

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

IN Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, there are 500 sittings absolutely free.

THE anniversary services of the Exeter Presbyterian church will be conducted by Rev. G. M. Milligan, Toronto, on Feb. 23rd.

THE Presbytery of Montreal has unanimously nominated the Rev. Dr. Reid, of Toronto, as Moderator of the next General Assembly.

ON the first Sabbath in January eleven members of Park Avenue Methodist Church, Chicago, moved over to the Eighth Presbyterian, Dr. J. M. Worrall, pastor.

A SABBATH school Convention in connection with the Presbytery of Lindsay is to be held in Knox church, Beaverton, on Tuesday, 4th February. Topics of interest and importance are to be discussed.

REV. DR. ROBB preached his farewell sermon in Cooke's church in this city last Sabbath. The congregation held a farewell meeting on Tuesday evening. Fuller particulars will be given in our next issue.

THE annual sale of pews in Plymouth Church (Mr. Beecher's) realized over \$4,000 in excess of last year's receipts. The aggregate of the premiums was \$27,978, which added to the rentals, \$12,743, makes a total revenue of \$40,721, as against \$36,904 last year.

THE Perth "Courier" publishes the names of some of its defaulting subscribers, under the heading "Dead Beats," and promises that "more will follow as they come to the surface," but that "the names of parties paying up decently will be erased from the list."

A CONTROVERSY is in progress in the columns of the Stratford "Herald" between Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Presbyterian, and Rev. Dr. Kilroy, Roman Catholic. At the present stage the Romanist is apparently putting forth all his strength in vain efforts to establish the supremacy of the Apostle Peter, and finds himself more than met by Mr. McLeod at every turn.

"MINISTERS are not good business men." Are they not? We think, says an exchange, they are the best financiers we know. They bring up good families on small means, and give them better education than is given in any other class of families. In addition, they generally are forced to "financier" their churches out of debt, or keep them out.

WE noticed in a recent issue that the Rev. J. C. Burns of Kirkliston, had been nominated Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. We now add that the Rev. Prof. R. Watt, D.D., of Belfast College has been nominated to the moderatorship of the next General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Dr. Chrystal, of Auchinleck, to that of the Established Church of Scotland.

THE New York "Watchman" furnishes the following illustration of the way in which a story grows. "A newspaper announced that the Rev. Dr. Sage, of Hartford, was 'talked of' for a professorship at Newton. Another, that he 'would probably' be appointed to it. A third, that he was to have it. And now Dr. Sage is under the necessity of contradicting. But it won't do to have the story killed, and so we now read that he 'has declined' the professorship."

MR. SPURGEON'S attention having been called to a paragraph in an American paper, which charged him with intemperate habits, makes answer by the following letter:

NIGHTINGALE LANE,  
BENHAM, Surrey, Dec. 24, 1878.

DEAR SIR, -If Mr. Neal Dow knew the truth he would not make such charges against me. My manner of life is before the world. Ask them that know me. Whatever faults I may have, I have been preserved at all times from excess, and I have given no ground for any one to accuse me of it. I use no alcoholic drink as a beverage, but I am an habitual abstainer, and, as a rule, a total abstainer, "Beer," of which Mr. Dow speaks, I never touch, and I never thought, much less said, that I could not keep up to my work without brandy and beer. I do not believe that these or any other stimulants are a help to any man.

Yours truly,

C. H. SPURGEON.

We are glad to publish this clear testimony that Mr. Spurgeon gives to total abstinence principles.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Examiner and Chronicle" sends that paper a "poser." A convert on his death bed desired baptism, and his pastor lifted him out of bed into the water and back again to bed. A few days later he was carried to the grave. The question of the correspondent is, Was the action of the Church in accordance with Baptist usage and the teachings of the New Testament? The editor answers substantially that he does not know, but that he couldn't think it a duty to participate in such baptism. Another extreme case is put by another correspondent. It is that of a bed-ridden woman converted who desires to be received into the Baptist Church. She can't be immersed, and the query is, is it advisable to receive her into membership on the ground of her willingness to be baptised if her health permitted? To this a negative answer is given, on the ground that the woman is as well prepared for heaven without baptism as with it.

A MICHIGAN paper recently contained a letter from Mr. D. L. Munro, a student of Knox College, who is now completing his studies in the New College, Edinburgh. Mr. Munro gives a graphic and interesting account of his travels in the old land, especially of the principal objects of interest in Glasgow, and in concluding his letter says, "You will be astonished to learn that I pass here for an American. A lady told me the other day that she knew I was an American because I 'made myself so much at home.' In preaching in St. Mary's last Sabbath, I passed for an American again. One of the congregation came to

me after the service and said: 'I knew you were an American - all you Americans have so much life and energy about you.' 'But,' replied I, 'I am not an American. I am a Canadian.' 'Oh, well,' said she, 'we look on all you people across the Atlantic as one!' To enlighten a man who knew no difference between a Yankee and a Canadian would be a hopeless task; so I said no more on that subject. You see I have therefore the honour of being regarded as a representative of the Great Republic. You may rest assured that I shall spare no pains to impress upon the 'sons of auld Scotia' that to belong to the 'people across the Atlantic' implies a genealogy of no mean descent."

BRITAIN has been nobly bestirring herself in the temperance cause. The most noticeable circumstance in connection with this movement is the attention bestowed upon it by some in high places. Canon Farrar in the Church has made the land ring with his fervid and manly utterances against the giant evil. And now many physicians of eminence are giving their influence on the side of right. Sir William Gull, the royal physician, is out in the "Contemporary Review," dealing some fine earnest blows at king alcohol. He holds that the value of alcohol is subordinate, being due to its sedative influence on the nervous system. It is prescribed for patients suffering from acute diseases not to cure, but to quiet the nerves. It is also good as a narcotic in cases of exhaustion. But the good Dr. goes strongly for certain kinds of food as able to do as much and even more in all these instances. He urges that in his own experience he has found eating raisins more useful in restoring the power of an over wrought body than wine-drinking. Sir William's main point is, that for intellectual labor alcohol is valueless. It may quicken, but does not improve the movements of the brain, and imparts no strength. We hail such testimony with joy, and it augurs well for Britain's weal in the future that men like these are so zealously fighting the good fight.

IN a paper recently read before the Literary Association of Chalmers' Church, Kingston, Mr. A. P. Knight, Rector of the Collegiate Institute of that city, take the position that "Ontario has no right to support higher education of any kind, nor to any extent." His reasons are as follows: (1) "It is an unjust interference with the right and privileges of individual citizens." (2) "It is legislation for a class." (3) "The direct benefits derivable from a State College are largely local." Speaking of "class legislation" he says: "The Government of a country should provide for the education of *all* (not a part) of her pupils, and of all up to the same point. This Ontario has done in establishing her public and high schools, but the moment she went beyond that point, and established University College, Toronto, her legislation was *partial*, she proceeded to set apart a large fund for the benefit of a few, instead of for the many. But we are solemnly and energetically assured that it is open to all, and any man, rich or poor, may send his sons there to be educated. Very true, but the immense majority of people have not the means to send their sons to Toronto for their collegiate training, supposing they have no objections to its teaching, which many have. Its benefits are therefore confined chiefly to those who can well afford to pay for the higher education of their sons, or think of asking the Provincial Legislature to provide it for them. I repeat then, that the legislation which founds any State College is class legislation of the worst kind."