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TRIAL TRIP.

In a few weeks THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN will enter on its SIXTEENTH YEAR of publication. Since its first appearance it has been a welcome visitor to thousands of homes, and in order that its merits as a Church and family paper may become known to a still wider circle of readers, THE PRESBYTERIAN for the remainder of this year will be sent to any one sending us Fifteen Cents in stamps.

Notes of the Week.

THE reports submitted at the recent annual meeting of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository indicate the institution as financially flourishing and doing a good work in the dissemination of evangelical literature. It is one of the aims of the association to furnish Bibles, books, tracts, etc., for gratuitous distribution to such persons and places as may seem to the Board most desirable.

TORONTO is to be favoured with two lectures by the Rev. Joseph Cook, of Boston. His eminent services in the cause of Christian truth, and his vigorous and intelligent advocacy of his strong convictions, are sufficient inducement to secure large audiences. He lectures in Shaftesbury Hall on Monday, the 15th inst., on "Seven Modern Wonders of the World," and on the following evening on "England and America as Competitors and Allies."

THE Johns Hopkins University has arranged for a special course of Assyriology during the month of January, 1887. Paul Haupt, Ph.D. University of Leipsic, Professor of the Shemitic Languages in Johns Hopkins University, and Professor of Assyriology in the University of Goettingen, Germany, will teach Assyrian daily. He will give a series of introductory lectures on Assyrian Grammar, especially Phonology, and interpret selected cuneiform texts, principally those bearing upon the Old Testament.

THE idea that ministers are a too highly-paid class is not believed by every body. In a recent case in the South of Scotland where a minister had to appear before the Bankruptcy Court for examination it came out in evidence that the stipend was at first \$500, which was afterward raised to \$750 and a house. The vestry had reduced it again to \$500 when they heard he was in pecuniary difficulties. The sheriff said that this was the funniest course of proceeding he ever heard of. The stipends of the clergy of all denominations, as a rule, were a scandal to the community. People should not establish churches, and ask gentlemen to take the post on such wretched pittance as they gave them.

WHATEVER virtues French-Canadians may possess, they certainly lack that of toleration. They cannot patiently bear with those who differ from them in religious belief. Whenever Father Chiniquy lectures in the Province of Quebec he is sure to be met with strong opposition, if not with personal violence. The latest instance of intolerance has occurred at Quebec. The contingent of the Salvation Army that opened services there a short time since has been subjected to mob menace. The civic authorities have endeavoured to maintain order, but with indifferent success. The suppression by force of distasteful opinions is always a sign of weakness. Persecution never was, and never can be, the friend of Truth.

THE *Christian Leader* remarks: Dr. Thain Davidson mentions the case of a certain popular actor who made it generally known, some years ago, that he was to conduct the drama as a Christian man could do; but he has long since found it to be impossible, and has thrown all his pious profession to the winds. With this Dr. Davidson brackets the well-known case in which the proprietors of a certain theatre resolved to take out no license for selling intoxicants, and to allow no female unaccompanied by a gentleman to be admitted. What was the result? The experi-

ment proved an utter failure, the manager stating that, under such conditions, a theatre would not have an audience, even though the admission were free!

SUCCESSFUL efforts have been made to provide high-class musical entertainments for the people of Toronto. The growing appreciation of the tasteful and classic works of the most eminent composers indicates progress in the cultivation of this one of the finest of the fine arts. This season, under the management of the Chamber Music Association, composed of responsible citizens, a series of concerts is to be held; the services of the instrumental quartette, who so largely contributed to the success of last season's Monday Popular Concerts, have been secured. The first concert of the series, which took place last week, gives promise of a most enjoyable season of refining entertainments. Selections from the works of Beethoven, Haydn and Bennett were rendered with excellent effect. Miss Anna Howden's vocal efforts were warmly appreciated, and the Orpheus Vocal Quartette created a most favourable impression. The next concert will be held on December 6.

THE Rev. H. G. Parker, Professor of Elocution at Queen's University, now on a trip around the world, writes from Sydney, Australia: Since I bid you adieu I have touched at many a port, and greeted many a one whose language was not the same as mine nor face of the Saxon type. I have tasted the hospitality of a Mexican senor, eaten bear with the miners of the Sierra Nevadas, dined on stewed dog and live shrimps and poi with the good-natured King of the Kanakas. I have traded hats with a missionary in the Samoan Islands, escaped the great eruption of the volcano in New Zealand, been chased by the black men in North Australia, and broken bread with the Governor of New South Wales, Lord Carrington, at a kangaroo hut in the green tree plains. I have worn the silken garb of the Japanese, bought *bric-a-brac* of the insinuating Mongolian, and preached to 200 mariners aboard a man-of-war in the Pacific Ocean, and here I am in Sydney ready to start out again as soon as I can to visit the mystic shrines of India and perhaps kneel on Mount Olivet, and look upon the folded eyes of the Sphinx. But seeing much or little, I do not know of a better place to live than in Canada.

