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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

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## Notes of the Week.

THE law prohibiting Sunday labour recently passed by the Austro-Hungarian Reichstag has, it is said, been productive of most excellent results. It forbids all but necessary work on the Lord's Day, and, since its enforcement, the churches have all been better attended, and the day generally observed as a day of rest. The Monday editions of the Vienna papers are now no longer published, as the work on these was formerly done on Sunday.

THE authorities of the Toronto Woman's Medical College have just issued the announcement that the third session of this important and useful institution will be opened on the 1st day of October. The effort to provide a thorough training for ladies who desire to study medicine has met with encouraging success. The number and standing of the lecturers afford evidence that the promoters of this advanced educational movement have been singularly fortunate.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the landing of missionaries in Fiji occurs on October 11. In celebration of the event an illustrated Bible has been prepared and sent out to the people. The returns from the islands for the past year are as follow: Chapels and preaching places, 1,236; missionaries, eleven; native ministers, fifty-five; catechists, forty; teachers, 1,058; local preachers, 1,785; communicants, 26,839; on trial, 4,659; Sabbath school scholars, 42,651.

A CONTEMPORARY states that the last survivor of the first band of Christian pioneers who carried the Gospel to Madagascar is dead. This was Mrs. Baker, who died at Hillside, New South Wales, on the 9th of June. Her husband, Rev. Edward Baker, as we have already recorded, died on the 15th of March last, leaving his aged and bed-ridden widow looking forward to a happy reunion in heaven. We now learn that she had not long to wait. Mr. Baker was the author of the first Malagasy grammar, and he also translated the "Pilgrim's Progress" into the language of Madagascar. His wife was a noble-hearted helpmate in a work which perhaps transcends in interest any chapter in the modern history of the Christian Church.

INDICATIONS of union between the Waldensian and Free Italian Churches are very cheering. A correspondent writing to a contemporary is of opinion that the consummation of such a union is quite a certainty. The Waldensian Synod, which meets this month, and the Free Church Assembly, which meets next month, are expected to approve the articles of union, and the two Moderators to summon a united gathering in March next for the fusion of the two Churches under the name, outside of the Waldensian valleys, of the "Evangelical Church of Italy." On that occasion deputies will probably be appointed to all the synods and assemblies of the Christian Churches, to tell the tidings of the union of the two native Churches of Italy.

THE Church of Scotland Presbyteries of Inverness, Banff, Buchan and Aberdeen are to hold a conference in Aberdeen on 26th and 27th October. Besides the representatives of each session, a manager and a Sabbath school teacher are invited from each congregation, so that the conference may be thoroughly repre-

sentative. Each presbytery is to select its own subjects—such as are of vital and practical interest in connection with spiritual life and work in the various districts; and it is hoped that the hearty interchange of opinion will help Christian workers in their difficulties, suggest methods and organizations fitted to promote congregational prosperity, and generally strengthen and encourage the Church in the Northern Counties.

RIEL'S confidence in escaping the dread penalty of the law seems not to have been misplaced. A respite for a month has been granted him, pending an appeal to the Privy Council in England. Whatever may be the result of that appeal, it is inferred that the leader of the Half-breed insurrection will not be called upon this time to expiate his crime on the scaffold. There is no vindictive cry for his execution, but there is a strong feeling that there ought to be some adequate punishment for those who unfurl the standard of rebellion and directly cause a needless and grievous expenditure of life, and add to the burdens of taxation. Had Riel been dealt with more firmly after the suppression of his first insurrection he would not have been so willing to head a second.

IT is a commendable thing to see the young men of Canada take an active interest in public affairs. The convention of Young Liberals in Toronto showed that the various political issues, both speculative and practical, have occupied their attention. As might have been expected, the former afforded scope for keen debate and considerably divergent opinions. It was remarked that the debating power was of a high order. There were pronounced differences of opinion on some points; but it is evident that there was a distinctively Canadian sentiment common to all, auguring well for the growth of a true patriotism. Much may be expected from the efforts of the young politicians in devoting their energies and enthusiasm to the purification of public life and the advocacy of such measures as are best calculated for advancing the welfare of the whole people.

THOUGH Mr. Gladstone has long been reticent on great questions now at issue before the British electorate, he has spoken out on the Scottish Church Disestablishment question. The two sections of the Liberal Party and the country generally are awaiting some utterances of the great leader on the issues of the approaching campaign, but on the position of the Scottish Church Mr. Gladstone has in substance repeated the opinion expressed by him a few years since. He virtually says it is a matter for decision by the Scottish people themselves. In this opinion Lord Roseberry coincides. The Conservative leaders have placed themselves on record as being opposed to Disestablishment both in Scotland and England. It is certain that in the former country the discussion of the Disestablishment question will be a prominent feature of the coming parliamentary contest.

