

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

In the city of Pittsburg there are 25,000 Jews and not a single Christian missionary among them. A mission to them has just been formed, with Mr. E. F. Gerechen in charge. Rev. A. R. Kuldell, of Allegheny, a German pastor, is superintendent and treasurer.

A list of the losses which the Royal Society of Britain has suffered by death during the past year shows that the pursuit of science is not unfavorable to longevity. The list comprises nineteen Fellows and seven foreign members, and the average lifetime of these twenty-six men was a fraction over seventy-six years and a half.

The finest electrical exhibit ever seen is promised for the Swiss National Exposition, which begins at Geneva, May 1, 1896, and continues until October 15. There will be a travelling footpath operated by electricity traversing the great machinery hall; horseless cabs driven by electricity; appliances for aerial navigation; tests of strength of metals by electricity, and many other electrical appliances.

The Rev. Geo. Friedman, labouring among the Jews of Wilna, Russia, states in the *Jewish Missionary Herald*, that many Talmudical scholars visit and spend much time with him, some of whom are sincere believers in Christ and would make a good confession if certain obstacles are removed. In the nine years spent in that city Mr. Friedman states that they have brought nearly 100 souls of Israel to acknowledge Christ as their only Saviour.

The members of the late Dr. A. J. Gordon's Church in Boston have been praying for several weeks that the Lord will direct them in choosing a new pastor. No candidates will be publicly proposed, but at the close of some regular service each member will be requested to write upon a ballot the name of the person they would like to have, over them. If when the ballots are counted there is a preference for some one, that person will receive a call; if not, another vote will be taken at a later date after another season of prayer.

The usual way in which military valor has been rewarded, has been by medals, clasps and promotions. The Japanese are taking a new departure as to the two former. The Government has given orders in Switzerland for 18,000 watches, the cost of which is not to exceed 10s. 6d. each. The watches are to be given to officers and men of the army and navy who distinguished themselves in the late war with China, and to take the place of the medals always awarded at the close of national hostilities. It is possible that the Japanese example may be followed by European countries.

The *Christian Leader*, quoting from a contemporary, puts the relative position of France and England, as regards population, in the following striking way: "At the beginning of the century there were seven Frenchmen to four Englishmen. At the end of it the English will outnumber the French, and this takes no account of the further fact that during the same period, while 11,500,000 persons of British and Irish birth have left the old country for new homes over the seas, the number of French emigrants has not exceeded 500,000." The statistics stand thus:

	France	United Kingdom
1801	27,349,003	15,896,412
1891	38,343,192	37,797,013
1895	38,500,000	39,134,166

The dissolution of the Manitoba Legislature is what might have been expected. A very vital question in provincial existence for Manitoba and for every Province in the Dominion is at stake. The subject of school legislation and of establishing separate schools has been so fully discussed, that every citizen in the Province of ordinary intelligence, who cares enough for the country to inform himself upon it, may be supposed to understand clearly what is the real issue, and qualified to vote upon it intelligently. In these circumstances, it is not only natural but right in a self-governing community, that Government should ask the people to express their deliberate judgment upon the question at issue. There can be little doubt, we fancy, what that judgment will be. Whatever it may be it ought to be helpful to the Dominion Government and welcomed by it as an aid in arriving at a wise and right and therefore lasting solution of a difficult and most important question.

The week past has been one, in the United States especially, of great excitement in connection with the President's message to Congress on the Venezuela boundary dispute, of anxiety and grief in Britain and Canada with respect to the same matter, and of watchful interest, mingled with astonishment, and largely with condemnation on the part of other nations of President Cleveland's rash, threatening, and even insolent conduct. The voice of sober sense and reason, and of Christian feeling and principle is now beginning to be heard, and naturally calm thoughtfulness, and wisdom, and prudence are asserting themselves. The pulpit, which we venture to say, expresses at this critical juncture, the best thought of the people of Britain, the States and Canada, unites, with scarcely a discordant note from any quarter, in condemnation of such a thing as war, and pronounces it a violation of all right Christian feeling and conduct, as a thing not to be thought of, and one of the foulest blots that could possibly stain and dishonor the character of the two foremost Christian nations on the globe. The interests not only of the parties most directly affected are so closely interwoven, but the best interests

even of the whole civilized world, and of the cause of Christianity and civilization in heathen and as yet barbarian lands, are so bound up in those of Britain and the United States, that these two Governments in going to war would be recreant to the work the King of Kings has, to all appearance, given them to do, and unworthy of the high place and honor He has assigned them among the nations of the earth.

