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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE  
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## Notes of the Week.

If an ecclesiastical system provides honourable prizes, in the way of positions as bishops, editors, secretaries or moderators, says the *New York Independent*, it is in the nature of things that there will be conference as to who shall fill them; and that conference must take the form of effort to secure them for persons deemed suitable. Now whether that shall be done in open or private session—that is, whether the public shall know about it—is a serious matter, and, for our part, we see no reason why the *Interior* is to be blamed for suggesting publicly that an honoured presbyter should be selected. It is certainly quite as innocent as it would be for people to write letters through the mails and log-roll for their candidate.

In the matter of expensive funerals, the *Newcastle Chronicle* commends the example of the Society of Friends. Some time ago it was calculated that the annual expense of funerals in England and Wales was not less than £5,000,000 sterling. The cost of funerals of persons of rank and title ranges from about £2,000 to £800. Indeed, not long ago, there was a funeral which cost considerably more than the highest of these sums. Such a waste of money is criminal. Many moving in comparatively modest spheres are said to spend from £200 to £400 upon the burial of their relatives. It is time that this extravagance, to which the usages of society have doomed many who have no taste for ostentatious display, should cease.

MR. FINDLAY'S Bill, a well-meant compromise, intended to settle the question of disestablishment in Scotland, has signally failed. Those who favoured it were under the impression that its provisions would pave the way for the union of the three sections of the Presbyterian Church in that country. The measure did not commend itself to the unanimous approval of the different religious bodies. Last week it came up for the second reading in the House of Commons when it was defeated by a significant majority, the numbers reported as voting in favour of it being 177, while those against were 202. The recent vote on the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales, together with the fate of Mr. Findlay's Bill, shows the trend of public opinion on this momentous question.

JOSEPH COOK'S last Monday Lecture included a scathing exposure of immorality in high places. He spoke with telling emphasis on the subjects brought under public notice by the *Pall Mall Gazette* revelations. He also showed that legislation in several of the United States was still worse than it had been in England before recent amendments. The lecture was remarkable for the introduction of the name of the Prince of Wales in an unenviable connection. Against this a man in the gallery rose to protest. He might have been an Englishman; Mr. Cook assumed he was. The audience would not permit him to utter a syllable. The lecturer denounced him, and the ushers forced him into his seat. We thought a cultured Boston audience was not without a sense of fair play.

THE Convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, the Rev. Dr. Wardrop, of Guelph, has in the last number of the *New York Independent* a brief paper on Co-operation in Mission Work in which

the following healthful sentences occur. This is a difficult subject, we all know. But is no difficult subject to be considered? Is no problem that does not at once solve itself ever to be studied? The benefits that might result from co-operation, or even from mutual understanding as to fields to be occupied, are so many and so great that we should be ready seriously to inquire whether or not they are attainable. The chief difficulty that would face us, belonging to the various denominations, would be found in the apprehension that co-operation, such as is hinted at, might tend to the advantage of some one denomination and to the disadvantage of some other or others. Is this apprehension sufficient to keep us from thought and conference on the subject?

THERE died a short time ago in Rochester, N. Y., a lady whose father's name is intimately associated with the history of Presbyterianism in Canada. Mrs. Elizabeth E. G. Emerson was a daughter of Rev. D. W. Eastman, who preached what is believed to be the first sermon heard in the region at a spot now covered by the city of Rochester. Mr. Eastman, after a faithful and laborious life in the service of the Gospel, "died at his residence in Grimsby Township, near Smithville, on the 4th of August, 1865, and his dust was laid to rest in the rural cemetery at St. Ann's, near by the spot where he first gathered the people of Gainsborough for worship threescore years before." The Rev. S. H. Eastman, of Oshawa, is the grandson of this honoured pioneer. Among Mrs. Emerson's benefactions are: Church Erection Fund of the American Presbyterian Church, \$10,000; Board of Home Missions, \$20,000; Knox College, Toronto, \$1,000; Presbyterian Church at Smithville, Ont., \$1,000. The remainder of the estate, about \$40,000, is bequeathed to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

SOME of the charitable institutions in the United States are evidently places where charity is unknown. Recent investigations show that dreadful cruelties have been inflicted on the helpless inmates of orphan asylums. It is positively wicked to entrust the care of the helpless to persons who, if the evidence against them is to be credited, disgrace humanity. A Maritime Province exchange has the following. We have received from Alfred Abell, of St. John, a lengthy document in which many serious charges are formulated against the deaf and dumb institution at Fredericton, managed by Mr. Woodbridge. The charges, if published, would rival the revelations of immorality which appeared some months ago in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and are consequently unfit for publication. We cannot think that the charges are well founded, but whether they are or not it is the duty of the Government to order an investigation, in order to place all parties right before the public. Mr. Abell has sent the document to his Honour the Lieut. Governor, who lost no time in laying it before the Executive.

