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

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## Notes of the Week.

MESSRS. ROBINSON & JOHNSON, principals of the Ontario Business College, Belleville, have issued their seventh annual circular. The institution over which they preside provides a complete course in all the departments requisite for a thorough business education. They are ably assisted by a staff of efficient instructors.

A KEEN controversy over the evolution theory has been waged in the Presbyterian Church in the Southern States. Dr. Woodrow, in an able paper in the *Southern Presbyterian Review*, expressed his belief in the Darwinian hypothesis, with modifications, and that it was not inconsistent with Scriptural teaching. He is one of the professors in Columbia College. The trustees some time ago, after a lengthy discussion of the question decided in favour of the professor's views though a strong minority protest was entered against the decision. The discussion has been maintained by the religious papers almost without intermission, and now the question has come before the South Carolina Synod, who have just decided by a narrow majority that the teaching of evolution in the theological seminary at Columbia, except in a purely expository manner with no intention of inculcating its truth, is disapproved. This very mild deliverance was voted on by fifty for, and forty-five against.

THE Municipal Reform Association of Toronto, proposes to deal with an important municipal question—tax exemption. It will readily be understood that this is a matter of considerable practical importance, when it is known that property estimated at a value of between eleven and twelve million dollars in Toronto makes no contribution to the civic exchequer. The largest owners of this untaxed property are the churches and the government. Why these institutions should not bear their share of taxation as well as the humblest ratepayer it is difficult to imagine. In the interest of religion the churches should contribute their share of the public expense for the benefit of the community. Some suggest that legislation should be obtained abolishing tax exemptions in cities and towns where the inequality is most heavily felt. The fairest thing would be, if the people were prepared for it, to abolish exemption altogether, and thus treat all alike. It will have to come to this some day.

THE 30th of October was a red-letter day in the progress of the Scott Act. On that day it was submitted to a vote in Huron, Bruce, Dufferin, Prince Edward counties, and in York county, New Brunswick. In the latter the Act has been in operation, and the vote taken was to decide whether it should be sustained or repealed. A good evidence that the people are satisfied with its working is that it has been sustained by a decisive majority. The late defeat of the Act in Peel is shown to be scarcely a receding ripple on the advancing wave in favour of practical temperance legislation. Instead of depressing those who work for the adoption of the Act, the temporary disappointment has roused them to greater energy, and demonstrated that popular opinion is decidedly favourable. With the exception of Prince Edward County, where the Act was defeated, the majorities were surprisingly large, Huron giving over a thousand, Bruce over seven

hundred and Dufferin close on the same number of votes. The world moves.

A MOVEMENT to secure better municipal government for the city of Toronto has been commenced. A number of respectable citizens have formed an association to promote civic reform. A hopeful characteristic of the new organization is, that it is non-political. There are good reasons why in the larger sphere of national politics, there should be parties, but the presence of partyism in civic management is decidedly objectionable. It is felt that men of high character and capability do not often aspire to a seat at the city council boards. They are so closely devoted to their own immediate concerns that they do not care to discharge the more onerous duties of citizenship. Thus a premium is offered to the professional ward politician, hence the distrust that seems on the increase. If economic and wise civic government is to be obtained it will be because a better class of men are willing to serve their fellow citizens in the capacity of aldermen, and by the people generally voting honestly and impartially for men of character and ability.

EARL DUFFERIN, who sails in a few days to assume the Indian viceroyalty, was entertained at a farewell banquet in Belfast. The *Witness* says: "The banquet to Earl Dufferin in Ulster Hall was a brilliant success. All creeds and all political parties were represented, but all divisions were for the time forgotten in the desire to do honour to the distinguished Ulsterman who had shed such lustre upon Ireland and the empire. We have seldom witnessed greater enthusiasm than was manifested when Earl Dufferin rose, the whole assemblage cheered again and again, and it was some time before he could commence his speech. The speech was worthy of himself and of the occasion. The only political reference was directed to calm the fears that seemed to be entertained in some quarters respecting Russian advance in Central Asia. His Excellency's remarks on this question were of the most reassuring character. We cordially wish Lord Dufferin the greatest success in his new and high position, and hope his Indian career may redound still further to his own honour, the glory of his country, and the well-being of the millions of India."

