

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 10.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1882.

No. 2.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Ontario branch of the Dominion Prohibitory Alliance will hold its third annual session on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17th and 18th inst. The session will convene at two p.m. on Tuesday, in the Temperance Hall, Temperance street, Toronto, and continue for the afternoon and evening of that day, and the following day until business is finished.

GUITEAU'S theory of inspiration is spreading. A young lady, arrested for stealing numerous articles at Fredonia, N.Y., confesses, but claims that she was inspired to commit the different offences, and that she is not responsible for the crimes, as she was the agent of an irresistible power, and cannot be convicted. She is a strong advocate and believer in Spiritualism.

A MEMORIAL tablet has been placed in the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, U.S., with this inscription: "In memory of Rev. Robert Irvine, D.D., for over ten years the beloved and faithful pastor of this church. Born in County Down, Ireland, September 15th, 1814; finished his Christian ministry in the service of this people, April 8th, 1881. 'Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord.'"

WE have received the first number of a new religious weekly called "The Outlook," published in London, England, in the interest of the English Presbyterian Church. The excellent arrangement of the various departments in this specimen number gives promise that the publication will prove eminently serviceable, not only as a denominational organ, but as a medium of general religious intelligence.

MR. E. KING DODDS, the special platform advocate of the liquor traffic, has given in his resignation. At the recent convention of the Licensed Victuallers in this city, he rose to state that he had decided not to take an active part in future contests between the Licensed Victuallers and the Prohibition party. He had promised to speak in the county of Middlesex if required, and he would keep that promise, but further he would not do.

PEOPLE were just beginning to forget how the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's name looked in print, but he will not have it so. Another scandal has turned up, and this time Beecher is not the accused, but the accuser. He has been making charges involving the moral character of certain unnamed school commissioners and female teachers of Brooklyn. An investigation is demanded, and Plymouth pews will go up in the market.

THE "Occident," of San Francisco, observes with much truth and force "It is not true that the scientific mind of the age is infidel. A few men of science, like Haeckel, Darwin, Huxley, Tyndal, and Draper, contrive to keep their names and their peculiar theories before the public in such a way that other more eminent but modest men are lost sight of, and the impression is erroneously made that their names stand for science herself."

WHILE Toronto and Montreal have been holding preliminary meetings with the view of establishing coffee taverns, Hamilton has committed an honourable theft—that is to say, she has stolen a march—and already possesses an establishment of that kind in active operation. It was opened on the 3rd inst. with very hopeful indications of success, the tables being fully occupied throughout the day and evening. The house is conducted upon the principles which have been tested with such beneficial results in several English and Scotch cities and towns.

IT is a good indication that there is a general reno-
brance in France against the new measure rein-
stating Sunday military reviews, which have for some
time been discontinued. The military press urges its

abolition, insisting that the soldier should have his Sunday, whereas now he is the only one in the nation who is unable to say on a single day in the year, "I am free to-day from morning to evening." The doctrine that every man is entitled to a weekly day of rest is to prevail, and the sooner it is established on the continent the better for Europe, and our own country as well.

THE Chinese Government has, for some reason not stated, recently issued a decree commanding its subjects to abstain from shaving the head for a period of one hundred days. Detected in the act of disobeying this arbitrary and, from a native point of view, peculiarly vexatious regulation, between fifty and sixty persons in the city of Foochow alone were sentenced to receive a castigation with bamboo rods, and to pay each a fine of 3,000 cash (about twenty-five shillings sterling). It is stated by the local journals that before liberation the heads of the offenders were, as a wholesome warning to others, carefully painted and varnished.

ON the morning of the 4th inst., at a special meeting of the lady patrons of the Magdalen Asylum in this city, a deputation was received, consisting of the Rev. J. Burton, Mr. J. Harvie, Mr. G. M. and Dr. Rosebrugh. The object of the deputation was to examine into the management of the institution and ascertain what accommodation could be provided for the present inmates of houses of prostitution in the city, in the event of these houses being raided. It was found that about forty could be provided for, in addition to the thirty-eight who are already inmates of the institution. The gentlemen were shown over the establishment, and expressed themselves highly pleased with the arrangements.

PROFESSOR WATTS, of Belfast, has published a reply to Professor Robertson Smith. The book and its author are highly spoken of by the religious press in general on the other side of the Atlantic, and on this side we have the following from the "Christian Union": "It is an able and elaborate book. Dr. Watts is one of the ablest ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and in his own sphere of thought and scholarship it would be difficult to name his superior. He is sometimes dry, but never dull or heavy. He may be slightly too liberal in his method of interpretation, but as a theologian and a strong thinker he is an honour to his Church, and Robertson Smith will find it no easy task successfully to grapple with him."

