

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1895.

No. 4.

Notes of the Week.

Stepniak, the Russian author, is about to publish a new work, and purposes to call it "At the Dawn of the New Reign." It will be appropriate to the times which have given Russia a new ruler.

So far as the work of Municipal Reform in New York city is concerned the outlook is full of hope. Mayor Strong's message in its thoroughly non-partisan tone, and its expression of a purpose on his part to administer the affairs of the city in a thoroughly business way, is indeed only what was expected from him, but it is, in view of the revelations of the past, cause for profound satisfaction.

As is known to many, a Plan for the Federation of the Reformed Churches in America, holding the Presbyterian system, has been proposed. At a late meeting of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, resolutions unfavorable to the adoption of the plan were unanimously carried. We give only the last: "It has either too little or too much authority. If it is to give any practical effect to its recommendations, it ought to have more than a moral and advisory power. Such power is already lodged in the Alliance, and need not be duplicated. If, on the other hand, the churches desire to retain the final authority within themselves, to grant even such restricted influence to the Federal Council will be the beginning only of a supreme body, whose authority will be certain to grow."

Moukden lying in the path of the Japanese in their present war with China is a centre of missionary activity. The Roman Catholics, who began their propaganda early in the seventeenth century, have a pretty church and an orphanage in the city. The Irish and Scotch Presbyterian missionaries laboring in the same field number a round half dozen. There is a medical mission, which has been conducted with remarkable success by Dr. Christie, and which combines preaching the gospel with healing the sick. In one year upward of ten thousand out-patient visits were made to the dispensary connected with the mission, over a hundred in patients were received, two hundred and fifty operations of different kinds were performed, and many visits paid to sick people in the town.

We would very heartily and most earnestly commend the following words of Mr. S. H. Blake to the attention of all our readers, spoken last Thursday evening at the Evangelical Alliance annual meeting at which he presided. They point out a danger to which we have again and again referred, namely the danger to our Sabbath, for the preservation of which no very systematic, continuous and persistent efforts are apparently being made:—I should like to see a far greater union in regard to this question of the observance of the Sabbath day. There are such a number of matters that all Christians of all denominations should be as one man upon—they should be united in defence of these great truths. What with our Sunday papers, what with what is almost as bad, our large Saturday papers, which it is known perfectly well cannot be read on Saturday and must be read on Sunday,—with this going on and unpreparing the mind of the people for the reception of the truths to be given on the Lord's day, should we not be as one in defence not only of God's day but of God's word, and more particularly as it has been attacked in the house of its friends by ministers who openly attack God's Word? Should we not as one man stand up for God's house and seek once more to have it as a house of prayer instead of a house of entertainment? Should we not as one man stand up in the temperance cause and in all those matters that will promote spiritual growth?

It is a hopeful symptom of the times that in connection with the Christian Endeavor has sprung up, and there is making headway, a good citizen movement. In general its objects are: First—To promote through the agency of the several societies a general interest in "good citizenship" among its members, and among those whom it can influence, by the distribution of "good citizenship" literature; by calling attention to the duty of voting and registration; by giving information as to when and where and how registration can be effected and votes cast. Second—To secure the attendance at political meetings for nominating candidates for office as well as at the elections of the better element of citizens, so that good men and only good men may be nominated for office. Third—In case the first two forms of effort should prove unavailing, to secure the nomination of good men for office, then, and in that case, to exercise in some approved method the power of united effort against bad men who may have been nominated, and in favor of good men. The movement is essentially non-partisan, and has no affiliation with any political party, nor is it to be run in the interest of any person or persons, party or creed.

The Duke of Argyle has long been a prominent figure in public, literary, social and political life in Britain. He is now well advanced in years, and a sudden fainting fit, which he took lately while speaking in Glasgow, is probably, at his time of life, a somewhat serious indication of something wrong. It is announced that he has cancelled all his lecturing and other engagements, and will retire from public life. The latter statement may be premature and merely an inference too hastily drawn from the fact of his sudden attack of weakness. Although of late years he has some what changed his political course, men in Britain in such a case as his are believed to be actuated only by a sense of duty, and consequently retain the full respect due to such a motive. The name of Argyle has long been an honoured one in the annals of Scotland, and England as well, and should the present Duke retire from public life because of the pressure of physical weakness, he will leave behind him a record worthy of the great house of which he is the head. It will be the wish of all Canadians that the Marquis of Lorne, should he be spared to succeed his father, may prove himself in every way worthy of his noble inheritance.

