

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th, 1883.

No. 4.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused in the province of Quebec over the contemplated publication of a new Roman Catholic daily newspaper. Certain Church dignitaries oppose, others support the project. It was announced that it would appear under the title "L'Etoile du Matin," but that rather figurative appellation has been replaced by the more prosaic "L'Etandard." As a journal representing a party in the Church its course will be watched with some degree of curiosity.

"GIFTS to institutions," says the "United Presbyterian," "are still being made, not by ten, fifty and a hundred dollars, as used to be the way, but by the twenty-five thousand, and even the quarter and a half million. A college in Ohio is receiving two hundred and fifty thousand dollars as a gift from a few individuals, one man contributing \$100,000 of it as an 'additional gift.' We need some such spirit as that to take part in our memorial business, and there will be easy work raising the \$500,000 that is our aim."

A WRITER in a London paper makes a very sensible suggestion. He proposes that the authorities of large cities like Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and Glasgow should acquire a hundred thousand acres of wheat and pasture lands, vineyards, and pork and beef lands in Canada, the West Indies, and the Australias, and there start real work-houses, where wealth will wait on honest labour. Temporary relief does little more than mitigate present suffering; whereas a substantial and well regulated emigration fund would have permanent results of a most beneficial kind.

THE New York "Sun" is authority for the following statement: "We have received information that a Pontifical delegate is likely to be sent to Canada and the United States. According to the plan said to be contemplated, the Papal agent will be first accredited to the Catholic Church in the Dominion, but his powers will subsequently be extended to the United States. It is believed that Cardinal Howard is most likely to receive the appointment—not that he is a voluntary candidate for the place, for his situation at Rome is a peculiarly pleasant one, but because he is considered at the Vatican the person best qualified for the post."

GOVERNOR STANFORD has offered to purchase the entire town of Vina, Tehama County, Cal., on these conditions: He will buy all the real estate and improvements thereon for a nominal sum—say \$1—and immediately sell and re-convey the same property to the owners, provided that he is allowed to insert a clause in his deeds that no intoxicating liquors shall ever be sold in the town of Vina. He will further obligate himself to build a fine two-story school-house large enough to accommodate all the children of the town. He will further agree to import 100 German families to work his extensive vineyard and orchard, and will exclude from his premises all Chinese labour.

THE election for Chancellor of Queen's University took place last week. Mr. James McLennan, Q.C., of Toronto, was nominated, but a telegram was read stating that he declined to accept the position. Mr. Sandford Fleming was then nominated, and unanimously re-elected Chancellor. The meeting was largely attended by members of the council. Queen's is to be congratulated on the result of the election. Eminent and suitable men were spoken of for the office, but it is pleasing to see that the Chancellorship is to be held for another term by Mr. Sandford Fleming, who has rendered excellent service to the cause of higher education.

DR. NUSSBAM, in detailing his examination of children at different hours of a long school day, says that a child who will easily take in a lesson in the first hour, and make excellent answers while his powers

are fresh, is stupefied at the eighth hour and finds it hard to apprehend what he could easily have understood earlier. He is especially strong in his condemnation of the system of home lessons. "It is an error to suppose," he adds, "that an ordinary child really acquires much more knowledge in eight hours than in four hours." When the powers are fresh, active and unrestrained, the process of learning goes on successfully; but when they are worn, limp and overtaxed, next to nothing can be satisfactorily acquired and assimilated by the learner.

THE following remarks by Dr. McCosh at the opening of the college term, after the holidays, on the abuses arising from excessive indulgence in athletics, are exceedingly timely, and it is to be hoped may have a corrective influence upon students who are tempted to err in this respect. "This is a matter which demands immediate attention. The fever has risen to such a height that the pulse-beats of it, which I feel, seem to me alarmingly strong and swift. When one walks across the Campus the conversation he overhears bears no relation to the science and knowledge which we come here to pursue, but it is this game and that game, this record and that record. The college papers, too, which are primarily literary organs, are devoted to gymnastics and athletics. The press of the country and the public at large are getting tired of it and make a mockery of it. Physical culture, carried to a moderate extent, no sane man can censure, but in this, as in most things, extremes are dangerous."

IN a letter to the "Globe," R. W. Phipps gives some valuable counsel concerning the management of the Free Library. The suggestions are as well-timed as they are valuable, as the following will show. Then the student's mind may be poisoned. I am sure you will agree with me that infidelity is the growing Upas of the age, beneath whose spreading branches, where permitted to grow, faith and honour, and the hope of youth and the solace of age, and the strength of the nations, lie dead and paralyzed till the stem be hewn. Yet what do we find in literature? Ponderous histories composed by known infidels. There is nothing worse for the student. The mind turns in this way: "See this man—so learned, so praised; he did not believe in Christianity; why should I?" He sees but the book; the private history of the writer would generally have taught him another story. These books are not necessary; there are others as good. But the good or bad are not to be known by asking questions at a bookstore.

