
N. Brunswick..	904	5,758	38,875	44,033
Pr. Edward Is.	234	1,335	12,770	14,105
Manitoba.....	150	600	5,000	5,600
Br. Columbia..	28	275	2,100	2,375
Totals....	8,026	67,142	557,228	624,370

In Newfoundland and Labrador.....	314	2,162	22,817	24,979
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Percentage of population in Sunday-schools:	
In the United States.....	17.5
In Canada.....	13.5

Percentage by Provinces:			
Ontario.....	20.	New Brunswick.	13.7
Quebec.....	3.8	Pr. Edward Is....	13.3
Nova Scotia.....	18.	Manitoba.....	4.

A Presbyterian, reading the late Manitoba and Northwest papers, cannot but wonder at, and admire, perhaps even envy the superabounding, exulting energy and life of the Rev. Principal Grant, who has been taking part in the work of the summer session of our theological college in Winnipeg. Weekly the papers come, and every week you find him preaching, lecturing or both, now here and now there, and always with abundant appreciation of the genial Principal and of his work. It is well known that he is an enthusiastic advocate of Imperial Federation. Whatever may be said against this as being only a dream, we believe it to be the ideal state for Canada, and it is our aspiration and our hope that one day it may be found practicable, and be realized. No one can mistake the patriotism of the Doctor. We gladly quote the following: "His object in travelling around the world was to study comparatively the different portions of our empire in order that he might see something of advantage to Canada and he could give his adopted country the benefit of any knowledge he got in his studies. And now after nine months' travel, he thought that there was no place like Canada, no other country so desirable for the honest man to live in. He was a Canadian first, last and at all times. He believed we could not make great success unless we preserve our union with the mother country, and we should endeavour to strengthen this union as best we could. In his travels he found that the British flag travelled around the world, and he found it at every point of any importance representing the cause of God and man as no other nation does; the emblem of justice, mercy and love. Wherever Britain plants a flag, she announces to the world that that country is free to all. Every man has an equal chance." Who would not wish and be proud to belong to an empire of which all this can be truthfully said?

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Christian Sentinel: God is not trusted when we worry.

Rev. Dr. Cuyler: Every saloon-keeper makes his living at the mouth of hell.

Ram's Horn: People have to be living very near to the throne before they can enjoy having their faults pointed out.

Lord Roberts: The good health of the British Army in India, numbering 69,000, is owing to the sobriety of the men. About one-third are members of the Army Temperance Association.

Rev. Theodore Cuyler: The healthiest Christian, the one who is best fitted for godly living and godly labours, is he who feeds most on Christ. Here lies the benefits of Bible reading and of secret prayer.

Lady Somerset: I have resolved in all discussions on the conduct or character of others, to let something good be said, nor count any conversation closed till the advantages as well as the defects have been set forth. Our hands need to be tender, to have a touch of blessing in them as well as the power of healing. Our voices must be tuned to the concert pitch of that love that never faileth.

Irish Temperance League Journal: "I have made \$1,000 in the last three months," said a liquor-seller. "You have made more than that," remarked one of a group of listeners. "What is that?" was the quick response. "You have made my two sons drunkards; you have made their mother a broken-hearted woman; you have made more than I can reckon; but you'll get the full account some day."

Phillips Brooks: Our answered prayers are precious to us; I sometimes think our unanswered prayers are more precious still. These give us God's blessings; these, if we will, may lead us to God. Do not let any moment of your life fall of God's light. Be sure that whether He speaks or is silent, He is always loving you, and always trying to make your life more rich and good and happy. Only be sure that you are always ready.

Missionary Outlook: A full realization by every woman who professes to follow the Saviour of her obligation to obey His command to "preach the gospel to every creature," would largely swell the membership of our W. F. M. Auxiliaries. To impress this obligation on every congregation is the duty of every Auxiliary, and one way of doing this will be by direct personal invitation; another, and one usually very effective, is by public meetings.

The Independent: The Gospel suffers a sad injury at the hands of those who make it a dogma of intellectual faith, instead of a message of love and help from God to man. It is life, not dead bones. It must not, in its presentation, be entangled in a snarl of philosophical statements, veiled in contradictions or mysteries which shall destroy all its life and vigour. Nothing is so concrete, so personal, so practical, as the Gospel. Nothing abstract, vague, or technical must be substituted for it. To believe in a Saviour, to trust and follow Him—that is a very simple matter. To rely for salvation on forms or formulas, on statements or speculations about Christ, instead of on Christ himself—that is sometimes very hard indeed.

Garfield: Things don't turn up in this world unless somebody turns them up.

Bernard: Tale-bearers and tale-hearers are alike guilty; the one hath the devil in his tongue, the other in his ear.

Schiller: It is a serious thing to die; it is a more serious thing to live. So as it is a great and glorious thing to die, it is a thing greater and more glorious and Godlike, to live a resigned, active, and blessed, if not happy, life.

Rev. E. D. McLaren: Unnecessary Sunday traffic on railway and steamboat, Sunday work in the post-office, for which there is absolutely no excuse, the publishing of a Sunday newspaper—even though it may involve less actual Sunday labour than is performed in most offices in the preparation for a Monday issue—and last, but by no means least, the running of Sunday street cars, have combined about a laxity of views and conduct in regard to this matter, that large numbers of our most earnest and thoughtful citizens very deeply deplore.

Spurgeon: If Christ is more excellent at one time than another it certainly is in "the cloudy and dark day." We can never so well see the true colour of Christ's love as in the night of weeping. Christ in the dungeon, Christ on the bed of sickness, Christ in poverty, is Christ indeed to a sanctified man. No vision of Jesus Christ is so truly a revelation as that which is seen in the Patmos of suffering. This He proves to His beloved, not by mere words of promise, but by actual deeds of affection. As our sufferings abound, so He makes our consolations to abound.

Hon. G. W. Ross: The teacher is the greatest force in the public school. It is for him to say largely what shall be the mental and moral trend of the next half century. The ideals of life and character which he presents to his pupils will be the predominating feature of the lives and characters of the next generation. If by fact and argument he establishes the conviction that alcohol is not an article for daily consumption, but a drug of the apothecary, his usefulness as a moral reformer is vindicated, and the work of the legislator may be practically dispensed with. Recognizing these forces, the introduction of scientific temperance into the public school is a matter of the greatest urgency, and should receive the earnest attention of every person interested in the overthrow of intemperance.

Rev. A. T. Pierson, D. D.: "When the gold worshipper passes away, it is no star that has fallen from the firmament, no melody that has sunk into silence, no fruitful tree that has been uprooted; it is merely a bag of metallic coin that has fallen on the pavement; the knot has loosened, and the heirs scramble after the scattered coins, while the greedy lawyers secure the larger share." What an end for any man. No one, having felt His goodness, holds his hand as he goes out into "those mysterious realms where each must take his chamber in the silent halls of death." In his life he has let slip the truest happiness that mortal time affords, that of ministering to the wants of his fellows. In his death he passes into darkness, unwept and unremembered. With his gold were God-given opportunities; he has neglected to make himself and his neighbour happy by making use of them. His life has been a failure.