

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 16.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1887.

No. 13.

Notes of the Week.

THE Ottawa Ministerial Association has been devising measures for securing religious instruction and regular Bible reading in the public schools of the Capital.

OHIO has so changed her school law as to abolish exclusively coloured schools. Hereafter coloured and white children will be educated in the same public schools, without any discrimination between them. This is as it should be.

THE *British Weekly*, referring to Dr. Parker's recent visit to Scotland, says "has had an extraordinary reception, and has had a crowd before him in every pulpit he has occupied. The leaders of all the three Presbyterian churches cordially supported Dr. Parker. No other English preacher, with the exception of Mr. Spurgeon, has ever had such a welcome in the North."

THE latest performance of Maharajah Dhuleep Singh is a series of entirely inflammatory letters and proclamations to the Sikh tribes, issued from a town near Calcutta, in which he formally announces to the provinces that he has repudiated all treaties, and "in the name of God" demands recognition as the sole ruler of India. The Maharajah is however meeting with a cool reception.

IN Western Ontario journalism the *Stratford Beacon* has been an eminent success. It has been conducted with great ability. Its utterances have been manly and independent. It has, during the last week, taken a decided step in advance. It is now issued as a daily, and presents a healthy and vigorous appearance. If it maintains the record it made, as one of the best provincial weeklies, the success of the daily *Beacon* is assured.

ANOTHER chapter in the Van Zandt-Spies comedy has been reached. The marriage by proxy has been declared illegal by the county clerk to whom the registration was sent. The romantic hallucination of the young lady has now had sufficient time to evaporate, and her future career, though more prosaic, will be none the less happy, if guided henceforth by the dictates of common sense, than she could possibly be as the bride of a condemned Anarchist.

PROFESSOR EIMSLIE, who represented London Presbytery, in pleading before Kelso Presbytery recently, for the translation of the Rev. J. R. Gillies, M.A., Coldstream, to Hampstead, asserted that Londoners have a liking for many Scotch things, and among them Scotch preaching, the characteristics of which, according to him, are religiousness, earnestness, and adherence to Bible statements. He thinks that Presbyterianism in London has a mission before it.

THE Legislature of Kansas, having passed a municipal suffrage bill allowing women to vote at municipal elections, the Governor of the State, in signing it, said that he did so as a "test of the value of woman suffrage." If the law does not work well, another Legislature can easily change it. We hope and believe, says the *New York Independent*, that there will be no reason for changing the law. We have never seen any sufficient reason why the elective franchise should be exclusively confined to the male sex.

IN another column will be found the report of the annual meeting of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company. The success that has attended the business of this company shows that for the benefit of abstainers such an institution was needed. A number of reliable men are in the management. The instalment bond system combines insurance with investment, giving a definite cash surrender value to the policy-holder at any time after three years. Mr.

O'Hara, managing director, and Mr. J. B. Fudger, the secretary, are competent and efficient officers. The company should have a prosperous future.

NOTWITHSTANDING contradictory statements, it is now certain that the Czar had a narrow escape from a death as terrible as that which overtook his father. The conspirators selected for the day on which their horrible crime was to be committed the anniversary of the late Emperor's death. The plot was frustrated by timely hints. Numerous arrests immediately followed, and all possible precautions have been taken to protect the Czar from Nihilistic fury. All Russia is bristling with bayonets, but the great autocrat, who controls the mightiest armed force at the present time, actually carries his life in his hand. The condition of Russia was never more ominous than it is now.

FOR the last few days there has been a respite in the matter of warlike rumours. Now that Prince Bismarck has got matters his own way in the Reichstag the talk is all of a pacific description. Emperor William has been assuring De Lesseps that war is abhorrent to his feelings. Even the French are by no means so bellicose as they were a few days ago, and the Czar, since the attempt on his life, is said now to entertain a horror of war. Diplomacy is as busy as ever weaving its web, armaments have assumed a more gigantic scale, and there is no word of their reduction; transport arrangements are being made. Words may or may not indicate peace or war, but deeds are more significant. Peace is desirable, but it is not yet assured.

FEW Levitical families of our own country and time, says the *Christian Leader*, can show a record of such protracted service as that of the three distinguished brothers, the Bonars. But time is at length beginning to tell on them. Dr. Horatius, known all over Christendom as the greatest living hymn writer of the Christian Church, is about to receive a helper - most likely in Mr. Sloan of Anderston, and this week we have to record the taking of steps by the kirk session of Free St. Andrew's, Greenock, to secure an assistant for their pastor, Dr. J. J. Bonar, who is now in his eighty-fourth year, and who was licensed in 1835. The third brother, Dr. Andrew A. Bonar, the biographer of M'Cheyne, is still discharging the onerous duties of his important Glasgow pastorate with remarkable vigour.

