

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 23.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1894.

No. 38.

## Notes of the Week.

Lady Gwendoline Cecil, the daughter of the Marquis of Salisbury, who accompanied her father on his visit to Ulster, is engaged on a poetical novel which will shortly see the light. Her ladyship manifested a deep interest in what she heard and saw in Ireland, and it may be that we shall be enabled to gather from the book some of her conclusions, which, at any rate, will be interesting.

The Peninsula *Methodist* says that at the general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, held a short time ago in the Cathedral school, New York, President Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, of the Superior Council of New York, announced that the Council General of the society in Paris had prohibited the admission to membership of any one engaged in the liquor business. The statement was received with great applause by the representatives of the fifty-seven New York conferences who were present.

Another petition is about to be presented to the Home Secretary on behalf of Mrs. Maybrick. Three thousand signatures thereto have been obtained, chiefly from doctors, barristers, clergymen and analysts; and though the hope of her release is by many regarded as forlorn, the movers in the matter are confident that the cause they advocate merits consideration. Mrs. Maybrick, it is said, has, since her confinement, aged rapidly—all her beauty is gone, her hair has turned white, and dark rings encircle her eyes.

A very interesting article on the extraordinary longevity prevailing in Modern Greece has recently appeared from the pen of the eminent statistician, Bernhard Ornstein. By comparative statistical tables the writer shows that Greece is the land which contains by far the greatest proportional number of centenarians among the inhabitants, and this is accounted for by the fact that the climate is excellent, and that the old Greek habits which conduced so much to longevity are still held in respect by many of the moderns.

Archdeacon Farrar, whose admirable life of St. Paul is so well known, is engaged on a work which he intends to call "The Life of Christ as Represented in Art." It is not the intention of the writer to intrude on the functions of the art critics, but to pass in review the predominant conceptions of Christ and of the events narrated in the Gospels as expressed by great painters. He will try to show how widely the theological views of the later centuries differ from those of earlier times as recorded in the oldest paintings.

A decision recently given by the Czar's Supreme Court of Justice will be hailed with delight by Protestants as foreshadowing the termination of the cruel persecution to which separatists from the Orthodox Church have been subjected. A peasant was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for having his child baptized by a Lutheran pastor, and the man appealed. The Supreme Court has decided that the father acted within his rights, and quashed the sentence. In Russia the judgment is regarded as directed against the intrusion of the Orthodox clergy into family affairs. None too soon has this been done.

The *Converted Catholic*, of New York, says:—"So far as peace, union, and harmony in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States are concerned the outlook is anything but promising. While various Protestant bodies have finally settled grave controversies that were rending them asunder, such as the Andover case, for instance, the quarrels and divisions in the Roman Church are getting fiercer than ever. The coming of Papal delegate Satolli, seems to have made bad matters worse, and to have shown how the most uncompromising Ultramontane clerics and dignitaries can defy the authority of Rome under guise of love and devotion to the best interests of the Church."

Speaking of a series of articles on the "Higher Criticism," which the Rev. Dr. Beattie, so well known to our church, has been contributing to the *Christian Observer*, Louisville, that paper says: "They have shown the relation between the various systems of philosophy, and this new mode of handling the Scripture; the relation between naturalistic evolution and this scheme; between this theory and the historicity of the Old Testament, and between this and the teachings of Christ. In their brief outline form these articles have annihilated the arguments of the destructive critics in every direction. They are well worthy of special preservation."

Though it will take the Presbyterian Church in Canada a good while to catch up to the venerable age of some of the Presbyterian churches in the Mother Country, that we are yet becoming a somewhat venerable body by reason of age is shown by the following announcement which we take from the *Presbyterian Witness*, Halifax: "The 124th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church, Truro, will be observed Sabbath, September 9th. Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, will officiate at both services. Special anniversary collections will be taken on that day. It was on September 13th, 1770, that the congregation was organized, and a call addressed to Rev. D. Cock."

On the 24th inst., a convention will be held in Dublin under the auspices of the branch of the Evangelical Alliance of that city, which promises to be of a very interesting character. The proceedings will commence with a conversazione in the evening, and will extend over the three following days. Many well known men will take part in its discussions, and among the subjects for consideration will be: "The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit," "Entire Consecration," "The Breadth and Depth of our Faith," "Practical Christianity," "The Blessings of Jubilee," "The Royal Priesthood," "The Two Intercessors," "Growing in Holiness," "Foreign Missions," &c. There will be a special conference on Christian reunion in Ireland on Wednesday afternoon.

