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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1878.

## THE BERLIN CONGRESS.

THE Congress of Berlin is at present the centre of a world-wide attraction. Not only are great interests at stake but the distinguished statesmen who represent Great Britain, Russia, Germany and Austria give a certain *clat* to the proceedings. It was said that Bismarck never looked better, evidently feeling himself young again with such a work of diplomacy on hand, but he has given out for all that. The aged Gortschakoff has also failed in health. But Lord Beaconsfield at the age of upwards of three score and ten is the central and commanding figure of the Congress. He goes to work with something like the old Disraeli fire. He has played his cards so well that he has seemingly got everything his own way. Not only has Russia yielded to all his demands, notwithstanding the San Stefano treaty, but he has marched the other powers into a line. The British Premier has shown himself a master of diplomacy, and the results of the Congress will doubtless show that he is well entitled not only to the thanks of the British people, but to the Earldom that awaits him as the mark of his sovereign's appreciative regard.

There will be a great diversity of opinion as to the policy of upholding Turkey in Europe. But for British intervention that power would have been compelled to retire into Asia, and it may with some show of reason be maintained that the action of the Congress is only a prolongation of the Eastern Question. We certainly have not heard the last of this vexed question. But should the time come for fighting, the English nation will be in a position at once to interfere. Meanwhile it is gratifying to think that the interests of peace are secured, and that Britain will assume something of a protectorate over Egypt and the Continent of Africa. It is a logical conclusion of the successful termination of this Congress, that slavery in Africa is doomed, and that that Continent will now become the scene of active commerce and of Christian civilization.

## THE "INTERIOR" AND REVISION.

OUR friendly cotemporary the "Interior" of Chicago does us honour by quoting from our article on Revision in a late number of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. In reference to our remark upon the likelihood of the Presbyterian Council of 1880 giving some authoritative utterance upon the question of Revision, the "Interior" in the bright and witty manner in which its paragraphs are written, says: "We hope the Council of 1880 will have a good time, but it will not find it in any attempt to reform the Presbyterian line. The best thing that Council can do is to attend zealously to the making of good speeches and the eating of good dinners." It is evident the Chicago editor recognizes some vital connection between the flow of eloquence and the digestive power of the vital organs. We have all heard the remark of the old divine in reply to the observation of a younger brother, who had just got through a long sermon and was seated before a sumptuous dinner. The youthful minister exclaimed, "the preaching has made me awfully hungry, Doctor." "No wonder," said the other, "after getting a' that stuff off your stomach." It does not astonish us to find the "Interior" a persistent reformer in the matter of reduced representation, when it thus logically connects the power of speaking with that of mastication. A full General Assembly with every divine speaking at his highest tension would be too much for the well equipped larders of the Chicagoenses and for their proverbial hospitality. Perhaps the editor in question dreads the scarcity that would be produced were the Council to hit upon Chicago for its next triennial gathering. But at all events we confess to some surprise at the seeming ignorance of the "Interior" as to the appointment by the last Council of a committee to report upon the whole subject of creeds and confessions, of which the Rev. Dr. Schaff is Convener. From this committee we look for something authoritative. With the great learning of this eminent scholar and the aid that will be given him by the members of his influential committee, we expect a document upon confessions which will be of much value in times of such contention and debate upon this subject. The Council it is true cannot legislate upon the matter. It can do what is better still, advise the churches which are interested in the question. It can prepare the way for sound legislation. It can sound the keynote of faithful revision. And if the delegates find themselves suffering as the result from a vacuum which universal human nature abhors, who will grudge the divines a good orthodox dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding? We make sure that the Chicago editor will be among the most willing to stretch his legs under the mahogany.

## DR. CHARLES HODGE.

THE death of this distinguished scholar which took place on the 19th ult., at Princeton, marks an era in the theological literature of America. Dr. Hodge at the time of his decease was in the eighty-first year of his age and the fifty-seventh of his professorship in Princeton Theological Seminary. He may be said to have literally spent his life in College. As a student of Prince-

ton he was highly distinguished. From being an alumnus he passed at once to the position of assistant teacher of the original languages of Scripture. In 1822 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church elected him to the Professorship of Oriental Languages. After this he attended for some three years the Universities of Paris, Halle, and Berlin, and returned to his chair in 1828, in which he continued until 1840, when he was transferred to the Professorship of Exegetical and Didactic Theology, to which in 1852 Polemic Theology was added. Dr. Hodge was renowned as an orthodox and original teacher of theology. His name acted like a talisman, and drew crowds of students to Princeton. His learning and culture were such as to commend him to the admiration of the young men who sat at his feet, while his fatherly and yet child-like manner endeared him to all his followers. Dr. Hodge has long directed the religious thought of America, and has had a beneficial influence upon students abroad. His three masterly volumes on Systematic Theology will always command an honored place on the shelves of every public library. They constitute a classic which no student of theology can afford to overlook, and which will take its place as a standard in every well selected minister's library. But while the writings of Dr. Hodge will never die, it will be long before the revered form, and bright eye, and happy face of the man will pass out of memory. He was one whose character allied with his scholarly attainments made him a man of colossal strength, and his influence upon young men was invaluable. He has impressed himself upon American and many Canadian students through a subtlety of genius and tenderness of heart, that will make him be spoken of in after times with something like the warmth of devotion and zeal of admiration that gathers around the Scottish Chalmers. Though Dr. Hodge was never like Chalmers, the man of fervid eloquence in the pulpit, or of vast statesmanlike power in dealing with great social problems, he reached a position as a theological writer that is the counterpart in America of the great preacher in Scotland. The one was certainly not beyond the other in the power of attaching the young men who flocked to their class rooms.

Dr. Hodge has published a number of able books besides the volumes of his great masterpiece. In fact taking the works that claim his paternity, this writer may be considered as one of the most voluminous of the age. But it is as editor of the "Princeton Repository," which afterwards became the "Princeton Review," that he has long been widely known and highly esteemed for his literary powers. He founded the former in 1825, and added to it in 1829 the name of the "Princeton Review." In 1872, after the auspicious reunion of the Old and New Schools, the "Review" was united with the "Presbyterian Quarterly and American Theological Review," the Theological organ of the New School branch of the Church. For nearly forty years of his life, Dr. Hodge was not only Editor-in-chief of the great "Review," but actually contributed at least one-fifth of its articles, so that the commanding influence of this periodical was largely owing to his pen.

For the past year or two Dr. Hodge has