

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 15.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st, 1886.

No. 14.

"In every respect a credit to the Presbyterian Church in Canada."—*Barric Gazette.*

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

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Notes of the Week.

It has been stated that the people of Labrador between Esquimaux Point and Blanc Sablon are starving, and keep themselves alive only by eating the flesh of 500 dogs which have been killed. A ship sent from Newfoundland in November, with a load of provisions, was lost in a great storm. It is believed that 100 to 150 people will die this spring from starvation.

WHILE the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act was voted for by a decisive majority in the British House of Commons a week or two since, a Bill has been reported favourably in the New York Legislature, which is nothing more nor less than a Contagious Diseases Act. It is characterized as an infamous proposal, and citizens who do not believe in State regulation of vice are called upon to petition against it at once.

It is announced that the Salvation Army is to hold an International Religious Convention in London. The managers state that they have secured five of the largest halls in London for the accommodation of the thousands expected to attend. The convention will open on May 28, and will last one week. The regular delegates, who will be present to represent the Army's religious movement in the different parts of the world, will number 2,500. These delegates, the managers say, will include Hindus, Negroes, Moors and American Indians.

THE Christian Literature Company of Buffalo announce the publication of a fresh translation of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, the whole to be under the editorial supervision of Dr. Philip Schaff. The plan is to complete the first series—the works of Augustin, Chrysostom, Eusebius, and the Greek historians—in thirteen volumes; the second—Athanasius, Ambrose and Jerome—in three. These will be issued to subscribers—one volume every three months—at three dollars a volume, commencing with September next. They will be sent, expressage paid, anywhere in the United States and Canada.

THE Ottawa *Free Press*, now appearing in an improved and attractive form, and conducted with much ability and enterprise, in a recent issue says: The State Church of Scotland has received its warning, and this coming after the warning to the Church of England, must be accepted as an intimation of the British Democracy's temper. The House of Commons has refused to accept a bill reforming the Church of Scotland as against its disestablishment, which means of course, that the latter opinion prevails. The days of State Churches are numbered, and all ministers of the Gospel in Britain before long will stand in the same order of legal precedence.

FOR some time the Montreal *Witness* has been drawing attention to the remissness of the authorities in permitting gamblers to ply their nefarious vocation almost unmolested. It says that a broker lost \$2,800 at the den. raided recently. Others have also lost more or less large amounts. It is now asked why the

police allow such places to exist? If they will not do their duty and raid such places day after day, night after night, until respectable citizens are afraid to go near them for fear of detection and exposure, it is suggested by a citizen that a vigilance committee be organized by the wives, mothers and sisters of the men and boys robbed to clear out the place.

LABOUR riots in Belgium have assumed a serious aspect. Strikers and unemployed have come into collision with the troops, and several lives have been lost. What adds bitterness to the conflict, making the real working men more reckless, is the presence of anarchist agitators, who are flocking to the scenes of strife. The intervention of the communistic element in the struggle between capital and labour is and can be only mischievous. We are nearing the end of the nineteenth century of the Christian era, yet when social and economic movements become acute the ultimate appeal is still to the arbitrament of brute force.

THE ministers of Bowmanville who recently formed a ministerial association are giving it a practical turn. They have begun to give religious instruction to the children of the public schools. The Board of Education, as well as the principal and teachers in the schools, heartily co-operated with the ministers. The schools were closed at a quarter-past three o'clock p.m., and the various classes assembled under the direction of the teachers of the different departments. The Revs. R. D. Frazer, J. C. McIntyre and W. H. Warriner were at the Union School, and the Rev. E. Roberts went to the South Ward. The movement thus auspiciously begun promises to be very successful.

MR. WILLIAM H. HOWLAND was elected Mayor of Toronto by a large majority. The result was generally regarded by the citizens as satisfactory. Certain opponents of his took advantage of a legal technicality to unseat him. In this they have temporarily succeeded. The thoroughly straightforward and manly way in which Mr. Howland discharged the duties of his office since his instalment has dissipated any misgivings that some entertained during the mayoralty contest. He has announced that he is again a candidate. If he is not elected by acclamation he is certain to be returned by a largely increased majority. Toronto citizens generally are not enthusiastic in their admiration of pettifogging trickery.

