

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 11.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th, 1883.

No. 19.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE "Hour" says: "Ninety-nine out of every one hundred people read with regret, this week, the contradiction of the report that the British Government had asked for the extradition of O'Donovan Rossa."

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT POTTINGER, of the Intercolonial Railway, has issued an order that, hereafter, any officer or employé of the Intercolonial Railway who is known to be intoxicated, whether on duty or not, will be at once dismissed from the service.

IF the Government of Hayti succeeds in putting down the rebellion which has broken out there, it is very probable that the United States Government will be called on to pay a good round sum as compensation for having allowed the escape from Philadelphia of the fruit ship "Tropic," with arms and ammunition on board for the use of the insurgents. The case, according to the evidence taken in Philadelphia, is precisely similar to that of the famous "Alabama."

AT the late meeting of the Established Church Synod of Aberdeen strong disapproval of the new Universities Bill, as it proposes to effect a complete severance between the Church and the universities, was expressed. Prof. Traill said he could consider nothing more injurious than that the Church should have to provide for the theological training of her students. It was the first stroke directed by the Government against the national Church. In Canada we fail to see where the injury comes in.

A DEPUTATION from the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly's Elementary Committee waited upon the Lord-Lieutenant recently to urge, in view of the proposals with reference to the training of national teachers, that no sanction be given to the establishment of denominational training colleges, or to any other changes tending to denominationalism in the national system of education. The deputation met with a very cordial reception. The Synods of Belfast, Ballymena and Coleraine have spoken emphatically against any modification of the national system now existing in Ireland.

A SCOTTISH village congregation have adopted "No bazaar and no debt" as their motto in their praiseworthy endeavour to build a new church at a cost of about £2,000. Though the population consists chiefly of hand-loom weavers, whose wages are small, the subscriptions of the members manifest extraordinary liberality. Obtaining funds for church building and religious objects generally by the roundabout methods of fancy bazaars and kindred devices may be more in accordance with the "spirit of the age" than that adopted by these worthy hand-loom weavers. It must, however, be conceded that theirs is the more scriptural of the two.

THE Ontario Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church has been held at Orangeville. The subject of greatest interest that occupied attention was the contemplated union of the various sections of Methodism in the Dominion. It may be safely concluded that union is now assured. Of course at the Orangeville Conference no decisive action could be taken. The Methodist Episcopal Church has to await the decision of the quarterly meeting conferences before it is finally committed to the union. Judging, however, from the strong disposition in favour of the movement manifested by the Conference, a favourable decision by the quarterly meetings may be anticipated.

In an admirable address, Dr. McArthur, of New York, at the Baptist Union which met in Toronto last week, said: "In referring to the revival work of the Church he deprecated the practice of having periodical bursts of religious enthusiasm to be followed by periods of collapse. Stimulants were all very good

for a Church or individual in a state of coma, but it was better to keep the Church in a state of health so as not to require these stimulants. He thought that there was nothing more demoralizing than the belief that they could not do aggressive work for God except in halls, camp meetings, tents, or hippodromes. He believed that those ministers would be most successful in the long run who had faith in the power of God's truth in connection with the ordinary service of the Church.

THE second reading of the Affirmation Bill has been defeated in the British House of Commons by a majority of three. Various causes account for its rejection. The Conservative party have shown uncompromising opposition to the measure, and a large number of the Irish members voted with the Tories, seeing that an opportunity offered to embarrass the Government. Bradlaugh's personality has been so mixed up with the agitation that it is not surprising much feeling has been evoked. The character of his publications and his general bearing have not impressed right-thinking people in his favour. Many of the religious bodies in Britain have taken strong grounds and have petitioned against the proposed alteration in the administration of the oath to members of Parliament. The time will come, however, when greater freedom in this respect will be permitted. The petulant outburst of the "Daily News," in its vexation over the defeat of the Bill, in saying that "the forces of bigotry and intolerance triumphed" is scarcely correct. But the "Daily News" is now under agnostic guidance, and the tolerance of agnosticism is as yet an unknown quantity.