IN describing the exhibit of the Ontario Educational Department at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, the *Canadian Gazette* says: "Education is the glory of Canada." This is the motto placed above the entry to the Canadian educational exhibits, and no visitor can inspect the exhibits without feeling that the motto is far from a mere idle boast. Every one knows how important a part education plays in the public life of the Dominion, and in no Province is this more the case than in Ontario. Ontario's system of public instruction is indeed remarkable as a combination of the best elements of the systems of several countries. From New York some leading ideas as to the machinery of the schools have been obtained; from Germany the system of Normal School training; from Ireland originally came the principle upon which the series of text-books is based; and from Massachusetts the system of local taxation upon which the schools are supported. Thus gathering here a little and there a little, Ontario has succeeded in building up a system which, combining what is best in the leading methods of the old and new worlds, is admirably suited to the exact needs of the country.

REFERRING to the death of the famous Scottish minstrel, the *Christian Leader* says: Many will mourn the loss of a friend when they read that David Kennedy, the Scottish vocalist, is no more. The sad news came last week by cable from Canada, where he, with Mrs. Kennedy and four daughters, were making their farewell tour. He was looking forward to a few years of retirement after a busy life, during which he had visited every land to which his country-

men have emigrated. In March last we published a sketch of his life under the title of "An Apostle of Scottish Patriotism," giving some idea also of the welcome he received at St. James' Hall from the London Scottish people who flocked to hear him. Well did he deserve their praise. His entertainments were treats of the highest order, and we had his personal testimony that he never opened a concert without lifting up his heart to God, asking for help and guidance in the conduct of it. His choice of his profession was made by answer to prayer. While he was yet carrying on his trade in Perth he sought guidance on the matter, and the very place where he prayed and where he received the message "Thou shalt sing," he was able to point out. Our tribute of sympathy to the widow and children will be shared in by many to whom their public and private life has endeared them.

A MEETING of the Celtic Society was held lately in the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The Rev. Dr. McNish, Professor of Gaelic Literature, presided. A paper, entitled, "Are the Celts of Cimmerian Origin?" by Rev. A. McLean Sinclair, of Springfield, N. S., was read by the secretary, and elicited much discussion, in which the Rev. Professors Campbell and Coussirat, and Mr. Greig, sen., took part. It was resolved to publish a volume of the transactions of the society. One corresponding member, four life and eight ordinary members were elected. Mr. Mackie, a member of the Celtic Society, of Glasgow, Scotland, gave an account of the work done by that society. He stated that their society numbered 4,000 members, its object being not only the cultivation of the language and literature of the Celt, but also their national characteristics, such as games, music, dances, etc. The Rev. Robert Campbell mentioned that this was done here by the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Societies. Mr. Archibald McKillop, the blind bard of the society, recited an original poem, composed specially for the opening meeting of this session, in which he eulogized the president of the society, Dr. McNish. He also sang a song, another of his own compositions, entitled, "O, Canada, fair Canada;" both pieces being well received. The treasurer of the society acknowledged the receipt of a cheque for \$50 to the funds of the society, from Mr. Mackie, of the Celtic Society of Glasgow, which was accompanied by a letter expressing his pleasure and gratification with the proceedings of this meeting.

MANY people were under the impression that prohibition was actually in force in the North-West Territories. The following, which appears in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, will dispel the illusion: The receipts and expenditures of the general revenue fund of the North-West Territories from Nov. 1, 1885, to Aug 31, 1886, as laid on the table of the North-West Council, show a total revenue from sixteen sources of \$6,487,711, of which \$3,074,750 or nearly one-half, is derived from the sale of liquor permits. The figures show the extent to which the permit system has grown in the Territories. At the same time they prove that the so-called prohibitive legislation in the North-West has become a huge farce. Not only has prohibition become a dead-letter in the Territories, but the permit system leads to consequences of the worst kind. Practically every one who will pay for his permit becomes an individual importer, and large quantities of liquor—instead of being collected in public bars, where they are dispensed under popular criticism—are secreted in houses, stores, shacks and private rooms, where they are consumed in seclusion. The evils of the bar-room are thus repeated in hundreds of localities, and often in an exaggerated form. Any good which arises from the placing of bars and drinking houses under public inspection is absolutely lost. On all hands it must be conceded that the present wrongful legislation is worse than a farce. That there is no real prohibition in a territory which derives half its revenue from the sale of liquor permits cannot be questioned. The *Regina Leader* also says: The clause in the Act which throws the burden on the Lieut.-Governor of the day, of issuing permits, is conducive of anything but temperance.