Events move rapidly in France. A president of the Republic is chosen, holds office a few months, becomes disgusted, throws up the sponge, resigns one day, and the next almost another is chosen and takes his place. However the French may be able to do that, or to enjoy it, it would not at all suit our Anglo-Saxon ideas of what we like to feel is the stability and dignity of government. Were the operation to be frequently repeated it would bring government into contempt and the end must be anarchy or despotism. It will be unfortunate for the French Republic should that happen soon again. One cannot help feeling in view of Casimir Periers resignation either that he was too sensitive, or self-indulgent, or despite the tears it was said he shed when he was elevated to the Presidency, he assumed the office with too much levity, or was wanting in patriotism and a high sense of duty. Contrast his conduct at such a time with that of the lamented Carnot, or that of Lincoln or Grant or Garfield, or that of many English or German or Italian statesmen, who in foul weather as well as fair stood manfully at their post, animated only by a strong sense of public duty, and the late President of the French Republic appears very small and unworthy in comparison.

Ottawa appears to be all agog about its grand winter carnival. The ice castle is just about finished, and has a light green color, we are told, supposed to typify the jealousy of the western Ontario cities, where ice castles are only a dream. They who love it are most welcome to all the ice

which Ottawa can furnish, and we envy it not in the smallest measure. The carnival programme has been completed, even to the route of the allegorical parade, upon which \$10,000 will be spent. For instance, the Canada Atlantic cars will cost them \$500, and there will be several hundred cars, and much of the same sort. We are not enemies to any kind of National amusement, but it does appear to us a bitter satire on the hard times which we hear complained of on all hands that so much money, only a small fraction of the total amount which will be spent, should be devoted to such a purpose at the present time. Of course, the argument will be used that it has given, and will give employment to a great many who otherwise would be idle. No doubt, but that class will get only a small fraction of what will go into the pockets of hotel and saloon keepers, railway companies and such like, who stand in no particular need of the assistance which a carnival will bring to them.

The losses caused by our recent disastrous fires in Toronto are by no means confined to the city. Sympathy and fellow-feeling are drawn out towards the sufferers in many country towns and villages; in some by actually sharing in the loss, in many more on account of relatives and near friends in the city who are among those who have lost. Among practical men, the feeling, we understand, is common and strong, that some thorough system of inspection of large buildings erected should be insisted upon, as well as better equipment provided, so that, in cases of fire, the lives of the brave men in our fire department should not be unnecessarily exposed to danger. As the buildings destroyed will undoubtedly be speedily restored, and probably on a larger scale than before, now would be an opportune time to inaugurate a system of thorough inspection. There could be no better illustration of the pluck, push and loyalty of the press, employers and employees to each other, than the fact that the daily *Globe* did not intermit its issue for a single day, and has since been going on as if, so far as the outside world knows, nothing special had happened, thanks to the courteous, magnanimous spirit of the city press, which so handsomely and promptly came voluntarily to the rescue of their great rival. It was a goodly sight.

The wrongs and atrocities which the Armenians are said, according to a very general agreement of accounts too truly said to have suffered at the hands of the Turk, have led to public action in Toronto. On Thursday evening last the annual meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Evangelical Alliance was held, and the sufferings of the all but helpless Armenians was the main subject before the meeting. A strong, calm, but most earnest address was given by Rev. Principal Caven, who was the chief speaker in support of a resolution which, after referring to the reports "seemingly only too authentic" of atrocities perpetrated, went on to say:

"We desire with humane and Christian people everywhere to lift up our voices in reprobating the actors in this fearful tragedy, and the Government under which such proceedings are possible; in urging that a thorough investigation of the facts shall be made by the Christian nations which propose to conduct an impartial inquiry, and demanding that measures shall be adopted by Europe and America effectually to prevent the recurrence of such horrible exhibitions of wickedness and cruelty, a course to which the great European powers are bound not only by the claims of humanity, but by treaty obligations."

Others, including Rev. Dr. Potts and Mr. Baghdasarmi, an Armenian gentleman, preparing himself for the Christian ministry at MacMaster University, spoke in support of the resolution. A copy of it is to be sent to the committee of the Evangelical Alliance in London, England, to be used in connection with others in securing some speedy and effectual measures to be taken by other nations, especially England, France, Germany, America and Russia, in putting a stop once for all to such cruelties practised by the Turkish Government against its Christian subjects of whatever name.