

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 17.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1884

No. 9.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE International Sunday School Lesson Committee are in session in Montreal. The committee is composed of the following:—Rev. Drs. Vincent, New Haven; John Hall, New York; Newton and Worden, Philadelphia; Randolph, Rhode Island; Cunningham, Nashville; Bougher, Washington; MacVicar and Potts, Montreal; Gillett, Illinois; L. Fairbank, Vermont; and B. Jacobs, Chicago. At a meeting on a recent evening representatives of the various schools connected with the Methodist Church in Montreal a Sunday School Association was formed, by laws adopted and officers elected.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Scottish American* writing from Prince Albert shows that, despite the prohibitory law in force in the North-West, intemperance is increasing. He says that people who previously, before coming to this country, rarely tasted anything but beer now drink whisky, and that of the vilest kind. The repeal of the prohibitory law is only a question of time, when men will have their beer and whisky pure. Those who send their friends to this country in the hope of entirely separating them from drink make a mistake, for the habitual drunkard is to be seen here going about rarely sober.

MINISTERS are especially the object of swindlers' attention, according to the Rev. Dr. S. Irenæus Prime, who says that he was lately visited by a fellow pretending to be a collector of curiosities for museums. "Returning from Europe last week," said the caller, "with consignments for various colleges and private collections, I found on landing in Boston that the gentleman to whom one of the boxes was addressed was dead. His widow, having no use for the contents, which consist of old coins, jewels, and the like, has authorized me to present them to anybody who will pay the duty, amounting to \$9." Dr. Prime learned that the swindler had in several cases been successful.

A NUMBER of petitions against the incorporation of the Methodist Church in Canada have been presented to the Dominion Parliament. From what has transpired in committee and in the Methodist Episcopal Conferences held at Dunnville and London it is now evident that the opposition is by no means formidable. Strong resolutions deprecating the course pursued by the opponents of union were passed in one case with a large majority and in the other unanimously. It looks now as if all obstacles to the consummation of union were removed and that the present year will witness the realization of the general hope that the various Methodist Churches of the Dominion will form one great religious organization.

DISUNION is doing its work among the Irish Home Rulers. In the debate on Parnell's amendment, Mr. John O'Connor Power, a former supporter of Parnell, made a speech that created some considerable excitement. Irishmen as a rule do not use ambiguous language when they express their opinions. Mr. Power certainly did not. In discussing the Nationalist League he confirmed the opinion very generally entertained that patriotism is not the controlling motive of the agitators, who, during these years of constant strife, have done very little to advance the material and moral welfare of the Irish people. The measures carried in Parliament for the benefit of Ireland had to encounter the active opposition of the Home Rulers. Irish prosperity and contentment would kill their trade.

A LARGELY attended and enthusiastic meeting of United Empire Loyalist descendants was held in the City Hall, Toronto, last week. Delegates were present from Niagara, Bowmanville, Beamsville, Lincoln, Northumberland, Durham, Craighurst, New Lowell, Whitby, Adolphustown, Penetanguishene and Darlington. The meeting was unanimously in favour of holding a centennial celebration in June, and left all the arrangements to the local committee. A deputation

waited on Attorney-General Mowat to ask for an appropriation towards the expenses, and that the day of celebration be proclaimed a public holiday throughout the Province. Mr. Mowat spoke in high terms of the men who had a century since laid the foundations of Canadian Nationality and favoured the proposed demonstration.

LONDON, Ontario, has again been the scene of disaster. By the explosion of powder a fine building has been wrecked, and worst of all three lives have been lost. No satisfactory explanation has yet been given or can now be given as to the cause of the explosion. The three young men were together in an upper story of the building where the powder was kept. An ante-mortem statement was made that one of the young men was stirring the powder with something like a match, when a flash was seen and the explosion immediately followed. This sad occurrence suggests the obvious moral that powder in large quantities ought not to be stored in buildings in the most crowded part of cities, and that in handling it there should be the greatest care. In time of peace matches are not intended for stirring powder.

RESTRICTIONS on the sale of intoxicating drink are by no means so unpopular as certain writers are in the habit of affirming. It is true that there is a surprising degree of public apathy. In matters of social reform the body politic moves slowly, but it does move, and gathers momentum as it goes. In Prince Edward Island the Canada Temperance Act has been in force since 1879. It was lately submitted again to the popular vote and sustained by a larger majority than ever. This is a conclusive proof that people, after having tried the experiment of suppressing the liquor traffic, are not in favour of rescinding the law. The successful results from its working ought to encourage those who are endeavoring to secure its adoption in their respective counties. The decision of the people in Oxford and Lambton will soon be given.

