

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 20.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29th, 1891.

No. 30.

## IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

## IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared, in response to requests for something more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the reports asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per doz. Price of School Registers 20 cents each. Address—

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## Notes of the Week.

A WEALTHY gentleman, Mr. W. J. Guesdon, who lived at Clapham, and whose death took place in April, has bequeathed about \$1,500,000, to be used by the trustees for philanthropic and charitable purposes, of a genuine catholic and unsectarian character, in England, Wales, Scotland, Tasmania and Victoria. No Roman Catholic or Ritualistic institution is to receive any benefit. Sums not exceeding \$2,500 in any one place may be given in aid of building churches where evangelical doctrine is taught, or in aid of missions.

A BOOK which has attracted much attention is "The Young Emperor William the II. of Germany: A Study in Character Development on a Throne," by Harold Frederic. Mr. Frederic holds that there are two Williams in the Emperor—a sort of double nature, one mild and sympathetic, and the other bold and martial; and that these have respectively developed under the influence of Dr. Hinzpeter and Prince Bismarck. Mr. Frederic is the accomplished London correspondent of the *New York Times*, whose weekly letter appears in the *Globe*.

AT the invitation of Bishop Westcott, a meeting was held in the Episcopal Palace, Durham, to consider the subject of national insurance. The meeting was agreed that there is room for such a plan without interference with other organizations already well founded. They would like to see the scheme made compulsory, while exempting from its operation members of recognized provident and industrial societies. It was suggested that a minimum pension of \$1 a week should be secured, employers and the State contributing a portion of the premium and the State guaranteeing all benefits.

THE Day Census shows that in the district of London known as the City—which is almost deserted at night—the number of employers and employed on May 4 was 301,381, against 261,061 in 1881. The number of women engaged in the city during the day was 50,416, against 44,179 in 1881, and the number of children under fifteen years of age, 21,305. The street traffic for twenty-four hours showed that 1,121,708 persons entered the City at eighty different points on foot or in vehicles. The number of vehicles entering during the same time was 92,488. About 100,000 entered during the day by railways.

UNABLE to cope with the rapidly-increasing Stundist and Baptist movements in Southern and Central Russia by ordinary process of law, aided by arbitrary imprisonments and exilings, the Russian ecclesiastical authorities have now appointed missionaries to reside in heretical districts who will keep a sharp lookout for disaffected persons. These missionaries have been instructed to engage in debate and discussion with the sectaries, to note the arguments used by their opponents and persons bold enough to argue, and to send full and careful reports of all they hear and see to their ecclesiastical superiors, as well as to the police.

AT a recent meeting the London Missionary Society decided to send out one hundred more missionaries during the next four years. Of this action the *Presbyterian Observer* says very justly: Prudence said, Wait until the treasury warrants such increase, but new fields were opening up and old ones were calling for fresh recruits, and confidence that the God who called for more labourers would

stir up His Church to larger contributions, impelled to the action taken. What is now necessary is work on the part of all concerned to secure both the men and money required. Both are available if the proper means are employed. Any good effort can succeed if faith and work go hand in hand as they should.

AT this writing Mr. Spurgeon is still hovering between life and death. His brother, Mr. James Spurgeon, says that in his opinion the ordinary pastoral and literary work he has to do would never hurt him; what is really disastrous is the outside work in preaching, lecturing, etc., that Mr. Spurgeon has undertaken in response to the ceaseless worrying applications of mistaken friends. Now that such persons see the effect of their pressing invitations to preach—every one thinking their own to be an exceptional case—they will perhaps cease asking a man to do what leads to his breaking down altogether.

It stated that Mrs. McNeill, wife of Rev. John McNeill, London, took a chill recently, and pleuropneumonia supervening, she passed away after a week's illness. Mr. McNeill has the sympathy of a large circle of friends, representative of various denominations, in his sore bereavement. Mr. McNeill certainly deserves well of his brother Presbyterians. He had preached in scores of pulpits since his settlement in London, and the denomination at large has benefited by his popularity. He filled Rev. J. R. Patterson's pulpit at North Dulwich rather than cause disappointment, although Mrs. McNeill was lying seriously ill at the time.

THE *Christian Leader* notes that Professor Blaikie says it is a question whether a union of the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland would really increase the influence of the Christian army. "Notwithstanding some uncertainties, I am disposed to think it would, other unions have proved beneficial, that of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, for example, and, what comes nearer to ourselves, that of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada. I am disposed to think this Canadian union an eminently instructive one, and I look forward to the Presbyterian Council to be held next year at Toronto with much hope, partly because it will read so good a lesson to the home Churches, and perhaps in some way give an important impulse to the cause of union."

