

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 21.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13th, 1892

No. 28.

IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

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For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries

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Notes of the Week.

THE 250th anniversary of the first meeting of Presbytery in Ireland was commemorated recently by a social meeting, held in First Carrickfergus Presbyterian Church. There was a large attendance. The Rev. John Stewart presided, and addresses were delivered by the Moderator of the General Assembly (Rev. R. M'Cheyne Edgar), Rev. Dr. Lynd, and Rev. W. Kerr.

AFRICA north of the equator is mostly Moham medan; in the division of the whole country, British Africa stands first with a population of over forty million; then French Africa and Arab Africa with the same population between them, the Congo-State follows with fifteen million, Turkey, Italy, Germany, and Portugal bring up the rear. Russia and Austria have no possessions in Africa.

THE Temperance Committee of the Free Church have issued a statement to the parliamentary electors suggesting that candidates be asked whether they will support the abolition of the opium traffic, giving temporary financial assistance to the Indian Government if necessary, and whether they will support the local veto, the hours of closing, the grocers' licenses, and the sale to children Bills, and oppose compensation.

OVER 1,300 persons attended the garden party given by the Archbishop of Dublin in honour of the Irish General Assembly. The party also included representatives of the other Protestant Churches in Dublin, as well as the parish priest of Bray. The Archbishop said he regarded it as an auspicious omen that they were met together as friends on that day, which commemorated the formation, at Carrickfergus, of the first Presbytery in Ireland, 250 years ago.

THE late Alexander Johnston, who was an artist of some note, and, at the time of his death, the oldest member of Regent Square congregation, London, left, among other paintings, a portrait of Dr Dykes, which was painted a good many years ago, and exhibited in the International Exhibition of 1872. A few friends of the artist and of Regent Square, the *London Presbyterian* states, have just purchased this picture from the artist's daughter and presented it to the congregation, which already has a fine oil painting of Dr Hamilton.

OUTRAGES upon missionaries are reported from the Fo Kien province in Eastern China and Se-Chuen, 1,500 miles up the Yang-tse-Kiang. In the city of Chin Ho, on April 27, Messrs. Johnson and Newcombe of the Church of England mission were insulted by a mob for three hours before being rescued, and in Kien Ning, on May 11, the mission hospital was destroyed and Dr. Rigg narrowly escaped death. At Chung-king the roofs of the missionaries' houses were taken off. Literature has been circulated of the infamous Hunan character, and the viceroy is suspected of complicity in the riots.

THE death of Hon. John Robson, Premier of British Columbia, unexpectedly and while away from home, has called forth a large degree of regretful sympathy. He was a man of genuine ability

and of upright character. He discharged the obligations of his high office in such a manner as to command the respect of the community whose welfare he endeavoured to promote. Mr. Robson was a consistent Christian and a sound Presbyterian. In response to the wishes of Lord Knutsford, the Marquis of Lothian and the Canadian resident in London, Archdeacon Farrer conducted a requiem service for the late Premier Robson, in St. Margaret's Church, prior to the departure of the remains for Canada.

THE Evangelical Union Church of Scotland, founded 16th May, 1843, has entered its year of jubilee. Sermons appropriate to the event are being preached from its pulpits. Only two of the founders, Revs. Principal Morison, D.D., and Professor Hunter, Leith, and two of its first students survive. Nearly 400 young men have passed through its Theological Seminary. It has three professorial chairs, nearly one hundred churches in Scotland, one in England, and two in Ireland. All the ministers and students are abstainers, and unfermented wine is used at the communion which is administered in many of the churches every Sabbath. Jubilee services of an exceptionally interesting character are to be held in the autumn, at which representatives from Scottish and English Churches are to take part. This denomination has all along occupied an advanced position in the temperance reform, and its influence upon the moral, religious and theological life of Scotland has been considerable.

THE first Scottish Christian Convention for the promotion of Practical Holiness, which is to be held annually, took place recently at Bridge-of-Allan, and was largely attended, as many as 160 ministers from different parts of the country being present at one or more of the services. The principal meetings were held in a tent seating over 2,000, and each day there were seven services extending from seven in the morning till nine at night. The Convener was Rev. W. D. Moffat, of Rose Street United Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh. Among the leading speakers were Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Bonar, Rev. Dr. Elder Cumming, Rev. Dr. J. H. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Bannerman, Rev. John Smith, Rev. F. B. Meyer, Rev. Charles Inwood, Rev. J. Gelson Gregson, Rev. Dr. T. H. White, Rev. Geo. Wilson, and Mr. Robt. Wilson. Mr. William Ferguson, of Kinmundy, was treasurer, and the expenses amounted to \$5,000. An estimate of the attendance of ministers at the Convention gives sixty to the Free Church, forty-five to the United Presbyterian, forty to the Established, and twenty-five to others.

