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Notes of the Week.

THE summary of statistics of the United Presbyterian Church of North America shows nine Synods, sixty Presbyteries, 736 ministers, fifty-one licentiates, a decrease, 7,881 congregations, 91,086 members, an increase of 1,215, and 887 Sabbath schools, with 81,595 scholars. The contributions were. For ministers' salaries, \$488,926; for congregational purposes, \$276,406; for the Boards, \$148,166; for general purposes, \$49,309.

THE Central Bank of Canada, whose headquarters are in Toronto, held its second annual meeting last week, a report of which will be found in our advertising columns. The successful business done by this institution since its commencement is due to the solid and safe character of its management, its unostentatious and economical methods, and the general favour with which it is regarded by the business community. In extending its operations it appears to combine a due measure of enterprise and caution.

A SAD accident befell Mr. Thomas Shortreed in Toronto last week. In the Stone Company's yard he was superintending the removal of heavy blocks of stone, when a guy rope broke and a portion of the derrick fell upon Mr. Shortreed, crushing and killing him instantly. It is stated that had he been mindful only of himself he might have escaped. He warned others in time, but was unmindful of himself. Mr. Shortreed was, previous to his removal to Toronto a short time ago, a highly-respected elder in the Presbyterian Church, Barrie.

WHEN the *Winnipeg Free Press* learned that the capital of the Prairie Province had been selected for the next meeting of the General Assembly, it found vent for its satisfaction in the following terms. This important news cannot but be most interesting to every citizen of Winnipeg and the North-West. It evidences the growing importance of the city in the East, and the kind feeling entertained toward us. The Assembly no doubt will be unusually numerous. This North-Western country possesses an element of curiosity and interest that will ensure a large attraction. Winnipeg is to be congratulated upon the good news as to the intentions of the Assembly.

IN an article on the Irish Presbyterian Church the *New York Evangelist* says. In common with Dr. McCosh and others, we would implore our brethren in Ireland to be a little more calm. We speak as those who sympathize with them. Americans know what it is to have their country in danger. Irish Protestants are not about to be abandoned by the Protestant world, and turned over to the old vindictiveness of Rome. England and Scotland, and Protestant America even, will see that they are not "spitefully entreated and spit upon." And we put it to them, if they are not now, in their fear and apprehension, neglecting an opportunity which may not come again?

OF late hostility between High and Low Churchmen in the Province of Quebec has been rather pronounced. Last week it led to disagreeable manifestations in the Diocesan Synod held in Montreal. The College at Lennoxville is pronouncedly High Church, while the Montreal Theological College is

distinctively evangelical. The former institution possesses the power of conferring degrees in theology, while as yet the latter does not. Application to obtain this power was made to the Quebec Legislature, and refused. The discussion in the Synod occasioned thereby was of more than ordinary warmth, and led to a scene which could not with propriety be described as peaceful.

IN view of the serious state of affairs in Ireland, the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church have reached a temporary compromise on the instrumental music question. Dr. Morell suggested the appointment of a committee, comprising the leading members on both sides, who might bring in a deliverance postponing further action till next Assembly. On this proposal there was a little friendly discussion. Those opposed to the use of instrumental music pled hard for the exclusion of the organ where introduced, and that granted they would willingly accept overtures for peace. One instance was quoted in which a congregation in Cork had voluntarily dispensed with the organ. The conciliatory disposition of the Assembly was such that the lengthy discussion of former years was this time dispensed with.

THE Irish Presbyterians have taken a strong and well-defined stand in opposition to Home Rule as propounded in Mr. Gladstone's scheme, but they have not given way to the extravagances popularly attributed to them. Their position is well expressed by the retiring Moderator in his address at the opening of the General Assembly. The following are its concluding sentences. We occupy a position of peculiar interest and importance at the present juncture—a sort of intermediate position between two extreme parties that are contending for the supremacy; and if we thoroughly understand our own mind, and what Israel ought to do, and if, sinking all minor differences, we unite together as one man to do it, it may please God to confer upon us the high honour of contributing in some most material degree to solve the difficulties of the situation, and mould for good the future destinies of our beloved land. It is true that the times look dark and danger seems to threaten on every hand, yet Presbyterians of all men should not give way to panic or alarm. Their whole history has been a history of conflict and endurance. They fought a good fight in days past, and by the blessing of God they won a victory which has made them strong, self-reliant and free. They have confidence that the God who planted them in this land, shielded them from their adversaries, enlarged the place of their tent and blessed the work of their hands will not desert them now. Trusting in Him with all their might, and summoning all their energies to do the right by every class of their fellow-countrymen, they may with calmness and confidence await the issue.