THE twenty-sixth anniversary of the Salvation Army was celebrated at the Crystal Palace, London, recently. On the previous evening General Booth received the foreign delegates at Exeter Hall. In reviewing the progress of the Army he said that out of England there were 1,705 corps and 1,049 outposts; in other words, 2,740 separate Salvation societies. They were led forward by 5,800 officers. In Great Britain there were 1,383 corps and 152 outposts, led forward by 4,649 officers. The grand totals were thus 3,088 corps, 1,201 outposts and 10,449 officers. In Great Britain at the present moment the weekly circulation of the *War Cry* was 312,522 copies. The circulation of the children's *War Cry* was 129,350, and, with their two other journals, they had a total weekly circulation of 535,862. Abroad they had twenty-seven separate newspapers, mostly weeklies, published in fifteen different languages, and their total circulation was 406,725 copies.

THE Presbyterian Alliance, though its practical effect at present may seem to some to be not very great, is destined, says the *Presbyterian Messenger*, to exercise an ever-growing influence in the way of drawing closer together the powerful Presbyterian Churches of English-speaking countries, and stimulating the weaker Churches on the continent of Europe. The secretary, the Rev. Dr. Matthews, possesses the confidence of the Churches as a man of equal prudence and activity. He has been asked by the Foreign Mission Board of the (Southern) Presbyterian Church of the United States to assist

it in obtaining a missionary agent for the Congo, and by the Foreign Mission Board of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, to assist it in procuring an iron church building for Cyprus. In the programme of topics to be considered at the meeting of the Alliance next year at Toronto, we believe some prominence will be given both to reformation subjects and to special American questions.

ANOTHER phase of the trouble now agitating our United States brethren is dwelt upon by the *Public Ledger* which states that \$800,000, nearly the entire cash endowment of Union Theological Seminary, is in jeopardy because of the action of the Seminary's directors in the Dr. Briggs controversy. The principal gifts to the Seminary were made by James B. Brown, founder of the banking house of Brown Brothers, and Ex-Governor Edwin D. Morgan. Mr. Brown gave \$300,000 and Mr. Morgan \$150,000 with the understanding, it is alleged, that the institution was under the control of the Presbyterian Church and an orthodox teacher of its faith. The refusal of the officers of the Seminary to submit to the authority of the General Assembly changes the conditions upon which many of the gifts were based. Russell Sage, it is said, will bring suit for the recovery of a donation that he made, in order to test the right of the Seminary to its endowment under its present attitude.

THE Executive Committee of the recently-formed London Nonconformist Council unanimously adopted a motion of sympathy for Mr. Spurgeon. A strongly-worded resolution was submitted by Rev. Mr. Matthews, declaring that the provision for free education ought to be accompanied by the extension of popular control in all State-aided schools, and that no settlement of the question would be satisfactory which did not provide for the universal establishment of Board schools giving an unsectarian education. This was unanimously adopted. Considerable discussion then took place as to particular points in the proposed constitution of the Council, which is intended to include representatives of all Evangelical Churches outside of the Church of England. The four secretaries of the Council have been elected respectively from the Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Nonconformist Council is yet in its infancy, but it promises to have a useful and noble future. The Wesleyans have lately formed a Council for London, which is proving itself a very vigorous body. The Nonconformist Council, however, has been constituted on a broader basis, and is likely to draw the Free Churches into closer bonds of common sympathy and action.

BARON DE HIRSCH, the Berlin millionaire, communicates to the July number of the *North American Review* a brief but important statement of his views on philanthropy. He regards it as beyond possibility of doubt that the possession of great wealth entails responsibility. He considers himself but the temporary administrator of his wealth, his duty being to contribute, by means of it, to the relief of suffering. He distrusts the old system of almsgiving, as productive of pauperism, and aims at helping persons capable of work, but in danger of becoming paupers, to take their place as useful members of society. Leaving Mr. Carnegie, and rich men like-minded with him, to create libraries, green parks, beautiful churches, he takes as his province to save from starvation and misery those Jews who are exposed to such calamities. He removes them from over-crowded localities and lands where they are persecuted, and procures them settlements where they may become farmers and handicraftsmen. It is, he holds, a libel upon Jews to say that they shirk labour, if they have a reasonable chance. Hundreds of Jewish families, exiled from Russia to the Argentine, have braved untold suffering, taken root, and are flourishing in pretty little houses of their own building. The Argentine Republic, Canada and Australia he finds to be the best fields for his experiments in Jewish colonization.