

# THE TORONTO PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE English Presbyterians talk severely about Professor F. L. Patton's decision to remain in America.

THE General Synod of the Protestant Church of Prussia will hold its first session, under the new constitution, beginning in the latter part of September and lasting about three weeks.

PROBATIONERS who have appointments in the Brockville Presbytery for the current quarter will please apply immediately for them to Rev. George Burnfield, Brockville.

PRINCE BISMARCK has signified his intention to have the delegates to the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, to be held in Basle, in August, carried over the railways of Alsace-Lorraine, on their return free of charge.

REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, of Harriston, has been appointed in the room of Mr. Moffatt as Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Saugeen, and all communications concerning vacancies and mission work should be addressed to him.

SEVEN hundred members of the Church of England have presented a memorial to the Bishop of Salisbury, protesting against private auricular confession and priestly absolution, and pledging themselves to oppose the spread of such unscriptural practices by every means in their power.

SINCE the disestablishment of the Irish National Church, nine years ago, the members of that communion have raised over \$10,000,000 for the support of their churches. The poorer clergy are better paid and church enterprises of all kinds are carried on with more vigour than ever before.

SIR ROWLAND HILL, the author of the uniform system of penny postage in Great Britain, is still living at Hampstead, near London, aged eighty-three; and on June 5th the freedom of the city, encased in a costly gold casket, was formally presented to him, at his residence, by an imposing committee of distinguished citizens.

THE Roman Catholic Church is the richest ecclesiastical body in the United States. Its priests in that country now number 5,074, and its churches and chapels are 6,528. It has 33 theological seminaries, 63 colleges, 557 academies, 645 parochial schools, 214 asylums and 96 hospitals. The population to which it ministers, or which it claims, is 6,375,630.

THE Jesuits are prohibited by law from having any organizations or holding any property in France. Where they have any footing, they exist only by toleration. Nevertheless, they know how to take care of themselves, for they number 1,509 in the country, and have 27 schools, with 9,000 pupils.

THE British Wesleyans are surprised and alarmed at the decrease in their numbers, as shown by statistics just collected. It appears that, though upwards of 30,000 new members were received last year, there is a net decrease of 3,308, which is shared by nearly all the districts. The losses are largest in agricultural sections and manufacturing centres, and are attributed to emigration on account of financial depression and strikes.

THE Rev. I. G. McLaren, of the Scottish United Presbyterian Mission in Japan, estimates the present number of communicants of all the Protestant denominations in Japan at between 3,000 and 4,000. This shows that the Protestant membership has been trebled in a little over two years. At this rate, says Mr. McLaren, "Japan would be Christianized within the present generation." The union of Presbyterian churches alone comprises 1,100 members, a greater number than all the Protestant denominations combined were able to report in 1876. There are no such obstacles in Japan as there are in China. The only opposition encountered by missionaries in the interior of Japan arises from the fact that they are foreigners, and not because they are missionaries. Native preachers go everywhere without question.

THE sixth Council of the Union of American Hebrew congregations was held in New York city on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July. The question of keeping exclusively to the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath was brought up; but the matter was left as before. Some congregations of liberal tendencies observe our Sunday. Another proposal to form Jewish agricultural colonies met with favour and a resolution was passed approving of the scheme. A dinner at Delmonico's closed the sessions. Dr. Howard Crosby was present and responded to the toast, "Our Seats of Learning." Judaism on this continent is not altogether stationary. It is learning a great deal from Christianity. When will its adherents learn the soul and substance of Christianity? But, say what you will, free intercourse between Jews and Christians will do good.

IN connection with the meeting of the London Presbytery at St. Thomas, a Sabbath School Convention was held there on the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22nd ult. Mr. Colin McDougall presided. Papers were read by Rev. Mungo Fraser, St. Thomas, on "The means by which Sabbath School Teachers may be obtained and qualified for their duties;" Rev. G. Cuthbertson, Wyoming, on "The Sabbath School and how it should be guided;" Rev. J. A. Murray, London, on "The duty of Christian households to train up the young for full communion with the Church;" Rev. Mr. Rennie, Ailsa Craig, on "The best method of Infant Class Instruction;" and Mr. Milloy, Crinan, on "Sunday School Literature." The reading of each paper elicited considerable discussion, and much information and instruction were gathered by those present.

THE Rev. C. Chiniquy, now in Australia, is as usual

industriously engaged in his life-work—in the proclamation of evangelical truth, and in active opposition to Romish superstition and false doctrine. This work is dangerous—and no one knows this better than the ex-priest, himself. But he does not seem to consider that as any business of his. He leaves his life in God's hands and does his duty. From a late number of the Sydney "Witness," we learn that after delivering an address at a place called Castlemaine, on "The Mass and Transubstantiation, Shee Idolatry," he was stoned by Roman Catholics, but, as usual, providentially saved from fatal injury. After describing the outrage which we have just mentioned, the correspondent of the "Witness" goes on to say: "This is the ninth time that attempts have been made by the Roman Catholic mobs to kill Pastor Chiniquy in Victoria; and the cowardly infidel Press of the country has not been able yet to find a word of indignation against those public efforts at murdering a man whose only crime is to be a Protestant! What eloquent tirades that same vile Press would have against the Protestants of Sydney or Melbourne, if they were throwing stones at the heads of the Romish bishops and priests of those cities, for having tried to prove that Luther and Knox were rank impostors, and the Protestant Reformation a mere criminal revolt against the Church of Christ! Will not this open the eyes of the Protestants to the fact that their Press is in the hands of the Pope, and that, by supporting such a Press, they are fattening the vipers which, sooner or later, will poison every source of intelligence, and drive away from our midst every vestige of true Christianity, to implant their infidel and Romish theories under the name of secular education?"

THE beautiful and commodious building known as Erskine Church, Toronto, was opened last Sabbath for public worship. The services were ably conducted by Rev. Dr. Mutchmore, of Philadelphia, Pa., in the morning and evening, and by Rev. Professor Gregg, D.D., in the afternoon. At all the diets of worship the new building was filled with large audiences. Every one was pleased and delighted with the grand opening and dedicatory services. This congregation is to be congratulated on having reached such a satisfactory and promising position. The Church stands on a prominent site at the head of Simcoe street, and near the Queen's avenue, and is of easy access from every part of the city. The buildings to the rear of the Church proper are most commodious, and admirably adapted to the Sabbath school and social departments of a modern congregation, and will doubtless prove of great advantage in the carrying on of a good work amongst the young and rising generation. Services of an interesting character were held last week in the old Bay street Church preparatory to the removal of the congregation to their new sphere. An old Presbyterian landmark thus passes out of sight, but the work done on that historic ground lives, and will certainly develop into newer and more promising forms. On Monday evening a soiree was held in the new building. There was a large gathering of interested friends. The occasion was felt to be an extremely joyous one, and congratulations were warmly extended to the esteemed pastor, Rev. John Smith, and his congregation on their new departure, and hearty good wishes were expressed for their future welfare and success, by a number of the city clergy representing different denominations, and also of influential laymen.