EXHIBITION week in Toronto has been taken advantage of as a suitable time for the holding of conventions. The Ontario Branch of the Dominion Prohibition Alliance had a two days' convention for the discussion of what should be done by the friends of Temperance. The Young Liberals of the Province also had a two days' session, formulating resolutions on the political questions of the day. The Salvation Army held a grand muster during the week, with street parades, the laying of a corner-stone for the Barracks now in course of erection, an all-night prayer meeting and a vigorous Scott Act demonstration. Whatever may be thought of the Army's methods of procedure and its peculiar organization, it has unquestionably been the means of reaching and rescuing many who have not as yet been reached by more decorous agencies. If serious fault be found with some things connected with this modern crusade, it is but just that the good it has done should be recognized.

IN the Editor's Note Book of the *Christian Leader* is the following jotting: The woes of the Old Testament

revisers are now coming to light. They had to suffer much from the gratuitous advices of candid friends and the pet hobbies of men with limited ideas. They received hundreds of letters from people they were unacquainted with, and had no special desire to know better. One of these—a minister—had so many suggestions to make that it took a hundred pages of closely-written manuscript to embody them all. Pleas, eloquent and otherwise, were made against changes in particular verses. The nature of some of these may be judged from the letter of a lady correspondent, who begged that a verse in Proverbs might be left untouched, because it had been "a favourite with both of my dear husbands, who are now dead." It is to be hoped the revisers were far enough advanced in their work to have caught and practised the lessons of Job's life before their patience was taxed by senseless and impertinent correspondents.

ONE of our ministers now travelling in Europe has favoured us with a specimen of a Sunday paper published at Lyons. The leading editorial, signed by the writer, contains a passage of which the subjoined is a translation: We know the habits of perfidy, cruelty, falsehood and hypocrisy of the British nation. We have seen them violate the right of nations and assassinate Napoleon I. at St. Helena. We have seen Napoleon III. dying at Chislehurst, assassinated by English physicians to whom, in the circumstances, as is probable, was confided an important political mission which they accomplished. We have not forgotten the Prince Imperial, who was sent by the English to Zululand, and while surrounded by these savages, abandoned by his companions, who were unpunished for their cowardice, a proof that the cowardice was a part of their instructions—and much more in the same vein. Is it wonderful that French and English do not understand each other? French editors, it would appear, are adepts at "making history."

THE Salt Lake correspondent of a contemporary writes: About a dozen stalwart Saints languish for "religion's" sake in the Utah "Pen," and more than as many in the prisons of Arizona and Idaho. And this number of Latter Day law-breakers is likely to be largely increased ere long. For a score or two additional are already under indictment, and the September term of three district courts will soon open, when all such must stand trial. Some test cases of great interest are to come on. A number of prominent business men will be called upon to plead, men who have no fanaticism, and who are personally sick of polygamy. The question is—Will they break with the church, following their own reason and judgment, or will they go to prison? For it is an open secret that for weeks they and others have been endeavouring to persuade "President" Taylor that it is wise and even necessary for the Mormon Church to yield, and the final and fixed reply has come (from heaven) that submission is not possible, and that it is better far to suffer a tyrannical and wicked government to grind polygamy to powder!

FROM a recent number of the *New Zealand Presbyterian* the following facts relating to the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand are gleaned: There are eight presbyteries, 101 churches, seventy-four ministers in charge, 224 elders, 821 managers, 6,298 communicants, 127 Sabbath schools, 1,039 teachers, 1,238 Bible scholars. The Church has ninety-nine preaching places, with an attendance of 2,699. There are several vacancies, some of which are supplied by evangelists or student evangelists. For the Schemes of the Church \$4,340 were contributed; for congregational objects, \$112,570; the Sabbath schools raised for missionary and other purposes \$3,545; for acquiring church property, improving it, or clearing off debt, \$36,085; for miscellaneous objects, \$8,125—total, \$159,170. Only twenty-seven mansees are reported. The number of communicants is not in proportion to the attendance at the churches and stations, which is 16,237. We notice with pleasure that there are twenty-five ministers who receive stipends ranging from \$1,250 to \$3,000, and with regret that there are not a few who are inadequately paid.