

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 16.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1887.

No. 21.

## Notes of the Week.

MRS. NICHOLS, in whose honour the Peterborough hospital is named, has added to her former handsome donation the sum of \$9,000 to provide increased accommodation for patients. It is intended to erect a new building on a well-adapted site in the northern part of the town. Money devoted to really benevolent purposes is always a good investment.

THAT the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland has not suffered from disestablishment will be made evident to any one who reads the report of the Representative Church Body, presented to the General Synod, at its recent session in Dublin. Contributions from voluntary sources amounted to \$835,000. The total income of the Representative Body amounted to almost \$2,500,000, and it has an invested capital of about \$35,000,000.

MR. MOODY has secured a site in Cleveland for his training school on the corner of Ohio and St. Clair Streets, north side. This is in addition to previous gifts of \$250,000 for the school. Several annual subscriptions of \$600 for the support of Christian women as visitors in different sections of the city have also been obtained. When fifty of these subscriptions have been obtained the Evangelistic Society will be well established.

It is estimated that within the last twenty-five years over 100,000 copies of the Bible have been circulated in Greece, besides thousands among the Greek residents in Turkey. The Government permits the free dissemination of the Scriptures, and affords protection to the colporteurs against the opposition of the Greek Church. The four Gospels are used as a reading book in the higher classes of the primary schools throughout Greece. Gospel preaching is as yet on a limited scale owing to the lack of qualified preachers.

PRINCIPAL GRANT roused the enthusiasm of the large audience assembled last week at the Canadian Club, New York, to hear his lecture on "Canada First." That the learned Principal is a loyal son of Canada admits of no doubt. He is of opinion that unrestricted commercial intercourse would be of unspeakable advantage to both the people of Canada and the United States. In this opinion he will find many Canadians agreeing with him. Drs. Ormiston and McArthur, good Canadians both, though resident in New York, evidently had an easy task in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

AT Nanaimo, on the eastern shore of Vancouver Island, B. C., a terrible explosion occurred May 3, in the Victoria Coal Company's mine. The mine took fire immediately after the explosion, and the rescuing party were, many of them, overcome by the afterdamp. Most of the latter, however, were saved by a second rescuing party. The total number known to have perished is 189, of whom eighty-two were Chinese and 107 whites. More than half the white men leave families. Many homes are thus completely broken up. There is great mourning. The stores are all closed, and flags are at half-mast. Most of the men came from Cornwall and from Wales, and a few from Nova Scotia. Over 130 orphan children have already been counted, and their misery appeals to the charity of the world.

THE Rhode Island Senate, on May 3, passed a new prohibitory bill by a vote of twenty to eight. Only three Republicans voted against the bill. The bill has now become a law. Its principal features are as follows: Making the presence of an excess of two per cent. of alcohol in liquor *prima facie* evidence that it is intoxicating; giving the Chief of State Police ten salaried deputies for use in any part of the State; strengthening the seizure section; giving members of the State police authority to arrest and hold a prisoner twelve hours without warrant; mak-

ing drunkenness a statutory offence, with a maximum penalty of \$10 fine or ten days' imprisonment; making the keeping of a club room a penal offence, the maximum penalty being \$1,000 fine and a year's imprisonment.

THE Vicar of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Prince's Road, Liverpool, is an ardent ritualist. He has the courage of his convictions, and manfully takes the consequences. He is a martyr for conscience' sake, and the inmate of a prison. There is about as much absurdity as sublimity in the imprisonment of a clergyman for his opinions in the waning years of the nineteenth century. Although Mr. Cox may honestly enough plead conscience for the persistent course he has followed, he needs to be told what John Knox told Queen Mary, that conscience needs enlightenment. However highly some may think of a State-endowed Church, Mr. Cox and his friends are no doubt convinced that it has its disadvantages. Besides, relentless fighting over vestments and candles is not an edifying spectacle.

PRINCIPAL CUNNINGHAM opened on a recent Sunday the new Hyndland Church in the west end of Glasgow, which has cost, without the spire, which has not yet been erected, nearly \$50,000. He referred to the marvellous change in Presbyterian services during the last twenty years. The slovenly service and the hard dogmatic preaching had passed away. No marvel thousands stayed away from the weary, dreary sermons they were sometimes compelled to listen to still, without one new idea or fresh fact or particle of information to souls hungering after knowledge. The Church was now becoming a school of religious instruction. The St. Giles lectures were a sign of the times, and other similar services were equally popular and were meeting a popular want. Till quite recently Scottish Churches were mean and miserable in the extreme, and altogether unworthy of our country and its faith. There had of late been a wonderful revival in ecclesiastical architecture, and this truly noble Church was worthy of the object to which it was dedicated.

