

THE PRESBYTERIAN

Toronto, Friday, November 15th, 1878.

\$2.00 per Annum, in advance.
Single Copies, Five Cents.

Vol. 2.—No. 3. (New Series).
Whole No. 354.

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CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES OF THE WEEK.....	33
PASTOR AND PEOPLE.....	34
OUR CONTRIBUTORS—	
Notes from Halifax.....	35
Manitoulin Island: Mission Work.....	36
Archbishop Lynch's Controversial Work: XIX.....	37
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.....	38
SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.....	38
PRACTICAL PAPERS.....	39
EDITORIALS—	
"From Jest to Earnest"—The Week of Prayer—The Prophetic Conference.....	40
The Conference and the Lapsed Masses.....	41
Notes from New York.....	41
CHOICE LITERATURE.....	42
BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.....	43
MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.....	44
SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.....	45
WORDS OF THE WISE.....	45
OUR YOUNG FOLKS.....	46
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	47, 48

Sabbath School Presbyterian.

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Golden Hours for the Young.

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The SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN has been received with increased favor during the year, although there are still very many schools in which no copies are taken. It is encouraging to know that the patrons of the paper look with approval upon the efforts made to provide such a publication; and we bespeak largely increased orders for the coming year—promising, on our part, to make the paper more attractive than ever to our young folks.

GOLDEN HOURS, started in January last, will be continued; but as an entirely distinct publication. In reading matter and illustrations it will be quite different from the SABBATH SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN, so that, if desired, the two papers may be given out to the same scholar alternately—thus forming a fortnightly issue.

PLEASE NOTE!

Superintendents and teachers will oblige us much by sending in their orders for 1879 as early as possible, so that we may know how many copies to print of the January number.

International Lesson Leaves

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5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Publisher.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WITHIN the last year Queen Victoria has given \$25,000 to the temperance cause. Four members of the royal household are total abstainers.

THE French Exposition is ending in a disgraceful gigantic lottery, with twelve million tickets, the prizes being valuable works of art which have been on exhibition.

THE ceremony of laying the corner-stone of Erskine (Bay Street Presbyterian) Church, at the head of Simcoe street, took place yesterday (Tuesday), and was attended by a large number of friends. A full report will be given next week.

THE yellow fever deaths at New Orleans on the 3rd were but nine; at Memphis, eight; at Vicksburg, three. A return to the affected places is not yet safe for those who left at the fever's first appearance. The total number of deaths at New Orleans has been 3,954.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE, in the County of Kildare, Ireland, caught fire on the 1st inst., and notwithstanding the assistance rendered by engines and firemen from Dublin, the flames were not extinguished until

late in the evening. The southern and western wings of the college were destroyed. Loss \$50,000.

THE Sabbath school work progresses slowly in Germany. Though dating from 1789, there are now but 1,500 schools and 100,000 scholars in all the empire. Of late more vigor has been put into the work, and the hope is that it will advance more rapidly in the future. A convention of Sabbath school superintendents and teachers was held in Berlin, October 5-7, a fact which indicates a spirit of enterprise and progress.

THERE has been a great fall in gas stocks throughout the United Kingdom, occasioned by the report that gas is about to be superseded by the electric light. Mr. Edison, the inventor of the phonograph, claims to have made some remarkable discovery with regard to electrical lighting, which has caused a sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. The vested interests in gas undertakings in the United Kingdom are said to exceed \$500,000,000.

THE annual meeting of the Norwegian Presbyterian Temperance Society was held on Hallowe'en. Monthly reunions have been held during the year, and the finances were found to be in a satisfactory position. The number on the roll of membership was found to be 285, 114 of these having signed since the preceding Sabbath. After discussing the good things provided and listening to speeches, readings, etc., the company dispersed. The society is founded on the basis of "Religious Temperance."

FROM recent telegraphic despatches it appears that there are some indications of a peaceful solution of the Afghan difficulty. It is even hinted that Russia has advised the Ameer of Afghanistan to come to terms with Britain. If this report is correct, we can perceive one explanation of the Russian policy, and only one; that is, that Russia intends for the present to confine her attentions to the Turkish empire, and does not wish to place herself under the necessity of fighting Britain along the whole line.