THE excitement occasioned by the White Plains railway disaster had hardly subsided, when the startling news of a new horror came. A train carrying a large number of work people from a suburb of Boston to their daily toil, suddenly crashed through a bridge spanning a cut through which a public thoroughfare ran. Nearly forty passengers were killed outright, and many more received fatal injuries. Eyewitnesses describe the occurrence as one of the most ghastly ever seen. Nearness to effective help mitigated the horrors somewhat, and prevented the burning of the wrecked cars by the inevitable stove. But for timely assistance, the calamity would have been still more appalling. A fracture was observed in one of the trusses of the bridge that gave way; but the cause of the disaster has not yet been ascertained.

DR. WILLIAM M. TAYLOR has now been sixteen years pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York. He was immediately adopted with great enthusiasm as an American, and the *New York Independent* remarks, he has honoured the adoption by work which has influenced and helped every Church in the land. In his anniversary sermon last Sabbath, Dr. Taylor mentioned that the total amount contributed to charities in his Church during these sixteen years had not been less than \$425,000. Dr. Taylor seems to take a perfect delight in urging his people to give to benevolent objects. He does not spare them in the least, and they enjoy it. And he has not made it an excuse that there has been on this Church a debt of \$35,000,

which was easily enough carried. But, last Sabbath, he asked his people to extinguish the debt, and cards for the purpose of subscription were distributed in the seats. More than the amount necessary was immediately subscribed.

A DEPUTATION of the Winnipeg Ministerial Association, composed of Rev. Messrs. D. M. Gordon, A. Langford, J. C. Quinn, of Emerson, and Mr. Thomas Nixon, senior, representing the Sons of Temperance, waited on a committee of the Protestant Board of Education, to urge the teaching of temperance in the public schools. Mr. J. B. Somerset, Superintendent of Education, assured the deputation of a careful consideration of the views submitted, and stated that the board had not been entirely unmindful of the interests of the rising generation, in caring for the health, as regards observance of habits of temperance. There were lessons on the subject in third, fourth and fifth readers; and Dr. Richardson's work was recommended for teachers' use in preparing for their work. He had no doubt the board would consider carefully and seriously the suggestions that additional text books should be provided whereby temperance teaching would be more systematically done.

THE Historical Society of Winnipeg, of which Professor Bryce is the enthusiastic president, continues its useful and vigorous career. At the annual meeting, recently held, the report stated that the society maintains friendly relations with some 100 learned societies, and has now some 200 exchanges. This brings in an enormous quantity of valuable and seasonable literature to the society, free of charge. Our society is also one of the thirteen Canadian societies, selected by the Royal Society of Canada for affiliation to itself. At the last meeting of that body, in Ottawa, the president, Dr. Bryce, represented this society, gave in a short statement of the work done here, and contributed a paper on "Famous Journeys in Rupert's Land," which is being published in the "Proceedings of the Royal Society." A former member of this society, Mr. C. N. Bell, also read a paper before the Royal Society on "The Mound Builders," which was well received. The society's rooms are now become so well known and attractive that large numbers of visitors from abroad find their way to the reading room and museum. No less than seventy visitors from abroad called at the rooms during the month of July. During the year, the society received the Honourable the Premier of the Dominion, Sir John Macdonald, in the rooms of the society, and was glad to accept his expressions of approval of the work done by the society.

A KINDLY word, appreciative of the efforts of those who seek to benefit others, is usually acceptable. It supplies an incentive to continuance in well doing, and conveys the assurance that labour is not misdirected. Our racy and instructive correspondent, "Knoxonian," is fully deserving of the kind things said of his contributions. He despises flattery as he does all shams, but it will not turn his head to say frankly that his communications are greatly relished, as the following extracts testify. The first is from the *Woodstock Sentinel-Review*: Few contributors to the Canadian press say more sensible things in a bright way than "Knoxonian" in THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. In an article which we reproduce today, he paints with a delicate touch the portraits of of some people we know. His sketches of the effusive humbugs who are met with everywhere in these reforming days are truthful and entertaining. The trouble is that such pestilent demagogues as he describes never recognize their own likenesses. But if other people do, it may lead to their being estimated at their true value. Knoxonian's article is worth reading. The *Glasgow Christian Leader* says: "Knoxonian," of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, the wittiest newspaper writer in the Dominion, in a racy article on "Some Prelates that put Protestantism in Danger," names Dean Alcohol. "Next to old Satan he is the worst prelate in the Dominion," etc.