

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 18.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10th, 1889.

No. 28.

Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. William Thompson, Presbyterian minister emeritus of Woolwich, has just completed his ministerial jubilee. Dr. Verner White, of Kensington, will in a few months enter upon the fiftieth year of his ministry. Dr. Edmund was ordained forty-eight years ago, Dr. Donald Fraser in 1851, Principal Dykes in 1859, Dr. Morison in 1853, Dr. Thain Davidson in 1857, Dr. Monro Gibson in 1864.

THE parish church of Duddington, Scotland, was re-opened on a recent Sunday by Rev. W. Williamson after extensive alterations. For a short time Sir Walter Scott held office as an elder in this church, and his signature to the Confession may still be seen in the Kirk Session records. Under a tree in the manse garden adjoining the church the Wizard of the North is said to have written the "Heart of Midlothian."

It is said that the Jesuits in Fernando Po are exhibiting unusual activity. A huge missionary and health establishment is being erected on the north-west side of the island, in addition to the one already there. The expense, however, is being borne by the Spanish Government. Recently they opened their new college in Santa Isabel, to the opening of which, and the lunch which followed in the Padres' house, the Rev. R. Fairley was invited, and assigned a place of honour.

DR. THAIN DAVIDSON in his latest lecture at Islington to young men, warned them against the fashionable and fascinating literature of the day that is soaked in infidelity and inoculating thousands with its poison. The cynical sneers of Professor Tyndall; the invendos of Spencer and Harrison, and even of Matthew Arnold; and the open and bitter attacks of Huxley—though the last-named had been crushed and pulverized by Dr. Wace—all these have a powerful effect. Many a young man, almost before he is aware, finds himself a disbeliever in the religion of Christ.

THE directors of the Toronto Industrial Fair, which is to be held this year from the 9th to the 21st September, are already actively at work making preparation for the same, and appear determined to make it excel in magnitude and attractiveness any of its predecessors. We have received a copy of the Prize List, which is very neatly gotten up, and any of our readers who may desire it can secure one by dropping a post-card to Mr. H. J. Hill, the Manager, at Toronto. A large amount has again been appropriated by the directors for new special attractions, and the erection of additional buildings, etc.

THE *Empire* says: By the latest donation to McGill University an endowment fund for the principalship of the institution has been formed. The increased revenue accruing from the fund will enable an assistant to be appointed to aid in some of the lecturing work of the veteran and distinguished geologist, Sir William Dawson. The step is a wise one, for it releases Sir William Dawson from the less important work at a time of life when so able a man ought to be as free as possible from drudgery. The post of assistant has been given, we note with pleasure, to a Canadian. Mr. F. D. Adams, of the Geological Survey, has been appointed lecturer in geology. He was educated at McGill, and subsequently received scientific instruction in the United States and Germany.

FIFTEEN years ago, says the *Christian Leader*, no one could visit Inverary without being struck by the bright promise of the family at the castle. It cannot be said that the prospects they held out are being realized. The later chronicle of the Argyll household presents not a few sombre features. The lovely and amiable Duchess, who ministered to the venerable Dr. Macleod Campbell with the tender sympathy of a daughter, and who delighted so much in the society of men like Dr. Thomas Guthrie and Dr. Norman Macleod, is lying in the rustic mausoleum; and her place is occupied by a lady who is seeking to plant Anglican ritualism in the lilliputian

capital of Argyll. Lord Colin, who in youth was so much beloved by the common people, is trying to begin life anew at the Calcutta Bar. Lord Lorne cannot secure a seat in Parliament. And now we find Lord Walter dying as a stockbroker, seeking his fortune in the Transvaal, and by his will expressly excluding his widow from control over their children.

ONCE more the air is filled with war rumours. The relations of the European powers are being strained to the uttermost. Little incidents that, in ordinary times, would scarcely receive attention, are regarded with the seriousness Roman augurs displayed in casting their horoscopes. Is the Czar more than usually abrupt in his treatment of the Italian minister? It is taken as a sign that provocation is sought. The same interpretation is put upon Bismarckian interference with the internal police arrangements of the Swiss republic. Every such incident is canvassed in its relation to what is generally believed to be the approaching war. Another indication is found in the flutter that has stirred the Vatican. The Pope, it seems, is preparing to shake the dust of the eternal city from his apostolic gaiters, and to seek a refuge in Spain, the most bigotedly Roman Catholic of all countries in Christendom. What with Bruno memorials and approaching wars, the Old Man sees storms and tempests of all kinds gathering from all quarters. A pretty dance the Ultramontane policy is leading him.

IN anticipation of the National Christian Endeavour Convention, to be held in Philadelphia on July 9 to 11, the statistics of the societies have been collected, from which it appears that there are on record to-day 7,671 societies, with a membership of 470,000. These societies are found in twenty-two different denominations, the majority, however, being in the different branches of the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and in the Congregational Churches. During the past year, however, many of these societies have been formed in Lutheran, Disciples, Christian, United Brethren and Reformed Episcopal Churches, while among the Friends there are nearly forty. During the twelve months past the organization has increased by 3,000 societies and about 160,000 members, by far the largest increase ever recorded in a single year. In New York there are 1,387 societies; in Massachusetts, 742; in Illinois, 541; in Pennsylvania, 484; in Ohio, 465; in Connecticut, 352; in Iowa, 336; in New Jersey, 279; in California, 241, and in many other States nearly as many. As nearly as can be ascertained at least 45,000 young people from the ranks of the societies have joined the Evangelical Churches within the year.