THE programme of services at the opening of the new Presbyterian Church, St. James' Square, next Sabbath, appears in another column. There will doubtless be a large attendance to listen to sermons from such eminent ministers as Drs. Taylor and Jenkins; and the social on Monday evening, when several popular speakers will deliver addresses, will afford a pleasant and profitable evening's entertainment. The new church edifice is in every respect, so far as we know, second to no other in Ontario.

THE Scotch Protestants are opposing the re-establishment of the Papal hierarchy. Last month they started the publication of the "Scottish Patriot" in Edinburgh, and its promoters intend that its columns shall be devoted to furthering "the interests of Protestant truth and civil and religious freedom." To arouse the nation from its state of slumber will be one great aim of the "Scottish Patriot." It says: "Entirely free from party, either of Church or State, it will seek to unite Protestants of all denominations against the common foe."

AT a recent meeting of the Lennox and Addington Teachers' Association, as reported by the "Napanee Standard," the following resolution was carried unani-

mously: "Moved by Mr. Kidd, seconded by Mr. R. Tyson, that this Association desires to bear testimony to the great ability of the Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A., as an educationist, and while we rejoice that he is connected, to some extent, officially with our educational system, we would express a strong desire that his intercourse with the teachers throughout this province may be much increased, as from his highly cultivated mind, from his intimate acquaintance with every phase of human nature, and from the noble principles which he enunciates with such eloquence and vigor, we have no doubt that such intercourse would be productive of incalculable good to the cause of education in our province."

MR. CROIL, in the "Presbyterian Record" for October, criticises two sermons which appeared in the September number of the "Metropolitan Pulpit," one by Rev. Dr. Tiffany and one by Rev. Dr. Leech, both eminent ministers in the United States. The principal point in the criticism is that in these sermons, which are both on Luke xv. 10, the joy in heaven over repentant sinners is represented as being only the joy of angels. In emphasizing his dissent from this view the critic says: "The writer can never forget the admirable exegesis of this passage which he listened to years ago from a Canadian pulpit by one unknown to fame but who has few equals as an expositor of the Scriptures. After having said all that needs to be said about the 'angelic joy,' there still remains to be considered the grandest thought of all." Our readers will find the sermon to which Mr. Croil here refers, as well as the name of the preacher, in another column of this issue under the head of "Pastor and People."

THE following extract from Oscar Browning's "Modern England" will refresh the memories of our readers as to certain events in the history of Afghanistan. It is to be hoped that present difficulties will not lead to results confirming the dictum that "history repeats itself:" "Afghanistan, a province on the north-western frontier of India, is approached by two passes from the plains. The Khyber Pass, a long and difficult defile, leads to Jellalabad, and the Koord Cabul Pass, still longer and more difficult, bars the passage to Cabul. Afghanistan had been occupied by General Elphinstone, who, fearing for his retreat, sent General Sale to occupy the pass to Jellalabad. In the meantime he neglected the commonest precaution. The Afghans, excited by some wild rumors, rose against him, cut off his provisions, killed the British Envoy by treachery, and compelled the army to shameful capitulation. No faith was kept by the barbarians. Deprived of food, harassed by treacherous attacks, the army dwindled away to a mere handful. The women and children had at last to be surrendered to a faithless enemy; out of 16,000 men who left Cabul only one survivor reached the city of Jellalabad. No insult of this kind has remained long unavenged. General Pollock marched with 8,000 men through the Khyber Pass. He joined General Sale at Jellalabad, and defended the city, although it was shaken with a hundred shocks of earthquake. In August, 1842, the two armies moved through the pass of Khoord Cabul, where their countrymen had perished man by man. The city of Cabul was taken, the inhabitants were massacred without mercy, and the Great Bazaar was burned to the ground. Afghanistan was entirely reduced, but the English did not care to retain so useless and so costly a possession."