

JUST OUT: The "Presbyterian Year Book,"

EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON.

This valuable ANNUAL for 1881 is unusually full of excellent and suggestive reading. The paper, by the Editor, on the proceedings of the Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia, occupying forty pages, is worth the price of the book; while the general articles are exceedingly complete and interesting.

The N. Y. "Independent," in noticing the volume for 1879, says: "It is one of the best ecclesiastical Annuals published in THE WORLD."

The present issue is better than any previous one; and every office-bearer, at least, should have a copy.

Mailed free on receipt of twenty-five cents.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
PUBLISHER,
5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A HINDU Sabbath school is the latest novelty in heathen India. It has been started in Cocanada for the benefit of those who have no facilities for studying the Hindu religion.

AN exchange says that the amount raised by Mr. Kimball in freeing churches from debt is \$11,000,000. This amount rested on 160 churches, which would give an average of \$68,750 on each. There must surely be some mistake here. Very likely a cipher too much added to the sum total.

A FRENCH paper gives a list of the Catholic religious orders in France living under the vow of poverty, with the value of their possessions in real estate. The Jesuits head the list, with 42,000,000 francs, the Christian Brothers have property worth 31,000,000, the grand total being 324,000,000.

QUITE a keen controversy is at present raging among our neighbours over a lecture recently delivered by Dr. Howard Crosby, in Tremont Temple, Boston, on the temperance question. The Doctor's peculiar views were given with a great deal of plainness, and total abstinences and total abstinence were denounced very vigorously and with anything rather than the "calmness" which the lecturer professed. Replies and re-replies are the order of the day and a good deal of heat, not to say bad temper, is being displayed on both sides. The discussion will do good, however, in spite of the temper, though not through means of it.

THE deputation sent out by the Church of Scotland (the Rev. James Rankin and Mr. Pringle) to investigate charges of cruelty brought against the missionaries at Blantyre Station, on the Shiré River, Africa, reached their destination August 29th. They found that the accusations against the missionaries had been greatly exaggerated. It was necessary, however, to form certain rules for the better direction of the mission work. After having instructed and baptized three natives, and having purchased a hill on which to establish a new mission station and an orange garden, Mr. Rankin and his companions left Blantyre, on the 21st of October.

DR. ANGUS, one of the English New Testament revisers, gives some interesting facts about the work of revision, which lasted ten years. There were ten meetings in each year, each meeting extended to four days, and generally a day meant seven hours of actual work, so that the company, in its collective capacity, devoted 2,800 hours to the revision of the New Testament. But this represents but a small part of the labour bestowed. Every one of the revisers was competent to undertake the work, and there was not one of them who did not exhaust his knowledge and tax

his critical ability to the utmost in making sure his calling and election to so important and honourable a task.

WE learn with much satisfaction that the Rev. Principal McVicar, LL.D., has just received the diploma of the Athénée Oriental of Paris, setting forth his unanimous election to the membership of that celebrated society. The election is not only gratifying as an acknowledgment of the Principal's learning, educational labours, and standing in the literary world, altogether unsought by him, but also as exhibiting the broad catholicity of science, which overlooks all theological differences. The Abbé de Meissas, President of the Athénée, who forwards the diploma, is one of the most active and enlightened ecclesiastics of the Church of Rome in Paris. The General Baron Boissonet is the Vice-President, and among the members appear such well-known names as Haledy (the Marquis), Hervey de St. Denis, Lenormant, Maspero, Oppert (the Baron), Texter de Ravisi, Vinson, Chabas, Chodzko, the Marquis de Crozier and the Marquis de Vogue, men whose labours as Orientalists are known throughout the world.

CANON FARRAR has given voice to what is now almost a universal regret, to wit, that the authorities of the Church of England, in the past time, should have so "needlessly and cruelly ejected those who would willingly have remained within her fold"—referring in this sentence to the ejection of the Non-conformist ministers in 1662 by bigoted parsons and inconsiderate country squires. A century later the same blunder was made in regard to John Wesley and the Methodists, and a few weeks ago Bishop Ryle, of the diocese of Liverpool, went to a Wesleyan chapel in Macclesfield, in which there is a memorial tablet to his grandfather, and having had the tablet renovated and cleaned; added to the words inscribed thereon some words associating the name of his grandfather with the memory of "his grandfather's friend, John Wesley." The Bishop then took occasion to express his profound sorrow that the bishops of a former day had not shewn "the requisite wisdom and understanding" for retaining the Methodists in the Church of England.

