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JUST OUT: The "Presbyterian Year Book,"

EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON.

This valuable ANNUAL for 1881 is unusually full of excellent and suggestive reading. The paper, by the Editor, on the proceedings of the Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia, occupying forty pages, is worth the price of the book; while the general articles are exceedingly complete and interesting.

The N. Y. "Independent," in noticing the volume for 1879, says: It is one of the best ecclesiastical Annuals published in the world.

The present issue is better than any previous one; and every office-bearer, at least, should have a copy.

Mailed free on receipt of twenty-five cents.

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PUBLISHER,
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is now generally expected that there will be no more fighting in connection with the present South African troubles.

ABOUT \$60,000,000 has been expended for the war in Afghanistan, while the total sum given for Christian missions throughout the world during the past year is not far from \$8,000,000.

THUS far four Presbyteries, those of Aberdeen, Ayr, Dunse and Chirnside, and Kelso, have adopted overtures censuring the Commission of the Scottish Free Church for its action in the case of Prof. Robertson Smith.

PRINCIPAL SHAIRP, the author of "Culture and Religion," was so interrupted at the recent opening exercises of St. Andrew's University, Scotland, that he declined to deliver his address, and abruptly closed the proceedings.

DR. PRESSENSE brings, as an illustration of the superiority and prosperity of Free over State Churches, the case of the Church of Neufchatel. Founded not two years ago, in a little country by no means wealthy, it has been able to provide for all its own claims, and for those of its theological faculty, at the head of which is the illustrious scholar, Godet.

THE "Church Missionary Intelligencer" says of the slave trade in Eastern Africa, that its horrors beggar description. A poor slave woman who went to the missionaries for safety (who cannot of course to any great extent shelter these slaves) when caught by her master was trampled to death by several men. A man had his toes burnt off by a slow fire. At Frere Town the majority of the 450 people are liberated slaves rescued some five years ago by British cruisers. The results in education are remarkable. The people are industrious and many have become Christians.

MR. MACKAY, of the Church Missionary Society's Nyanza Mission, has succeeded, says the "Academy," in reaching Kagei, on the south side of Lake Victoria, on his way back from Ujui to Uganda, after a troublesome and dangerous journey through Usukuma. It was only by holding wearisome palavers for several days at each place that he was able to get through the country with paying \$100 in cloth. The Algerian missionaries, he reports, were, a few months earlier, obliged to expend \$2,000. Mr. Mackay's caravan was five times attacked, and in one place they received a shower of arrows, but fortunately no one was injured.

THE Rev. R. W. McAll, the well known evangelist, of Paris, writing of the work in France recently, says: "Every day's observation tends only the more impressively to call us to breathe the fervent prayer, *May God Save France from Atheism!* Truly, it is against the daring and blasphemous assertions of the

Atheist leaders that we have now, above all, to endeavour to shield the people of this land. The campaign we need to wage is not against the dogmas of Romanism—the revolt against Romish idolatries and priestly claims is strong enough already. We have to contend against that utter denial of all religious truth to which the teachers of materialism strive so hard to drive those who have already abjured Rome.

THE Superior Council of Public Instruction in France has just given an important judgment. When the Jesuit colleges were shut up, the friends of the Jesuits formed what were called "Civil Societies," for the purpose of reopening the schools. This was a manoeuvre to elude the March Decrees. Among the schools closed was the Jesuit College of St. Marie at Toulouse, and a few weeks later this establishment was reopened under the direction of a M. Villars. The Academic Council of the town, learning that M. Villars had merely lent his name, and that the college was as much a Jesuit establishment as ever, ordered it to be closed. It was against this decision that M. Villars appealed to the Superior Council, which has confirmed it. This sentence, which is final, has caused a great sensation in the clerical world.

THE Rev. Dr. Mackay had a series of very successful meetings in Hamilton a short time ago. The interest awakened was very great, and the Dr.'s addresses were listened to by perhaps the largest and most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Hamilton in connection with the Presbyterian Church. The presence of Mrs. Mackay, who is, as all are aware, a native of Formosa, was an additional attraction, and we are quite sure that that lady will not soon forget the hearty welcome she received from the Hamiltonians. The receptions given by Mr. R. M. Wanzer, and by Rev. D. H. Fletcher, in order to give ladies especially the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Mackay, were very largely attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Altogether the visit of the Dr. and his wife will be long and pleasantly remembered by the people of Hamilton.

