

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 14.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1885.

No. 4.

NOW READY.

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The Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.,
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Notes of the Week.

WYCLIFFE College, at the recent annual meeting of its Board of Trustees, showed a prosperous record. Its number of students is steadily increasing. Several who have graduated from the institution are filling important spheres in the Christian ministry and others are doing good service in mission fields. Financially the college is in a satisfactory condition and steps are about to be taken to provide additional accommodation, now urgently required. The trustees of Wycliffe College have given their approval of the proposed scheme of university federation.

THE *New York Sun* thinks "that public honour and the interests that public offices are created to subserve are infinitely safer in the guardianship of political parties and of the public press, and that the mischiefs of corruption and dishonesty therein are less noxious and less enduring under party criticism and antagonism, than are the same evils in other spheres of public activity that are entirely removed from party criticism and correction." There is a great deal of good sense in this language, as there is not a little silly pietistic cant current against political parties.

A RECENT letter from France says that reports from different parts of the country are very encouraging as regards the progress of evangelical belief. Among the colliers of the North there appears to be arising a revival not unlike that which came over England, under the preaching of Whitfield and Wesley. Along the Belgian frontier and elsewhere, there is great eagerness to listen to the tidings of the Gospel, and the most intelligent of the miners view with each other in opening their houses for *reunions*, addressed by missionaries and colporteurs, some of whom have been workmen themselves.

WHEN submitted for the decision of the people the Scott Act marches from victory to victory. Last week voting took place in four widely separated counties. Kent in the west, Brome in the Province of Quebec, Lennox and Addington, and Lanark recorded majorities in favour of the Act. In Kent the majority was over 2,000. In Lennox and Addington the contest was very close. Brome gave a substantial majority for temperance, while the County of Lanark gave an overwhelming vote for the adoption of the Scott Act. This must be encouraging to temperance workers in the counties where the question has yet to be submitted.

FROM the *Guelph Mercury* we see that the Young People's Literary Association of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, at their regular meeting held a mock banquet in which the loyal, patriotic and other toasts were done ample justice to without the assemblage partaking even of so much as a draught of nature's best beverage—pure water. Those whose names were coupled with the toasts responded much better than people usually do where they are supposed to be stimulated for the occasion by partaking of liquor. When such venerable customs as toast-drinking can be mocked in this fashion, it is evident their usefulness is about gone.

IN an associated press despatch it is stated that a new sect has sprung up in Paris under the name of anti-deists. Their chief object it is said is the suppression of the name of God in all languages. It is

certain that their achievements will not equal their daring impiety. The incident is only referred to as showing the silly absurdities to which infidelity is ready to resort. The erasure of the divine name from every language spoken by men would not banish God from His universe, nor remove from human consciousness the evidence of the divine existence. These anti-deists have evidently forgotten Maximilien Robespierre's dictum, "If we have no God we must needs invent one."

UNSCRUPULOUS efforts have been made to discredit Ex-Governor St. John, of Kansas, who represented the prohibition party in the late presidential contest in the United States. Extreme politicians of the republican party do not know how to take defeat gracefully. They have been inventing various excuses for their failure to elect Mr. Blaine. It has been most circumstantially stated that Mr. St. John made proposals to sell out to the Democratic party. Men in whose name such statements were given have publicly repudiated these assertions as malicious fabrications. Among them the Hon. J. Finch, known in Canada in connection with his advocacy of the Scott Act, clears the late prohibition candidate from all taint of dishonour.

THE inter-collegiate celebration of the five hundredth anniversary of John Wycliffe's death was held in St. James' school-house last week. The attendance was large and representative. The President of Toronto University fittingly occupied the chair. The Revs. Principal Caven, Professor McLaren, Dr. Reid, Principal Sheraton, J. S. Stone, Montreal, Principal Castle, Dr. Newman, Dr. Thomas, and a large number of ministers were present. The Rev. J. S. Stone, lecturer in Wycliffe College, delivered a stirring address on "The Social and Religious Aspects of Wycliffe's times;" Professor McLaren read a paper on "Wycliffe's career;" Dr. Newman's paper was on "Wycliffe and the Mendicant Friars," and Principal Sheraton gave an address on "Wycliffe and the Bible."

THE decision of the Supreme Court as to the invalidity of the McCarthy Act does not at once and immediately dispose of the conflict and consequent confusion of jurisdiction in temperance legislation. The decision was no doubt what was generally expected, but it is not willingly accepted as the end of a needless contention. Politicians would doubtless let the matter rest where it is, but the liquor trade will not care to end the fight yet. There are pretty clear indications that they will appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court to the Privy Council, and possibly challenge the validity of the Scott Act. All they can possibly hope for is a gain of time in order that they may continue the traffic while their appeals are *sub judice*. Temporary obstruction will only strengthen the determination to secure the passage by Parliament of a comprehensive prohibitory Act.