A CONTEMPORARY says: In no place of worship in Glasgow is so remarkable a scene presented as in Hope Hall on a Sabbath morning or afternoon. As a rule there is but one person present who has the use of all his faculties—the pastor; but as he for the time being is of course as mute as the rest, not a sound is heard beyond an occasional rustling of book leaves and an incidental cough. A well-known minister once asked Mr. Henderson how praise can possibly be offered up by the deaf and dumb. The reply is that their praise is the praise of the heart; they do not even attempt the poor substitute available to their fingers; they remain quite motionless, with eyes riveted on the missionary, who goes through the hymn in the language they understand. The same procedure obtains throughout. The only requisite on the part of the congregation is one that hearers do not always bear in mind—attention. Nothing is dearer to the hearts of the deaf and dumb of Glasgow than the long-cherished hope that they will yet meet in a church of their own. The hall is in some respects adapted to the general purposes of the mission, but for reli-

gious uses it is not altogether satisfactory. While London, Manchester, and a number of other towns in England and Ireland have churches for the deaf and dumb, there is no such place in Scotland.

IN reference to a criminal trial in Scotland, the *Christian Leader* asks: Who is the criminal? Lord Young is not distinguished for his leniency, but last week in the high court of judicary he pronounced the lightest sentence in one case that has ever been recorded. Robert Sutherland, a teller in the Bank of Scotland, pleaded guilty to the theft of \$2,035, and for this he received six months' imprisonment. Nobody can read the story without feeling that the real criminal was not at the bar. Sutherland, now in his thirty-second year, has been in the bank's employment since his boyhood, beginning his service at Fraserburgh and ending it at Kilmarnock; and through all the years his character has been stainless. But the highest point to which his salary had reached was the munificent sum of \$575. On this he had to keep up at Kilmarnock the appearance of a gentleman, and besides his wife and child he has latterly had his invalid mother to maintain, his father having become the inmate of a lunatic asylum. Under the cruel pressure the poor teller, with thousands passing through his hands almost every day, yielded to the temptation, intending no doubt only to take the money as a loan. That he did wrong goes without saying; but we do not hesitate to assert that the wealthy corporation which expects its responsible officials to live like gentlemen on \$575 is more criminal than poor Robert Sutherland, and that the rich men responsible for such iniquitous treatment of employes are really more deserving of a few months' incarceration in prison. What a marvel it is that, with such starvation salaries, the bank clerks of Scotland should so seldom fall! They must indeed be morally a very noble body of men.

THE labour question is pressing itself on the attention of thoughtful men. One of the most hopeful signs that an amicable and practical solution may be reached is to be found in the fact that sensible employers and sensible workmen are endeavouring to take a calm and dispassionate view of the problems presented. Mr. S. Callaway, of the Union Pacific Railroad, recently gave expression to the following: No thinking man can fail to acknowledge that we are passing through an alarming crisis of our history. Combined capital has wrought great advantages and benefits for mankind, not unattended with evils. It remains to be seen whether combined labour can, by wise leadership and moderation, lessen these ills, or whether by misdirected efforts, put forth in violence and disorder, all the virtues of brotherhood will be buried in the tyrannical suppression of the rights and freedom of the individual. The Knights of Labour have become a powerful association, whose great strength if improperly directed may become its weakness. Recent events seem to indicate that while it demands of the employer equity in dealing with his employe, it fails in many cases to concede what it itself exacts. The infancy of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, one of the strongest and most ably conducted labour organizations in the country was filled with just such errors, and, intoxicated by reason of its great strength, was constantly being led into strikes upon false issues and flimsy pretexts. The power has ultimately taught its members the necessity of conservatism, and a strike is now a very rare occurrence among this excellent and intelligent body of men. Grand Chief Arthur knows that the suggestion of a wrong is more simple than the practical application of a remedy, and has inculcated lessons of moderation. Mr. Callaway said he had not yet met Mr. Powderly, President of the Knights of Labour, but from his reputation and public utterances judged him to be a fair-minded man, of excellent character. Unfortunately, however, the members of the organization of which he is the head, seem in many cases to go off on a strike first and consult with him afterward.