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THE PRESBYTERIAN FOR 1883.

IN answer to numerous inquiries, we have to say that the clubbing arrangement for some time in force is not to be continued. We are sorry to have to state that it answered no good purpose. The circulation was not extended, although the price of the paper was reduced ONE FOURTH to clubs of twenty; while the net result was a heavy falling off in the receipts from subscriptions.

The clubbing plan was adopted in deference to a widely expressed wish that THE PRESBYTERIAN should be placed within the reach of our people at \$1 50, in the expectation that the circulation would thus be largely increased. A fair trial of three years has demonstrated that our constituency is satisfied in common with the Methodist, Anglican, and other denominations—to pay \$2 00 for a Church paper.

The price of THE PRESBYTERIAN for 1883 will therefore be \$2, with balance of year free to new subscribers. May we ask all our friends to renew promptly? And, when renewing, will not everyone try and send along the name of at least ONE NEW subscriber? A word to a friend would in nine cases out of ten result in another name for our subscription list; and in view of the benefits which a largely increased circulation would confer on our Church and people, surely the word will be spoken!

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Chicago "Inter-Ocean" : "The parent who encourages the boys and girls to look out for themselves, regardless of others, may be a shrewd adviser, as the world understands it, but it does not pay to raise up a nation of selfish people. The lack of reverence for age on the part of young people these days is a growing evil."

CHIEF JUSTICE SHARWOOD, of Pennsylvania, said, in a speech at a Philadelphia banquet, given in honor of his retirement from the bench :—"Indeed, it may be questioned whether great learning is a desirable quality in a judge. He is apt to wish to display it on all occasions by elaborate and tedious opinions, and delivering charges unintelligible to juries."

NOW that Oscar Wilde has sailed for home, the N. Y. "Graphic" asks :—"What has Mr. Wilde taught us? What is there of him outside of his knee-breeches, his sun-flower and his cracked china? To make an open exhibition of the emotions was once a part of his creed, but his cheek grew so rapidly under American observation that that became a constitutional impossibility. What could he have come for except to make money out of American foolishness, as did the woman who has attracted so much theatrical and smaller attention during the past few weeks?"

POPE LEO XIII. is said to have declared recently to M. De Giers, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, that society was menaced by the enormous increase of infidelity, the spread of agnostic literature, and by the unscrupulous attitude of the chiefs of the revolutionary party, who had insinuated themselves into the favour of the people by making mendacious promises. To meet the terrific consequences of this state of affairs, the Pope said, "there is but one means—the counterbalancing influence of real religion and the union of all persons who believe in the divinity of Christ."

SUICIDE, says a telegram from Berlin, is becoming alarmingly frequent in the Prussian army, "especially among the higher ranks." Without mentioning other recent cases, a young cadet of sixteen is said to have shot himself in the Military College at Lichtersfelde, while at a numerously attended ball at the house of a staff officer in Spandau, a lieutenant suddenly drew a pistol and blew out his brains. Again, it is declared that a Prussian officer who recently went to Paris on

a matrimonial errand, ended his life in the same way, and that deaths from duelling in Germany have also been frequent of late.

THE submission of the question to the citizens of Toronto and Guelph whether they should have free libraries has been answered in both cases with a most decided affirmative. This decision shows how deeply the citizens are interested in the progress of enlightenment. The many benefits direct and indirect derivable from the establishment of free public libraries in all centres of population are so apparent that their enumeration is superfluous. The people of the queen and the royal cities are to be congratulated on this exemplary manifestation of public-spirited enterprise. The example they have set will no doubt be soon and extensively followed by other communities, greatly to their advantage.

THE death is announced of Dr. Adolph Sydow, whose name is probably quite unfamiliar to the present generation, but who made himself not a little notorious in 1843. "When the pietistic Frederick William IV. came to the throne," writes the Berlin correspondent of the "Times," "Sydow and the court chaplain Von Gerlach were despatched to England to study and report on the constitution of the Anglican Church; but returning to Berlin with strong anti-episcopal opinions, he forfeited the favour of the king." The truth is that Sydow not only gave his verdict in favour of Presbyterianism as against Episcopacy, but, coming to Scotland, he frankly and strongly took the side of the Free Church as against the Establishment, and on his return to Germany published a historical vindication of its position. He was eighty-two when he died, but up to within six years ago, we are told, "he continued to attract large and cultivated audiences, who admired his many-sided learning and his fearless logic, as they were moved by his ardent eloquence."

