

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1895.

No. 52.

Notes of the Week.

The Presbytery of Spain and Portugal met at Lisbon recently for the ordination of Rev. Samuel Reid to the chaplaincy at Rio Tinto vacated by the resignation of Rev. H. K. Laurie. Revs. J. Jeffrey, of Huelva, R. M. Lithgow and R. Stewart, of Lisbon, took part in the service. A good congregation assembled in the Mariannos Church to witness this the first Presbyterian ordination in Portugal.

It is believed in India that the Mikado means to visit Britain next year, and that the Queen, having heard of his intention, has sent him an invitation. His Majesty will sail all the way in his yacht, surrounded by the victorious fleet which crumbled up John Chinaman. If he carries out this plan, he will make a notable precedent, for never yet has a representative of the oldest dynasty on earth ventured out of his dominions.

At a meeting lately of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in England, Dr. Monro Gibson advocated the erection of halls in place of churches in working-class neighbourhoods. He pointed out that Rev. John Pugh, in connection with the Welsh forward movement, had built halls in Cardiff, seated for 1,000 people, for an outlay of £2,000. They needed a forward movement in England, and he recommended the erection of similar halls in London. The further discussion of the subject was adjourned.

American millionaires we all know are quite a plentiful article, and Canada has the doubtful honour of having a few of that *genus homo*. South Africa now is favoured with its millionaires. Here is the way the story reads: Messrs. Rhodes, Alfred Bent, J. B. Robinson, F. A. English, Piet Marias and J. B. Barnato are said to be worth \$195,000,000 among them and in the following proportions: Mr. Bent \$50,000,000, Mr. Barnato \$50,000,000, Mr. Robinson \$35,000,000, Mr. Rhodes \$25,000,000, Mr. English \$15,000,000, and Mr. Marias \$10,000,000.

The United States Government is just now actively engaged in increasing its navy. The bids lately made for building two battleships by three separate firms, give the uninitiated a vivid idea of what a whole fleet, or navy such as England possesses costs to provide it, to say nothing of keeping it after the ships are built. The tender of one firm was for one battle-ship, \$2,820,000, and for two \$2,750,000 each; the second firm's tender was \$2,740,000 for one ship, or \$2,690,000 each for two; the lowest tender was \$2,350,000 for one, or \$2,250,000 each for two.

Now that the Congress of the United States is in session the following information respecting the manner in which that body does its work will be of interest. For Congress to consider as a whole one tenth of the bills introduced into it would be physical impossibility. The work is done accordingly by committees of which there are two kinds, the Standing, or those appointed regularly by each Congress, and the Select, that is such as may be required for special work. Of these there are altogether fifty-six, and all the effective work of the Congress is done by these various committees, and the utterances of Senators and Representatives on the floor of their respective chambers are in the main for political effect on their constituencies. Legislation is based on bills, resolutions and reports, and these run a curious gauntlet in their appropriate committees. When a piece of legislation in either of these forms has reached a determination in committee, its decision is virtually made the decision of the great assembly, and the matter becomes a law of the land, it is killed outright, or is hung up indefinitely.

The statue of the Queen, to be erected at Rangoon, has just been despatched from England. Her Majesty is represented in a long skirt, covered with her famous Honiton lace, the same exquisite fabric forming the handkerchief she hold in her left hand. In her right hand she holds the Royal sceptre, and on her head is the small crown which she has adopted since assuming the title of Empress of India. The dome-like centre of this crown is formed of jewels, once in the possession of good Queen Bess. Other jewels represented are in the form of a diamond necklace, which is valued at £80,000. The whole statue, with its pedestal, will stand over 13 feet in height.

Thomas Brackett Reed, the unanimous choice of the Republican majority in the House of Representatives of the 54th Congress for Speaker, was born in Portland, Me., Oct. 18th, 1839. He was graduated at Bowdoin College in 1860; served as acting assistant-paymaster in the navy in 1864-5; was admitted to the bar in 1865; and entered political life in 1868, when he was elected to the State House of Representatives. Since 1877 he has been a representative in Congress from the First District of Maine. From his first day in Congress he has been recognized as one of the most conspicuous leaders of his party. On Dec. 2nd, 1889, he was chosen Speaker, and his administration of the office made the session of Congress more than ordinarily memorable.