WITH all the apprehensions that a sleepless Nihilism occasions Russia is steadily pushing her aggressive designs in the east. With the acquisition of Merv she is now almost face to face with the British Empire in India. All that intervenes is Afghanistan. The so-called scientific frontier alone separates Russia from England in the east. The traditional policy of Russia has been to advance her territorial interests by intrigue amongst the inhabitants of dependencies. A ceaseless agitation has been kept up in the Danubian principalities, and among the Turcomans. It would not be surprising in the least were the same tactics pursued among the Afghans. If England has been persistent in her effort to control the approaches to India by the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, Russia has steadily advanced across the Asian continent. Is her ambition now satisfied?

GREAT BRITAIN is patient. In the American cities excited Irishmen delighted in atrocious expressions and murderous threats. They were allowed the utmost freedom of utterance. No remonstrance came from Gladstone. A week or two since the United States Congress passed a resolution of condolence and eulogy on the death of Herr Lasker, the able representative of German liberalism. It was their intention that it should be presented to the German Reichstag. Bismarck, however, with scant courtesy not only declined to present it to the German Parliament, but actually returned the precious resolution to its authors. This is a pretty emphatic way of telling United States politicians to mind their own business. The snub has been received with astonishing equanimity. The German Chancellor does not appreciate American admiration for the career of Herr Lasker.

A CONVENTION of the American Prohibition Anti-Secret Society party has just been held at Washington. The platform of the party sets forth, among other things: This is a Christian and not a heathen nation; that the God of the Christian Scriptures is the author

of civil government; that God requires and man needs the Sabbath; that to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage is the true policy on the temperance question; that the charters of all secret lodges should be withdrawn, and their oaths prohibited by law, that arbitration in differences with nations is the most direct and sure method of securing and perpetuating permanent peace; that land and other monopolies be discouraged; that the Government furnish the people with ample and sound currency; that the maintenance of the public credit is a protection to all loyal citizens, and justice to the Indians is essential to the honour and safety of the nation; and they demand for the American people the abolition of electoral colleges, and a direct vote for the President and Vice-President of the United States.

IT is amusing to notice how the confidently expressed opinions of experts turn out to be baseless. A few days ago Stone Pasha, an American officer who served in the Egyptian army, gave his views on the state of affairs in the Soudan. He was full of admiration for General Gordon, but was sure he could never get beyond Korosko alive. The idea of his reaching Khartoun was preposterous. He has, however, got into Khartoun without mishap, and his marvellous influence is greater than ever. His presence in the threatened town at once restored the confidence of garrison and people, and he has been incessant in his endeavours to attach the warlike chiefs to Egyptian interests. The proclamation issued by General Gordon may be expedient, but it is rather surprising in some points. The False Prophet is to be Sultan of Kordofan, against which the Porte protests. A graver matter seems to be the reference to slavery. The proclamation is represented as saying that "I desire to restore your happiness, and so I have decided to permit the slave traffic. Everyone having domestic servants may consider them his property and dispose of them." The Soudanese may understand this, but it will be difficult for others to understand why one who laboured energetically for the suppression of slavery and the representative of England should speak in this fashion.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather conditions present during this have been similar to those during the past week, except that the variations have been very frequent and extensive. It has naturally followed that the general features of disease present are those of last week. There is noticed however, in the increased number of diseases reported, the same tendency which showed itself last year in February. A number of important changes in the district prevalence of disease as compared with last week are noticed. In one it is the increased prevalence of Diphtheria, in others of Whooping Cough, and in another of Pneumonia. Amongst respiratory diseases, while Bronchitis is not quite so prevalent, Influenza is increased, and while Consumption does not appear prevalent, Pneumonia has very noticeably increased. Indeed a prevalence of over five per cent. in a disease of such well-known fatality as Pneumonia indicates very clearly the fatal influences of the frequent changes of winter temperature which are being experienced. Rheumatism and Neuralgia show much the same prevalence as during past weeks. Amongst Fevers, the continued high prevalence of Intermittent is noticed, while the continued absence of Typhoid from the list of the twenty prevalent diseases must be again remarked. Regarding Contagious diseases, the reports for the week do not show any very noticeable change except in the matter of Diphtheria. This has very considerably increased its prevalence over last week when it seemed to have become temporarily less in amount. Whooping Cough presents no noticeable change in its percentage of prevalence. It shows a gradual tendency to spread in its lateral prevalence, however, as it has appeared in District VI., north-western part of Ontario, amongst the six most prevalent diseases. Mumps is still present, while Scarlatina retains its position of last week.