

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Toronto, Friday, November 7th, 1870.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ANOTHER massacre at Toluca, Mexico, is announced. It is not yet known how many were killed. The attack was on the Presbyterian Mission in charge of Procopio Diaz.

THE celebrated George Muller, so widely known in connection with the Orphanage at Bristol, England, is at present in Canada. He preached, we observe, in Hamilton last Sabbath.

THE Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, which was formed in 1834, as a protest against the rationalizing tendencies in the Reformed Church of Holland, has now 300 ministers and 350 congregations.

THE demand for copies of our last issue containing the last sermon of the late Dr. Topp was so much above what we were able to meet that we resolved to publish the sermon in pamphlet form. This is now ready and can be had at any of the book stores in the city. As the edition is limited, early application will be necessary in order to prevent disappointment.

THE Quebec "Protestant Teachers' Provincial Association," which has recently been in session in Quebec city, elected Rev. Principal Macvicar, LL.D., as president for the ensuing year. Dr. Macvicar's address on taking possession of the chair was admirably conceived, thoroughly practical, and well calculated to give the teachers correct views of their work. His eloquent peroration will be found in another column.

THE difficulty between the Ute Indians and the United States Government is in the fair way of being peacefully and satisfactorily settled. The guilty parties are to be surrendered for punishment, and with that by-gones are to be by-gones. It is to be hoped that in the future treatment of the Indians the United States authorities will display a more considerate and kindly spirit than they have too generally done in the past.

THE REV. D. MACRAE has advised his late congregation in Gourrock, Scotland, to remain united and in connection with the United Presbyterian Church. There has been a joint meeting of all the parties in the case, and though no decision has as yet been come to, it is generally understood that Mr. Macrae's advice will be taken and that the congregation will maintain its old ecclesiastical relations without any of its members leaving.

STATISTICS of crime in Italy show a fearful state of affairs. The report of the minister shows that during the year more than 2,000 murders were committed, an average per million of the population unequalled by any other country on the face of the globe. During the same time the number of ordinary robberies, burglaries, etc., is stated at 40,000, while there are 50,000 robberies accompanied with violence. In her long catalogue of crime Italy stands without a peer.

CLARKE BROWN, the West Winchester murderer, suffered the extreme penalty of the law on the 31st ult. The confession which he left behind casts no light upon the motives which prompted him to the commission of such a horrible crime. He professed not to be able to account for the proceeding, and it is very possible, as was suggested by some of the doctors at the inquest, that the strange murderous mania was induced by the evil habits in which for years past Brown acknowledged he had indulged.

THE Anti-Rent movement in Ireland is being still pushed forward with a great deal of vigour. The tenants are advised to pay no rent in the meantime, and they are being encouraged by the assurance that, in any case, they will be secured the permanent occupancy of their farms. Government is being called on

to advance money to purchase the land from the owners, and then to look for repayment from the present occupants. What would be the consequence if these either could not or would not pay their instalments when due, is not said.

IN celebration of the centenary of Dr. Chalmers it has been resolved to raise sufficient money to enlarge and improve the West Port Mission Church, in the establishment of which the Doctor took so much interest. The present church is much too small for the congregation, and is, besides, badly ventilated. The proposed alterations are expected to cost from four to five thousand pounds sterling, and it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in raising all that is necessary. We should think that some of the Canadian admirers of Dr. Chalmers would like to take part in this enterprise.

THE hatred of the truth by Romanism has been exhibited recently in Liverpool by the mobs of roughs who have attacked the meetings and speakers of the Salvation Army. The Army has not mentioned the Papacy, has made no assault upon it, has only declared salvation from sin and condemnation by faith in our Lord and Saviour. Yet the building in which the meetings were held in Liverpool was stoned by a mob of Romanists and on the Sabbath, and the speakers as they came out were assailed with such ferocity that a strong body of policemen became necessary for their protection. Rome hates the truth, and is to-day, as always heretofore, a persecuting power.

OF all impostors those who assume the cloak of religion are the worst. A good many of this class seem to be at present very diligent in pushing their operations and are succeeding only too well in victimizing the unwary. When total strangers are peculiarly gushing in their address and have a singular tendency to say "My dear brother in Christ, if I may be permitted to call you so," it is as well for those addressed to be careful about how they receive the advances of these interesting visitors and how they yield to their insinuating proposals. Religion has already suffered sufficiently from such operators. A word to the wise is enough.

