

THE PRESBYTERIAN

Toronto, Friday, November 30th, 1877.

TORONTO ENGRAVING CO.

Vol. 1.—No. 5. (New Series).
Whole No. 304.

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\$2.00 per Annum, in advance.
Single Copies, Five Cents.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
NOTES OF THE WEEK	65
OUR CONTRIBUTORS—	
Our Vacancies—Intelligence of Female Missions—The Supreme Court—Mission Work on the C. P. Railway	66
Notes from Kingston	68
Charge to the Minister—Presbyterian College, Montreal	69
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	70
SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL	70
ADVERTISEMENTS	71
EDITORIALS—	
A New Phase of Foreign Missions—Our Colleges	72
Principal Grant—What is Probationers' Work—The Staff of Life	73
Professor Smith's Case	74
MINISTERS AND CHURCHES	76
WORDS OF THE WISE	76
SABRATH SCHOOL TEACHER	77
OUR YOUNG FOLKS	78
ADVERTISEMENTS	79, 80

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

DR. COCHRANE begs to acknowledge receipt of five dollars from "a Presbyterian" in Oakville for the Home Mission Fund.

In another portion of this issue we make room for the full text of the libel recently submitted to the Aberdeen Free Presbytery in Prof. Robertson Smith's case.

REV. JOSEPH COOK has been lecturing in Rochester, where he created a great furore of excitement. He is also engaged to lecture in New York. Mr. Cook as a preacher is a specialist, and it is interesting to observe how the field is opening before him. It would pay for some one to bring the distinguished lecturer to Toronto, and we would at the same time have the benefit of his grandly orthodox, yet bold and independent disquisitions.

WM. B. MUCKLOW, New York, will publish immediately after the holidays an important new work by Rev. Dr. Deems (editor of the "Sunday Magazine"), entitled "Weights and Wings, and other Things." The same publisher announces for issue on December 1st, "Marks and Faces; or an Appeal for Fidelity in Friendship," by S. H. Tyng, Jr. D.D., and "Henri; or the Little Savoyard in Paris," by Mrs. Lizzie P. Lewis,—a book for boys.

THE great famine in India may be deemed at an end. The rains have fallen so continuously and plentifully that from every part of the country there are accounts of brightening prospects and falling prices. The Duke of Buckingham, Governor of Madras, has telegraphed to the Lord Mayor of London that all further collections toward the relief fund may now cease. The relief committee will continue the work of distribution for some months longer, but they have now ample funds at their command. The British Government and British people have responded nobly to the call made upon them, and surely the natives of India will in future have more confidence in the goodwill of Britain than they have had in the past.

At the Ministerial Association, Philadelphia, on Monday week, Drs. Beadle and Blackwood gave very interesting accounts of the Presbyterian Council held in Edinburgh, and of which they were members. They were aglow with enthusiasm. We observe that the Rev. Dr. Robb of this city gave an instructive lecture to his own people on the subject. Would it not be the proper thing for Dr. Robb to be requested to re-deliver this lecture? It is a splendid theme, and in such hands cannot fail to be inter-

esting and instructive. We should like to hear a description of the leading personages who took part in the proceedings, and also of the scenes which took place consequent upon the council in the grand ancient metropolis of Scotland.

It would be hardly possible, perhaps, for any man in the short space of two months to have become more odiously unpopular than Ibrahim Pacha, the Sultan's brother-in-law. While governor of Philippopolis the streets of the town were never free from the terrible spectacle of hanged Bulgarians, and the most striking thing that could be said upon his being called to resign his position, and to quit the scene of his wholesale executions, was that the hanging of Bulgarians had ceased. In one street alone two hundred and fifty "insurgents" might have been seen hanging, to say nothing of those who had met with a similar fate in the surrounding district. Amongst the batches of wretched, frightened-looking Bulgarians constantly to be seen huddled through the streets heavily chained round the neck were many old men whose appearance was enough to excite the compassion of any but—a Turk. These were the daily spectacles during the short reign of Ibrahim Pacha, and it is not surprising to hear it now said that, whatever the new Governor may prove, he cannot be worse, and, it is hoped, may be better, than Ibrahim Pacha.

