

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 23.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6th, 1894.

No. 23.

Notes of the Week.

The reports from the various Boards of the Southern General Assembly show satisfactory progress, notwithstanding the financial stringency of the year past. The propositions of the Birmingham Conference in reference to co-operation between the two Assemblies in the work for Freedmen was rejected.

The Second Convention of the Sunday Schools of the Mexican Republic has just been held. There were present thirty delegates, one of whom travelled on foot twenty-two leagues. Six denominations were represented, and a hundred different Sunday schools. Nine states sent delegates, and a lively interest was shown.

The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church has refused to entertain the proposition of the Northern Presbyterian Church in favor of Union. The old sectional feeling is perhaps not dead yet. It may also be that the troubles in the Northern Church on the subjects of Revision and the Higher Criticism have had the effect of impairing confidence to some extent.

George Williams, who founded the Young Men's Christian Association fifty years ago, has been knighted by the Queen of England in consideration of his great and successful service for the good of his fellow-men, so that he is now Sir George Williams. The title, though intended to be an honor, will add nothing to his fame. His reputation will rest upon higher ground—upon the wonderful results he has accomplished for God and man through the great institution of which he was the originator.

The vote in the General Assembly, last Saturday, on the appeal of Prof. Smith, ought to convince every one that the Presbyterian Church will maintain the position taken at Portland two years ago and at Washington last year. The strength of the Briggs and Smith party is far less than appears on the surface; because it is very certain that not one-half of those voting to sustain Dr. Briggs last year and Dr. Smith this year agree with them. Some believed that their views could be tolerated with safety, and others thought the sentences too severe.

The United Presbyterian General Assembly met at Albany, Ore., on Thursday, May 24. The annual sermon was delivered by the retiring Moderator, Rev. James Bruce, of Andes, N.Y. Addresses of welcome by city officials and responses finished the session. The church, according to its latest reports, has 115,272 members, 939 churches, 1,141 Sabbath schools, 7,309 ministers and elders. The work of the Assembly was attended to expeditiously and in usual order. Reports from Home and Foreign Missions, Church Extension, Publication and Freedmen were satisfactory, showing progress and effectiveness of administration.

The General Assembly at Saratoga by a vote of nearly four to one has taken measures to have the property of the Theological Seminaries under the control of the Assembly, and made a trust of the church. It has also decided that the election or transfer of Professors shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly. This is the outcome of the declaration of independence by Union Theological Seminary under the leadership of Dr. Briggs. The whole church ought to control the property exclusively used for its benefit, and to have control of the teaching in which all parts are equally interested.

It is now nine years since Mr. Gladstone thought that the British Empire had reached the condition of being large enough. Since then several very considerable bits of territory have been added to it in various parts of the globe, and still the land hunger appears to be unsatisfied and unappeasable. A treaty has just been concluded with the King of Belgium whereby Britain has secured another slice of Africa, to be added to her already large possessions on that continent. The significance of this last acquisition lies mainly in its enabling Britain to build on her own territory, as the occasion may call for it, a railway from Cape Town in the far south, to Cairo in the north. Obtaining this is considered to be a fine piece of diplomacy, and is said by the press to have stirred up the envy of both France and Germany to no small degree.

Everyone at all interested or informed about Christian activities knows of the London May meetings. But very few, we fancy, have any idea of their number and variety. What a fever-heat of excitement and activity the Christian public of London must be kept in during that carnival month, shall we call it? These meetings are a wonderful testimony to the beneficence of Christianity, and even of its divine origin, for they are all connected more or less closely with forms of unselfish, active goodness, and nothing earthly only has ever in human history produced such splendid examples of unselfish love for mankind. Here are the names of but a few of the meetings held, taken at random from *The Christian World*: The Baptist Union, four or five meetings; Total Abstinence Association, Anti-Sunday Travelling Union, the Children's Home, National Temperance League, Bible Christian Missions, the Reformatory and Refuge Union for Women and Children, the Wesleyan Missions, three or four meetings; the Liberation Jubilee, several meetings; the Presbyterian Synod, Church Missionary Society, the Bible Society, the Sunday School Union, and so on *ad infinitum*. Are they not, as we have said, a splendid exhibition of Christian beneficence?

