

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY MAY 8th, 1895.

No. 19.

## Notes of the Week.

The annual gatherings of the late Mr. Spurgeon's Pastors' College were held in the week commencing April 29th. The usual tea, public meeting, and supper took place on May 1st, when Mr. F. L. Edwards presided. In the letter of invitation to the meetings, Dr. James Spurgeon says: "The same truths are taught as when the founder of this institution was spared to preside over it, and all lovers of the pure old gospel will do well to aid in the furtherance of a work which is as imperatively required as ever and which has been, and is still, so richly blessed of God."

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D. has returned from Scotland where he went a few weeks in connection with the preparation of a Hymnal for the common use of the Presbyterian Churches in the old country and Canada. He is much pleased with the result of his visit. The committee had already adopted a number of hymns from the draught copy of our new Book of Praise sent home last summer, and the suggestions of the members of our committee from Canada as to the adoption of others were very cordially received. So far as the committee is concerned there is a good prospect of the common hymn book being a success.

Amongst the delegates from other Churches appointed to attend the English Presbyterian Synod, Principal Douglas (Glasgow) will represent the Free Church; Rev. Dr. Oliver (Moderator), Rev. John Young and Rev. J. B. Hastings (a former minister of Jesmond Church, where the Synod meets), the United Presbyterian Church; while the Welsh Church will send as its delegates Revs. Professor Edwards (of Bala), Louis Ellis (Rhyl), and John Williams (of Chester). Rev. P. McF. Macleod, formerly of Liverpool, now minister at Victoria, B. C., will represent the Canadian Church at the Synod and at the Assemblies in Scotland.

Unusual interest attached this year to the English Presbyterian Synod, which assembled in Newcastle-on-Tyne on the 29th ult. The attendance was large and can only be attributed to the question of the college removal from London to Cambridge, there being no other matter of special importance to come before the Synod. This question has been lying over since last year and has been very fully discussed, during the interim, being felt to be one of great importance to the church. All the meetings, with the exception of the sermons and missionary meetings, were held in Jesmond Church, which is in the best suburb of Newcastle, and the church, of which Rev. Hugh Falconer is minister, is a comparatively new one.

Professor Marcus Dods lately gave an address in Belgrave Square Church, Nottingham, on "The Bible as Compared with other Sacred Books." The Mayor of Nottingham presided, and extended a warm welcome to Dr. Dods, whose reputation, he said, had for many years gone through the length and breadth of the land. Mankind, as a whole, was very much indebted to men like Dr. Dods. His industry had been prodigious and of the most unselfish character. Dr. Dods, in the course of his address, examined in detail the sacred books of the East. They showed that religion was essential to man, but at the same time they were tentative and fragmentary and unfinished. On the other hand the Bible was an authoritative and complete revelation. Why did they call the Bible pre-eminently the Word of God? Because it was the organ and the record of a public, historical revelation in which God since man began to be upon the earth had been manifesting Himself for the instruction of the race, and which He had completed and authenticated by the crowning manifestations of Himself in Christ. The Bible, by revealing Christ and the union of God and man was set altogether apart from all other sacred books.

We frankly confess to not being so well up in the geography of Ireland as to know where Dumlough is, but in whatever part of the Green Isle it is, it is of interest to us as Canadians to know that recently a lecture was given in the Presbyterian Church of Dumlough by the Rev. Mr. Heron, the pastor, on Canada and that "for over an hour he held the undivided attention of his audience while he graphically described the journey across the Atlantic, the principal cities of the Dominion, a visit to the celebrated Niagara Falls and other places of note, concluding with a very interesting account of mission work in the Far West. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. S. J. McCully, seconded by Mr. Wm. Cairns, was accorded to Mr. Heron for his admirable and instructive lecture.

The last number of the *Belfast Witness* contains a statement which, if it should prove to be well-founded, is both of unusual interest and importance. Because of its significance, if true, and yet so little notice having been taken of it, we are disposed to receive it with caution. However the *Witness* says: "The *Paris Figaro* gives currency to a rumor that Dr. Nansen has succeeded in his search for the North Pole. It is stated he discovered that the Pole is situated in a chain of mountains, and that he planted the Norwegian flag there to mark the spot. The temperature was two degrees above zero Centigrade." These statements are, it is added, confirmed in a despatch received by the Crown Prince of Norway and Sweden. Dr. Nansen, it will be remembered, left on June 24th, 1893, on board the *Fram* in order to attempt to reach the Pole by drifting with the currents, which he believed ran in its direction.

