

# Canadian Churchman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 1st, 1891.

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FRANK WOOTTEN,  
Box 2640, TORONTO.

Offices 32 and 34 Adelaide St. East.

## Lessons for Sundays and Holy Days.

October 4th, 19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.  
Morning.—Ezek. 14. Ephes. 4. 25 to 5. 22.  
Evening.—Ezek. 18. or 24. 15. Luke 6. 20.

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LUTHERAN PROTESTANT RITUAL receives every week further illustrations from the observations of travellers. In Saxony and Bavaria, the ministers wear cassocks, pictorial crosses, birettas, and use altars, crucifixes, lighted candles, flowers, vases, etc.

ROBERTSON OF BRIGHTON is defended from the odious charge of being an evangelical, so called. His defender cites various quotations showing how vigorously he repudiated this label while yet alive, and how much he abhorred the narrow minded spirit usually identified with it.

BOGUS DEGREES are still purchasable at certain foreign universities (?) or institutions, both on the European and American continents. In reference to one of these, the *Church Times* proposes as an appropriate hood a green one, with an ass's ears on each shoulder, and a foolscap neatly folded to hang on the back. Sweetly, pretty!

"THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OF PLATITUDES," a descriptive phrase invented for Theosophy lately by Boscarven the Assyriologist, is a very apt epithet, but suggests reminiscences of kindred fads also, such as Christian Science, which are almost equally well fitted to be the propaganda of a charlatan and soporific consolation of a terrified sceptic.

THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS.—Prof. Stanley Leathes, in the *Churchman*, London, says: "Whatever correspondence there may be between history and prophecy, must be a correspondence dependent on the words, and therefore, so far as inspiration is involved, it must be a verbal inspiration, for the evidence of inspiration is in the particular words used."

MCQUEARY NONPLUSSED.—Proceedings were lately taken before the Bishop of Ohio to hear his sentence (of deposition after suspension) annulled, on the ground of its being legally incorrect as a double sentence. The Bishop has decided to leave the heretic simply suspended indefinitely until he reforms and retracts. His admirers are worse off than ever.

DECREASE OF CRIME IN ENGLAND.—A set of figures has been published in recent returns which seem to show an extraordinary diminution of crime in England. The story of 2,000 less convicts in prison in 1890 than in 1864, and of 8 prisons actually closed and converted to other uses since 1882, calls for explanation. It does not seem to tally with popular impressions.

FRIDAY OBSERVANCE still occupies a good deal of attention in Church circles in England. Dr. Belcher now proposes the insertion of a regular Friday column, where those who engage in Friday festivities should be pilloried as a warning to other offenders. This would be all very well, if the promoters of the scheme would, in their zeal, exercise sufficient discretion to draw the line at evensong.

THAT PARASITIC RACE.—Prof. Goldwin Smith has got himself into very hot water—but he is used to that, probably likes it!—by his recent philippic against the Jews, as being a kind of curculio in Russian and other nationalities. Isaac Behst Bendavid is after him in the *North American Review* with a retort that the Russian persecution is only the first step in the expulsion of all foreigners.

"NEW TESTAMENT CONVERSIONS" is the title of a series of sermons by Paster Gerberding, of St. Mark's English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fargo, Dakota. He thinks that much that has been written and preached on this subject is the saddest and most dangerous caricature of the truth, whether exhibited as the shallowest sentimentalism, the wildest fanaticism, or dignified moralism.

OUT-HERODING HEROD.—The Bishop of London's licensing of an order of lay preachers has occasioned much adverse comments, especially since they petitioned to be permitted to administer the chalice at communion—a characteristic of the deaconal office. The line between all such minor orders and holy orders should be sharply drawn. The sanctuary has already been too much invaded by lay assistants.

TRUE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.—Some people who are ready to run after every new fad among the sects and neglect proportionately the good old customs of the Churches of God, are advocating the adoption of so-called Christian Endeavour Societies. They had better recommend to their fellow Christians St. Paul's precept (Eph. iv. 2), "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

EFFECT OF SECULAR EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—The Bishop of Argyle attributes the marked decay of religious thought and reverence in Scotland to the absence of religious teaching from the day schools. He says, "It is very easy to point the finger of scorn at the old Presbyterian Sabbath, at Calvinistic confessions of faith, and at peniten-

tial strictness. These things had their dark side, but they had their good side too."

THE AMERICAN TRAMP.—A writer in the *London Contemporary* deals with the question of this curious anomaly, born, bred, and nurtured especially in America's soil and native blood—at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of 60,000. This class of people have probably never been taught any respect for the commandment, "Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work." A national atmosphere which ignores Christian morality naturally breeds such things.

HIGH LICENSE AS A CURE.—Amid some superficial advantages, by which thoughtless empirics are carried away, the license system has greater disadvantages. A writer in *Our Day*, Boston, enumerates these as follows: "1. Greater appeal to cupidity. 2. Greater attractions to drinkers. 3. Greater difficulty of enforcement. 4. Greater control of politics. 5. Greater increase of criminals. 6. Greater difficulty of change."

RENAN SNEERED TOO SOON.—The discovery of the full text of Aristides' Apology recalls the incident of the way in which Renan scouted as a forgery and imposture a sermon of Aristides, and a brief quotation from this same apology published in 1878 by the Mechitarile Armenian convent at Venice. Renan had allowed himself to be misled by certain modern theological terms used in the Armenian translation of the Greek treatise.

NIHILIST WOMEN.—The Russian women have thrown themselves with the thorough abandon of their impulsive sex into the anti-imperial conspiracy, and have become as notorious, by prominence, as the *petroleuses* of Paris. In the *New York Cosmopolitan*, Ella Norraikow traces the origin of the conspiracy to Yomgenieff's novel "Fathers and Children," published just 90 years ago. But she pronounces the agitation dead, the people ignore it.

MUSKOKA LIFE.—An enthusiastic summerer from Pennsylvania writes in the *Living Church* about the primeval forest, close to nature's heart, 800 feet above the sea level—no other place like it in America, the land of beautiful sunsets, two hours of prismatic splendour, Aurora Borealis streaks the north, creation's own electric light. Then he describes the parson's recuperative transformation—belt, leggings, slouch hat, log rolling, stone heaving, etc.

MULLER VERSUS DARWIN.—At the meeting of the British Association, the celebrated Max Muller insisted upon language as the great differentia between man and mere animals—Darwin notwithstanding! He said, "It required some courage at times to stand up against the authority of Darwin; but at present all serious thinkers acquiesced in Benson's conclusion"—as above, Darwin's name and authority will soon be things of the far past."

RATIONAL LANGUAGE.—In advocating Benson's theory at the recent meeting of the British Association, Professor Muller averred "that no animal had developed what was meant by rational language, as distinct from mere utterances of pleasure or pain, from imitation of sounds, and from communication by various signs. Language should have a larger share than it had