

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 17.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1888.

No. 43.

Notes of the Week.

RECENT legacies to the United Presbyterian Church are reported. They amount in the aggregate to about \$45,000. Miss Joan Kerr leaves \$15,000 to found a lectureship and \$13,500 for a travelling scholarship; George Kedslie, Morningside, \$5,000 for Foreign Missions, \$4,500 for salary of evangelist in Argyleshire, and \$1,000 for Aged Ministers' Fund; and from Matthew Deas, Dundee, there comes \$4,370 as residue of estate.

LAST week the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union held their annual meeting in Sarnia. The attendance of delegates was large, every section of the Province being well represented, and delegates from the other portions of the Dominion were present. Mrs. Chisholm, of Ottawa, presided, and delivered her presidential address. Questions of great practical interest were discussed and large and enthusiastic public meetings were held.

THE chief magistrate of Alyth, who is an elder in the Church of Scotland, on a recent public occasion stated that he favours the abolition of tokens at the dispensation of the Lord's supper. He would allow every Christian man and woman to come to the table, making it a matter of conscience. He is also in favour of observing the ordinance oftener than at present, would have the formula simplified, and holds that there should be a larger representation of the lay element in the Presbytery.

THE Prince Edward Island *Agriculturist* cites as evidence of the prosperity of the Island farmers, the considerable money received from recent tea meetings held in the rural districts. It gives a list of fourteen of these social gatherings held this season, the receipts ranging from \$150 to \$2,300 each, and making an aggregate of \$11,130. The average for the fourteen tea meetings is \$795 apiece. This is a remarkable showing, and indicates that on the Island the tea meeting has not lost its usefulness as a means of raising money.

AN English contemporary says: The formal reply made by the Dean of Windsor, in acknowledgment to the minute transmitted by the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance to the Pan-Anglican Conference, then in session, is criticised in the American Presbyterian journals. It is considered somewhat chilling, and fails to win confidence or beget hope. It would have been well perhaps, if no such action had been taken by the Pan-Presbyterian Council; but the intention was good, and there is no danger that the mistake will be repeated.

A BRITISH contemporary relates that at one of the tithe sales in Cardiganshire the indignant crowd refused to listen to the conditions of sale until the bailiffs had solemnly sworn they would never again visit the district. The crowd, numbering about 1,500, bespattered the officials with rotten eggs and the proceedings terminated abruptly. Immediately thereafter an anti-tithe meeting was held, with a J. P. in the chair, and two ministers, a captain and a doctor among the speakers. The action of the clergy was strongly condemned. Subsequently at the sale of goods belonging to a widow, stones were thrown and several of the police wounded.

A TEN days' mission on a large scale, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, is to be held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, to open on October 1. The intention, says the *Newcastle Leader*, is to allocate one or more of the invited evangelists to each Church in the district; to have two large general meetings on the Sunday afternoon, one in the Newcastle Town Hall, and the other in the Town Hall of Gateshead; a deputation of the speakers to the Central Hall on the Saturday evening; and several open-air meetings with the men at the large works. The missionaries will in turn preside at the noonday prayer-meetings, and be present at a Conference in Trinity Church.

THE McGibeny Family are from Oregon, Portland. They are a musical family. They are now visiting Canada, and travel in their own parlour car. Wherever they have gone they have produced a most favourable impression. From the number of performers in the large family circle, and the varied and high character of their musical accomplishments, they are enabled to give greatly diversified and pleasing entertainments. Last week they gave a series of performances in Association Hall. Selections from the works of Haydn, Mozart and Mendelssohn were rendered with excellent skill and taste. Their programmes were, however, sufficiently varied to gratify varying degrees of musical culture, and as a consequence, the large audiences that attended were delighted. They came to Toronto strangers, but when they return they will be greeted as friends.

MR. JAMES PAYN, the editor of *Cornhill*, confirms the experience of every editor that many persons are curiously deficient in a sense of fun. In the *Cornhill* lately, there was an article entitled "Who wrote Dicken's novels?" in which, by way of a skit on Mr. Donnelly's Bacon theory, they are attributed to Mr. Gladstone. It is hardly credible, but numbers of persons have written to inquire "What foundation exists for this statement?" It is only by chances of this kind that the depths of human credulity can be plumbed. When London was first divided into postal districts, an example was given of how letters should in future be addressed, to "John Smith, Strand, W. C.," whereupon, as the post-office report informs us, hundreds of people directed their private correspondence to that imaginary gentleman!