Gatherings for study and intellectual and spiritual improvement are more and more becoming a feature of the summer season, and it is most gratifying to notice that those for Bible study and conference on Christian work again take a prominent part in the programme. The Northfield conferences will be held as usual during the summer of 1894, and the varied character of these will furnish new opportunity for many to enjoy their rich spiritual as well as educational advantages. The first of these, the Young Women's Conference, will be held at Northfield, Massachusetts, June 22-28. It will be conducted by the International Committee of Young Women's Christian Associations. The next, the World's Student Conference, will be at Northfield from June 30th to July 10. This conference is held at the invitation of Mr. D. L. Moody for the ninth successive year, and represents, without question, one of the leading factors of the religious life of the colleges of America. The third and last of the series, the General Conference of Christian Workers, at Northfield, August 1-13, held under the direction of Mr. D. L. Moody, is the oldest of all Northfield conferences, and will bring together many men of power and ability, Mr. Moody himself taking charge of all the services.

Last Sabbath was a high day for Crescent street church, Montreal, long known as Cote street. It was the celebration of its jubilee. It has during all its history been one of the conspicuous Presbyterian churches of the Dominion. It had its origin in the religious movements in Montreal arising out of the formation of the Free Church in Scotland in 1843. The first organization was formed in May, 1844. Only four still remain of those connected with it at its organization. It has had a succession of able and influential men as pastors or temporarily supplying its pulpit, the Rev. Mr. Bethune, Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, Rev. W. C. Burns, Rev. Drs. MacGillivray, Donald Fraser, Robert Burns, late of Halifax; MacVicar, and Mackay whose pastorate began in

1879. It has had in its membership, and still has men whose names are known all over the Dominion for large-hearted liberality, such as the late Messrs. Jno. and Peter Redpath, the late Joseph Mackay, Mr. James Ross and several others. In the morning Rev. Dr. MacVicar preached from Duet. viii. 2 and gave, what it is good from time to time to give, a sketch of the way by which God had led the church during these fifty years. At 4:15 a communion service was observed, and in the evening the Rev. James Wells, D.D., pastor of the Free church of Pollockshields, Glasgow, preached from the second chapter of the second book of Kings. He commands an easy, natural, graceful delivery, and in the unfolding of the many brilliant thoughts and ideas suggested by the text, became especially interesting by his apt illustrations.

In a late number of the *Christian World*, of London, Eng., is a brief outline of a correspondence between a minority opposed to the election of Mr. Thos. Spurgeon to the pastorate, and the majority as represented by the deacons and elders. It is a model of Christian courtesy and good feeling. The spokesmen of the minority represented 600 members. They entertained a very sincere regard, they said, for Mr. Thos. Spurgeon, and recognized his many estimable qualities, but could not see that he, they considered, possessed the qualities indispensable for such a position. Many voted for him from sentiment, because they could not oppose his father's son. At last the dissentients proposed a compromise after Mr. Spurgeon's election, suggesting that as their new pastor would, like his late father, require an assistant, Rev. Dr. Pierson should be invited to become his colleague. This would, they said, preclude exhaustion, give increased variety and richness to the teachings of the pulpit, and add to the efficient working of the manifold organizations that find their centre and impact at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Dr. Pierson was no party to this proposal, and while the office-bearers expressed high appreciation of him and his services to their church in its time of need, they could not see their way to fall in with the arrangement proposed. The correspondence concludes: "We regret our inability to meet the views of yourselves and the friends you represent, and trust you and they will give in the future, as in the past, your hearty support to the church and its many institutions."

The religious public of Toronto has been greatly stirred by the visit last week and addresses on behalf of the Jews of Revs. J. Wilkinson and A. Adler, of the Mildmay Mission, London, England, and Revs. Hermann Warszawiak and Cohen, of the Hebrew Mission of New York City. The multitudes who flocked to these meetings afternoon and evening from the first, furnished a remarkable evidence of the great hold Mr. Warszawiak has taken of the people of Toronto himself, and of the interest he has awakened in Christian work among the Jews in the United States and Canada, and wherever it is carried on. Work among and on behalf of the Jews has been a specialty for upwards of forty years with the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson and his familiarity with it, and with the teaching of the Scriptures with respect to them, made his addresses specially interesting. Mr. Adler has been largely engaged in the distribution of the Hebrew Scriptures in Russia, and gave a brief but vivid picture of the state of things in that vast empire as regards the Jews, and their eagerness for copies of the Scriptures. Mr. Warszawiak's account of his work among the Jews of New York City, on the evening of Wednesday, his appeal for the Jews in the afternoon, and especially his sermon on Tuesday evening on, "His name shall be called Wonderful," were all such as we should think none who heard them will ever forget, or could fail to be powerfully influenced by. All the members of the deputation were greatly and most favourably impressed by the interest of the thousands who filled to overflowing Association Hall which, the last evening, could not nearly hold all who sought admission and evidently Toronto is an exception to most large cities as respects its interest in the Jews.