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TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1878.

DEAN STANLEY.

THE distinguished Dean of Westminster is at present on a tour in the United States. He has undertaken this journey for the benefit of his health. He is, therefore, not engaging to any great extent in public duty. He has preached several times before very large and deeply interested audiences. He also attended a meeting of the American Committee of the revisionists of the Bible, and spoke some kind words of sympathy, and of brotherly greeting on the part of the British Committee which he represents. Professor Schaff, with that Christian courtesy by which he is so distinguished, extemporized a breakfast party in one of the hotels in honor of the Dean, and a large number of leading divines and influential laymen were got together to do honour to their eminent guest. No doubt there are many Episcopal clergymen of the High Church party who look askance at the reception given their learned brother by those whom they call dissenters, and whom they do not regard as in the apostolical succession. But the Dean is at home amongst all who call themselves by the Christian name. He has not only preached in Presbyterian pulpits in Scotland but has invited Presbyterian ministers to try their voices in Westminster Abbey. For this he is tabooed by many, but it is this very Catholicity that is securing for him a hearty reception amongst all denominations of the American Church. The Dean has long desired to see the glory of the American fall, to behold the forests in the blush of their autumnal tints, and to see for himself the people of the new world in their every day life and activity. We may look for a book of American travel characterized by the beauty of diction and keenness of observation which are seen in the writings which have made the name of this gentleman famous. Should he come to Canada he will find ample material for a valuable chapter, and we promise that our people will not be a whit behind their American cousins in extending to him hospitable welcome.

MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

THE Opening Exercises of the Session of 1878-79 were held in Crescent street Church, on the evening of Wednesday, 2nd October. There was a large attendance of ministers, students, and friends of the Institution, Principal McVicar, LL.D., presided. We learn that the number of students this Session is likely to be considerably in advance of any preceding year, nine new students having already enrolled their names, and others are expected. The Rev. J. Scriver, M.A., lecturer in Greek and Hebrew Exegesis, delivered the opening lecture on "The Interpretation of the Apocalypse." This lecture we shall make room for in our columns as soon as possible.

THE WEEKLY PRAYER-MEETING.

THE weekly prayer-meeting held in Shaftesbury Hall under the auspices of the Toronto branch of the Evangelical Alliance was commenced on Monday last. It is begun at 4 o'clock precisely, and continues for one hour. It will be held regularly every Monday at this hour during the months of winter. The opening meeting was full of promise. Not only was there a large attendance, which was fairly representative of the various Evangelical Churches in the city, but also the exercises were of a kind to promote the spirit of brotherly love, and to edify and comfort all who were present. It has frequently been remarked in these columns that a prayer-meeting of this nature is of great value and interest. It brings the members of different churches together, and shows that they are really one body of Christians. As such it is a goodly sight, and the result must be the outpouring of the Spirit upon the various congregations. There is one thing needed to make the meeting a commanding success, and that is, the regular and punctual attendance of those who may reasonably be expected to take an interest in it. There is sometimes a lack of this, which must prove detrimental in its consequences. There is surely nothing to prevent the meeting being attended by five or six hundred persons every week. Such a number would create enthusiasm—the thing that is required to make the meeting interesting and profitable. Another thing that is wanted is for a number of laymen to be ready when the meeting is declared to be open, to take part either by a brief address or by a few words of prayer. The circular of the Evangelical Alliance states that unless the ministers of the city attend more regularly than they did last year, the meeting must go down. It should be remembered that clergymen as a rule are *Mondayish* on that day—in other words they are fagged and worn out with the labours of the Lord's day, and are not in physical or mental condition to respond actively to the call to take part. They go to receive benefit rather than impart it. They are of course ready when present to do their share, but they should be largely supplemented by laymen. This would secure variety. It would be well also that those, who are in the management, should see that vocal music of a superior kind is provided. It frequently devolves upon some minister to lead the singing. Surely the ladies could form themselves into a choir, upon which dependence could be placed for effective singing of the praises of God.

PRAYERS FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

BY the appointment of the Sabbath School Union, Sabbath the 20th and Monday the 21st instant are to be specially devoted to prayers for Sabbath Schools. This is a matter of much consequence, and we hope it will not be overlooked by the churches and Sabbath Schools of Canada. It is of great importance that, on the Sabbath named, ministers direct the attention of their congregations to the institution and work of the Sabbath Schools. A sermon from every pulpit upon this subject would have a most telling effect. The people need to have their attention called to the importance and value of these schools. There are too many indifferent about them. They know nothing of them and take as little interest in them. Such rousing appeals might be given as would lead parents to see that their children prepare their lessons at home, to superintend themselves the instruction of their families, and also to respond to the call to become teachers. A blessing from on high may also well be sought upon the hearts and heads of the children. These days being thus set apart for this purpose will emphasize the Sabbath School in the public estimation. This is the great feature of our Church-work in the day in which we live. It is full of promise for the future. We should be earnest in asking the blessing, and the result will be that during the entire year it will be felt in increased attendance, in the earnest application of the teachers and scholars, and in the large measure of benevolence which it will invoke.

DR. HITCHCOCK AND COMMUNISM.

AT the opening of the Union Theological Seminary in New York, it fell to Dr. Hitchcock to deliver the inaugural lecture. As a divine of world-wide celebrity, he might have occupied the time profitably by a discussion of the theological questions of the day. But he chose rather to give a scholarly and exhaustive lecture upon the subject of Communism. It is rare indeed for theological scholars to depart from their own line of subjects and to deal with thorough knowledge with such a practical topic as this. He treated it both from a speculative and practical point of view. He spoke of its different forms as it is presented by the Socialism of France, the Communism of Germany, and the Nihilism of Russia. Commenting upon the American form, he said that Communism was not indigenous to the free soil of his country. While they could depend upon the farmers for the defence of their every acre, there was still much of that spirit abroad that was antagonistic to the interests of society. Whatever Communism existed in the United States, he traced to the reactions of trade consequent upon the civil war, and expressed the conviction that it would disappear with the revival of commerce. The treatment of this subject by such a scholarly and profound thinker, could not but prove a benefit to the young men who were privileged to listen to his words. It is well to interest students in matters outside of their special studies. It broadens their minds and cultivates their sympathies, and it would perhaps be well if more of our professors would occasionally grapple with such practically interesting