THE scandal to Christianity in Ceylon, where about £14,000 per annum is taken from a public fund to which two million Buddhists, Hindus, and Mohammedans, the bulk of the inhabitants, are compulsorily made to contribute, mainly in the interests of the Ritualistic Bishop of Colombo and his staff of Romanizing clergy, is marked for destruction. We learn from the "Ceylon Observer," that the local Government has received from the home authorities a semi-official communication sanctioning the gradual cessation of payments from the public revenue to Episcopalian and Presbyterian clergymen. The immediate effect of this will only be that the chaplains of Galle and St. Peter's, Colombo, will not be filled up by the Government. The grants are, nevertheless, to be continued for five years, but surely there can be no case made out for such an utterly gratuitous expenditure.

A SHORT time ago there was quite a sensation caused by the abduction in Huil, Que., of a French Roman Catholic girl who had embraced the Protestant faith. It seems that the girl, whose name is Garret, had been led to attend the meetings of Mr. Syvret, a French evangelist. She was much impressed with what she heard, and accepted a Bible from Mr. Syvret. The matter was reported to the parish priest, and the result was that the Bible was taken from her and destroyed. She was then placed in close confinement, but made her escape, and went to the residence of Mr. S. The scholars of the Sunday School Mission, on the 20th ult., met and walked in procession to a meeting in Ottawa. The young girl was among them. When passing her brother-in-law's house, a successful attempt was made to seize and take her away. For some time it was not known where she had been taken to, but she was eventually restored to the evangelist's house.

At a recent meeting of the Historical Society, Winnipeg, the Rev. Professor Bryce read an exceedingly

able and interesting paper on the Earl of Selkirk. The name of that nobleman is so intimately connected with the early settlement of the Red River district that any reliable information touching him is appreciated by the public. Most of the writings that have come down to us referring to him are of such a partisan character that it is difficult to form a just estimate of his motives and actions. The North-West Company—his rivals in trade—attributed his colonization of the Red River valley to the most selfish and sinister motives, while an American writer states that his sole purpose was to prevent his countrymen from settling in the United States. Prof. Bryce warmly rebutted those charges, and held that he was influenced by the purest and most patriotic motives, his only aim being to improve the wretched condition of many of his people. Time, energy, and wealth were freely spent in an uphill effort to relieve the unfortunate, yet a great amount of obloquy has been heaped upon him. His memory has found a staunch and able defender in Prof. Bryce, who is evidently determined to spare no pains to vindicate his character. The paper dealt chiefly with the Earl's ancestry and early life, referring briefly to the settlement he was instrumental in forming in Queen's county, P.E.I., and to his acquisition of a tract of land in the North-West, variously estimated at from 70,000 to 116,000 square miles, on which to plant a larger colony. One or two more lectures will give the rest of the Earl's history, which, in the present state of things in Canada, must always be interesting to an increasing number of the people of the Dominion.

IT is generally known that the various Presbyterian Churches represented in India, have formed an alliance called the Presbyterian Alliance of India. The Alliance has just held its second council at Allahabad. Of the twelve Churches belonging to the Alliance, nearly all sent representatives, some of the absences being prevented, by the great distance to be travelled, from being present. Dr. Morrison, of the United States, was chosen Moderator. The proceedings were harmonious, and concerned largely the chief object of the council—viz., the union of the native communities of the various Presbyterian Churches in India in one Presbyterian organization under one General Assembly. To this end several resolutions were adopted, as follows: 1. It was resolved to ask the several supreme judicatories at home for judicial powers to settle finally all cases of appeal in connection with the native Church in matters of discipline. It was urged that this was in effect asking for power to do only what these supreme courts could not do themselves. 2. It was further resolved to submit the 'Revised Draft of Proposed Questions to be put to licentiates and ruling elders connected with native Churches in India, prepared by a joint committee of the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, and the Irish Presbyterian Church,' to the several Churches which were not joined in the compilation, for approval. 3. It was also resolved that the various Presbyteries in India should be communicated with, for the purpose of forming themselves into provincial Synods, to watch over the interests of the native Church within their bounds, and to consider appeals that might come before them from the Presbyteries. 4. It was finally resolved that the supreme judicatories at home be asked to sanction a scheme for the establishment at Allahabad of a college, with not less than three ordained professors, in which a complete theological training would be given through the medium of English and Hindi, the college to be under the control of the managing committee of the council, and to be supported by the various Churches, proportionately, according to their respective outlays on India. Several delegates had been instructed by their Presbyteries to urge the establishment of such a college, as being a felt want, which no one denomination could hope at present to supply for itself except by an extravagant annual expenditure, and because, under the present irregular system of instruction, candidates for the ministry were not receiving the careful training which their position demanded."