THE Quebec *Daily Telegraph* publishes a lengthy obituary notice of the late Senator J. G. Ross, containing the following passage, which gives the key to the deceased millionaire's successful career and model Christian life: He was economical in his habits of living and gave to his household as little trouble as possible. From ten in the morning until nine, ten or eleven o'clock at night he would spend his week days in his counting room. But he was true to his Christian belief, and observed the Sabbath. Chalmers Church found him a regular attender. He never failed to put in an appearance. Business on Sundays did not concern him, neither did his letters or papers. The postoffice could be at his door and he would not make use of it on the Sabbath. "It is time enough on Monday to read good or bad news," was his reply to those who spoke to him on the subject of Sunday business.

NOTHING perhaps has shown more the lamentable tendency to extravagance in our modern life, says the *British Weekly*, than the outlay expected from governors, mayors, and other high officials, diplomatic and civil. The "style" demanded goes far to show that in the minds of most people money is the test of dignity, and free spending the gauge of high civilisation. We are the more pleased, therefore, to note that Birmingham has done itself the honour of choosing as mayor a man who cannot and would not spend large sums during his tenure of office. Mr. Barlow frankly avows that he has not the means to gratify diners-out; he also intimates that as an abstainer he will be true to his principle. When Church dignitaries and leaders follow this example they will have more authority, and begin a reformation greatly needed in British society; on which, in fact, depends the moral future of the country.

ADDRESSING the teachers of Montreal the other night, Mr. A. W. Kneeland, M.A., said: To those coming from Britain and the European continent, the manners of the youth of Canada and the United States are simply unbearable. We sometimes speak of the boorishness of country children; but the rudeness, the insolence, the utter ignorance of the common rules of politeness of many of our city children, are more than sufficient to outweigh the ill-manners of those not so favourably situated. I know that the mixed population of our colonies, composed as it is of people from the four quarters of the globe, with a too great

proportion of the ignorant and vicious, is not the most favourable in the world for the cultivation of the finenesses of life; but the greater the field, the greater the opportunity; the more obvious the evil, the greater the need for its removal. Many children of a larger growth could, with advantage, take lessons in politeness. They do these things better in France, it is said.

MISS FRANCES E. WILLARD has just sent out her address as president of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, a position to which she was elected some time ago. The object of the W. W. C. T. U. is "to unify the work of women in the temperance and social reforms all the world over, and to circulate a petition addressed to all the governments of the world for the overthrow of the alcohol and opium trades." Miss Willard concludes her address as follows: "Knowing as I do that the sisterly messages of this address will be lovingly scanned by what seem to me to be the wisest women in the world, and translated by them into a score of different languages, I fervently and humbly pray that every word may be winged to some true heart, and that the plans here outlined may round out into deeds that shall carry help to all lands in humanity's unceasing warfare for a clear brain and a protected home. Let the constant prayer of your hearts be this: 'All the world for Christ and for the temperance cause.'"

A CORRESPONDENT of the *British Weekly* writes to that paper: A French Protestant gentleman living in Nimes had a man-servant, who one day gave him notice to leave, as he wished to return to his native mountains. Shortly after, his master met him hobbling along the Boulevard with two crutches. On asking him what was the matter, the man seemed confused, but on being pressed for an answer, said, "If you will come to a certain *cafe* at two o'clock, I will tell you all." The appointment was kept, and then it appeared that, not caring to return home, he had been recommended to go to a priest for employment, which consisted in walking round the Boulevard once a day for three weeks, with his leg tied up and using two crutches. For this he was to receive one franc *per diem*; and at the end of three weeks he was to perambulate in the same way three times a day for one week, and to receive a wage of three francs. This over, he was to go to Lourdes to get cured! There are doubtless many cures wrought at the Virgin's shrine, thanks to nervous excitement, but there is also a vast amount of imposture, of which the above story is a specimen.

THE selection of a pastor by a Presbytery, after a certain time has been given to make a choice, does not promise to work smoothly if the following instance is to be regarded as a specimen: The congregation of St. Columba, Glasgow, at a recent meeting, elected ten members to act along with the office-bearers in conferring with the Presbytery's committee. The right of the congregation to elect a minister lapsed in June last, and has now devolved upon the Presbytery; but Dr. F. L. Robertson stated that the Presbytery were very deeply sensible of the importance of the Church, and therefore wished to move cautiously in filling up the vacancy. The Presbytery had not set their hearts upon anybody. If it had been an English Church they might have some neighbour in view, because parsons were just like other people, and might want to give a neighbour a change into some other parish. In reply to Mr. John Macintyre, the Moderator said it was not proposed that the committee should report to the congregation before the Presbytery elected a minister; whereupon Mr. Macintyre avowed his inability to understand the course that was proposed, which simply made believe that the congregation was, after all, to have a choice. Another member of the congregation, Mr. William McFadyen, declared that the Presbytery's offer was all a delusion—they had promised them bread and were giving them a stone. It was agreed to petition the Presbytery to submit the names of the nominees to the congregation before filling up the vacancy.