

# PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

**CHINA FAMINE RELIEF.** The Rev. Dr. Reid has received for transmission, two hundred and sixty dollars (\$260), for the relief of the famine in China. The amount is contributed as follows. People of Ayr and neighborhood, \$243.50; Ayr Temperance Reform Club, \$14; A Private School, \$2.75; total, \$260.25.

THE "Presbyterian Record" enumerates our Home Mission staff as follows. "In addition to our 700 ministers in charges, we have at present very nearly 250 labourers in our vast Home Mission Field as follows: 100 appointed by the committee for the Western section, thirty-nine by that for the Eastern section, forty by the French Evangelization Board, and seventy on the Probationers' list."

The "Record" quotes from the "Christian Era," which it says is an organ of the Congregationalists, the complaint that "almost every year a number of ministers who have been brought up Congregationalists, educated in our colleges, and ordained in our churches, leave us for other communions, especially the established Church and the Presbyterian Churches." It says, further, that in the last year nearly twenty ministers thus seceded.

MR. LOUIS STREET, a member of the Society of Friends, living at the capital of Madagascar, has written to England that slavery has not been abolished in that island, that "the Prime Minister is a consummate hypocrite, and that some of the missionaries are his tools." He states, also, that the Christian Churches in all Madagascar are under the jurisdiction of "the Church within the Palace," and that the whole organization is a State machine. This intelligence has awakened a painful feeling among the supporters of the London Missionary Society.

WE direct the attention of our readers to the communication from Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., under the heading "Famine in China," in another column of this issue, introducing a letter from a native Chinese gentleman of Dr. Fraser's acquaintance, which gives, if possible, a more harrowing description than has yet appeared of the deplorable condition of the inhabitants of a large part of the Chinese Empire. We hope many of our exchanges will comply with Dr. Fraser's request to copy, and that a liberal response will be made to this most urgent call.

IN the case of the Rev. Fergus Ferguson, the Glasgow U. P. Presbytery, having found all the particulars

of the libel relevant, has brought Mr. Ferguson to trial, and with respect to five of the six charges finds him guilty. Its sentence reads as follows. "That the Presbytery continues Mr. Ferguson's suspension from the exercise of his office, declares that the errors found proven cannot be tolerated in this Church; but, in view of the appeals to the Synod, delays to issue the case finally till the Synod has given judgment." The Synod was to meet Monday, May 13th, and the members of the Glasgow Presbytery, being parties in the case, will be shut out from voting in the final decision.

ON Monday evening, 20th inst., a large number of the leading business men of Woodstock met at the residence of Mr. Thomas Macdonald, late manager of the Consolidated Bank there, and presented him with a handsome gold watch, chain and seal, accompanied by an address numerously signed and beautifully engrossed, expressing unreserved satisfaction with his management of the Bank throughout the five years of his administration, recognizing his amiable qualities in social and in business relations, regretting his departure, and following him with good wishes for his welfare and success in his new position in the capital of the Dominion.

ON the first Saturday of the recent General Assembly of the Northern Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., a memorial tablet was placed in the Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, in commemoration of the reunion of the Old and New School Presbyterian denominations, which took place in that building in 1870. It is an event worthy of such a tablet, but its commemoration is written upon hundreds of thousands of human hearts. The reunion of the Presbyterian Churches on such a scale as that of the Old and New Schools needs not any such tablet, but the stone will have a local value, bringing to mind as it does the scenes of brotherly love which so recently took place in the building of which it forms such an honored part.

ARRANGEMENTS made for the annual drill, as published in the "Canada Gazette," provides for drilling 20,000 men and 1,276 horses for twelve days. The company strength is to be 42 non-commissioned officers and men, including staff-sergeants and bandmen. The pay is as follows. Officers, \$1 per diem; non-commissioned officers and men, 50 cents, horses, 75 cents. In selecting from corps for drill, field batteries are to be first taken; 2nd, garrison batteries having guns for position, 3rd, corps in cities, 4th, corps not drilled last year; 5th, corps which can assemble the most of the corps at headquarters without expense for transport. Then the number to complete the authorized quota is to be balloted for by companies, selecting those next frontiers.

THE American Presbyterian General Assembly, which convened last week at Pittsburgh, numbers 520 commissioners, and represents 37 Synods and 175 Presbyteries. Its business was largely of a routine character. The reports of seven standing committees were received and discussed, viz., on Foreign Missions, Publications, Church Erection, Ministerial Relief, Education, Home Missions, and Freedmen. Among the most important general questions discussed were the special relations of Home to Foreign Missions, and a reduction of the basis of representation in the Assembly. The latter question has been considered for several years without reaching a final conclusion.

A large amount of judicial work on petitions, etc., from various Presbyteries came before the body for action. Two days were devoted to discussion of the Sunday-school work of the Church, two days each to the Home and Foreign Missions, and one to each of the other committee reports. We have not noticed who were the delegates that conveyed the fraternal greetings of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

THE London "Times" gives the following abstract of the first encyclical of the new Pope: "He insists on the necessity for the restoration of the Temporal Power, condemns civil marriages, deplors the rejection of the authority of the Church, and proclaims that to be the cause of all existing evils. Leo XIII. commences by deploring the accumulation of evils with which, from the first day of his Pontificate, he beheld mankind afflicted. The chief cause of so much evil lies, he is convinced, in the denial of the holy and august authority of the Church, and the contempt in which it is held. No sooner was this fact recognized by the enemies of public order than they perceived their best means was to carry on a continued attack against the Church and overthrow the supreme power of the Roman Pontiff. Hence, those laws subversive of the Constitution of the Catholic Church, the dispersion of religious Orders, the confiscation of church property, and the like. The dignity of the Roman Pontificate was especially assailed in these calamitous times by unworthy calumnies. It was evident civilization wanted a solid basis if not founded on the eternal principles of truth, rectitude, and justice. No one could deny that the Church had carried the light of truth among barbarous and superstitious nations, spread the flag of redemption, introduced or protected science and art, and founded or took under its protection charitable institutions."

THE following respecting a former valued minister of our Church, clipped from the Chicago "Standard" (Baptist), will be read in many quarters with much pleasure. "One of the most touching scenes we have witnessed lately was the generous expression of thanks tendered on last Sabbath afternoon by the audience assembled in Farewell Hall to their lecturer for the last twenty-four Sundays, Rev. J. M. Gibson, D.D. As is known to many, Dr. Gibson, the talented and genial pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, has by the invitation of the Y.M.C.A., been delivering through the fall and winter months a series of Sabbath afternoon discourses upon the gospel of Genesis and salvation as taught by the Old Testament. It has been a means of encouragement, not only to those immediately concerned, but all Christian workers, that these somewhat profound and doctrinal lectures have drawn larger and larger audiences as they continued, while intense interest has been manifested throughout. Our good brother, E. W. Blatchford, of the Congregationalist Church, upon this occasion spoke after the lecture in behalf of the audience. After a few fitting words expressive of satisfaction, he asked the audience assembled to arise while for them he thanked the doctor. The vast congregation were on their feet, and with voice quivering with genuine emotion Mr. Blatchford grasped Dr. Gibson's hand and said as he shook it vigorously, 'God bless you! God keep you and shed about you the light of His countenance, Amen.' It was a beautiful and thrilling sight, and the goodly expression of thanks we know to have been well deserved."