It is not, says an English contemporary, generally known that the Rev. Dr. A. B. Grosart, Presbyterian minister of Blackburn, whose labours in Puritan and Elizabethan literature generally have procured for him a world-wide reputation, is also a hymn-writer of some repute. During his recent enforced retirement through ill-health, brought on by overwork, Dr. Grosart has occupied himself in making a selection of his sacred poetical writings. We understand that he proposes to print these in a handsomely got-up volume of some 400 pages, crown 8vo., for private circulation. The book will include 200 religious poems, "the bloom and fruitage of elect moments of a life-time," and will bear the appropriate title "Two Centuries of Original Hymns." We are glad to learn that although Dr. Grosart has been compelled, on account of the state of his health, almost entirely to suspend his arduous literary labours, he still hopes to do a little work in the field which he has made specially his own. He expects to be able to complete his edition of the works of Edmund Spenser, of which one volume (the tenth) remains unpublished, and also his edition of the works of another poet of the Elizabethan era, Samuel Daniel, the fourth and fifth volumes of which have yet to be issued.

THE *Christian World's* correspondent has this to say of the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly: There is a very remarkable growth of interest in mission work at home and abroad. Year by year

this is increasingly manifest, and a special committee has been appointed, with Rev. R. W. Hamilton, of Lisburn, as Convener, for the purpose of proposing missionary conferences throughout the Church, and exciting a deeper interest and a larger liberality. Zenana work in India has been followed up by the commencement of a Zenana mission in China, and Miss Nicholson has been appointed there, supported by two young men whose hearts are specially moved to further this good cause. The Assembly has authorized the organization of a church at Hamburg, and the appointment of ruling elders. The Church in India is likely to sustain a severe loss in the enforced retirement of the Rev. William Beatty, who went to India in 1865. His wife's health having completely failed, his family has been obliged to live some time in Ireland, and Mr. Beatty has been under the necessity of requesting the Assembly to release him from his Indian work. The subject of the formation of a united Presbytery of the missionaries of the Church in China, with the missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, was under consideration, and is to be further prosecuted. A committee has been appointed to consider fully the question of the salaries of foreign missionaries. The case of married and unmarried missionaries, and the proposal of progressive salaries, are to be considered. The education reports excited a lengthened discussion, and led to the review of the work of the Endowed Schools Commission, and to a very emphatic statement of the necessity of pressing the claims of the Church for the restoration of certain endowments which had been seized wrongfully by the late Established Church. Rev. Dr. Glasgow, professor of Oriental Literature in the Assembly's college, Belfast, resigned his chair with its salary, expressing a wish that he might be allowed to retain his status as professor, and, though entering on his eighty-fifth year, hopes to be able to deliver an occasional lecture.

IN an article on Toronto in the *Halifax Presbyterian Witness*, good brother Murray with his accustomed geniality and insight says: Toronto is a city of churches, some of which are very beautiful and commodious. It is pleasant to see that the growth and multiplication of churches keeps full pace with the rapid advance in population. I need not say how well the pulpits here are filled. Quiet old Knox where Dr. Topp ministered with such calm dignity for years has become nearly, if not quite, the largest congregation of our Church. Dr. Parsons is a popular preacher and a faithful pastor. Behind the pulpit is a powerful organ to help in the service of praise. In front of the pulpit stands at the proper time a precentor with a voice that would render good service amid the clash of arms on the battle-field!—a voice that cleaves for itself a chasm through all the organ's melody. I am glad to testify that the congregational singing in the Toronto churches, so far as I have heard, is greatly improved by the help of the organs. Dr. Kellogg has succeeded Principal King in St. James Square, and is proving true to the high reputation he had while in the United States. He and Dr. Parsons hold and sometimes teach the doctrine of a personal visible reign of the Lord Jesus on earth for a thousand years before the end of the world. It is a doctrine held by many earnest Christians in England and by the devout Bonar school in Scotland. It is also held by eminent divines in Germany. I am glad to say that it has not yet reached any chair in our theological colleges; and I hope our young men will escape it. But many of those who teach the doctrine—emphatically the ministers of our own church—are most devout, earnest and evangelical preachers. Of course, I think the doctrine wrong in itself and injurious in its tendency, but this is not the place to discuss it. St. Andrew's church is increasingly attractive and influential as the years go on. A more loyal, a more devoted and energetic minister than Mr. Macdonnell is not within the bounds of our Church. Central Church, ministered to a few years ago by Rev. P. McF. MacLeod, now of Victoria, British Columbia, has for pastor Rev. Dr. McTavish, a young man of high attainments. Among the other pastors are Revs. Robert Wallace, G. M. Milligan, J. M. Cameron, Alexander Gilray, R. P. McKay, John Neill, J. Mutch, W. Patterson, W. G. Wallace. Presbyterianism is growing with the growth of the city.