

# The Canada Presbyterian

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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1896.

AT a time when strenuous efforts are making to break up the sanctity of the Lord's day, it is encouraging to recall the fact that both Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, on the floor of Parliament, raised their voices in warning on this subject. Mr. Gladstone was especially emphatic, and bore earnest testimony to the benefit he had personally derived from the observance of a day in seven as one of rest.

THERE has been of late a perceptible increase in the tendency to advertise in questionable ways the advent of "popular" preachers to this city. Descriptive accounts of their pulpit performances elsewhere are reprinted at length in the daily papers in precisely the same way as the accounts of star actors, prima donnas, and other great performers. Surely the managers of our Presbyterian Churches might pay some regard to conventional propriety, if they have no fear of injuring the cause of religion.

IN some United States cities, societies of children are organized for the purpose of keeping the street pavements clear of filthy objects, so far as they may be able to do so. The members pledge themselves not to throw on the streets such things as orange or banana peel, and to use their influence to dissuade others from doing so. It is said that a marked improvement has taken place in some of the worst localities in New York, as a result of the movement. Why should the experiment not be tried in Toronto?

IT is not a cheering announcement to be told that forty-eight new cells are being added to the accommodation of the Central Prison. Why do so many men of good natural ability and fair scholastic education persist in leading lives of crime? Will this fearful blot on our civilization ever become less dark or extensive? What is to be the remedy for the humiliating evil? It makes thoughtful men uncomfortable to feel that they cannot emphatically deny the charge brought against our educational system, that it is morally a failure.

THE Presbytery of Durham, England, has initiated a new departure in Presbyterian practice, at least so far as has come to our knowledge. At its last meeting the Synod agreed that in special cases where an unordained man had built up a congregation the Presbytery should have power to ordain him to that particular charge, with power to administer sacraments, but without a seat in Church Courts. A Mr. Robson, who has labored with much success in a certain field within the bounds of the Presbytery, has been ordained minister over that particular congregation, but he will not be eligible for a "call."

IN connection with the return of Sir Donald Smith to Canada, we expressed the opinion last week that Mr. Laurier would do well to send him back to England to resume the duties of the High Commissionership. Mr. Laurier has, in his own graceful way, intimated to the people of Canada that he has done so. The conduct of the two men has been very admirable throughout the whole incident. Each seemed to have the tact to do just the right thing, in the right way, and at the time. *Noblesse oblige* is a maxim in Mr. Laurier's beautiful mother tongue, but the canny old Scottish veteran has been quite the equal of the young Frenchman in the practical application of its admirable sentiment to public affairs. Let us hope that we have entered on a new era of general courtliness in public life.

THE determination of the Socialists to exclude the Anarchists from their international congress in London, is a hopeful sign of the times. Between the philosophical Socialist, who wants to widen indefinitely the sphere, and multiply indefinitely the functions of government, and a philosophical Anarchist, who wants to do away with government altogether, the gulf is as wide as that between the devout Roman Catholic, who believes in present-day miracles, and the extreme Nationalist who rejects miracles altogether, no matter how strong the historical testimony to their occurrence. Why Anarchists should wish to be members of a Socialist congress seems inexplicable; that Socialists should wish to exclude them from membership is perfectly natural and rational. Moreover, many of the Anarchists are advocates of and adepts at the use of physical force, including dynamite, while the Socialists depend on a peacefully conducted propaganda.

A FEW days ago an aged woman was killed in this city because, in trying to avoid a bicycle, she was struck by an electric car. The coroner's jury rightly exempted the motorman from all blame, because he had reversed his motor, which was the most effective means open to him of checking the speed of his car on a down grade, the current having been already turned off. Nothing was said in the verdict about the bicycle, because it did not touch the poor woman, but that it contributed to the fatal accident there seems to be no reason to doubt. Sooner or later all bicycle riding on the main car routes must be prohibited, even if parallel streets should have to be specially paved for the convenience of the wheelmen. The number of bicycles in use has increased greatly this summer, and there is every reason to believe that next year it will be very much larger. The City Council would make a good beginning of the regulation of this traffic by requiring every rider to dismount while passing over certain crossings, including at least those of King and Yonge, Queen and Yonge and College and Yonge streets.

