

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 22.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 1893.

No. 6.

Notes of the Week.

There are 4,876 students at the University of Berlin this winter, the largest number in the history of the institution.

Eiffel's plan for a great bridge across the River Neva at St. Petersburg has just been accepted, and the St. Petersburg municipality has voted the twenty-six million rubles required to build it.

Ninety-one millions of foreign capital mostly British, says The Christian at Work, is invested in American breweries; the breweries control the saloon; the saloons in our large cities control the government. This is a deadly foreign invasion that cannot be too quickly repelled.

"General" Booth's latest scheme is "a light brigade of 100,000 persons, outside the Salvation Army, to take a box and put a halfpenny in it each week." He thinks a plan of that sort would bring in thousands of pounds.

Recently in India certain regiments, containing over 5,000 soldiers, were placed under medical observation, from which it was shown that the mortality of the free drinkers was 44 per 1,000; moderate drinkers, 28 per 1,000; and teetotallers, 11 per 1,000.

The Duke of Argyle joins Mr. Goldwin Smith and The Times in twitting Mr. Gladstone for saying he was a "pure Scotsman" and then undertaking to legislate for the English. We thought "The Campbell" was a pure Scotchman, remarks The Christian Leader; but he also sits in a legislative chamber at Westminster.

Says The Christian Leader: The censorship in Turkey over the religious press is becoming intolerable, and Her Majesty's representative has declared that the Christian Scriptures must be admitted intact. The censors have been erasing "Jew" and "Hebrew" in all places, and inserting the word "Christian" before sinners, thus: "Jesus came into the world to save (Christian) sinners"—as if no Turks could be sinners.

At the close of drill recently the members of the First St. John Company Boys' Brigade, presented their captain, Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, with a handsome gold-headed ebony cane, a testimonial of their respect and appreciation, that was peculiarly gratifying to the recipient. The presentation was made in a neat speech by Lieut. G. H. Smith, and Mr. Fotheringham who was taken completely by surprise replied in suitable terms.

New plans have been made for the projected bridge across the English Channel, and the promoters will apply to Parliament this session for powers to go ahead with its construction. The engineers are Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker. The length of the bridge has been reduced about three miles, and the number of piers have been reduced from 121 to 72. The cantilever system is proposed. The greatest span will be 1,840 feet. The cost is estimated at £32,750,000.

Concerning the wearing away of Niagara Falls, Prof. LeConte says: "The upper stratum of rock is Niagara limestone, a hard rock, but beneath it is a stratum of shale. It is the slow undermining of this shale that causes the limestone to break off from year to year and the falls to recede. They are receding now at the rate of three or four feet a year. What will be the final result? They may go back to the lake, but the limestone is growing thicker and thicker and may finally

ally extend to the bottom of the falls. In that case the rock would not break off, but would wear away and form rapids. In any case, should the falls recede to Lake Erie, at the present rate it would take at least twenty thousand years."

The surplus food supply of the world would last, looking at the question from the purely human point of view, a little over a year, supposing vegetable supplies were cut off and domestic and food animals to be fed on stored produce. Men and beasts would exhaust this in about twelve months, man, of course, slaughtering live stock for food all the time, and so decreasing the consumption of vegetable produce by animals. This estimate does not include fishing or hunting, and only applies to civilized communities.

The New York Mail and Express said some time ago: "The reign of lawlessness in Chicago is a direct result of the efforts of the Exposition authorities in that city to break down the Sabbath. If they teach disobedience to the fourth commandment, in prospect of money gain, how can they expect lower classes of their people to regard the binding force of the sixth and eighth commandments?" To this, the Chicago Tribune replies, with brutal frankness: "All the same, Chicago will have the Fair open, Sunday, Col. Shepard, even if the thieves smash all the commandments and steal the whole business."

Theodore L. Cuyler makes the following pointed remarks in a recent issue of The Christian Intelligencer. They apply with equal force to the rich in Canada as on the other side of the lines: "One great need of the times is for the rich people to understand their duties; otherwise wealth may be a snare and a curse. Another need is for strong churches to discharge their obligations, (that is the word) to the weak and the struggling. After preaching in a certain church in New York I shook hands with over one hundred millions of money in ten minutes after the service! That might mean one hundred missionaries supported and endless other blessings scattered abroad. The greatest need of all, is more personal consecration on the part of every one of us to self-denying service for our crucified Master. 'Inasmuch as ye do it to the least and weakest, ye do it unto Me.' That is our Master's watchword and call to duty. Power means debt—a debt we owe to the poor, the feeble, the guilty, and the perishing. God help us all to pay the debt!"

In the Belfast Witness we find an amusing little speech, made by a staunch Irish Presbyterian minister, who stumbled on a small organ in a church he was preaching in. He described the scene thus:—"There was an instrument in Ballinborough Presbyterian. He had gone to preach in a certain church, not knowing the accursed thing was there. It was an evening service, and hymns were only used. When he gave out the number of the hymn he thought surely the bitterness of death was past. But, before he had time to begin reading the hymn, he heard a sound—a most unusual sound, it seemed to him, in a Presbyterian church. He looked down and saw the abomination of desolation. To say he was shocked would be to put it very mildly. Indeed. Although it was none of his business, after the service he remonstrated with the minister. The minister explained that the instrument was introduced during a vacancy, that he had nothing to do with it, and was not responsible. Besides, he said, the people came out to hear the music, and then they had to remain to listen to him."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Rams' Horn: Had Job been a man who run his shoes down at the heel, and never had any opinions of his own, the devil wouldn't have bothered him.