IN Brantford there has been considerable excitement over military church parades with bands of music. The Evangelical Alliance of that town passed the following resolution. That this Evangelical Alliance write a respectful letter to the officers of the Dufferin Rifles, expressing the hope that in future when the volunteers have church parades that the bands may be dispensed with, inasmuch as the music in some cases has been found to disturb public worship, and the tendency is towards Sabbath desecration. This cannot be regarded as unreasonable. It would have entailed no self-sacrifice to have complied with it. The Lieut.-Colonel commanding the volunteers, however, is in no mood to comply with the very respectful request. He meets it with a blank refusal. The church parade on Sabbath is unnecessary. The volunteers can without difficulty attend the churches to which they respectively belong. There is no end to be served by the blare of a military or any other band on the sacred day. The continuance of these unnecessary parades with their accompaniments may be a mild form of Sabbath desecration, but they are a desecration nevertheless. There is no necessity for bad feeling over the matter, but all should unite for the preservation of the Sabbath and its becoming observance.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to a contemporary: I have visited almost every church in the city, and I am sorry to observe in most of them such a lack of reverence for God's house, even amongst those who call themselves Christians. Many when they come into Church just sit down, fan in hand, as if it were a theatre or other place of amusement, and very many, to judge by their actions, treat it as such. After expressing his preference for kneeling in prayer, the

writer adds: Again, the congregation seem to think it is the duty of the choir to do all the praises to God, which is a great mistake, and ministers would do well to encourage more congregational singing. If we, who are members of Christian churches, would only try ourselves to be more reverent in church, and encourage hearty congregational singing I am certain it would result in more good being done to the honour and glory of God; but to go allowing our light to burn so faintly in church reverence others will take notice of it, and in this case it would be better for us to put our light under a bushel altogether. Ye shall reverence My sanctuary, saith God's holy book, which in or out of church we want to take as our guide even unto death.

STUDENTS at college have the reputation of possessing great exuberance of spirit. They are inclined to be playful. Every college has its traditions of ridiculous practical jokes with the narration of which the average freshman is immensely tickled. There is, however, a danger of allowing these fun-loving propensities to run away with less evenly balanced natures, and painful even brutal results occasionally follow the practice known in the American colleges as "hazing." Happily these excesses are almost unknown among Canadian students. They sometimes have grievances, real or imaginary, for which they desire redress. In all properly constituted educational institutions, if gone about in a common sense and constitutional way, their remonstrances will be heeded, and reasonable requests satisfied. Down at Windsor, in Nova Scotia, there has been serious trouble in King's College, an institution in connection with the English Church. The president, it seems, is unpopular with the students; they complain of supercilious treatment at his hands. They desire that he and his fellow-instructors be replaced by others. To emphasize their wishes the students have resorted to the emphatic if not original device of locking out the president, subjecting him to barbarous annoyances, and burning him in effigy. The Bishop has proceeded to investigate. Ordinary people wonder why the students did not, in a gentlemanlike manner, request an investigation in the first instance before proceeding to frantic demonstrations.

THE Ontario and Quebec Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations held last week, at Peterborough, was full of interest. Earnest workers met in conference and the result may be confidently expected that the usefulness of this important Christian agency will be greatly extended. In the report submitted by Mr. Gartshore, Secretary of the Executive Committee, it is stated that Mr. T. S. Cole was appointed General Secretary, and spent four months in the Maritime Provinces, and the remainder of the time in Ontario and Quebec in resuscitating and building up societies. They had been assisted by the international committee of New York. At Barrie, Sherbrooke, Perth and Toronto district conferences had been held. Work among railway men was regularly carried on at Toronto, London and St. Thomas. The interest in college work was increasing. They regretted that, while so much work had been done, they had not received sufficient funds to meet expenses, and were compelled to report a deficit of \$375. They recommended that some systematic scheme should be devised to raise funds. Nineteen associations had reported a membership of between 4,000 and 5,000, and other reports were yet to be received. In 1881 there were six paid secretaries engaged in the work, and now there were thirteen. Mr. R. C. Morse, of New York, in speaking on "The Work among College Students," said that he brought the greetings of the American College Associations, of which there were 181. In these associations Bible and prayer meetings were held, and the members assisted in Sunday-school work. Some of them had a committee to consider foreign mission work. They were always very solicitous about the incoming freshman class. Mr. Morse also gave interesting details concerning the World's Conference recently held at Berlin.