COMMENTING on the choice of Winnipeg as the place of next Assembly meeting, the *New York Evangelist* remarks: Can it be that General Assemblies, as well as Churches, may come into competition? Here for instance is our sister, the flourishing Canada Presbyterian Church, running a race with us, as to which shall get West fastest and farthest. At least, so it would seem. Meeting in the flourishing mid-city of Hamilton, its sessions were facilitated in many ways, as were ours in Minneapolis, by the attentions of the local churches. And business being well along, there recurred the question of next year's place of meeting. Should they go to Halifax, a thousand miles or so East, or as far to the North-West, and bring up in the booming Red River City of Winnipeg? Suffice it to say, two zealous Winnipeggers, Messrs. Gordon and Robertson, won the prize. Mindful that Time wears only a switch behind, they seized him by the forelock, and held on to victory. Very properly, our Halifax contemporary, the *Presbyterian Witness*, faces the inevitable with resignation, observing: "The visit to Winnipeg, the Omphalos of the Dominion, may turn out for the best. It may prove a blessing to our brethren in the far West. Christianity teaches sacri-

fice for our Brethren's sake. Presbyterianism teaches that the strong must make common cause with the weak. We congratulate Winnipeg and the new Provinces on this very graceful recognition of their importance." The fact is of interest that Winnipeg is nearly due north from Omaha, the *Ultima Thule* to which our own Assembly has been "Hail-ed" to date. Thus the two bodies may be said to be keeping even pace in the course of empire.

THE want of suitable accommodation and enlightened treatment of the insane has long been felt by the Protestant community of Quebec. For some time past the establishment of a Protestant hospital for the insane has been receiving earnest consideration. A charter was obtained in 1881, and a provisional board of directors, comprising Protestant ministers and laymen of Montreal, has been appointed. Negotiations have been entered into for the purchase of a suitable site for erecting the hospital and subsidiary buildings on the Lower Lachine Road, comprising a farm of 110 acres, about three miles from the city of Montreal, for the sum of \$18,000. The Government of the Province are willing to do whatever lies in their power to facilitate the transfer of Protestant patients from Longue Pointe to the proposed hospital, and have agreed that a minimum of one hundred patients shall be provided and placed in the said hospital provided the friends or guardians consent to place such patients therein. The Government also agree to pay for each insane patient \$115 per annum, and \$80 per head for idiots dangerous to themselves and others. They also agree to loan \$25,000 at six per cent per annum toward the erection of the hospital. Plans have been obtained, and estimates prepared, whereby it appears that the amount required to be raised for the purchase of land, erecting and furnishing the building, stocks and implements for the farm, and provisions for the patients, say 250 in number, will be about \$100,000. The hospital, after the above expenses, will, it is believed, be self-supporting. An appeal is made to the Protestants of Quebec for the necessary aid to begin this much-needed institution. A liberal response will enable the directors to begin work this summer.

CONCERNING the desire of France to annex the New Hebrides the *New Zealand Presbyterian* says: France has once more cast a wistful eye upon the New Hebrides, and has put forth fresh efforts to induce Britain to fall away from the treaty engagement of eight years ago, which guaranteed that neither of these Powers should take possession of the group. Britain seems half inclined to yield to French solicitation, and for the sake of two small islands which France should never have been permitted to call her own, and which are of little moment, Britain through Earl Granville had almost allowed France to haul her flag over the scenes of our missionary efforts—scenes watered by the martyr-blood of the servants of Jesus. Probably this would have been an accomplished fact ere now had not Victoria and Queensland, and more recently Fiji, made their voices heard.

The people of Sydney and New Zealand have not sympathized with their Governments, on the contrary, like the Victorians and the Queenslanders, they have united on the independence of the islands being maintained, or their annexation by Britain. These are seen to be necessary for the safety of Australasia, politically and socially, and not less necessary for the preservation and civilization of the native races. In these respects, what of benefit the natives have received, for that they stand indebted to Britain and its Protestantism. The natives dislike and oppose the "Oui, oui" men, as they call the French, and have no wish that they should assume authority over them. They not only prefer the British, but are desirous that Britain should become their protector. French annexation means the destruction of the aborigines—the conversion of the Islands into so many little New Caledonias, the expulsion of our Protestant Presbyterian missionaries, the endangering the peace and purity of the Australasian colonies, from the inroad of escaped criminals of the worst kind, and evils from which we are warranted to look to Britain for protection.