THE many friends of the Toronto Presbyterian Ladies' College, who watched its development with sympathetic interest while it was under the able administration of its late founder, will be glad to learn that arrangements are now completed for its reopening early in September. It speaks volumes for the strength of the hold which the institution has acquired during the seven years of its existence, that the loss caused by the death of Dr. Macintyre has been so promptly met. The new principal, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, is well known throughout the Presbyterian Church of Canada as an excellent scholar and an able writer. It is his intention to give increased prominence to the study of the English Bible in connection with ancient history, and to take charge of this department of the curriculum himself. Nothing could be better calculated to secure the confidence of parents who are thinking of sending their daughters to a residential school. The revised curriculum of studies has been made to conform strictly to the requirements for university matriculation and for the Junior Leaving High School Examination, and the management announces that no Entrance Examination is required. The home life of the resident students will continue under the supervision of Mrs. Macintyre, and their school life will be under that of the lady principal, Miss Curlette, who was formerly on the staff of the Brantford Young Ladies'

College, and has since had similar experience in other residential schools. An admirable feature of the revised curriculum is a thorough course on "Physiology and Hygiene," by Dr. Susannah Boyle, one of the professors in the Toronto Women's Medical College. If this course is open to outsiders it should soon become quite popular with the ladies of Toronto.

A PROMINENT French musician has brought a strong indictment against the piano as a musical instrument. Admitting that it has the advantage of affording certain orchestral effects, he condemns it as lending itself too readily to mere mechanical execution, in which brilliant manipulation of fixed keys may take the place of a really artistic performance depending on true musical genius. All who have listened to what are called great pianists will feel disposed to concede that there is some truth in this impeachment. Nor is it, if true, a matter that concerns artists alone. The piano craze in the education of young women is one of the blots of our civilization. It is a dictate of fashion that a young lady must be able to perform brilliantly on the piano under penalty of being regarded as wanting in accomplishments. She may have neither musical ear nor artistic taste, but if she have a sense of time, good teaching and persistent practice will make her a fair pianist as artists go. She gets no real enjoyment out of the culture, and she gives none by her performances. For her the time spent in learning what she does not care for and what does her no good is wasted or worse. For most young women it would be much better to get a high class literary education, which would bring them into contact with the world's great minds, would give them subjects for rational communication with others of like inclination, and would furnish them with an excellent means of filling up their leisure time when they are left to entertain themselves.

THE *Presbyterian Witness*: "The Rev. Dr. MacVicar was nominated by our General Assembly a year ago, as the Canadian Presbyterian representative on the Lesson Committee of the International Sunday School Convention. The convention, however, appointed the Hon. S. H. Blake instead. The Presbyterian Church in Canada should certainly be represented on the Lesson Committee. Mr. Blake is a capital lawyer and a fine moralist; but he is not to be named on the same page with Dr. MacVicar as a teacher, a theologian, or an authority in Sabbath School instruction. No doubt the lessons will be good, very good. But it is Dr. MacVicar that ought to have been elected."

The above, from a denominational point of view, seems strong and reasonable; but the International Uniform Lesson Movement is one of the world-wide forces of the Kingdom of God. It will be found upon careful examination of the committees selected for the last twenty-four years—that the Presbyterian Church, as such, has not only been fully, but by the men selected influentially represented. The Hon. S. H. Blake, of Toronto, was not re-elected for the new committee, but Principal E. J. Rexford, B.A., of Montreal, as representing the Province of Quebec, and the portion of the Church of England co-operating in the lesson movement. Notably, men who have given signal service have not been re-elected—Bishop John Vincent and Dr. John Hall, but younger men and with large experience have been called into the work. There are scores of men in all lands, and in all the churches, who might be named for this highly responsible work; but the number is limited, and so is the money for expenses. We are disposed, however, to direct the attention of the Executive to the fact that of some thirty-five that appeared on the programme and the platform of the Convention at Boston, the absence of Canadian workers of talent and experience was conspicuous—Why? would be interesting to know.

## REFORMED JUDAISM.

A NOTABLE end-of-the-century gathering has just taken place at Milwaukee, under the name of the "Central Conference of American Rabbis." The membership of the organization is 133, and its finances are in so buoyant a condition that it is able to establish a fund for the benefit of superannuated members.

The chief interest in the meeting for observing Christians is its attitude toward some religious and