FROM the second annual report of the New Zealand Minister of Education, it appears that the cost of primary education in that colony for the year was £306,679 16s. 9d. The number of children in the colony from five to fifteen is 105,208, of whom only 87,161 were in 1878 under instruction. The Sunday school attendance was 62,253. In the Province of Otago alone there were 4000 children of school age not under instruction and 9,000 at no Sabbath school. The cost of education in this Colony per scholar is high, varying from £4 17s. 3½d. in Otago, to £10 10s. 2½d. in Taranaki. The total number of schools in operation during 1878 was 148—an increase of eighteen schools and 8,866 scholars on the year.

OUR Philadelphia contemporary remarks as follows. "Here is a bit of honest dealing that is worthy of mention. A young minister desired to leave Methodism and join the Church of England; but the Bishop of Rochester declined to receive him until he had paid up all that the Wesleyan Theological College was entitled to for giving him training." The Board of Education has received some money in the same way, but not all that was expended on men who are no longer serving the Church which educated them. Receipts, with thanks attending, can be very easily made out." Sometimes just such "honest dealing" as this would not be out of place even in Canada.

THE Ladies' Aid Society in connection with the West Presbyterian Church, Toronto, intend holding a bazaar in the lecture room of Knox Church, on Thursday and Friday of next week, 13th and 14th inst. The ladies of the congregation have undertaken the upholstering of the handsome new church on Denison avenue, rapidly approaching completion, and we cordially wish their bazaar—the liberal patron-

age of Presbyterians throughout the city. The articles offered will no doubt be useful as well as ornamental; and fancy prices are not to form a feature of the affair. We mention this, although the announcement may be deemed superfluous, as Presbyterian ladies never place extravagant prices on bazaar articles.

ACCORDING to a cable despatch to the daily newspapers, Mr. Gladstone has recently expressed himself with much frankness to a couple of interviewers on behalf of two Paris journals. Among other statements, it is reported that he deprecates contention with Russia about Afghanistan, and that he said he believed there would not be any; that India had absolutely nothing to fear from Russia, which has as much as she can do to hold her conquests in Turkestan. The Austro-German Alliance, he believes, is, doubtless, intended as a check to Russia; but the importance of such alliance should not be exaggerated, as Bismarck would abandon it as readily as he had abandoned parliamentary parties which had served his purpose.

IN the Free Synod of Glasgow and Ayr recently a motion was made to send to the Assembly an overture which states that it is "notorious that many ministers and Sessions of the Church are, knowingly or unknowingly, introducing the Congregational system, by introducing hymn books not authorized by the Church and receiving into their pulpits men who have been deposed by the Church of which they were office-bearers, and are using the pulpit as a rostrum mainly of literary and critical essays, in place of the truths of the Gospel. Therefore the Assembly should either relax the terms of subscription of Confession or put in force for correction and reformation the laws and usages of the Church presently existing." The motion was lost by a vote of 19 to 2.

WHEN St. John, N.B., was burnt down, the City Council of Montreal subscribed \$10,000 to help the sufferers. It now appears that this debt, which might especially be regarded as one of honour, has been repudiated by the successors of those who incurred it, and that on the plea that the money is not now needed. This seems shabby, sharp practice. The people of St. John have shown a very commendable spirit of patient endurance under their trials, and great energy in retrieving their losses; but to say that they do not need all the assistance that was ever promised them is very wide of the mark. There must be very many in and about that city permanently beggared by the fire. The support of these will be a great burden on the community for a good while to come, and the subscription of Montreal would very naturally and very properly have been taken to assist in such work. We cannot think that the action of the Montreal Council will be endorsed by the great body of the citizens.

THE case of Prof. Robertson Smith has been before the Free Synod of Aberdeen on complaint and dissent by the minority of the Presbytery of the same name. The Presbytery, on receiving the decision of the Assembly declaring relevant the count on Deuteronomy, which the Presbytery had previously declared irrelevant, resolved to *sist procedure*, and simply report the case to the superior court. The Synod heard the representatives of the minority against the Presbytery's action, and Profs. Salmond and Smith in defense thereof. Mr. Mitchell held that the instructions from the Assembly were clear, and that the Presbytery was bound to follow them and proceed to probation of the charge. Prof. Salmond said a subordinate court had some discretion, and its members had the right to obey their consciences. The Assembly was not infallible. If one of its decisions was proved to be erroneous, it ought to correct it. He wanted to see this whole case dropped. Prof. Smith went over much the same ground as he did before the Presbytery. He defended his right to be heard before the Presbytery again on the question of relevancy. At the end of the arguments the Synod, by a vote of 31 to 13, resolved to sustain the Presbytery and remit the matter to the Assembly.