REV. DR. BENSON, Bishop of Truro, who has accepted the Archbishopric of Canterbury, and thus becomes Primate of England, is a native of Birmingham, where he commenced his education, going afterwards to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he successively became Scholar and Fellow. He graduated B. A. in 1852, M. A. in 1855, B. D. in 1862 and D. D. in 1867. He was for some years an Assistant Master at Rugby, and was Head Master of Wellington College from its opening in 1858 down to 1872, when he was appointed a Canon Residentiary and Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral, having been a Prebendary of that Cathedral for three years previously. He was for several years Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, and in December, 1876, was appointed on Lord Beaconsfield's recommendation, to the newly-founded See of Truro, to which he was consecrated in St. Paul's Cathedral in the following April. Dr. Benson has published several volumes of sermons, and is one of the contributors to the "Speaker's Commentary on the Bible." He married in 1849 the daughter of the Rev. William Sidgwick, of Skipton, Yorkshire.

ANOTHER of those startling tragedies that shock the community has been chronicled in the daily papers. The deed was committed by a hired man, recently from London, England. A youth of eighteen, named Fred. Mann, answering the murderer's description, has been arrested seven miles east of Lachute. The scene of the crime was Little Rideau, some ten or twelve miles from Ottawa. Mr. and Mrs. Cooke were brutally murdered, and their two sons, George and Willie, and daughter Emma, dangerously wounded by their man servant. The murderer first attacked Mr. Cooke at the barn with an axe, killing him there, then Mrs. Cooke in the shed adjoining the house. Entering the house, he attacked George, who was in bed, inflicting upon him probably fatal injuries. Willie, Emma, and Maggie coming to the rescue, the two first were dangerously wounded; the latter, however, succeeded in wrenching the axe from him, and kept him at bay till on the approach of a neighbour he fled. The usually quiet neighbourhood, which at first was fairly stunned by the horribleness of the crime

perpetrated in its midst, was fully aroused, and public commiseration with the relations of the deceased is not stronger than a general determination to drag the assassin to justice.

THE Methodist Union scheme is receiving rather a rude welcome in certain quarters. At a full meeting of the ministers and official laymen of the London District of the Methodist Church of Canada, the following resolution was carried: "That whilst we express our conviction of the desirability of union among all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and especially among the branches of Methodism holding the same doctrines, and also expressing our conviction that the Union Committee which recently met in Toronto very earnestly desired, if possible, the unification of Methodism in this Dominion and carefully endeavoured to prepare a basis upon which such a unification might be accomplished, we cannot refrain from expressing our conviction that the Union Committee has failed in reaching a satisfactory basis. To us it is insufficient in its provisions for the composition of the annual conferences, in the relations of the annual and general presidents, and in the financial arrangements, which seem to us to be imperfectly laid down, involving loss to our superannuated brethren and the widows of deceased ministers, as well as great embarrassment to our missionaries and labourers on dependent circuits, and we, therefore, cannot approve the basis of union as proposed by the committee."

LEON GAMBETTA, who, by his energy and tact, rose into political prominence during the Franco-Prussian war, has suddenly passed away. He was born at Cahors, in the department of the Lot, April 3, 1838, the son of Joseph Nicolas Gambetta and Marie Magdeleine Massabie. His father, who survives him, was a grocer; his grandfather was a native of Celle, near Genoa. His mother, who died July 19, 1882, was the daughter of a druggist at Cahors. His guiding principle in politics may be gathered from a declaration he made during the electoral campaign of 1875: "I deny the absolute in everything," he said, "and belong to a school which believes only in the relative, in analysis, in observation, in the study of facts, in the collation and combination of ideas—a school which takes into account surroundings, races, tendencies, prejudices and antipathies." Valuable as were the services Gambetta rendered his country in times of great excitement and danger, it is lamentable to find that, though he could sway an impulsive people, he failed to rule his own turbulent nature. While he passes away amid a nation's tears, it cannot be overlooked that his untimely death is another added to the many sad illustrations that no life which disregards the laws of personal virtue is exempt from the consequences of such violation.

THE clergymen of the various churches of Winnipeg met for the purpose of forming a Ministerial Association. It was resolved to hold union prayer meetings in the various churches. The question of Sunday funerals was brought up, and it was resolved that the ministers agree to discourage the holding of Sunday funerals, except in cases where it was manifestly necessary. The distance of the cemetery from the city, and the consequent difficulty in the way of ministers following every funeral to the grave, having been discussed, it was resolved, on motion of Rev. Mr. Gordon, that the city clergymen assembled record their desire that the city authorities should provide at Brookside Cemetery a vault, or other appropriate structure, in which during the severe winter weather the remains of the dead may be deposited until the season be suitable for their final interment. It was unanimously resolved that the second Sunday in December in each year should be set apart as the Hospital Sunday, and that collections be then taken up in all the churches for the benefit of the Winnipeg General Hospital. The ministers also agreed to appoint lady visitors, as requested by the hospital board. Matters affecting the Bible Society, the observance of the Sabbath, the prevention of cruelty to animals, were also discussed.—*Winnipeg Free Press.*