THE Presbytery of St. John, N. B., has been considering the necessity of taking action with a view to secure the cessation of Sunday labour on the Intercolonial Railway. What is chiefly complained of is the erection of a new bridge at Dorchester Street. The contractors for the work claim that Sunday labour is necessary, otherwise the ordinary traffic would suffer interruption. The action of the Presbytery has occasioned considerable interest. The Rev. T. F. Fotheringham writes to the local press in a very temperate and becoming spirit, showing that intelligent and respectable people generally approve of the course of the Presbytery in calling attention to the matter. He disposes of the contractors' plea by showing that the construction of the bridge on Sabbath in neither a work of necessity nor mercy, and he adds: Is it not open to question whether a contract, which expressly stipulates that certain work is not to be done during working hours on week days, and therefore, seeing that work by night is dangerous and impracticable, virtually requires the employment of labour on an unlawful day, is itself a lawful agreement? If a note made on Sunday cannot be collected, could a forfeiture incurred by refusing to keep an unlawful stipulation be exacted?

THE Rev. W. S. Swanson, Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, who visited Canada a few years ago, receives this tribute from the *Christian Leader*: He well deserves the highest honour the Church can accord. As one of the earliest missionaries of the Church in China he continued in the field until the mission became the most important of any British Church in that Empire. Since his return he has, both by word and by pen, taught the British public perhaps better than any other the great importance of the Chinese people in relation to the populations of the world, and of the primal necessity

of their evangelization ere their national barriers are so relaxed that they overrun the Eastern Hemisphere. His birthplace is near John o' Groats; he studied at the Edinburgh University and the Free Church College in that city, and it was there that his friend, Dr. James Hamilton, placed the claims of China before him. He was ordained in 1859 in Regent Square Church, and, proceeding to Amoy, found for his companions and fellow-labourers William Burns and Carstairs Douglas. Since then his life has been a part of the China mission. The Church could do no other than accord to him its most distinguished mark of honour in acknowledgment of his life-long labours.

WHEN the record of notorious defaulters is receiving almost constant additions it is pleasing to note that there are not wanting illustrious examples of business integrity and a high sense of personal honour, as the following facts attest: At the beginning of the American Civil War a wealthy Southern grocer who had recently taken his young bookkeeper into partnership, fearing that his property would be confiscated, decided to go North. He told the bookkeeper to use the property, valued at about \$400,000, as he thought best, and that he (the merchant) would rely upon the bookkeeper's honour for a settlement at some future time. The merchant then came North, and settled in New Haven. Six years ago, wondering what had become of his estate in the South, the merchant placed the matter in the hands of his lawyer, with instructions to investigate and collect, if there was anything to collect. After some correspondence with the bookkeeper at the South, the latter forwarded an acknowledgment of the claim, and an inventory showing his indebtedness to his former employer to be \$648,000, and expressed the desire to return the property, but requested time to perfect his arrangements. He began his remittances several years ago, and last week forwarded the last payment, including interest, thus wiping out a debt of honour.

THE forty-seventh annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society was held in the Metropolitan Church last week. The distinguished stranger, who appeared as the delegate of the parent society, was the Rev. T. Harwood Pattison, D.D., of Rochester, N. Y. He preached the annual sermon the previous evening, and delivered a stirring address at the annual meeting. The report submitted by the secretary stated that the total revenue of the society has exceeded that of last year by \$2,873.69. This was in some measure due to the increased accommodation afforded by the new Bible House, and the consequent enlarged facilities for the exhibition and sale of the Scriptures, thus fully justifying the expenditure involved in the erection of the new buildings. Attention was called to the fact that a debt of about \$2,600 still remains on the building, and the treasurer will gladly receive contributions toward its liquidation. Several new branches and depositories have been organized during the past year, weak ones revived, and it is proposed to open others immediately. There are now 452 branches and depositories in connection with this society. The receipts for the year were: Proceeds of sales, \$9,577.94; free contributions from branches, donations, bequests, etc., \$21,103.54; interest, ground rent, etc., \$204.73; total, \$30,886.21. The free contributions, etc., as appropriated by branches were for the following objects: Upper Canada Bible Society, \$13,359.65; British and Foreign Bible Society, \$7,251.60; Montreal Auxiliary, \$128.28; Quebec Auxiliary, \$151.48; Building Fund (branch subscriptions only), \$215.53; total, \$21,103.54. His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor-General, was appointed patron; Hon. G. W. Allan, president; Hon. Wm. McMaster, treasurer; Mr. Warring Kennedy and Rev. J. Burton, honorary secretaries; Mr. Herbert Mortimer, minute secretary, and Mr. John Harvie, permanent secretary. The president, Hon. G. W. Allan, read an address on behalf of the society to her Majesty the Queen, congratulating her upon her jubilee. The address was unanimously adopted, the audience standing and singing the National Anthem.