THE following bit of sound criticism occurs in R. W. Phipps' letter on "The Free Library:" There is also the need of choosing that which is powerful that it may generate power—that it may set Canadians writing, which they will do as soon as the laws suggested by foreigners, which bind them, are reversed. Let me give an illustration. Read the trashy novels as published in our papers. The writer will tell you that his characters are witty, or are learned, or are wise, or are well-bred. You will see, if you know, that they are none of these things, for they neither speak nor act in accordance. Scott or Shakespeare will seldom tell you the characters of their characters; their acts and words will show that. The well planned and written piece will excite imitation, if there be, as there might be, opportunity; the lower class of production will amuse in the absence of better; but the mind remains unstirred. It is the light which tempts advance; if that brighten the unknown path it will be explored; the *ignis fatuus* answers to look at, but not to follow.

PROFESSOR PHELPS says: "The clergy are often charged, and sometimes justly, with reverence for the past at the expense of the present and in distrust of the future," and the reason he gives for it is that they devote themselves too exclusively to scholastic pursuits without sympathizing with practical life. "This reason," the Pittsburgh "United Presbyterian" remarks, "is, in general, the right one. But it is possible to be practical and still be witheringly conserva-

tive. The little round of activity that many a man goes does not develop him; it narrows him as certainly as exclusive study, and in a way that is greatly more destructive. The practical work that expands, arouses and rightly directs the sympathies and leads the man to judiciously aggressive enterprise, must be in sympathy with that which is widely prevalent and which is giving character to the life of this day. It is better to be 'scholastic' in a room fronting on a highway or crowded street than a 'worker' in the cellar. It is better to be an intelligent philosopher than an indefatigable toiler at the aims and objects of a hundred years ago."

ABOUT one hundred ladies and gentlemen, together with the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association Chinese class of seventeen, enjoyed a social tea at Shaftesbury Hall last week. Mr. Morse, Superintendent, president upon the occasion. Tea being ended, the tables were cleared, and the remainder of the evening passed most pleasantly with music, singing, and speaking. A number of ladies contributed greatly to the entertainment by singing several selections in a manner that could scarcely fail to please all present. Brief addresses were delivered by Prof. McLaren, Judge Patterson, Mr. Morse, and the Rev. Mr. Hart, recently returned from China. Mr. Hart has laboured for seventeen years as a missionary there. His address was highly interesting and very complimentary to the intelligence of the Chinese and their aptitude to learn. The young ladies who are engaged in teaching the class, and the superintendent, Mr. Morse, are entitled to credit for their laudable endeavours to convey a knowledge of Christian truth to the Chinese in Toronto, and it is gratifying to learn that an encouraging measure of success has attended their efforts.

SCHOOLS are too often conducted on the perilous plan of compelling the same requirements in the same studies from every boy and girl alike, utterly regardless of their original and very different intellectual capacities and aptitudes. Some minds have not the analytical powers essential to rapid progress in mathematics; and were born without them as their parents also were—are they, therefore, to be treated with ill-temper, nick-named as stupid dolts, and wounded with sarcasm because they can't keep up with other lads in whom these analytical powers are natural and hence of easiest exercise? This kind of treatment only discourages and paves the way for new failures; the failures make the victim more and more sick at heart, until, often, as Dr. Richardson remarks, the physical heart becomes irritable and uncertain in its action, affecting in turn the stomach, and causing persistent dyspepsia, from which soon follow sensations of disappointment, fears of failure in other things, anger at the success of other minds, and all those troubles which lead to dangerous perversion of feelings, and open the fountains of habitual doubt and despair.

THE General conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held at Napanee last week, when the proposed Basis of Union was discussed. The clause referring to the doctrinal basis was adopted without debate. In reference to the General Superintendency the following motion was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, and after considerable discussion adopted: "Resolved,—That any change or alteration proposed in the Basis of Union touching the limit term, the omission of consecration to the office or any variation in the exercise of any function pertaining to the office, does not do away with the Episcopacy or destroy the plan of our Itinerant General Superintendency, and is not subject to the limits and restrictions of the Discipline, pages 29 and 30." It was pretty well understood that this vote practically settled the question of the acceptance of the Basis as a whole. The sections of the Basis were, however, taken up *seriatim*, and all adopted without debate of any consequence. The entire list of subjects having been considered, a resolution was moved by Rev. Dr. Jacques, President of Albert University, in favour of the adoption of the Basis of Union as a whole. It was seconded by Dr. Stone, and carried.