

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 18

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3rd, 1889.

No. 14.

Notes of the Week.

THREE of the Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland have overtured the General Assembly, which meets in May, concerning the Confession of Faith. Aberdeen Presbytery voted unanimously in favour of having the General Assembly provide for a revision of the Confession. A similar motion was carried in Edinburgh Presbytery by a small majority; and in Glasgow Presbytery by a large majority.

MAJOR MCGIBBON, of the Indian Department, in the North West, furnishes excellent reports respecting the nation's wards. The Indians are making good progress in farming and appear to like it better every year. They never were in a better state than now. They begin to realize the advantages and benefits of education and are desirous their children should attend schools. At the Qu'Appelle Industrial school there are 150 pupils.

THE Montreal *Witness* says: The insolent assumption which inflates a few French newspapers with regard to the Jesuit plunder Bill would, if translated into English and spread among the people, awake a dangerous condition of feeling. One thing seems evident: namely, that if the two political parties are forced, through fear of their French contingents, to condone this Papal outrage in Parliament they are signing the death warrant of Confederation and confessing that while it lasts the Pope is its ruler.

THE Rev. Dr. Castle who has for some years been principal of McMaster Hall has resigned the office on account of ill health. Dr. Castle in his public life has shown himself to be a man of wide and catholic sympathies, always ready to take his share in the advancement of every good word and work. He will carry with him into his retirement, the good will and kindly sympathies of many besides those with whom he was most closely associated in church life and work. Professor D. A. McGregor has been appointed to succeed Dr. Castle in the presidency of the Baptist College. It is announced that next fall an Arts Department will be instituted.

THE Sydney *Presbyterian* characterises political elections as a necessary evil, and declares that they form a good education neither for the electors nor the elected. The sooner an election is over, the better for the community. We look, says the *Christian Leader*, for a more virile theory than this in our Australian Colonies. If politics are indeed so degraded and degrading in New South Wales, it does not say much for the Christian Church in that Colony. It is this effeminate style of talk that estranges many an ingenuous soul from the Churches. What authority has our Sydney friend for the notion that the Christian citizen is not at liberty to take part in the conduct of public affairs?

THE *Presbyterian Messenger* says: Canon Ainger, of Bristol, has dodged Bishop Harrison, of Glasgow. The Scottish prelate lately prevented Canon Wilberforce from preaching in the Cathedral (which, strange as it may sound to ears Episcopal, belongs to the Presbyterian Church of Scotland), because by such an act he would give countenance to a body of heretics, outside the pale of the one true and only Church. Canon Ainger, however, instead of laying the lesson to heart in all due meekness and submissiveness of spirit, has actually lifted up his voice in the University Chapel, thus bringing himself into association with such stiffnecked and perverse offenders as Principal Caird and Professor Story. Bishop Harrison is doubtless vexing his righteous soul at such an evil deed, unless he has discovered that the Canon was lawfully engaged in missioning the ungodly in an unconsecrated place.

TERRIBLE and startling crimes break out in the most unsuspected quarters. Who would have thought that the quiet and orderly little city of Guelph would become the scene of one of the most appalling tragedies that has ever occurred in Ontario? Yet in that picturesque city on the banks of the Speed, the home of what had been supposed a happy family was in a moment a literal chamber of horrors.

A mother and her two daughters were suddenly struck down, it is charged, by the murderous hand of the husband and father. He had been accused of embezzlement, having been in a position of trust. A man with a good reputation and having received an excellent education he was highly respected in the community that has been startled by his crime. He was also actively interested in church work. The psychological mystery of the crime may be elucidated at the trial of the unhappy man over whom the awful charge impends.

ONE of the ablest and most upright of English political leaders of the people has passed beyond the strife of tongues and the conflict of parties. John Bright made his mark in early life. He entered on a public career because he was in downright earnest. He did not follow a course of action because it promised to be a successful policy. Whatever course he upheld and whatever he eloquently condemned was invariably adopted as a matter of deep and intelligent conviction. For a number of years he was the object of unstinted vituperation and other amenities with which earnest public men are sometimes favoured, but for years past few names were more highly honoured than was that of the great modern Tribune of the People. He has passed peacefully and painlessly away after a severe and protracted illness, and all England mourns his loss. He has left a noble legacy behind him—one more example that a good and upright man can be an honest politician and achieve honour and distinction by disdaining the wiles and trickery of the opportunists so plentiful in these days.

IN the American Church a question that is beginning to be mooted in Canada is pressing for solution. A contemporary says: There has been for several years a very considerable difference of opinion in the Woman's Board of Missions, a virtual auxiliary of the American Board, as to whether the local organizations could be allowed to do any work for other than Foreign Missions. The Central Management in Boston has been very strenuous in claiming that the Constitution and the interests of the Woman's Board forbid any alliance in other work. But a number of the local societies in churches, especially in the Philadelphia Branch, find it more convenient to do both their home and foreign missionary work in the same organization, but were rebuked therefore by the Boston officers. The Board, in its annual meeting of delegates, has always supported the home office until this year, when the matter was fully discussed, and a committee was appointed, composed of representatives from every Branch and from the Executive Committee of the Board, to consider the subject for a year and report at the next annual meeting.

