

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 18

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 1889.

No. 38.

Notes of the Week.

WHILE in Dunedin Dr. MacGregor lectured on "The Resurrection" in Knox Church to a throng so crowded that in mid-winter all the windows had to be opened, and that Dr. D. M. Stuart had to commence the service some twenty minutes before the appointed hour. The weighty and easy address of the Edinburgh divine made a great impression. The colony seems as pleased with Dr. MacGregor as he is with the colony.

BY the sudden death on Thursday evening last of Mr. William Gooderham, Toronto has lost one of its most active Christian philanthropists. He enjoyed the affectionate respect of the community for his personal worth and his readiness to help every good cause. He gave personal service, time and means to the work of the Gospel. His aim for many years had been to do all the good he could by means of practical Christianity. His loss will be deeply mourned.

THE international conference of deaf-mutes recently held in Paris was the first meeting of the kind the world has witnessed. It extended over a week. A correspondent who was present at one of the seditious writes: "The sight of this silent meeting, where all communication was carried on by signs, with only here and there an outburst of applause expressed in the usual way to break the stillness, was something I shall not forget." Delegates were present from all the countries of Europe and 23 from America. In Paris a considerable portion of the type-setting in the large publishing house of Firmin, Didot and Co. is performed by deaf-mute compositors.

THE *Saturday Review* strongly supports the notion that St. Patrick was a native of Dumbartonshire, holding that the autobiographical fragment in which Patrick describes his father as "Capornius, a deacon, son of Potitus, a presbyter, who dwelt in the village of Bannavem Tabernæ," is a genuine document. "His very existence has been doubted by over-ingenious critics, but he has the rare gift of making us see and hear through all the mists of fifteen centuries. Readers should be allowed to forget the Romanist controversy and all the absurd legends of a too credulous after-age and just listen to the saint himself." The reviewer declares that the fragment is as real and vivid as anything in history.

WITH great sorrow we record the death of Dr. Christlieb, of Bonn, which took place on Thursday evening, Aug. 15, through the bursting of a blood vessel in the brain. There was no sad anticipation of death, no painful parting, no agony, only a falling asleep in the Lord, so quietly, peacefully, and child-like. It will be remembered that he purchased and had been using the church in Bonn erected for the late Rev. Dr. Graham, missionary to the Jews there, from the Irish Presbyterian Church. This gifted and earnest evangelical servant of the Gospel, it will be remembered, attended the meetings of the Evangelical Alliance in New York in 1876, when he made a number of admiring friends who now mourn his early death.

FOURTEEN mothers' meetings are held every week in different quarters of Paris in connection with the M'All Mission, attended by an average of 200, mostly women of the lower classes, many of whom have led hard and reckless lives, but who have been brought under the influence of the Gospel and have been changed and softened. At the anniversary meeting the other evening, held in the Salle New York, in the Rue St. Antoine, which a century ago was a ball-room frequented by the elite of Paris, Theodore Monod took part in the exercises along with several ladies who devote themselves to the good work. These meetings are being imitated by the Reformed Churches, and even the Roman Catholics are organizing similar missions.

It is with profound regret, says the *Belfast Witness*, that we record to-day the death of the Rev. Alexander Rentoul, M.A., minister of Sandymount Presbyterian Church, Dublin. The melancholy event took place yesterday at Howth, where he had

gone for the benefit of his health. For some time, it is well known, he had been ailing. A constitution at no period robust, and which had given way on several occasions during his ministerial career, this year broke down again, obliging him to abandon his loved work in Dublin, and seek in various places, by relaxation and change, to re-establish his health. For some time the means adopted to promote his recovery appeared to be successful. But the system, it is now evident, never fully recovered, and yesterday, as we have said, his spirit was wafted away from the scene of its earthly employments into the immediate presence of the Great King and Head of the Church whom it was his delight to serve.

LABOUR DAY was celebrated in Montreal, with much interest and enthusiasm, by large numbers the other week. The celebration was followed up by a congress at which representatives from various other provinces were present. And now that all is over an Ultramontane ecclesiastic follows it up with somewhat vigorous denunciation. If the reported words of Curé Sentenne have any meaning they certainly convey the impression that everybody and every organization should be humbly subservient to clerical influence. "There was an invading spirit tending to mark such events by a purely lay character, which should and must be stemmed ere it went too far." We congratulate the Curé. It is just such utterances and the spirit that prompts them that help French-Canadians to think and act for themselves. Even in the Province of Quebec it cannot be expected that grown and rational men can be held in a state of perpetual pupilage.

DR. JAMES MARTINEAU, whose name has so long given the lustre of culture to Unitarianism, has stated his own experience in these words: "Ebionites, Arians, Socinians, all seem to me to contrast unfavourably with their opponents, and to exhibit a type of thought and character far less worthy, on the whole, of the true genius of Christianity. I am conscious that my deepest obligations, as a learner from others, are in almost every department to writers not of my own creed. In philosophy I have had to unlearn most that I had imbibed from my early text-books, and the authors in chief favour with them. In biblical interpretation I derive from Calvin and Whitby the help that fails me in Crell and Belsam. In devotional literature and religious thought I find nothing of ours that does not pale before Augustine, Tauler and Pascal. And in the poetry of the Church it is the Latin or the German hymns, or the lines of Charles Wesley or of Keble, that fasten on my memory and heart, and make all else seem poor and cold. This, remember, from a Unitarian!"