The vital nature of the educational question is well understood by all who feel an interest in and watch such movements. It is at present deeply agitating England and Ireland, as well as being in public feeling the foremost question amongst ourselves at present. Recently a special meeting of the Dublin Presbyterian of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland was held to consider proposed changes in the National system of education. Five resolutions on the subject were proposed and after discussion unanimously passed; but the two following illustrate the state of the whole case:—

1. "That this Presbytery has heard with deep regret that it is proposed to introduce changes into the National system of education which are calculated largely to alter it from a National and unsectarian system to a system which is denominational."
2. "That the National system of education as at present administered has been the means of great blessing to the entire community, and that the adoption of any proposal not in harmony with its fundamental principle of 'united secular and separate religious instruction' would inflict irreparable injury upon the country." It was pointed out, as has already been done in these columns, that the whole question of the endowment of the church by the state is concerned in the establishment and support of separate schools for any one denomination.

The *Manitoba College Journal* gives its readers this interesting piece of information respecting the progress of higher education among the young ladies in that enterprising Province:—"One of the features in our college life of to-day which impresses the graduate on his return to his Alma Mater, is the large attendance of lady students. The number attending has now reached thirty, seventeen of whom are undergraduates of the University. In the graduating class of '96, five of the fourteen are ladies, a large percentage. We are pleased to notice that they are paying more attention to the literary meetings, than to the football matches, although at the latter there should still be many more present. We hope they will continue to come, even if it is only to show that they take an interest in the welfare of the college. Surely the presence of the ladies ought to have a good influence on the general tone of collegiate life, and if it has not, something must be wrong. We trust that one and all may feel that they are responsible, to a great degree, for the good name of the college."

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Young Men's Era: Measure a man's strength by his self-control.

Golden Rule: Sitting together in heavenly places may depend on sitting together in earthly places.

Ram's Horn: Just as surely as we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, will God supply all our needs.

Lucy Larcom: Beautiful is the year in its coming and in its going, most beautiful and blessed because it is always the year of our Lord.

Lutheran Observer: In the life of every great man, his earlier hardships have proved only the necessary discipline which fitted him for the splendid achievements of later years.

J. R. Miller, D.D.: It needs, therefore, in us, infinite carefulness and watchfulness as we walk ever amid other lives, lest by some word or look, or act, or disposition, or influence of ours we hurt them irreparably.

United Presbyterian: We wish that some of the men, who claim that the Bible is just like any other good book, would try to write a psalm as full of majesty as the nineteenth, or as full of comfort as the ninety-first.

Presbyterian Witness: One is your Father! Could we but remember always, everywhere, the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, as revealed and taught by Jesus Christ, what a happy world the Christian world might become.

Christian Work: The attempt to serve God without love is like rowing against the tide. Love makes duty sweet. The angels are swift-winged in God's service because they love Him. Jacob thought seven years but little for the love he had for Rachel.

Gladstone: Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning, and goes to rest with us at night. It is co-extensive with the action of our intelligence. It is the shadow which cleaves to us, go where we will, and which leaves us when we leave the light of life.

S. S. Times: In any sphere of action doing one's best is the true measure of success. It is quite possible for superintendent or teacher to do well in his special field of effort, without doing all that he might. No one ought to be satisfied to fall short of his own best possibilities.

Goldwin Smith, D.C.L.: Criminal propensity, however violent, and whether its origin be personal or hereditary, is not lunacy. It is consistent with the clearest aim and the most deliberate machination. Without criminal propensity no crime could be committed. The greater a man's criminal propensity, the more he stands in need of deterrent and to say that punishment shall be remitted when propensity is proved is to take away check from those who need it most.