APPLICATIONS of electricity are not only making rapid progress in every part of Europe, but also in the Southern Hemisphere. There come, indeed, from Otago, New Zealand, details of an invention as marvellous as any yet recorded in the annals of electrical science. It is now proved to be possible to convey, by means of electricity, vibrations of light—not only to speak with your distant friend, but actually to see him. The electroscope—the name of the instrument which enabled to do this—was the very latest scientific discovery; and to Dr. Guldrab, of Victoria, belonged the proud distinction of being its inventor and perfecter. A trial of this wonderful instrument had taken place at Melbourne, in the presence of some forty scientific and public men, and it was a great success. Sitting in a dark room, they saw projected on a large disc of white burnished metal the race-course at Flemington with its myriad of active beings. Minute details stood out with perfect fidelity to the original, and as they looked at the wonderful picture through binocular glasses, it was difficult to imagine that they were not actually on the course itself and moving among those whose actions they could so completely scan.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY has conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. on His Excellency the Governor-General. The claims of Lord Lorne to this academic distinction are thus set forth by the learned Principal of McGill: "He has won distinction for himself in the fair and open field of literary work. We also bear in mind that since his arrival amongst us he has identified himself with the intellectual life of the country, and that throughout the Dominion he has encouraged education, not only by his wise and thoughtful words, but by the gift of medals and other rewards of merit. To him we also owe the introduction into Canada of that combination of effort in the prosecution of fine art implied in the creation of our Royal Canadian Academy. Still further we are indebted to him for gathering into one focus, not merely by his influence and patronage, but by earnest personal exertion, the scattered embers of literature and science to glow with new energy in the Royal Society of Canada, which, while a new feature of our national life, is specially a creation of his forethought and wisdom, and as it grows in importance with the advance of time, must ever be associated with the name of our present Governor-General."

THE "Commercial Advertiser," referring to the fact that the New York aldermen have passed a resolution requesting the trustees of the East River bridge to change the date for the opening of that great work from May 24th to May 30th, on the extraordinary ground that the time first appointed happens to be the birthday of the Queen of England, says: "There is something peculiarly exasperating in this insolent demand that one day in the calendar shall be put under a ban and publicly declared a *dies non*, because the ruler of a certain foreign country happened to be born on that day. What is Queen Victoria's birthday to the people of New York and Brooklyn one way or another? What if it happened to be the birthday of Jefferson Davis or Benedict Arnold, or any other man or woman living or dead? The aldermanic protest is singularly stupid as well as impudent, but its animus is unmistakable. The majority of the aldermen are, as usual, of Irish race, and they have let their Anglophobia run away with their common sense. They seem to be Irishmen first, and only incidentally Americans, which is not a tenable position for an American citizen to occupy. The fact that the change of date on the grounds alleged would be an uncalled for insult to the ruler in question would be reason enough for refusing to comply with it. Towards Queen Victoria personally the American people have always cherished the kindest feelings, and on more than one occasion, notably during the civil war and at the time of President Garfield's death, she manifested her good will towards them in a not-to-be-forgotten manner."

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The usual effect of the cold weather last week is seen in the increase of Bronchitis; though Influenza has not, owing probably to the continued low barometric pressure, similarly increased. Neuralgia has slightly increased, and along with it, to a certain extent, Rheumatism in degree of prevalence. A very noticeable fact is seen in Anæmia having extended till its area of prevalence equals 100. It would seem that the popular opinion, of the human system being debilitated after the rigours of a severe winter, is sustained by statistics, as, in spite of all the tendency which this season has to the prevalence of specific diseases, Anæmia has advanced for several weeks past. Consumption has not materially altered its position. Amongst Fevers, we notice not only the continued existence, but the increasing prevalence of Intermittent in Districts VII., VIII., and X., on the shores of Lake Erie. Now that the season has opened, it would seem desirable that such municipalities as are greatly affected by it might, with pecuniary advantage from better health and the increased value and greater productiveness of the soil, undertake local drainage works, and encourage the agricultural community to do the same. That such drainage materially reduces the death-rate is incontestably proved by Dr. Farr's statistics concerning the drainage of the fens of Ely and the Isle of Wight. Thus in Dorset a previously high mortality had been reduced by 1874 to only 17 per 1,000, while deaths from Consumption alone had been reduced from 2.8 to 1.9 per 1,000 of population. Amongst Zymotic diseases there is nothing new especially requiring remark. Measles retains its former position, while Mumps, which last week showed so great an increase, has this week very considerably receded. Scarletina has again disappeared from the twenty most prevalent diseases, but Diarrhoea is being marked by a steady progress. Along with its progress we shall, as usual, find chronicled an increasing infantile mortality. When can we expect the slaughter of the Innocents to cease? Only when Filth, existing in air, food and water, in its influence in producing disease is fully understood. Erysipelas has advanced very considerably since last week, but Peritonitis has disappeared again. Another disease has been reported from the sparsely settled District III.—Muskoka and Parry Sound—to such an extent as to place it amongst the six prevailing diseases. It is to be fervently hoped that Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, widely epidemic in 1873, is not re-appearing after a decade of quiescence.