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SELF-BINDER.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Minutes of the General Presbyterian Council have appeared in Scotland; but we have seen no copies on this side the Atlantic. It is probable that Canadian subscribers will shortly be supplied.

We are in receipt of the Stratford "Beacon" enlarged to forty columns. The "Beacon" was always one of the best local papers in Canada; and is now certainly the largest. Perth may well feel proud of its leading journal.

THE press of Eastern Ontario contains references to a charge of criminal assault made against Rev. Henry E. McMeikan, of Lancaster. The charge is made by a young lady of the same locality. Mr. McMeikan is one of the anti union ministers, being successor to Rev. Thomas McPherson, and he is now out on bail.

A SMALL but handsome frame church was formally opened for public worship at Trowbridge, on the 20th of January last. On the following night a very successful tea meeting was held, and on Friday night of the same week a social was given for the benefit of the young people. The building fund of the congregation realized from these gatherings the sum of \$100, which will leave but a small balance to be paid on the church after all the contributions have been collected.

THE Rev. A. C. Morton, a graduate of the Montreal Presbyterian College, was ordained as missionary to the field of Taylor's Church, Montreal, by the Presbytery of Montreal on the 15th ult. The attendance was large, the place of meeting being crowded. Rev. J. C. Baxter preached and presided, Rev. Principal McVicar addressed the missionary, and Rev. R. Campbell, M.A., the people. An effort is at present being made to purchase a lot and erect a church for the congregation, which it is hoped will meet with encouragement from the wealthier Presbyterians in the older churches of Montreal.

THE Rev. D. McGilvray, of the American Presbyterian Mission among the Laos of Siam, writes that the past year at Chiengmai has been an encouraging one. There were in all seventeen baptisms, of which

ten were of adults, making the present number of communicants twenty-one. Eight of the ten adults baptized are heads of families, and reside in different villages; and it is, therefore, probable that they will be the means of bringing many to accept Christianity. The mission has no school or press, and depends chiefly on evangelistic work and preaching and on the Sunday school.

THE Canadian Baptists have 734 churches, of which 390 are in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The rest are in the Maritime Provinces. In the latter, however, is the largest number of members—36,691 out of a total of 63,453. The Baptists have doubled their membership in the Lower Provinces in twenty years, and have done the same in Ontario and Quebec in less time. The Canadian Baptists are very active in both home and foreign missions. They have two colleges, Acadia, for the Eastern members, and the Institute of Woodstock, for those of the Upper Provinces. Acadia College has an endowment of \$80,000, which is to be made up to \$100,000.

APROPOS of our remarks in former issues of this journal on church debt liquidation, we learn that the congregation of Hyde Park at its annual meeting voluntarily—totally without pressure, raised the sum of \$324, the last instalment due on the new church building. This is a method of meeting ecclesiastical liabilities far more beneficial spiritually, to the givers, and every way superior to the ordinary "tea-meeting," "social," or "bazaar" system. Their annual report shews an income during last year which averages fully \$15 per family. We congratulate the congregation on other signs of spiritual prosperity in an increase of membership at the rate of 100 per cent during the same period.

WE are requested to state that the first meeting of the Sabbath School Convention of the Presbytery of Lindsay, will be held in the Presbyterian Church, Cannington, on Tuesday, February 5th, 1878. A very interesting programme has been prepared. Ministers, superintendents, teachers, and Sunday school friends are invited to attend. The following are the officers appointed by Presbytery:—Rev. J. Campbell, M.A., President; Mr. J. C. Gilchrist, Secretary; Committee: Rev. A. Currie, M.A., Rev. E. Cockburn, M.A., Mr. P. Scott, and Mr. J. Jameson. We are glad to see that the Presbytery has taken this action, and trust the Convention will be a success, as it no doubt will be if all go in heartily.

PERSECUTION is not at an end yet in Mexico, as the missionaries have daily cause to know. A gentleman connected with the American Board in the State of Jalisco describes some of the outrages committed on converts. Many lose their employment, are driven from their houses, and are looked upon as the filth of the world by their own families. In the Pueblos one had his house burned because he spoke of Jesus, instead of Mary; another was stoned in the plaza for not taking off his hat when the bell struck twelve o'clock; a third was followed with the cry of "Death to the Protestant," because he read the Bible to his family and others who would listen to him. Four persons, because they possessed a Bible, had to leave their homes at midnight, under cover of darkness, to save their lives, the priest having said that the inhabitants of the place had proved themselves cowards for allowing such books in their midst and tolerating the persons that had them.

REGARDING the value of alcoholic stimulants administered as medicine, the testimony of Dr. Dickson, Superintendent of the Kingston Asylum for the Insane, ought to be allowed its due weight. We quote from his report to Mr. Langmuir, Inspector of Asylums, Prisons, Hospitals, etc., for Ontario: "Alcohol whether given in the form of beer, wine or whiskey, has, in every case the same destructive tendency. I am well aware that some physicians claim a power for alcohol it does not possess. They prescribe it as a restorative and assert that in wasting diseases it is useful in arresting or preventing waste of tissue, neither of which objects I am quite positive it effects, and for those purposes it is perfectly futile to prescribe it. I am sure that in any state of health, there is not a single organ or tissue of the body that derives any benefit from its use, and quite as positive that it is a most destructive agent to every organ and tissue of the body either in a state of health or disease. Most mistaken ideas have long been entertained of the efficiency of alcohol in many diseases of the system and its general effects on the human body, but actual experiments have convinced several of the ablest and most profound thinkers in the medical profession that it has always and in every form proved to be the most pernicious agent that was ever employed—medicinally or otherwise. Being therefore satisfied that its use in a state of health is never necessary, and in a state of disease it is most injurious, I have, for years past, abolished its use in this Asylum."

THE annual meeting of the Montreal Presbyterian Sabbath School Teachers' Association was held recently in the lecture room of St. Paul's Church, the Hon. Mr. Justice Torrance, President, being in the chair. Among those present were Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Rev. R. Laing, Rev. J. S. Black, Colonel Fraser and Mr. G. L. Morris. After the usual opening exercises, Mr. W. C. Torrance, the Secretary, read the annual reports. The Executive Committee announced that owing to want of funds the work had not been extended, and that it might even be thought proper to consolidate it. There was a lack of teachers, and the aid of any who might tender their services would gladly be accepted. The President had visited most of the schools, and had reported that the work was progressing satisfactorily. The Juvenile Missionary Society continued to give gratifying results. It was hoped that the larger churches would aid in paying part of the contributions of the smaller churches which had not been able to give their full share. The statistical report shows the total number of the schools in the city to be seventeen, attended by 2,767 scholars, and a staff of 328 teachers; total missionary collections, \$1,822.50; total expenditure, \$693.23; total receipts, \$411.23—leaving a deficit of \$382, after all debts will have been discharged. The several reports having been adopted, the following officers were elected for the coming year:—President, Mr. Justice Torrance; First Vice-President, Mr. J. L. Morris; Second Vice-President, John Brodie; Recording Secretary, William Henderson, of Victoria Mission Sunday School; Corresponding Secretary, James Russel; Treasurer, James McGregor; Committee on Property, Messrs Ross, Greig and Hutchinson. The President pointed out that it would be advisable to send delegates to the Convention at Atlanta, Georgia, in May next. The meeting then adjourned, Rev. Dr. Jenkins pronouncing the benediction.