

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 13.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd, 1884.

No. 30.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OUR good neighbour, the *Canadian Baptist*, in an editorial on the Pan-Presbyterian Council says. A very interesting part of the proceedings was the report from the colonial branches of the Church, Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, being specially well received, both on account of his eloquence and the encouraging nature of his report. No one can read even the abbreviated reports which reach us on this side of the water without recognizing the facts that Presbyterianism contains a great host of skilled workmen in the cause of Christ, that its spirit is earnest, evangelical, and of God's Word conservative; that it is destined to be a safe and progressive factor in the completion of God's work upon earth. All Christians will rejoice in Presbyterian prosperity, and surely there are none who will not thank God for the learning, the devotion, and the Christian life of that great body.

GOOD men sometimes make mistakes. Dr. Wild made at least one when in his Ottawa Orange oration, he left it to be inferred that Mr. Fenton acted partially in his efforts to suppress lotteries. The learned Doctor thought he had delivered a telling blow at the county crown attorney. He has, however, got his answer. The projectors of the London Roman Catholic lottery took good care evidently to keep outside of the county of York. Mr. Fenton can be depended upon to do his duty every time, and to say the right thing too at the proper moment. It perhaps isn't what Dr. Wild bargained for but these words have the right ring about them. "I would have been only too glad to have prosecuted any religious body, Catholic or Protestant, which violated the essential principles of Christianity, and encouraged the abounding sin of covetousness by lottery appeals to the gambling instincts of their people."

THE dreadful explosion that took place in the Wellington coal mine, at Nanaimo, British Columbia, resulting in the death of twenty-three miners, is supposed to have been caused by a collection of gas which ignited. The actual cause of the disaster has not yet been officially ascertained, but a terrible suspicion has gained currency. It was the duty of the foreman to descend every morning previous to the miners going to work and to report on the state of the mine, registering his report in a book kept for the purpose. It is asserted that he entered the report that all was right on the fatal morning without inspecting the mine at all. The man has disappeared. If such should prove to be the case, what a sad example of dishonesty and work-scamping it reveals. If the dreadful loss of life is due to this falsehood and negligence, it is no wonder that the mining community of Nanaimo are indignant.

WHEN opportunities are afforded them, ladies desirous of obtaining the advantages of higher education, manifest their ability and make good their claims to their possession. It cannot be said that eminence in scholastic pursuits on the part of lady students is exceptional. Our Canadian institutions, Toronto and Queen's Universities, have had oftener than once to confer high academic honours on sweet girl-graduates. It is the same everywhere. Miss Mary Clara Dawes has just taken her degree at London University in Classics and Ancient and Modern History, with great distinction. Though Miss Dawes is the first female M.A. that London has made, there are already fifty Bachelors of Arts among the ladies to whom the University has thrown open its privileges; three ladies are Bachelors of Medicine; and eight have taken the degree of B.Sc. Hundreds of girls have matriculated at the University, and are now working for the degrees.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the Philadelphia *Presbyterian*: One of the Rochester dailies within a few days contained the following item, which is only in keeping with many others that have been reported from different parts of our land within a brief period.

"Early yesterday morning patrolmen Dean and Mitchell raided a cave in the rear of Basin street and there found two young boys. They were surrounded with all the paraphernalia of border life, and had a place fitted up as if a furious assault from bloodthirsty Indians might be momentarily expected. The boys were conducted to police headquarters and locked up. A library, consisting of a dozen or more of dime-novels, showed the source of their insatiation for the wild life of the West." And yet there are parents and guardians who are astonished because so much is being said and written against the vicious books and periodicals which flood the country, and are permitted access to the homes of many of our good people.

THE man whose house in New York a party of detectives and officers watched for a number of days escaped their vigilance, such as it was, and came to Quebec, where he was about to sail for Europe. John C. Eno, the fraudulent ex-President of the Second National Bank, New York, thought it would be better to get away from the heated atmosphere of the city's financial circles, and that he might regain tone and elasticity while wandering among the show places of the European continent. He was captured by a Canadian detective and had to submit to the course usually pursued when a demand is made for the extradition of a person accused of crime. The case has been tried and in due course John C. Eno was set at liberty, and he may now set out on his foreign travels. He will probably learn something abroad, but it would be to his advantage to unlearn a few of the sharp and dishonest tricks with which he has been too familiar for some time past.

FOR a time it looked as if a strain in the relations of the two Houses of the British Parliament over the Franchise Bill would be averted. On both sides a conciliatory tone seemed likely to prevail. Since then a decided change has taken place. The Conservative leaders have resolved to yield nothing, and the Government, having done what they could to avert collision, are now equally resolved to make no farther concessions, but prepare to await the conflict. One of the most pronounced liberal London journals uses strong language; it says that if the compromise on the Franchise Bill is rejected the Liberals will not sheath the sword until they exterminate a power which is incompatible with the Government of modern England. A member of the Cabinet, less radical in expression, foreshadows the same issue. The question of adjusting the relations between the two Houses, he says, promises next to the distribution of seats to be one of the most difficult and momentous questions of the future.