The arrival of the centenary of the birth of Thomas Carlyle has given occasion very naturally for the appearance of a great amount of reminiscences and reviews of him, his works, his social life, his influence upon literature, and generally upon men's thinking and conduct. The face and features of himself and his wife are recalled in photographs, and also the homes which have been made memorable by the fame he reached, the humble abode in the quiet village of Ecclefechan where he was born, the lonely country house at Craigenputtock to which he exiled himself for some years, and that in Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London, are all reproduced. We are reminded of the hue and cry which was raised by the publication of his *Life and Letters*. Probably most will now agree with a writer in the *Montreal Witness* who says that:

"The indignation against Froude for publishing all that Carlyle left of this nature was mistaken. Carlyle intended his heart and mind to be open documents for the world to judge from as to his work, as 'acts' and 'epistles' supplementing the 'gospels' he preached. And we think it is becoming clearer and clearer to the world as it gets for enough away from Carlyle's life to judge it as a whole, that it was singularly simple, essentially noble, true and high in aim, a life which in its adherence to principle, and freedom from the base and low, was in keeping with his professed principles.

The Presbyterian Council of this city is a body composed of the ministers of the city and elders appointed by sessions to represent them in it. It has already formed a pleasant and useful bond of union among the ministers, elders and churches of the city, and it has in its possibilities yet largely latent of good service to the interest of the Church in Toronto. At a meeting held last Thursday evening, Mr. John A. Paterson presiding, the Council acted wisely in deciding to address a circular letter to the church sessions explaining the objects of the Council and calling attention to the programme prepared for the new year. A paper is promised at some subsequent meeting during the winter by Mr. Mortimer Clark upon "The Moderator," in which he will discuss the question of admitting laymen to the office of head of the Church, a subject which is sure to evoke a large amount of interest, and possibly also of discussion. A motion to extend the membership of the Council to the managers of the churches was introduced by Rev. J. E. Potter, but after some discussion was withdrawn. At next meeting to be held on the last Thursday in January, the officers will be elected and reports received, after which Rev. John Mutch will read a paper on "The Old Testament Canon."

Events succeed each other so rapidly in our day that nothing can long monopolize attention. The anti-Semite agitation which some time ago was so prominent a subject, has given place to others, but if anyone supposes that it is dead, he is greatly mistaken. Our attention has again been called to it by accounts received in person from a student just returned from Vienna, who not only speaks of it as being still very strong there, but who apparently also shares it. It has brought the Emperor and Government of Austria into direct collision with the people and the municipal council of Vienna.

"Dr. Karl Luger, an anti-Semite, was elected Mayor of the city and the Emperor refused to sanction the act. The anti-Semites said they would re-elect their leader, and the Emperor said he would dissolve the municipal council if they did so. Both events have taken place. The anti-Semites control the council and won't have any other mayor than their leader, and the government proposes to appoint a temporary council which will not be recognized by the opposition. The dissolution of the council was severely criticized in the Reichsrath and the act pronounced illegal."

It is an interesting note of progress, and shows the Roman Catholic Church on this continent is being affected by its surroundings towards new, and for it most unusual methods, methods altogether foreign to its natural spirit and practice. A "Winter School" is announced to be held in New Orleans, beginning on Feb. 15th, 1896. The *Picayune* of that city says:

"The opening ceremony will be impressive, and will include a solemn pontifical celebration at the cathedral, and both of our American cardinals will be present. All the bishops and archbishops have been invited to attend, and many of them have already accepted the invitations, and it is expected that the gathering will be the biggest and most important of that character ever held in the city. Outside of the ecclesiastical features the lecturers will be among the ablest in the country and the course will be a very important and interesting one."

The list of subjects includes literature, economic questions, Louisiana history, theology, ethics, astronomy and several other important subjects. Altogether, there will be nearly fifty lectures, which will include a number of impromptu and odd ones not yet announced.

It can hardly be too greatly regretted that the supposed exigencies of party feeling and tactics in the United States, should, at almost every Presidential election, demand a display of anti-British feeling and strong anti-British language on the part of some leading American politicians of one or other and for the most part of both parties. In former days these out-breaks might easily have led to something more serious, and only the sturdy, good-sense of the great body of the American people, and the patience, self-respect and forbearance of England have again and again averted a great calamity. But though no sober minded man expects anything more serious than an exhibition of feeling, yet headstrong words are edged-tools proverbially dangerous to play with, and at least they retard the coming of that day of perfect goodwill, and high and honorable treatment of each other, of the removal of all unworthy irritations of the one by the other which all good men of both nations long for. President Cleveland in his message to Congress on the Venezuela boundary dispute with Britain, appears to have lost that balance and spirit of fairness and the good judgment by which he has usually been marked. The closing words of an article in the *London Chronicle*, commenting on the President's message to Congress in consequence of Lord Salisbury's answer to the despatch of Secretary Olney upon the matter, expresses we believe the feelings of Canadians generally:

"We can only express genuine regret at the tone of the document, which meets no argument made by Lord Salisbury, and which applies a threat of force from a daughter State to the motherland over an obscure, trumpety dispute, in which the United States has no real interest, but the message cannot obscure or defeat the affection which subsists between the two countries, or break the ties of blood that must needs bind them in indissoluble union."