

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 16.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1887.

No. 47.

Notes of the Week.

THE famous elocutionist, Mrs. Scott-Siddons, is expected to give farewell readings in the new Y. M. C. A. Hall, on the evening of Friday and the afternoon of Saturday, the 25th and 26th inst. Her well and widely known successes are sufficient to bespeak for her large and appreciative audiences. Mrs. Scott-Siddons' visit to the city is under the auspices of the Toronto Press Club.

THE vicar of Dudley, England, has inaugurated a new departure, which is noted with praise by the local press, in attending a service of song at the Presbyterian Church in that town. It is rather sad that a slight manifestation of fraternal feeling like this should actually be so startling a phenomenon in a great English community in this year of grace that it is made the subject of leading article in the chief local newspaper.

DR. DANIEL K. PEARSONS, of Chicago, has given to the Chicago Theological Seminary (Congregational), in aid of poor and worthy students, property valued at \$50,000. The property is in houses, and will yield an income of about \$3,500. Dr. Pearsons has given a similar amount to the North-Western Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) in the same city. He has long been interested in the support of needy students.

THE Rev. W. Rigby Murray, of Brunswick Street Church, Manchester, on a recent Sunday called the attention of his congregation to the cheap issue of the Revised Bible, and strongly urged them to replace the Authorized Version with it in their pews. Mr. Murray has read all the lessons at public worship from the Revised Version since the date of its publication, and the Revised Psalter, which he has pointed for chanting and set to music, is the chant book now in use in his Church. Other Churches, Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian, have also recently adopted it.

HAD Thomas Carlyle lived to witness the arrival of John L. Sullivan in London, he might have felt constrained to revise his theory of hero-worship. While the notorious pugilist was in Toronto, he was not in a very fit state to appear before an admiring crowd, and he was allowed to come and go with little attention. Bacchus was too much for the redoubtable bruiser, as he has been on a good many occasions, when his exploits have been the reverse of heroic. The scene on his arrival in London was one fitted to awaken reflection. There are even at this day many who find it hard to emerge from the savage state. Only people of strange predilections can find a hero in a brutal prize fighter.

THE *Christian Leader* states that a bill is to be brought before the legislature in Victoria, to reduce the school age from fifteen to thirteen and to increase the minimum attendance from thirty to fifty per quarter. Permission is to be given to teachers to give religious instruction out of school hours in any school house but their own. The denominationalists were so arrogant as to cause the pendulum of public opinion to swing right away to the severest secularism: it now appears to be slowly, very slowly, dropping back again. The Bible in day schools, out of school hours, has not been a very promising enterprise in the hands of the clergy; we doubt whether this feeble compromise will do much, either to suppress larrikinism or to promote religion.

THE good people of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, are in a fair way of securing a successor to Henry Ward Beecher. It is not now likely to be Dr. Joseph Parker. With all his prestige the pastor of the London City Temple has not made a profound impression on this continent. He has been listened to with pleasure and admiration, but has failed to evoke any-

thing like powerful sympathy. A younger man and one far less widely known has succeeded in arousing among the members of Plymouth Church a united desire that he should become their pastor. The Rev. Charles A. Berry, Congregational minister, Wolverhampton, England, is their unmistakable choice. Two questions have yet to be answered: Is he inclined to accept the charge; and if he is, will he be subjected to the same ordeal as was Mr. Warren. Will he be exposed to a test action to determine whether as an alien he is eligible?

IN June of this year a new Russian law of education was promulgated. It is said to have been one of the last projects of Michael Katkoff, who practically dictated the imperial policy from the chair of the *Moscow Gazette*. He had already seen the universities reduced to grammar schools; but this was not enough. By the present law education becomes a privilege of birth and wealth the poor, are shut out, and the children of self-made men are not admitted. The children of "coachmen, lacqueys, cooks, washerwomen, tradesmen and such like people" are declared by name to be ineligible to the gymnasias. Charities are forbidden to help any that have not passed through the schools thus restricted. Fees have been doubled. Half of the schools will be closed. Education will be thrust back half a century. And this, remarks the *Christian Leader*, has been effected through a paper whose circulation never exceeded 8,000.

PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS, of Glasgow, sends the *British Weekly* the following extract from a private letter just received from Rev. Richard Ross, not the least distinguished of a distinguished missionary family in Kafaria: I fear that I would not again be able to do work in this dark, dark land, and a land of dark deeds done to it by the nations of Europe. True the slave trade is now a condemned trade; but another and a greater evil trade is going on and becoming worse and worse—the trade in brandy, gin and rum, carried on by people who call themselves Christians. Yes, it is a fearful fact that they are all nations who call themselves by the name of Christ, which are at this present moment trying to make themselves rich by transporting brandy, gin and rum into this dark country, and making its future darker still. No Pagan and no Mohammedan nation is importing these evil drinks into this land. The Arab sells no brandy.