Dr. John Caird: It is a great thing to love Christ so dearly as to be "ready to be bound and die" for Him; but it is often a thing not less great to be ready to take up our daily cross and to live for Him.

The Interior: "God is the Father of truth. The devil is the father of lies. Whom will you serve?" asks the Religious Telescope. Up this way, and considerably elsewhere, it is a matter of spot cash.

Dr. D. T. Young: In religion, "What is more than How." There is a God; it is comparatively unimportant to know how He exists. There is a Bible; it is comparatively unimportant to know how it is inspired. There is an infinite atonement, and there are perhaps twenty theories of it; we are saved by none of these, but by the atonement itself. The cross transcends all explanations. Oh, I fear some of you are looking skeptically, critically, at the wondrous cross. If you look thus you will see in it nothing but common wood.

Joseph Parker: Humility is the test of Christian character. There is much that goes for humility which would deceive the very elect. We must be so humble that there can be really nothing to humble our pride. We shall know how much we have learned of Christ when everything is dead against us, when not a star comes out in the night-time, and when the days are almost nights, when there is no fruit on the fig-tree, when men crush in before us, when men seek to outwit us, when men ill-use us. Then shall we know whether we are Christ's or not. The way into Christ's heaven is not a theological examination, but through crucifixion on His cross.

Morley Punshon: The Bible is true, or it is false. If it be true it is true for the heart—for the life—for any time—for all times for eternity—it is the truth now and forever. Do you believe it? "King Agrippa believest thou the prophets? I know thou believest." Man—woman—Kings—heirs of the royal kingdom of heaven—believest thou the Bible? Believest thou that just beyond you—very near you—just above you there is a heaven of blessedness and a hell of doom and that the rupture of a small air-like vessel attenuates as the web of a spider may at any moment exalt you into the one or plunge you into the doom of the other?

Christian Index: "Praying is more than saying prayers." We are not heard for our much speaking. The ear of the Heavenly Father listens to the faintest cry that comes from a sincere soul, and that alone is prayer which thus comes. Here is something good on this point: "God weighs our prayers rather than numbers them. That we should pray often, and even 'without ceasing,' is important, but that we should pray with sincerity and earnestness, is still more so. The mere mumbling of a form of words, whether long or short comes to but little. If we expect to find acceptance at the throne of the heavenly grace, our hearts must be right in the sight of God."

Phillips Brooks: The Revelation tells us of golden gates and streets of pearl. It tells us also of beings who walk in them with a precious and mystic name written

upon their foreheads. Let us be sure that the new name in the forehead is what makes the reality of heaven far more than the gold under the feet. The new circumstance shall be much, but the new man shall be more! Only by knowing that, can we be truly getting ready for heaven here. We can do nothing now to build the streets and gates, but by God's grace we can do much, very much, now to begin to become the men and women to whom one day heaven shall be possible. Then heaven, when it comes, will not be strange. Only a deepening of the faith by which we sought it shall we receive and absorb, and grow in and by its richness for ever and for ever.

Canadian Baptist: But while, in the meantime, we must regard any organic union with Pedobaptist denominations as impossible, so far as Baptists are concerned, we have great faith in the possibility and the reality of that essential and vital union, which binds as in one heart, and should unite as one in aim and effort, all true followers of Christ, irrespective of differences of views on the points indicated. We should rejoice to see Baptists uniting their forces more and more closely with their brethren, in various lines of aggressive Christian work, in regard to which all are agreed. We believe not only that it is our duty to show forth in this way the essential unity of all the servants of the one Master, but that this way lies the only real approach towards that oneness of faith and practice for which His true disciples can never cease to hope and pray.

Central Presbyterian: From these returns of the United States census it will be seen that all the leading Protestant Churches have increased during the decade from 1880 to 1890, at a greater rate per cent, than the Roman Catholic Church, notwithstanding the gains which this last named church made from foreign immigration. The Lutherans made the largest relative gain of all the Protestant bodies. This was due in large measure to the great immigration from Germany and other Lutheran countries. The increase of the Protestant Churches was fully 17 per cent. in excess of the increase of the population of the country. Although these facts are full of encouragement, it still remains true that a very large proportion of our population has not been brought under the power of the Gospel. Home missionary work is urgently needed in all our States—in the older ones as well as in the more recently settled; in all our cities as well as in the outlying country districts.

Christian Guardian: Independently of an aggressive military policy in the East, and the importance of the retention of Egypt in the interests of her Indian empire, England is engaged in a wise and economical administration of Egyptian affairs which is proving to be of the highest benefit to the population. Through the benefits of this administration, the Egyptians are learning something of honesty and good faith, and are being gradually relieved of oppressive burdens. The condition of the fellahen has been greatly improved. They are not fleeced now as they were and would be again were a less and reliable and capable set of administrators placed over them. The English having shown themselves the true friends of the people, have gained something more than the mere right of the strongest to possession. They have gained the consideration and respect of the governed. And there is every assurance that this beneficent rule will not be withdrawn or trifled with while the need for it remains.