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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

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### Notes of the Week.

A CONTEMPORARY says. The opposition in a coloured Church in Brooklyn was recently effectually silenced by a novel method—the passing of the contribution boxes. Each party contributed in separate boxes; and when the proceeds were counted it was found that the pastor's party had given \$20, and the opposition only fifty-four cents; whereupon a friendly deacon declared the victory for the pastor. "Dis heah little edifis b'longs to us," he said, and he was understood.

THE closing exercises in connection with the Session of McMaster Hall were held last week. The annual report submitted by the Faculty was hopeful and encouraging. The work of the Session has been faithfully performed by the professors, and there have been evident devotion and enthusiasm on the part of the students. Like our own students, they devoted much time and effort to missionary work. The concluding exercises were held in Jarvis Street Baptist Church, at which interesting and able papers were read by several of the graduates. At the same meeting diplomas and degrees were conferred.

THE London *Presbyterian*, referring to the result of a recent plebiscite taken on the liquor traffic in Perth states that the question "Are you in favour of a reduction in the number of licences?" was answered in the affirmative by 1,572 electors, and in the negative by 486. Then, 1,812 electors declared for, and 308 against, the abolition of grocers' licences. The third question was "Are you in favour of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in Perth by the direct vote of the ratepayers?" For the affirmative there were 1,608 votes, and for the negative 435. A notable feature in the plebiscite is the large vote of the female electors, which was almost as nearly as possible unanimously given on the side of Temperance.

THE Church of England has in recent years given a most unequivocal support to the Temperance cause. Many of the leading dignitaries of that Church, and some of her most eloquent preachers, are earnest in their advocacy of strict sobriety. It would be difficult to find in any Church one who surpasses Archdeacon Farrar in his powerful indictment of the drink curse. The Church of England Temperance Society has done a very good work in Canada. Its second annual public meeting, presided over by Bishop Sweatman, was held in the Horticultural Gardens Pavilion last week, and was very largely attended. The principal speakers were Revs. D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's, Dean Carmichael, of Montreal, and Professor Foster, M.P.

THE *Christian Leader* states that the Rev. George Davidson, B.Sc., who has been called the Spurgeon of Edinburgh, has devised a novel series of congregational social meetings in connection with Free St. Mary's, of which he is pastor. The congregation, which includes nearly 700 members, is divided into thirty districts; and there were brought together seven districts at each meeting. The meetings began on Monday, 23rd, and ended Thursday, 26th of March. They were singularly free from stiffness; the reports by the various treasurers were presented in a happy, sparkling manner; after the reports came enjoyable music; and then the meeting was thrown open for conversation. Every one felt that this was a great

improvement on the ordinary method of conducting congregational meetings.

A CONGRESS of Churches is to be held in Hartford, Conn., with the avowed object of promoting ecclesiastical unity among Protestant Christians, and its aim is to reach this unity, not through a society, or creed, or formal plan, but through a full and frank discussion of the great questions in which the Christians of America are interested. The idea is not to promote unity by giving up differences, so much as to discuss matters which concern the Christianity common to all. Like the Episcopal Church Congress upon which it is in part modelled, and by which its method would seem to be suggested, it is a body officially responsible only to itself. Though it includes representatives from most of the leading denominations, these persons, whether clergymen or laymen, speak only for themselves.

THE struggle between the Evangelical and Ritualistic sections of the Church of England still continues as intense as ever. At a meeting of the Southwark Branch of the Church Association the following resolution was unanimously carried. That this meeting of Protestant Churchmen protests against the continued Romish encroachments of the Ritualistic party through secret societies and other means, whereby they aim at reunion with the apostate Church of Rome; and expresses its opinion that a mass meeting of Protestant Churchmen should be held in Exeter Hall to take decided action for the suppression of Popery in the Church; and, further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the principal Protestant societies connected with the Church of England for their consideration and opinion.

THE interest manifested in our brave volunteers, now exposed to the dangers and undergoing the hardships of the North-West campaign, is not exclusively sentimental. The benevolent people of Toronto have shown commendable activity in providing for the comfort of the young men who so cheerfully responded to the call of duty. Liberal contributions were made and willing workers toiled, that the thoughtful and generous gifts of the people who stay at home might be speedily despatched to the warriors rendering perilous but effective service in the suppression of rebellion. The givers of these gifts as well as the recipients will feel grateful, the one class because they have been able to do a humane and kindly action, the other will feel that their self-sacrificing efforts are appreciated, and that they are fondly remembered at home.