The Sultan of Turkey has become so alarmed by the reports of the special correspondents of the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Times* of the misdeeds of Turk and Kurd in Armenia, that he has requested the British Ambassador to get the correspondents recalled, only to meet with a curt refusal to interfere. The Sultan has further sought to throw a sop to incensed Europe by the offer to release sixty five bishops and priests now in prison, if they would sign an undertaking to observe a "loyal and correct attitude" in future, and if the Patriarch would pledge his word not to send them back to their previous dioceses and parishes. Sir Philip Currie was asked to use his influence with the Patriarch, but replied very properly that the Patriarch would be obliged to decline to give an undertaking which would go to show that the bishops and priests had been guilty of disloyalty or even treason. Sir Philip felt himself bound to recommend the unconditional release of the prisoners.

The unhappy lot of the Armenians under the rule of Turkey may well call forth the pity and indignation of all civilized countries, and we hope it may now lead to their complete and final deliverance from their abject and persecuted condition. Nothing less we hope will be accepted by their friends. The *Times* correspondent says the feeling of the Turks against the Armenians is very bitter. Talk of massacring them is common in every coffee-house. There will never, he says, be any peace while the Turk is left in sole or even leading control over Christian subjects. The *Telegraph* correspondent has secured an important statement by the Abbot of Moosh, drawn up in 1892 for the British Vice Consul at Erzeroum. It set out in details the continual ill-treatment of Armenians by Kurds and Turks, and the threats of annihilation used by Turkish officials, whose cruel exactions had been resisted. These threats have been carried out to the very letter. The document shows that the Sassoun massacre was premeditated at least two years before it occurred. Speaking of the Armenians to a deputation which

waited on him lately, Mr. Gladstone said, "He himself was an old man of 85, and had retired from public life, but he felt it to be a Christian duty to do all in his power for the few years of life that remained to him to work in the cause of those who had, under suffering, proved faithful Christians."

Proceedings have for some time been forward in Scotland with a view to bringing about a union between the Evangelical Union and congregational body. These have not been entirely unanimous and now the minority of the Evangelical Union having resolved to take action against the movement for union with the Congregationalists, a meeting of about sixty ministers and representative laymen of the E. U. was held in Edinburgh. Resolutions which were carried unanimously provided, among other things, for the election of a general committee "for the purpose of maintaining the E. U. in its integrity and opposing its union on the proposed basis with the E. U."; for the issue of "information" to the various churches of the Union; and for "the use of all legitimate and Christian means necessary for the unity and integrity of the E. U." Dr. Adamson repeated that he had obtained legal opinion that the majority could not carry off the funds in the event of their joining the Congregationalists, and he indicated some of the legal steps that would be taken at the next E. U. Conference. A good deal was said at the meeting about the proposed doctrinal basis of union as set forth in the "explanatory statement." Rev. John Kirk contended that the statement was "absolutely nebulous," and bound the E. U.—which was distinctly and entirely doctrinal—to nothing whatever. Dr. Adamson said he could not see how it was possible for any one to read Calvinism into the "statement"—and in any case it was important to note that no minister or member of the E. U. was bound by it.

The Commission—consisting of Chief Justice Taylor of Manitoba (Chairman), ex-Judge Kingsmill, Judge Senkler, Welland, B. M. Britton, Kingston; Rev. Prof. Campbell, Montreal—which has for some time been engaged in investigating the differences which have unhappily arisen between the students of University College, Toronto, and the authorities, has promptly given in its report. The gist of it appears to be what those who watched the evidence given expected. So far as the college council is concerned it is the opinion of the Commission that a little more tact and closer contact and sympathy between it and the students might have averted some at least of the troubles that have happened. On the part of the students "there has existed, to say the least of it, a misconception as to the scope and proper construction of the statutes regulating discipline in the University, and the real position the students should, and do, occupy with reference to the councils of the university and college, and the degree of obedience that they are bound to render to the regulations of the university authorities." With regard to the future of the university it will be gratifying to all its friends to have the opinion of a Commission so well qualified to judge. "The commissioners were much gratified to have presented to them documentary evidence of the high character of the teaching imparted in various departments of university and college work, and to learn that recent graduates of the university are filling honorable positions in the larger educational institutions of the United States. While deploring, therefore, the unfortunate accidents which have called them as a body into existence, they see no reason for apprehension as to the future of the University of Toronto, nor for any fear that the wonderful increase in the number of its alumni during the past five years will suffer a check in consequence."