HERE is a timely rebuke from the "Catholic Review," intended chiefly for the States, but not altogether unneeded in Canada, "The levity of the newspaper writers really ought to stop somewhere. If it reflects the aspect of the American mind, then the American mind is lapsing into a state of degeneracy which prevents it from looking at anything in a serious light. Everything held sacred by men from time immemorial is laughed at. Ingersoll's mockery of God is only the open expression of a levity which finds vent in a hundred ways but thinly veiled. A glance at the humorous paragraphs in any of the papers will shew to what length this levity is carried. Death, heaven, respect for parents, all high things, made the burden of the American 'joke'; and even those who would shudder at the thought of making light of sacred things in cold blood are unconsciously led to laugh at the humorous blasphemy of the paragrapher. Divorce and marital infidelity furnish the newspaper man with much of his material for the serio-comic article. It is no wonder that American boys are learning to look on life and death and sin as 'jokes.'"

CHIEF JUSTICE COMEGYS, in opening the criminal court at Wilmington two weeks ago, called the attention of the Grand Jury to the address of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll recently delivered in that city, and strongly expressed his opinion that some portions of it exposed the Colonel to a criminal indictment for blasphemy. Referring to the address, the judge said: "We respect free speech, and shall protect it when the public peace shall not be disturbed by it, or is not in danger of being so; but we shall not consent to allow the privilege to be used, if we can help it, to the dishonour of the God of the Jew and Gentile, Hebrew and Christian, in whose existence and omnipotence the

people of the State believe, and whom they fear and also trust, or in the revilement or reproach of Christ, or the disparagement of the religion He taught." This, it seems, is the first notice taken by any of the judges of Colonel Ingersoll's lectures. It is very evident that freedom of speech has just and proper limits, and that when these limits are exceeded speech becomes criminal. Free discussion on all subjects, whether religious or secular, must not be interfered with. But there is implied in such freedom that the language employed should not be scurrilous and vituperative, and should not be offensive to the just susceptibilities of the community. At the same time it is well to bear in mind that such offences are generally more effectively put down by being severely let alone than by civil pains and penalties. Naturally, and very properly, a man is punished for indecently exposing his person, or for circulating obscene and corrupting literature, and so it may, in certain circumstances, be both necessary and proper also to punish a man for outraging the general sense of the community by maliciously and indecently reviling what is generally regarded as sacred, but it is scarcely possible to be too cautious in carrying this out, for under such an excuse, the most atrocious injustice has often been committed, and the most indefensible persecution persistently carried out. Colonel Ingersoll's exhibitions are sufficiently offensive, but nobody is forced to pay his quarter for permission to hear or see them, and it is really simply a question of quarters all through. To make a martyr of him by getting him put into prison would be a mistake. It would but advertise the man and spread the poison.

THERE is quite a stir among our neighbours over the question whether or not wine should be used at public entertainments in the White House during General Garfield's sojourn there. It is well known that Mrs. Hayes has steadily and successfully declined to have any kind of intoxicating liquors at the Presidential table during the last four years. It is equally well known that that lady has had her course in this respect endorsed by all that is best and most influential in the public opinion of the States. It does not follow however that the example of Mrs. Hayes should necessarily be followed by Mrs. Garfield, and consequently attempts are being made by petition and memorial to have the good example set during the last four years perpetuated. It would be a pity to have it even appear that the new occupants of the White House are being coerced into what they do not approve of. Still it is a matter not only of public interest, but one in reference to which the people have a right to express their opinion, for in the entertainments of the executive mansion the President represents, not himself, but the nation, and is supplied with funds for the very purpose of dispensing national hospitality. Such being the case, we rather think the following conclusion on the subject, at which the New York "Independent" has arrived, will be generally approved by all whose good opinion General Garfield ought to think most worth cultivating: "Now, we would not think it a matter of prudence or courtesy to bombard Mrs. Garfield with petitions and prayers to follow Mrs. Hayes' example; but we do sincerely hope that she will do so. If this is a public matter, then we may properly express the opinion that our best public sentiment, which rejects wine, ought to rule. It is our country and our society that are to be represented in our court, and not the society and customs of France or Austria. Our national habits are not wine-drinking. If Mr. and Mrs. Garfield drink intoxicating liquor privately, we hope they will not offer them officially, at the expense of the nation, which pays, whether directly or indirectly, for these official entertainments." When is public opinion in Canada to be so educated as that the same question shall be seriously discussed on our own side of the lines? All who are in any way behind the scenes know that in many cases the results of official and semi-official entertainments in the Dominion, both on the larger and smaller scales, are anything but edifying and as they ought to be.