A NUMBER of Kingston ladies, representing the various churches in that city recently held a meeting for the establishment of an institution for the benefit of young women. It is designed to have a reading room, evening classes, music, etc. This institution is not intended to encourage young women habitually to desert their homes, but merely to provide means of safe and pleasant occasional recreation, as well as to offer opportunities and aids to self-improvement for all who may desire to avail themselves of these. All willing to pay the small sum of ten cents a month can have free access to the rooms at all times, and many will, no doubt, avail themselves of the privilege. Office bearers were chosen as follows: President, Mrs. Donald Ross; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Hague, Mrs. H. Folger, Mrs. Marshall; Secretary, Miss Machar; Treasurer, Miss Yates, together with a large committee.

THE medical examiner of one of the largest insurance companies in the United States scouted the idea that malt liquors are harmless or helpful. He says that

statistics prove that life is much shortened by even moderate drinking, and adds: This rule applies to the use of malt liquors as well as to spirituous liquors. The fact is, that drinkers of malt liquors take more spirits than the ordinary drinkers of alcohols, inasmuch as beer is a seductive drink, and it is necessary to take a large amount of malt liquors to get the equivalent in effect of one or two drinks of ordinary spirits. The rule of his company, he says, is "never to insure an individual who is an habitual user of liquors; and we do not take those who use malt liquors habitually, unless they seem, by inheritance, to take malt liquors as a matter of diet, such as the Germans or French, who take light wines. We do not, however, take these classes, if we find they drink to excess."

DYNAMITE is no doubt an elevating agency, but the elevation comes with too great rapidity when the fuse is applied. Somehow the latest explosive adventures have been comparatively harmless. London Bridge, the underground railway, and the town hall at Warminster, though partially injured, remain. Happily no lives were lost by the folly and malignity of these operators in dynamite. This same revolutionary agency has caused another explosion in New York of a somewhat different kind. A man named Phelan, living in Kansas City, had been interviewed by a reporter. His statements were displeasing to the other patriots of the O'Donovan Rossa stamp. Phelan was notified that his presence was desired in New York, and in visiting Rossa's office a ferocious attack was made upon him, from which it was at first thought he could scarcely recover. The deed is justified as all such deeds are on the ground that the patriot whose assassination was attempted had turned traitor.

ACCORDING to returns just published the crime of murder is on the increase in the United States. Statistics show that in 1884 Ohio leads with 189. Texas following with 184, and Rhode Island and Delaware having each 11, the smallest number. In the prohibition States of Kansas, Iowa and Maine the number of murders were 78, 58 and 16 respectively. Besides Ohio and Texas, the States having more than one hundred murders were Kentucky, 178, Missouri, 146; Tennessee, 137; Georgia, 135; New York, 125; Pennsylvania, 120; Michigan, 109, and Virginia, 102. Of the populous States Illinois makes, by all odds, the best showing, having only 63 murders in the year, one-half less than the number in several States with populations one third less. As compared with 1883 the murders in the United States have more than doubled, the number in 1884 being 3,377. Of these 315 were mysterious and remain so. Forty-eight children were killed by their parents, 83 wives by their husbands, and 12 husbands by their wives. Only 103 legal executions for murder occurred, though 219 lynchings were reported.

A WORK lately published at Rome gives particulars concerning the number of Italians living in foreign countries at the end of 1881. At the head of the list stands France, which, with Algeria and the colonies, contains 274,825, of whom 21,577 are in Paris, 33,693 in Algeria, and 57,861 in Marseilles. The Argentine Republic, or La Plata, has 254,388, 103,595 of whom live in Buenos Ayres. Strange to say, the United States has in its immense population only 170,000, of whom 20,286 are in New York. The number in Brazil is 82,196. In Austria and Hungary there are 43,875, of whom Trieste has 16,202. In Switzerland there are 41,645, of whom 19,603 are in the canton of Ticino. In Uruguay, 40,000; in Turkey, 18,612; in Egypt, 16,302, most of whom live in Alexandria. Only 14,647 find a home in the British Isles and all the colonies, and of these only 7,189 are in Great Britain and Ireland. Tunis has 11,106. Peru about 10,000, Spain 8,825, the German empire 7,096, of whom 1,552 fall to Prussia (not including Hesse-Nassau, which has 496). Then come Mexico with 6,103 Italians, Monaco with 3,437, and at last the Russian empire with 2,938.