

himself to be one of the clearest and strongest converts that Protestantism has ever had, sailed lately for Venezuela where he will preach Protestant Christianity among those whom he formerly served in the Roman Catholic Church. As is generally known, Venezuela is at this time a remarkably open field, and yet no Protestant missionary work is being done there by any denomination. Mr. Ferrando goes out under the protection of the Government and will occupy the house of the Venezuelan minister to this country, which is centrally located and is entitled to constant police surveillance. Mr. Ferrando is a man of beautiful spirit and deep consecration, and withal is a writer and orator of unusual power.

#### THE INDIAN FAMINE.

The response by Canada to the cry of suffering India is in every way praiseworthy. That the need is great is beyond question and that the claims of fellow-subjects are strong is equally true. The country heartily approves of the official action of the various provincial governments and municipalities in voting sums of money to the relief fund. The most that Canada can do, large though it may appear, will be but as a drop in the bucket, so great is the distress and so large the amount to be spent, yet Canada's contribution proves to the world that here is the heart to sympathize with and the hand to help the unfortunate. It also shows that there is a liberal public in Canada, not averse to bear a share in the burdens of afflicted humanity.

**Rev. W. J. McCaughan's Acceptance.** A cable despatch was received on Tuesday stating that at a meeting of the Belfast Presbytery held on that day, the Rev. W. J. McCaughan, had intimated his acceptance of the call to St Andrew's church, Toronto, and that the Presbytery, while not declining to accept his resignation asked him to allow the matter to lie over for a month.

**Roman Catholic Authority.** In connection with the ban placed on *L'Electeur*, the *Casket* defends the bishops thus: "Jean Baptiste is a Catholic. Why? Because he believes that Christ instituted the Church with authority to teach him the way of salvation and to be the ultimate judge on earth of what is right and what is wrong. There is no power under heaven to keep him in the Catholic Church one instant longer than he continues to hold that belief. No Priest, Bishop, or Pope can force him to remain a Catholic; but so long as he is a Catholic he recognizes *ipso facto* the right of the Catholic Church and its pastors to tell him that such and such a thing is wrong, and to forbid his doing it. And so long as he believes that his Bishops are the divinely constituted rulers of the Church, he knows that it is wrong to read and patronize a journal that devotes its energies to lying denunciations of them. Jean Baptiste, then by the very fact that he is a Catholic, recognizes the right of his Bishops to do that which they have done." Yes, says the *Halifax Witness*, the logic is irresistible; but Jean Baptiste must emancipate himself. While he is a "Catholic" let him obey his rulers, the Bishops.

**The Supernatural in the Bible.** Some people, says the *Presbyterian*, are very desirous of getting rid of the supernatural in the Bible, in Providence and in grace, but they might as well try to exclude light from the sun or electricity from the lightning. The Word of God is of no value or force without its supernatural element. Providence is meaningless without an omnipotent will and over-ruling Sovereign. Grace lacks transforming and glorifying energy if destitute of a

Might that is not only above, but stronger than, nature. A Power unseen, yet all controlling, is ever operative, and intervenes as seems best to infinite wisdom and love. The humble and trusting Christian recognizes this truth, and glories in it. The supernatural is no stumbling block to him, but the ground and power of his faith and hope.

**Call to the Rev. Dr. Pentecost.** The Presbytery of London, Eng., by an overwhelming vote refused to sever the pastoral tie between Rev. Dr. Pentecost and the Marylebone congregation in order that he might accept the call to Yonkers, N.Y. The scene in the Presbytery was interesting and at times pathetic, and the decision arrived at is a high tribute to Dr. Pentecost's popularity and usefulness in London.

**Strong Medical Testimony.** Dr. R. N. Buck, medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane at London Ont., expresses himself in the following interesting manner in a recent report: "As we have given up the use of alcohol we have needed and used less opium and chloral, and as we have discontinued the use of alcohol, opium and chloral we have needed and used less seclusion and restraint. I have during the year just closed carefully watched the effect of the alcohol given and the progress of cases where in former years it would have been given, and am morally certain that the alcohol used during the last year did no good. With humiliation I am forced to admit that until in the recent past my noble profession has been to an alarming extent, and is still too much so, guilty of producing many drunkards in the land directly and indirectly by the reckless and wholesale manner in which so many of its members have prescribed alcoholic stimulants in their daily practice for all the aches and pains, agues and dances, coughs and colds, inflammations and consumptions, fevers and chills, at the hour of birth, at the time of death and all intermediate points of life, to induce sleep and to promote wakefulness and for all the real and imaginary ills that come under the eyes of the great Æsulapian's descendants."

**Young People's Attention.** is directed to the Second Presbyterian Union Annual Conference of the Young People's Union of the Presbytery of Toronto which will be held in Cooke's Church in this city on Monday next, February 8th. There will be three Sessions. That in the forenoon commences at 10.30 a.m. Mr. Frank M. Pratt, Secretary Y.M.C.A., will deliver an address on "The Place of Bible Study in our Young People's Work." Rev. R. D. Fraser, M.A., of Bowmanville, and Rev. J. C. Tibb, of Streetsville, will also be present and give addresses. The afternoon Session will be taken up principally with reports from Societies and short papers on practical subjects by members of the Union. Rev. W. G. Wallace, B.D., will conduct the Question Drawer and Rev. Dr. McTavish will also take part. The evening meeting will be held in the church commencing at 8 o'clock. Rev. Wm. Patterson, Moderator of Presbytery, will preside and the subject of "Good Citizenship" will be presented by Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education. Prof. Geo. L. Robinson, of Knox College will deliver an address on the subject of "Christian Opportunity." The evening Session will be an open one and it is expected that a large number from our churches will take the opportunity of hearing two speakers so well able to deal with these subjects. Young people belonging to congregations in the Presbytery are heartily invited to attend the Sessions of the Conference, whether they are duly appointed delegates or not.