THE capital of Turkish Armenia may now be said to have passed into the power of the Russians. This success has been so remarkable that there has been some hesitation in saying that a victory has been gained which will probably conclude the campaign; but official information is all that is wanting to confirm the statement that Erzeroum has fallen. The latest intelligence is that Mukhtar Pacha, consulting the interests of his army, has evacuated Erzeroum, and is retreating either to Erzingan, on the road to Constantinople, or to Trebizond, on the coast of the Black Sea. No one a few weeks ago would have been bold enough to predict that thus early Erzeroum would be occupied by the Russians, and this campaign, whatever the future may bring forth, will stand out as a conspicuous example of the vicissitudes of war. All that has happened since the middle of last month has been, strictly speaking, no battle; but a long pursuit over a line of about one hundred and forty miles. In the battle of the 15th October, the army of Mukhtar Pacha was destroyed. This formed the second turning-point of the campaign, and led on to that stage of it which has resulted in Erzeroum being taken by the Russians.

PROFESSOR LORIMER, of the University of Edinburgh, in opening his class a few weeks ago, treated his students to a lecture on "The Politics of the Koran." The learned Professor of Public Law, in the course of his prelection, furnished an answer to the question, "Does the Koran supply an ethical basis on which a political superstructure can be raised?" In thus lecturing to the times he largely contributed to the right comprehension of the great Eastern Question, which is at present submitted to the dread arbitrament of war. By the study of the Koran, and the recent history of Turkey, he has satisfied himself in regard to the true character of the Turks as politicians and belligerents. He maintains that the Koran sanctions, and even enjoins the slaughter of infidel prisoners taken in battle; and that the Turks at this moment are neither able nor willing to observe the laws of

civilized warfare. The impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of the Bulgarian butcheries, and the rewards bestowed on them, were in strict accordance, says the Professor, with the code of religion and morals acknowledged by the Turkish Government. Regard for the life and property of the infidel is of no consideration in the mind of a true Turk, who has one law for himself, and another for those who have not embraced Mohammedanism. Mercy is an attribute only nominally ascribed to Allah by his followers. Their reading of his character, and the worship they pay to him, only lead to fanatical hatred and fierce intolerance. Instead of doing to others outside of Islamism what they would wish others to do to them, they reverse that golden rule, and whenever they have the power they trample remorselessly under their feet all who differ from them in blood and religion. In so acting they only obey the maxims of Mahomet, and illustrate the teachings of the Koran. Thus the Turks are bloody and intolerant on system; and if in war or politics they ever deviate into the paths of mercy and humanity, they only contradict those religious principles which usually regulate their practice.

THE opening address of the Free Church College, Glasgow, on the 7th inst., was by Principal Douglas. Referring to Professor Smith's case, Dr. Douglas remarked that while they knew and readily acknowledged that the working of every system was imperfect and unsatisfying, owing to the weakness and folly and wickedness of man, they yet believed that they had the best system for dealing with such cases in their Presbyterian Church government that the principles from which they started in dealing with this case must be the principles of the Church to which they belonged, and to which they professed to be loyal; that in handling the case they should be occupied with some questions of interpretation, and with views to which Professor Smith had given utterance regarding the Word of God. But there was also another class of subjects to which attention must be given—viz., subjects more or less connected with the human side of the authorship of the Scriptures. These questions might sometimes have more immediate reference to contents of the Scripture, viewed in their own essential character, and therefore falling most properly within the range of topics which the systematic divine had to consider, or they might rather have reference to the dates of composition of the several books, and the human author or authors to whom much of them was to be assigned—matters which readily associated themselves with those which the interpreter was called to take up. There seemed to him many evidences of an inclination at present to look very narrowly, and to draw conclusions on many points that were unfamiliar to the members of the Church in general. In the interests of truth, for the honor of God's Word, and for the sake of freedom in all original scrutiny of its contents, he did not for a moment ask that this inclination should be suppressed, because he believed that such unconscious longings and tendencies might correspond to real wants, which God in His goodness was ready to meet; but he did plead for that reverence and modesty, that human forbearance which the circumstances of the case seemed to demand. He cherished no fears of those whose dogmatic faith was strong and steady. His only anxiety was lest a rigid dealing with them in critical questions, with the good intention of keeping them the steadier, might be the very means of moving them away from their right position.