THE "Catholic Presbyterian" says there is a "Presbyterian Alliance" in India, with which thirteen different "bodies" are connected. A letter from Principal Millar, of Madras, informs us that, at its last meeting, the Alliance unanimously resolved "that the training of native Presbyterian missionaries should be carried on in common," and that it was advisable that a common theological seminary, with a staff of at least three ordained professors, under the control of the Council of the Alliance, should be set up at Allahabad, "the most central of Indian cities," the seat of the Alliance, and having near it several great Presbyterian missions, both Scotch and American. The cost, it is calculated, will not be more than sixteen or eighteen hundred dollars a year.

THE Newry (Ireland) "Standard," edited by Dr. Bryson, a prominent Presbyterian divine, in introducing a long extract from the sermon recently published by the Rev. Mr. Little, of Bowmanville, part of which appeared in this paper, says: "We cannot do better than subjoin a few extracts from this most excellent sermon, which is possessed of greater interest from our personal knowledge of the accomplished author, who is also identified by birth with this locality. Would that many of his countrymen in America imitated his example by becoming thorough patriots in the land of their adoption! New countries require the very best men in every department. In this respect the Dominion has secured in the person of Mr.

Little one of those progressive forces which provide for the welfare of the country."

IN the Glasgow Free Presbytery, recently, there was an interesting discussion on a resolution protesting against lectures on merely secular topics on the Lord's Day, and exhorting all Christians to shun such meetings. The resolution was directed against the Sunday Society, which is in favour of the opening of libraries and museums on the Sabbath. Professor Bruce and Professor Lindsay opposed the resolution, on the ground that it made too much of a small matter and could result in no practical good. Professor Lindsay said a good deal had been heard of the ministerial misuse of the Lord's Day by the taking of cabs. He believed there was no minister in Glasgow had done so much preaching as himself and had taken fewer cabs, and he was perfectly prepared to join Mr. Gault, the mover of the resolution, and any number of brethren, in some practical abstinence from taking cabs on the Sabbath, and be ready not to use one of these vehicles where the distance was not more than five miles. The result was the adoption of the motion by a large majority.

IN an archaeological point of view, but little has been obtained by excavations at Babylon. "At present," says M. Raoul-Rochette, the plain where Babylon was is covered over with rubbish, hillocks partly levelled, choked-up aqueducts and canals. These wrecks are mixed up to such a degree that it is often impossible to recognize with any certainty the site or the limits of the most considerable edifices. The abomination of desolation reigns in all its hideousness. Not a dwelling, a patch of cultivated ground, or a tree in leaf is visible. Its abandonment by mankind and by nature is complete. The caverns formed by the falling in of ancient buildings are now the habitations of jackals and snakes. Jeremiah's prophecies have been fulfilled. M. Oppert believes that he identified the remains of the famous inclosing walls (which Greek antiquity included among its wonders) in a series of tumuli, called by the Arabs the Yellow Hills and the Hill of Cats. These immense walls, forming an exact square, were double. The outer wall embraced a territory as large as the Department of the Seine; within the second and smaller enclosure the whole of London would have had elbow room, as attested by Nebuchadnezzar's invaluable inscription, of which M. Oppert has given a translation.

THE following is the latest utterance of the New York "Independent" regarding Mormon development. "The cable tells us that at a meeting of Mormons in London, a week ago, it was stated that fifteen hundred converts had been gathered in England since August, and that they will be brought to this country early in January. Another telegram of last Monday tells us that a couple of Mormon missionaries have been severely mobbed in London. These facts indicate very extensive and successful operations by the Mormon missionaries, and confirm what we have frequently asserted, that the Mormon propaganda is a very formidable system, which no one interested in the suppression of polygamy can afford to ignore. Shipload after shipload of deluded creatures arrive at this port and are forwarded to Salt Lake, and nobody has thought of any means of stopping this polluting stream. Mr. Gladstone, when recently approached on this subject, declared that his Government had no power to prevent the emigration of converts; and our State Department has no plan to prevent the bringing, if not of criminals, of poor, ignorant persons to this country to strengthen a community living in open defiance of the laws of the country. Are we to wait for the dilatory and uncertain action of our Government, and allow the Mormon Scallawags to fortify themselves in their Utah Sodom? Why not take measures to render the preaching of the emissaries of polygamy innocuous? Why not counteract the effects of their teaching by disseminating true information of their designs and the true character of the system which supports them?"