"ANGLO-SCOT" in the *Presbyterian Messenger* says: That the "Ulster Plantation" has done great things for the North, morally and materially, must be evident to any one who will take the trouble of comparing it with the rest of Ireland. What was the poorest and most uncivilized province of Ireland stands now in the foreground for education, respect for the laws both of God and man, and that industry and thrift which characterize the Scotch-Irish wherever they go. The counties of Derry, Antrim, Down, Armagh and Tyrone pay two-thirds of all the income-tax derived from Ireland, while the city of Belfast ranks after London and Liverpool as to customs revenue. If any one wishes to know what is the cause of this, we unhesitatingly reply, Protestantism. Our Bible-loving and God-fearing people have made Ulster what it is, and what it will, we hope, continue to be. In the counties referred to we have only eleven policemen to 10,000 of the population, while in the rest of Ireland there is an average of twenty-nine to the 10,000, and in West Meath, Limerick, Clare, Kerry, Meath and Tipperary, it reaches thirty-seven to the 10,000 of the population.

DR. BAEDER, speaking lately of his own work in Russia, said: I had a special commission when I was at Odessa to visit Rabinovitch. I found him in his study thinking of the Great Day of Atonement. Many questions have been asked about the Jewish movement, and people have been disappointed that an Israelitish Church has not been formed. Rabinovitch is still at work, and each time I saw him he

seemed more and more full of the wonderful light he has found. At first many people came to hear him, but the numbers have dwindled down very much, and whereas formerly there might be two hundred, now there may be but eighteen or twenty men listening to his address; but there is no change in the man. I spoke to him about this, and he said he had found them out. "My Jews have always a great care to get a little money, and some of my followers have tried very hard to get some money out of me. They thought I got so much money from England I could give some of it to them. They are disappointed, draw back, and come no more to the meeting." At the same time solid work is being done; there are many inquirers, and the work is going on, deepening every day.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing to the *Christian Leader*, says: The Rev. Alexander Jackson of Knox Church, Galt, occupied the pulpit of Calton United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow, on Sunday last at both diets of worship. Mr. Jackson is at present on a holiday visit to the old country, and his presence in the Calton pulpit had more than a passing interest to many members of the congregation, as he was in early life a diligent worker in the Calton Kirk. Mr. Jackson with refreshing directness plunged into an elaborate and lucid description of Mr. Edison's latest marvel, the phonograph. With uncommon precision of phrase, and with not a few passages of genuine eloquence, he developed many suggestive thoughts at once practical and spiritual. To do justice to the discourse it would require to be given verbatim. No one who gave attention to Mr. Jackson's words will easily forget the pregnant lessons conveyed in a singularly unconventional way; and to make good by aid of Mr. Edison's genius these solemn words, that "no man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself," bespeaks on the part of the preacher gifts of no common order. The people of Knox Church in Galt are to be congratulated on having for pastor such a man as Mr. Jackson. He is not afraid to enter the domain of science, and bring its marvels into the sphere of the spiritual life.

PRACTICAL proofs were given last season of the excellence achieved in every department of the work in the Toronto College of Music, while the artistic performance of the pupils, both as regards refinement of style and proper technique, showed that individual attention on the part of skilled teachers has been the rule of the College. Where each pupil's temperament has to be studied it is of the highest importance to their success that their instructors should make themselves familiar with their individual requirements. The principal and really important features of the leading music schools of England, Berlin, Vienna and Leipzig are incorporated in the system of the College; and the teachers are thinking and earnest men whose minds and ideas have been fostered and expanded in the art-centres of Europe. The exceptional facilities for organ students perfecting themselves in their chosen career are greatly enhanced by the presence in the College Music Hall of a large three-manual pipe-organ built expressly for the school by Messrs. Warren. The instrument, which is used for lessons and practice, is complete in all its registers; and has also been made of great value to the students by the frequent recitals given upon it by the professors, students, and Mr. Frederick Archer, the eminent organist, who pronounced it to be one of the best he had played upon, while his programmes proved it to be ample for every style of organ music. The organists who are teachers hold prominent positions in the Toronto churches. To encourage the study of the violin there is a class for beginners which is free to students in any other department. Weekly concerts are given, for the purpose of enabling pupils to acquire practical experience before an audience; and frequent concerts and recitals in the College Hall, and elsewhere under the college auspices, are also free to the students. Next season the following honours will be competed for by the students: A gold medal for general proficiency in music, a gold medal in the organ department, and several scholarships, each good for one year's tuition in the vocal, organ and piano departments. The new prospectus containing, besides other important items, a review of last season's work, can be obtained from the college office, 12 and 14 Pembroke Street.