WHEN barefaced rascality comes to the surface average citizens enjoy a season of partial illumination as to the duty they owe the community. They are seized with a spasm of indignation, and convicted culprits are swept away. Easy-going citizens then good-naturedly lapse into their former indifference and the plundering harpies again settle on the body politic. It was thought that when the Tweed ring in New York was shattered similar acts of villany were impossible. The disclosures of aldermanic doings relative to the Broadway railway charter are a sad commentary on the neglect of honest men to elect proper representatives to all places of public trust. In Canada we are not over vigilant in this respect; but we venture to affirm that in Toronto at least we cannot aspire to having an alderman whose vote can command \$20,000, and who never casts a vote without a bribe.

OUR friends in the Dominion, says the *Christian Leader*, will be amused to learn that the Edinburgh *Scotsman* advises local optionists to "study the remarkable break-down of the Scott Act in Canada!" The print in question would like the Act to break down, so it invents the fiction that it has broken down. This is one of its old tricks. Well do we recollect how it adopted the same kind of expedient in its bitter opposition to the Forbes Mackenzie bill, in the resistance it offered to the repeal of the taxes upon knowledge, and in many other conflicts in which it espoused the side of the wrong against the right.

Lately we have seen how unscrupulous its tactics have been against the Highland crofters; but in this matter, as in all others, its opposition has proved futile. It will hardly succeed in destroying the Scott Act by saying that it has broken down; and Scotland will as certainly have local option as she has for three decades had the Forbes Mackenzie Act.

THE Episcopal Church in Ireland, like the Irish Presbyterian Assembly, has held a special meeting of Synod to consider the proposed Home Rule legislation. At the meeting held in Dublin last week the Synod of the Church of Ireland adopted resolutions declaring loyalty to the British Crown and the union between Ireland and Great Britain. Bishop Graves, in announcing the adoption of the resolutions, said the Synod spoke on behalf of 600,000 Churchmen, who, he added, "comprised the majority of the foremost people of Ireland in rank, education, the ownership of property and professional skill, all of whom insist upon living under the rule of the Imperial Parliament." Archbishop Plunket said that a quarter of a million Churchmen belonging to Munster indignantly repelled the idea that the Nationalists had a monopoly of Ireland's patriotism. They did not object to a Parliament in Dublin if the members should not be men with ulterior aims, such as Professor Galbraith or the present Lord Mayor of Dublin. He did not doubt that behind the demand for Home Rule was a claim for entire separation and advanced Socialism.

FROM the recent census of the North-West Territories it is learned that there are only 24,000 white settlers. Of the total population of 48,000, in Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, 762 are Baptists, four Tunkers, twelve Free Baptists, one Adventist, thirty-seven Brethren, 9,301 Roman Catholics, 9,976 Church of England, 145 Congregational, fifty-seven Disciples, 106 Jews, 209 Lutherans, 6,905 Methodists, 7,893 Pagans (not including 641 "no religion"), 7,712 Presbyterians, twenty-two "Protestants," thirty-six Quakers, twenty-eight Unitarians, twenty Universalists, twenty-six other denominations, and 444 religion not given. In origins there are eleven Costa Ricans, ten Chinese, seventy-seven Dutch, 8,397 English, 1,520 French, 427 Germans, 23,170 Indians, 577 English Half-breeds, 3,387 French, 762 Scotch, and sixty-five Irish, or a total of Metis origin of 4,791, four Icelandic, 5,285 Irish, 316 Italian, 106 Jewish, seventeen Russian, 136 Scandinavian, 6,788 Scotch, two Spanish, ten Swiss, eighty-six Welsh, and 152 other origins. There are 8,823 born in Ontario, 1,340 in Quebec, 25,169 in the Territories, and a total of Canadian birth of 39,389 out of the total population of 48,000.

THERE is a difference between robbery and stock gambling. In the former the person plundered may be honest; but in the latter the honesty of the operators is, to say the least, questionable. They scheme to pocket money they never earned. A case came up in the Quebec Court of Appeal last week in which a firm of stockbrokers claimed a large balance on purchases and sales of stocks and merchandise. The defence was that the transactions were fictitious, and constituted a species of gambling, and the law gave no right of action in respect thereof; that the transactions between the parties were time contracts and no delivery of the goods was contemplated, but it was merely a settlement of differences between the market rate at the day of sale and that of payment and the transactions were gaming contracts. The Hon. Justices Ramsay and Monk, who dissented from the majority of the Court in the judgment rendered, held that the contract entered into between the parties was not one so discouraged by law as to prevent it from being the subject of an action, that there was no gambling, and, even supposing there was, gambling was not illegal in itself. The majority of the Court, however, composed of Chief Justice Dorion and Justices Cross and Tessier, held a different view, and confirmed the judgment of the Court below.