

THE PRESBYTERIAN

Vol. 2.—No. 1. (New Series).
Whole No. 352.

Toronto, Friday, November 1st, 1878.

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

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CANON FARRAR denies that he was photographed in the attitude of prayer. "To those who know me," he says, "I need hardly say that I should regard such conduct as inexcusably foolish and disgracefully profane."

RECENT investigations show that more money is paid for beer in almost every large city in the United States than for bread. In New York, competent authorities set down the amount as not far from \$30,000,000 per annum.

AUSTRIA is a nominally Christian country, and yet a permit must be obtained when religious service is held in the Congregational Church at Prague. More than this—a police commissioner must be present at each service, and his fee of \$1.12 paid.

AN attempt was made upon the life of Alfonso, King of Spain, a few days ago. A pistol was fired at him in the street while on his way to the palace, but he was not touched. The would-be assassin is named Juan Moncasi. He states that he is a member of the International Society and that his crime was premeditated.

THE "Canadian Independent" is to be issued as a weekly journal on and after the 1st January next. The specimen number, just published, is a very handsome eight-paged paper, bearing evidence of careful editing. Such a paper cannot fail to be a valuable aid to our Congregational brethren in all their church work; and we wish the new venture a prosperous future.

BISMARCK has finally succeeded in passing his bill to suppress Socialism, after accepting some vital modifications, the final vote standing 221 to 149. Its operation is to cease after March 31, 1881. Bismarck's success in securing the support of the Liberals to this sweeping measure is regarded as almost unparalleled by anything previously accomplished by him in political diplomacy.

It is reported that five noble and wealthy English girls are about to take the veil, all having considerable fortunes in their own rights. They are Lady Edith Noel, daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough; the Hon. Constance Howard, sister of the Marchioness of Bute; two daughters of the Hon. Maxwell Stuart, of Traquah, Peebleshire, and the youngest daughter of Mr. Blount, of Mapledurham.

If any credit can be accorded to a recent despatch from Vienna, Russia's military preparations are so

vast that nobody can doubt that she is bent upon further conquest. It is even doubtful whether the severity of winter will induce her to delay her attacks upon Turkey till spring. Russian agents are said to be at work in the northern principalities of the Turkish empire, endeavouring to induce action which will inevitably lead to results calling for Russian interference.

THE article headed "Stanley's Book" which we copied into the PRESBYTERIAN last week from "Harper's Monthly," refers of course to the *bona fide* edition of this fascinating work as published by Mr. J. B. MAGURN, of this city. A statement of this kind would not be necessary under ordinary circumstances; but in this case it is quite requisite, as the publisher of a spurious edition is making use of the reviews in Canadian papers of the genuine book to promote the sale of the rival edition.

DESPATCHES from St. Petersburg indicate that if Great Britain prosecutes the war in Afghanistan Russia will certainly interfere. The British force now on the route is very strong. The Peshawur column number 16,000 men, with sixty-six guns; the Koorum column 6,000 men with twenty-four guns; and the Quetta column 12,000 men with sixty guns, besides a strong siege train. One-third of the troops are Europeans. It is stated that Persia will observe strict neutrality.

AT a missionary meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton, Bermuda, on Sept. 11th, the Rev. James Cameron of Chatsworth, then on a visit to the island, gave an address on "The Work of the Presbyterian Church of the Dominion." The departments of Church work of which he spoke were: Sustentation of the Ministry, Home Mission Work, French Evangelization, and Foreign Missions. At the close of the meeting a collection amounting to £6 12s. was taken up for the Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

SPEAKING of Augustine, the great Latin father, Dr. Sædd says that "no intellect outside of the circle of inspiration has, on the whole, influenced the human mind so greatly as the North African father." We notice that Dr. J. F. Garrison, of Camden, N.J., in an article lately published, contends that the presence in the symbols of the English Church of the doctrines usually attributed to Calvin is due to the "direct influence of Augustine." And yet we find Presbyterians—not many to be sure—who hold Augustine unworthy to even have a church named after him.

It is stated that the new method of instruction pursued in the Boston primary schools does away with the formal study of grammar; lessons in composition, the use of capitals, letter writing, and the arrangement of sentences, taking its place. This is not doing away with the study of Grammar, formal or informal; it is only substituting the synthetic and inductive method for the analytic and deductive, and has been the system followed by the best teachers here and in Britain for many years; but along with this course it has been found beneficial to have grammar rules committed to memory.

ONE of the great questions to be solved in the near future is, Which shall have the greater part of Asia—Britain or Russia? It is no secret that for the last

fifty years Russia has had an eye to India; and however hopeless the prospect of such an acquisition may now be, she still endeavours to obtain possession of as much as possible of the great eastern continent. Every movement of Britain towards the north from India is regarded with the utmost jealousy by Russia, and *vice versa*. The "Eastern Question" extends much farther east than is generally supposed. It reaches from the Balkan mountains to the easternmost spur of the Hymalayas. And it cannot easily be settled but by a decisive trial of strength between the two greatest powers now in the world, Britain and Russia.

AS so much of Principal Grant's time has been spent during the summer in working up the endowment of the University, the Trustees have arranged that he is to be aided in his work during the coming session by several well-known ministers of the Church who have been requested to give courses of lectures on the subjects to which they have devoted special attention for many years. The Rev. George Bell, LL.D., is to give a course in the month of November on the present relations of science and religion. The Rev. K. Jardine, D. Sc., late Principal of the Church of Scotland's College, Calcutta, is to be lecturer in December. His subject is Apologetics, with special reference to modern objections—both popular and scientific—to Christianity. Dr. Jardine's long contact with the keen-witted young Hindoos on the Ganges, who eagerly catch up every speculation hostile to Christianity that flourishes on the Thames, well fits him for such a course. Both of these gentlemen are graduates of Queen's College, though Dr. Jardine took his degree of D. Sc. in Edinburgh. Later in the session the Rev. Dr. Kemp lectures on the Principles and Practice of Church Law, and Modes of Ecclesiastical Procedure; and the Rev. John Thompson, of Sarnia, gives a course on Homiletics and Pastoral Theology.

DURING the quarter ending September 30th, the New York police made 20,208 arrests, the proportion of men to women arrested being about two to one. Of the total number arrested 7,172 were married and 13,036 were single; 2,449 could neither read nor write. The ages of those arrested were as follows: Under twenty years, 3,857; between twenty and thirty, 7,285; between thirty and forty, 5,033; between forty and fifty, 2,542; over fifty, 1,491. The nationalities represented were: United States, 9,105; Ireland, 7,404; Germany, 1,949; England, 545; colored (United States), 335; Scotland, 224; Italy, 200; France, 148; British Provinces, 133; Norway and Sweden, 42; Spain and Cuba, 38; Poland, 38; Russia, 17; Switzerland, 14; China, 10; Prussia, 4; Turkey, 1, and Africa 1. Among the occupations of those arrested, 3,884 laborers head the list; there were noticeable 1 politician, 17 dog catchers, 6 clergymen, 26 editors and reporters, 28 lawyers, 15 physicians, 227 printers, 7 telegraphers and 1 sexton; 5,099 had no occupation. There were 4,999 arrests for intoxication. Then in numerical order came disorderly conduct, assault and battery, larceny, vagrancy, burglary, forgery and robbery. There were 19 arrests for homicide. There were 42 suicides reported—3 by poison, 7 by hanging, 12 by shooting, 6 by drowning, 6 by the knife, and 2 from jumping from buildings. There were 36 attempted suicides and 146 sudden deaths; 1,322 lost children were found, 295 persons were found sick and destitute and were taken care of by the police.