Senator Hill, of New York, caused a sensation in the United States Senate the other day by vigorously and valiantly taking up the defence for President Cleveland when attacked in that body. Senator Hill was the competitor of Cleveland in the nomination of the Democrats for the Presidency, and he has been supposed to be his implacable political opponent. "I do not often defend the President," said Mr. Hill, raising his voice until it rang through the chamber, "but to-day it is my duty to do so. I hope I am broad-minded and liberal enough to defend him when he is unjustly criticized and attacked. I have known him long and well," continued Mr. Hill, "and whatever may have been our differences, one thing I know well of him, he considers public questions slowly, deliberately, honestly, sincerely. He says but little. He weighs all carefully."

The *Christian Observer*, of Louisville, Kentucky, under the caption of "A Happy Example of Sabbath-keeping," makes the following reference to Toronto: "Last week there was an effort to break up this unanimity of the citizens in maintaining good order on the Sabbath. Some parties in the city undertook to 'get up' a Sunday steamboat excursion to Niagara Falls, and advertised it as an excursion of the employees of the street railways. It failed." From the *Toronto Mail* of August 29th, we learn: (1) that "none of the responsible shipping companies of Toronto would hire their vessels for a Sunday excursion;" (2) "scarcely a single ticket could be sold among the men except by one or two of those supposed to be in a position to exercise pressure on the employees;" (3) at a meeting of those concerned in the affair "the failure of the whole scheme was virtually admitted." It quotes from the *Mail* as follows: "The outsiders who were anxious to use the name of the street car employees for booming the trip are a very disappointed crowd indeed, and declare they will have nothing more to

do with similar concerns, as this is the second time during the present summer they have tried and failed to run a Sunday excursion."

It is well when for good reason and in a right cause Canada can secure the favourable notice of the "Thunderer" on the banks of the Thames. In a recent issue the *Times* says: "The Canadian Government lost no time in giving effect to the resolution of the Ottawa conference as to the Pacific cable. Amongst the estimates submitted is one by Siemen's fixing the capital outlay for the establishment of the line at £2,000,000. This is a practical proposal showing that the question has entered a stage in which the Governments concerned must decide what part they will take. The main consideration is rather one of public utility than a financial one. The nation laying the first Pacific cable and putting the first good line of steamships on the Pacific may reasonably expect to hold a commanding position on the ocean." This is what our country is taking an active part in doing.

It must be gratifying to all friends of temperance in this country where happily the subject is taught in our common schools to know that all but six States of the Union now have laws upon their statute books providing for scientific temperance instruction in their public schools. A door of opportunity is thus widely opened for reaching the youth of the nation with wholesome and much-needed temperance teaching. "The earliest text-book," says the *National Temperance Advocate*, "prepared for this use, and still among the best, if not the very best, is the 'Temperance Lesson Book,' by that eminent scientist, honored in all lands wherein the temperance movement is known, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson." Another school text book, published by the National Temperance Society, and especially adapted to the use of younger students, is "Alcohol and Hygiene," by Miss Julia Coleman. While laws providing for temperance instruction in the public schools are upon the statute books, they do not and cannot enforce themselves. In many localities, practically, they are a dead letter. Friends of temperance can do no more valuable missionary work than to interest Boards of Education, teachers, parents, and children in temperance education in our schools.

As Presbyterians we may well take note of the record of Methodist progress made by the Rev. Dr. Carman in his opening address at the General Conference of the Methodist Church now meeting in London, and also of what he imputes this success to. "At the ratification conference of 1883," he went on, "the membership of the church numbered 169,803; now our membership is 260,692, an advance of nearly 100,000, or over 60 per cent. in the ten years, and an average of 9,000 a year increase over all losses for every year of the decade. In 1883 the number of ministers and probationers was 1663; now the number is 1,996. In 1883 the number of Sabbath Schools was 2,707, and the number of teachers 22,434, and the number of scholars, 175,052; now the number of schools is 3,251, the number of teachers 30,807, and the number of scholars 252,546. In 1883 the missionary income was \$193,769, and the Book Room property stood at \$149,602. Now the annual missionary income has reached \$249,000, an increase of nearly 30 per cent., and the property of our publishing houses is valued at \$321,580, having considerably more than doubled in the ten years under review. At the union, the superannuation and supernumerary funds of all the churches amounted to \$238,832; now the sum total is \$279,897. In 1883 our colleges and educational property were valued at \$993,719.37, now the educational plant is worth \$1,504,993. Church and parsonage property have also increased in value in a marked degree." The main cause of the victories of the decade Dr. Carman saw in the fact that they had in some measure striven together for the faith, submitting themselves to one another in love, and had endeavored of honest intent to preach the pure, simple, effective truth of God. By His grace they had honestly tried to stand in the old paths.