THE choice of the commissioner to represent Great Britain at Washington, in the endeavour to settle the fisheries dispute, has fallen on Joseph Chamberlain, and he has now arrived on this continent. He has been subjected to fierce criticisms; but the representative American papers voice the general feeling that despite his oratorical indiscretions before leaving on his mission, he is entitled to the respect that one nation owes the diplomatic representative of another. This much most people are willing to accord him. He comes as a diplomat, not as a politician. His business experience and abilities fit him for the delicate and responsible duties to which he has been assigned, and it is hoped that a question that has been a fruitful source of irritation and annoyance may be settled in a manner that is just and fair to the contending parties, and thereby strengthen the good feeling of two neighbouring and friendly peoples.

INTENSE excitement, says a contemporary, prevails in the parish congregation of Fraserburgh, many disapproving the action of the majority of the committee in permitting only one candidate to preach; and at a meeting called on the requisition of seventy members, and presided over by the senior elder, speeches were delivered condemnatory of the committee's action in naming only Mr. Johnstone of Cadzow, Hamilton, in their report. The meeting is said to have been "noisy throughout, and at times most outrageous and unseemly." In the statement given on behalf of the committee, it was mentioned that Mr. Johnstone had written saying that he did not believe in preaching

matches, and therefore declined to preach before the congregation, one of the other gentleman, recommended to the committee by leaders of the church whom they consulted, was unwilling to leave his present charge; and the third was the only one who consented to preach. The committee then resolved to write to this third gentleman that he was not wanted.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Presbyterian Banner*, who has recently been crossing the continent by way of the Canadian Pacific Railway, gives an appreciative account of the progress of Presbyterianism in the distant North-West. He says: The work of the Canada Presbyterian Church is a grand one, as is the domain over which it is spread. The growth of the Church is keeping pace with the growth of the population. I enjoyed the pleasure of an interview with Rev. James Robertson, the first pastor of Knox Church in Winnipeg, and now Superintendent of Missions, and derived from him many highly interesting facts. The outlook for the prosecution of the work of evangelization in these new regions is highly encouraging. People who make no profession of religion are quite free to remark the improvement in the moral tone of places where religious services are regularly held, and many of these are willing to contribute freely of their substance in aid of the good work, even when not themselves in any other way identified with it.

OUR United States neighbours have to be on their guard for the maintenance of their school system in its integrity. They have dangers to contend against, and from the same quarter as ourselves. A correspondent of the *Interior* writes: The Roman Catholic authorities propose to continue this kind of agitation against the public schools. It is thought that such agitation can effect nothing, that our free school system is so firmly established in the confidence and affections of the people that it cannot be destroyed or even seriously injured? Let us not be too sure of that. There is no such thing as the Methodist vote, or the Presbyterian vote, in this country, and God forbid there ever should be. But there is such a thing as the Catholic vote, and politicians know it. Roman Catholic bishops and priests can and do tell their people how they must vote on such questions as this. The danger is that by persistently clamouring for a division of the school fund, they may by their influence with political parties eventually secure a portion of the public funds for the support of their sectarian schools. This, or the utter destruction of our system of popular education, is their aim; and it behoves all who believe in our public school system as an essential part of our free institutions, to be on their guard.

THE American section of the Presbyterian Alliance Commission lately held its half-yearly meeting in the Scotch Church in Fourteenth Street, New York. There were present Revs. Dr. T. W. Chambers, chairman, and Drs. Crosby, Briggs, Hamilton and Schaff, of New York; Dr. Waters, of Newark, N.J.; Dr. Pomeroy, of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Kempshall, of Elizabeth, N. J.; Dr. Matthews, of Quebec; Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, Ont. and Mr. James Croil, of Montreal. The principal business before the Commission was the final revision of the draft programme for the meeting of the General Council to be held in Exeter Hall, London, from the 3rd to the 12th of July, 1888, and the selection of speakers from the American section. A small committee was appointed to nominate those who should prepare papers and report at an early date to a special meeting of the Commission. Dr. Kempshall reported on behalf of the Committee on Co-operation in Foreign Missions, and a letter was read from Dr. Breed in regard to the progress of the Bohemian Fund. The treasurer, Mr. George Junkins, of Philadelphia, reported funds in the treasury amounting to \$2,122.76. After the transaction of some routine business the Commission adjourned to meet at an early date, when the nominations of the committee will be considered,