THE Scottish Presbyterian Union Association has held another meeting in Edinburgh, and the progress made is encouraging. At the previous meeting, on 17th March, seven gentlemen of the Free Church, on the motion of Rev. Professor Laidlaw, and seven gentlemen of the United Presbyterian Church, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Mair, had been nominated; at the last meeting, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Alison, seven gentlemen of the Church of Scotland were nominated; and it was remitted to the full committee of twenty-one, with power to add to their number in equal proportions, to confer on the subject of union of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, on the basis of resolutions passed on 19th of January and 4th of February. It was agreed that the Association should hold a meeting for conference and prayer a month hence.

THE Anglo-Russian complication has assumed a most serious aspect. All that diplomacy can now accomplish is to protract the period of suspense that intervenes before the formal outbreak of hostilities. That sad contingency is now considered certain. The magnificent speech of Mr. Gladstone in the British House of Commons shows that he feels the tremendous responsibility the crisis occasions. He views the impending war as a sad necessity. In that speech, which will live in history, the Premier does not indulge in Jingoistic bravado and bluster, but voices the calm resoluteness and unflinching resolve of the British nation to stem the aggressive ambition of the most unscrupulous military despotism now existing.

When it does come, the shock will be terrific, but the hope and prayer will be that the Lord of Hosts will overrule the gigantic conflict for the advancement of His Son's kingdom, which is righteousness and peace.

ARCHBISHOP LYNCH has published a letter containing his opinions on the Temperance question. These differ from that entertained by the Churches generally. Of course he condemns drunkenness, which cannot now find an apologist; but he does not consider that in Canada the evil is so great as in some other countries. If the country is thus favourably situated, to whom are we indebted for the happy state of things? Undoubtedly to those earnest Temperance reformers who have laboured in season and out of season to avert the curse of intemperance from our land. The cause owes not a little to the earnest efforts of faithful men in his own communion, of whom the late Father Stafford, of Lindsay, might be taken as an example. The Baltimore Council gave no uncertain sound on this great practical question. Leading dignitaries, like Cardinal Manning, have thrown the weight of their influence against the liquor traffic. The innuendo stigmatizing Edinburgh and Glasgow might have been wisely spared, since the portions of these cities where the gin palace and its deplorable consequences are most frequently met with are most densely peopled by the Archbishop's co-religionists and fellow-countrymen.

THE friends of Manitoba and the North-West are apprehensive that the present deplorable rebellion will injure the country in the estimation of people desirous of removing thither. Of course, for this season, immigration will not think of going into the Territories until peace is restored and order secured. One thing may be relied upon, that when Riel's rising is suppressed it will not be possible to perpetuate the abuses that gave the designing demagogue the opportunity to excite the Half-Breeds and Indians. The interests of the North-West and the Dominion render that impossible. No fears, however, need be entertained in relation to Manitoba. There is no rebellion there and no indication of disturbance. The Manitoba Legislature has passed the following resolution, which is sufficient to remove any doubts intending immigrants may have entertained. Resolved, that whereas it is believed that the present troubles in the North-West are affecting immigration to Manitoba, this House desires to place on record the fact that there is not the slightest disturbance in any part of Manitoba, as the existing trouble is confined to the Districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, along the north branch of the Saskatchewan River, some hundreds of miles north-west of the settled portion of Manitoba; therefore all who contemplate coming to Manitoba this spring can do so in the utmost security.

THE Ottawa correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* says: The Senate agreed to the second reading of Mr. Jamieson's Scott Act Amendment Bill, recently, without taking a vote on the question. Mr. Dickey, whose motion for the three months' hoist was before the House, intimated that in consequence of the suspension of the McCarthy Act, he would not undertake the responsibility of leaving the country absolutely without any means of regulating the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, which would be the case if this Bill were thrown out. He therefore asked permission to withdraw his amendment, which was granted, and the Bill received a second reading without further opposition. It is feared, however, that the Bill will be vigorously attacked on the subsequent stages, particularly in the direction of introducing a beer and light wine clause. The whiskey men are leaving no stone unturned to defeat this Bill and to harass all Temperance legislation during the whole Session. They have had a paid agent, a Toronto lawyer, at the Capital with instructions to spare no pains or expense to burke all Temperance measures and further their interests generally. A well directed attack was made on the Bill in its passage through the Commons, but it failed. The only remaining hope now is in the Senate, and the utmost watchfulness on the part of the friends of Temperance will be required to carry the Bill through unimpaired.