PESTILENCE is not the awful scourge it was in the middle ages. Then its ravages were terrible. Towns and villages were depopulated. It lingered in a country year after year till its force was spent. The increase of intelligence, better conditions of living and the advance of sanitary science have done much to mitigate the severity of epidemics. Still there is no immunity as yet from some of the desolating scourges that make their periodic appearance, though much may be done to stop these at their source. The fatalistic neglect of the simplest laws of health and cleanliness among Asiatic tribes, the Meccan pilgrimages, and other causes generate cholera and send it on its deadly way. Toulon is at present a plague-stricken and comparatively deserted city. Late accounts indicate that the disease is abating there, though at Marseilles the death-rate continues high. If cholera has appeared at other points in France, it is carefully concealed. It has appeared at Alexandria and St. Petersburg. The great German authority, Dr. Koch, is still of opinion that it will sweep over Europe, but, that with necessary precautions it may be kept out of America. This may be reassuring, but nothing should be left to peradventure. All proper precautions, municipal, domestic and personal ought to be taken.

AMONG those who risk their lives for the public good the firemen must be reckoned. The dangers they

encounter are numerous and frequent. In general the members of our fire-brigades are brave and self-possessed. They have to be resolute in action, and an error of judgment is sure to call down severe criticism. Important services are rendered by them in the protection of life and property not uncommonly at the risk of their own lives. Only a few weeks ago a fireman in Toronto met with a severe accident while hastening to help in extinguishing a burning building, and after lengthened suffering died from the effects of the injuries he had received. Last week a fire broke out in a stable in the east end of the city. The firemen were promptly on hand and had to all appearance succeeded in subduing the flames, when, unexpectedly, the roof fell in rendering the escape of those within impossible. Efforts were made at once to rescue the helpless men. It was supposed that they had all been freed from the death-grasp in which they were held. There was one, however, who did not answer to the roll-call. Search was made and his mangled and lifeless body was found in the ruins, and as it was borne out, strong and brave men wept. The dangers the firemen encounter and the losses they sustain in the public service entitle them to the honour and respect of the community.

ANOTHER thrilling chapter has been added to the tragic record of Arctic discovery. The missing Greeley expedition has been found. The work assigned it in connection with the explorers from other nations has been successfully accomplished, the results of which will no doubt soon be made public. It has achieved the distinction of getting into higher latitudes than have yet been reached by any of its predecessors, having penetrated beyond the eighty-third parallel. After their triumphs came the trials of the hardy explorers. Their retreat became dreadful. After reaching Cape Sabine there seemed no possibility of escape. Provisions were exhausted and the men were reduced to the most terrible straits. Exposure to piercing cold, and frost-bite was followed by starvation staring them in the face. One after another of the brave fellows perished in that awful clime. No wonder that when the vessels sent to their rescue were seen in the distance waning hope revived, and that the deliverers were hailed with frantic demonstrations. Only eight out of twenty-five engaged in the expedition had survived. The result of recent explorations may add a few facts respecting the geography of the arctic circle, but that any practical end will be served by these successive and hazardous explorations has yet to be demonstrated.

A DISTINGUISHED minister of the Congregational Church has recently passed away. The Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, widely known and respected as an able exponent of Christian truth, in the pulpit and the press, died suddenly. He had been laid aside from active work for about a year, but seemed to be recovering health and strength. He was preparing to start for Switzerland, when a stroke of apoplexy resulted in instant and painless death. The Rev. James Baldwin Brown was born in 1820 and was educated at the London University of which he was one of the first graduates. His father was a lawyer and it was intended that he should follow the same profession, but he preferred the ministry. At the age of twenty-three he became pastor of a church in Derby, and two years afterward he was called to Clayland's Chapel, Clapham Road, London, over which congregation, first there and afterward in the new church at Brixton, he laboured for thirty-eight years. His church honoured and almost idolized him. He was a staunch defender of the freedom of thought, a strong believer in the excellencies of his own denomination, and was looked up to as a leader by many of the young ministers of other communions as well as of his own. For many years he was closely intimate with the Rev. Thomas Binney. He took an active part with him in what is known as the "Rivalet" controversy, protesting against the attacks on the Rev. Thomas Lynch. In 1878 he was elected chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. Among his best known works are "The Divine Life in Man," "First Principles of Ecclesiastical Truth," "The Higher Life," and "The Home in its relation to Man and to Society."