IN a contemporary we find the following: Mr. R. M. Ballantyne, author of so many excellent boys' books—all of a manly, vigorous and healthy moral character—has just been subjected in his quiet home at Harrow, to the scrutiny of the ubiquitous newspaper interviewer. Mr. Ballantyne, who is described as a stalwart Scotsman, with a singularly handsome face and a very winning manner, was asked if he advisedly gave a religious tone to his books. "Yes, decidedly," he replied. "I hate cant, but I feel very strongly on this point. My aim in writing from the beginning of my career (and my first book I wrote for my mother's amusement, and then never dreamed of taking it up as a profession) has been to work in the spirit of the text, 'In all thy ways acknowledge Him.' Friends and reviewers have sometimes charged me with 'over-doing religion' in my books, and being 'goody-goody.' It may be so, but I can only say I would rather err in that way than give forth an uncertain sound in the midst of a world where multitudes refuse to recognize that whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we are bound as well as privileged to do all to the glory of God; and I feel my responsibility as an instructor of young boys very keenly. I do not think one can be too particular how one writes for them."

THE Countess of Aberdeen presided at a great meeting in Bradford, attended by fully 5,000 people, and also delivered addresses in Glasgow and Edinburgh at the inaugural meetings of Women's Liberal

Associations, which have been instituted in these cities. Lord Elgin presided at Glasgow, and Mr. Charles J. Guthrie in Edinburgh, and never perhaps, says a contemporary, has the duty of woman in respect to political life been so powerfully and persuasively urged as in the addresses of Lady Aberdeen. She is well aware that the movement will pain and grieve many good men and women, who cannot bear the idea of any woman for whom they have any regard being mixed up with politics. Nor does she deny that their objections point to a possible danger. But she most effectively showed that these proceed, on the one hand from a partial ideal of what a woman's life should be, and on the other from a low estimate of politics. In a strain of the purest eloquence Lady Aberdeen enforced both of these points and the work which she inaugurated is likely to have far-reaching, and, we firmly believe, beneficial, consequences both for woman and for politics. The latter need to be purified by the element which woman will supply; and no woman will ever become less womanly by realising the fact that she also, as well as her husband, may perfect her life in the service of humanity.

ON the death of Mr. Mackay, the parish minister of Poolewe, in the end of December, a petition was presented to Lochcarron Presbytery asking them to proceed to the settlement of the assistant, Mr. Cameron. As under the Abolition of Patronage Act any parishioner may sign a call, about 500 Free Churchmen were got to do so. Thereupon Mr. Dingwall, pastor of the Free Church, intimated from the pulpit that such signatories could no longer be acknowledged as belonging to his church; and as the result of this they sent a letter to the Established Presbytery withdrawing their signatures. Mr. Osgood Mackenzie, of Inverawe, a heritor in the parish and a member of the Free Church, wrote to the papers defending his action in bringing about the settlement of Mr. Cameron, and lately a meeting of the Free Church congregation was held at which the action of those who solicited the names of Free Churchmen to the call was condemned as an unwarrantable interference with the Free Church congregation, and calculated to create the belief that the Established Church had something of a congregation in the district. Mr. Mackenzie's conduct was specially condemned, and Mr. Dingwall's defended. It is reported that Mr. Mackenzie has been cited to appear before the Free kirk-session; if so, the case will probably reach the Assembly.

THE United Presbyterian Presbytery, of Edinburgh, recently considered an overture on the tenure of the pastorate. The Moderator stated that the overture was to the effect that power be given to Presbyteries to loose a minister from his charge where a change was thought to be necessary in the interests of the congregation. The clerk intimated that seventeen returns had been received, of which sixteen approved generally and one disapproved. Dr. Mair said that he was prepared to move that they approve generally of the overture. He thought they might very safely do that, and it did not commit them to details. He did not think in taking that step they would be doing anything wrong or introducing anything that was dangerous to the Church, and he did not believe that it would be in any way dangerous to them as ministers. The ministers existed for the Church, and if the Presbytery were convinced that ruin was being done to a cause through a minister's want of adaptation, he thought it was perfectly right that they should have the power of removing him. If the overture were adopted it would keep up the moral status of the Church. Mr. Alexander, elder, seconded. Mr. Carr moved: "That the present rules provide sufficiently, when faithfully exercised, for dealing with the evils the overture is intended to meet." Mr. J. Stevenson, Leith, seconded. Mr. James Primrose said that he did not know a single case in the United Presbyterian Church where the overture would be applied, but he believed that the best way of preventing such cases arising was to pass the overture. On a vote, Dr. Mair's motion was carried by eighteen to nine. On the motion of Mr. Carr, it was agreed to place office-bearers and members under the scope of the overture; and on the motion of Dr. Mair it was agreed to insert in the overture all salaried officers and those holding ministerial status.