A VERY large and enthusiastic meeting of the University Extension Association of Ottawa, says the *Journal* of that city, was held in the Normal School last week. Among those present were Revs. Farries, Knowles, Christie, Dr. Kingsford, Messrs. Scott, LeSueur, McGill, Cowley, Shutt, Jolliffe, Munro, Dr. Ami, Miss Shenick, Miss Harmon, Dr. Wicksteed, McLaughlin and Fleck. The chair was taken by Rev. Mr. Farries who called upon the secretary, Mr. McLaughlin, to present the report of the committee. The report, which recommended a course of lectures by Principal Grant on the higher criticism of the New Testament, was discussed at great length. Among those who strongly favoured the adoption of the report by vigorous speeches were Messrs. McGill, Waters, Shutt, Dr. Kingsford, Dr. Wicksteed and Mr. LeSueur, while Messrs. Knowles, Cowley, Farries, Ami and others took the ground that such a course of lectures is not properly within university extension work, and that questions of religion and dogma which would naturally arise might create strong divisions on the basis of feeling, conviction and prejudice which would probably injure rather than aid the university extension movement. On the vote being taken the report of the committee was adopted by a considerable majority, and on motion of Messrs. Knowles and Cowley the resolution inviting Principal Grant to give his course of lectures on higher criticism was made unanimous. Another resolution was adopted, appointing the pro-

vincial committee to be the committee of the Association, with power to appoint their own chairman and secretary. The courses as agreed for the coming session are as follows. The Higher Criticism of the New Testament, by Principal Grant; English Literature, by Professor Cappon, Political Science, by Professor Shutt. Principal Grant's course will be delivered in October and November, and the other two courses will be treated concurrently, commencing in December and ending about the first of April.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The Church of England Funeral Reform Association held its annual meeting on the 20th inst. Its deliberations were presided over by the Bishop of Wakefield, and the energetic Archdeacon of London, Dr. Sinclair, preached the annual sermon. The Moderators of all the Scottish Churches, the Presidents of the Wesleyan Conference and Congregational Union have written expressing their sympathy with the objects of the Association. These may be briefly stated to be to give new reverence and fitness to the Christian mode of burial—"earth to earth"—to discourage expense in connection with the last rites of the dead, to make interments at once simple, sanitary, and reverent. In an excellent sermon on funeral reform by Rev. F. Laurence, the leading points in favour of reform are clearly indicated—the dead body is usually kept too long, specially among the poor; the bodies of the rich are put in strong and durable coffins of lead or wood, so keeping the poor clay from the kindly and purifying chemistry of its kindred earth; on the contrary, the bodies of the poor are huddled together into common graves in city cemeteries, and hastily covered with a scraping of earth. The hearse with nodding plumes, the elaborate monument with urns and other inappropriate ornaments, often take away money which is needed quite sorely by those who survive. If the society can reform even a few of these old bad customs it has our heartiest sympathy.

THE annual meeting of the Canadian Lord's Day Alliance was held recently in the Y. M. C. A. rooms, Ottawa. There was a good attendance. Rev. Mr. J. Wood presided and Mr. J. C. Campbell acted as secretary. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Hon. G. W. Allan; vice-presidents—Ontario, John Charlton, M.P.; Quebec, Rev. Dr. Williams; New Brunswick, the president of the Society for the Promotion of the Observance of the Lord's Day; Nova Scotia, president of the Halifax Lord's Day Observance Society; Prince Edward Island, Hon. D. Laird; Manitoba, Rev. Dr. Robertson; North-West Territories, Right Rev. Bishop Pinkham; British Columbia, Hon. W. G. McDonell; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, secretary; Rev. W. Timberlake, assistant secretary; Geo. Hay, treasurer; Revs. Dr. Campbell, Pollard, John Wood, J. McRitchie, T. W. Winfield, Ryckman, W. Carey, John Scanlan, T. Garrett, Dr. Thorburn, and Mr. J. A. Cameron, William Porter, F. P. Bronson, P. M. Robins and N. McKinnon, executive. Mr. Charlton, M. P., spoke at length on the measure before Parliament, the Lord's Day Bill, and reported upon its progress. He was attentively listened to, and a fitting resolution was adopted at the conclusion of his speech: That an effort be made through the local committee of the several Churches to arrange to have deputations of electors in every constituency wait upon the members of Parliament and press them to support the legislation for the protection of the Sabbath. Revs. Dr. Moore, Mr. Scanlan, Mr. Carey, Mr. Wood and Mr. Winfield were appointed a committee to correspond with the standing committees of the different denominations, urging them to interview the members for their respective constituencies to pledge themselves to vote in favour of Mr. Charlton's Bill. A committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. Mr. Wood, Rev. Mr. Timberlake and Mr. George Hay to arrange for a public meeting in the fall in Ottawa, and the executive were instructed to arrange for public meetings through the country to further the interests of the Bill.