

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 1883.

No. 43.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

AMONG the many industrial and agricultural exhibitions held in Canada during the present season the Dominion exhibition at St. John, N.B., has claimed special attention, and has been a most gratifying success. Advantage was taken of the opportunity to associate with it the centennial celebration of the settlement of St. John. The exhibits, not only from the Maritime Provinces, but from all the others, including the great North-West, would impress the many thousands who visited the city by the sea with enlarged ideas of the vast and varied resources of the Dominion, the progress already achieved, and the grand future that awaits our growing nationality.

ANOTHER earthquake is added to the list of those destructive convulsions with which places far apart have been visited during the present year. This time the Island of Scio and the Anatolian peninsula have been the scenes of great loss of life and destruction of property. Usually rumours of such calamities are greatly exaggerated. In these instances the ascertained facts surpass the first intimations received. In the case of the Ischian earthquake, and the convulsion in the Straits of Sunda, each day added to the number of the victims that had perished, so in regard to the latest horror of the kind in Asia Minor the first despatches did not give any adequate idea of the number of the killed. The number given is about two thousand, while the value of the property destroyed is not yet correctly ascertained. The present year will be a painfully memorable one to many.

MR. SHAW, of the London Missionary Society, who was subjected to arbitrary restraints and indignities at Tamatave by Admiral Pierre, has claimed and received compensation for losses and injuries sustained by the mission during the bombardment by the French. It has been agreed to give him 60000 francs. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs has written officially to the British Foreign Office regretting the occurrence of an affair that raised very bitter feelings between the two nations at the time. When there is time for reflection people are disposed to take a more reasonable view of acts that arouse indignation at the moment. French bluster has of late led to the penning of several apologies. It is a very proper thing for a party in the wrong to make amends by expressing regret, but it is still better to be careful to avoid wrong-doing, whether national or individual.

THE four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther is arousing a world-wide interest. Not in his native country alone but all over Christendom, Protestants, generally, are making arrangements for celebrating the day in an appropriate manner. The enthusiasm of the Germans will rise to a sublime height. Delegates from many lands will be present to take part in the proceedings at the great demonstration in Wittemberg. Throughout the United States the day will be marked by appropriate celebrations. The Presbyterian Synod of New York have agreed that the day be observed with religious exercises. In Toronto the German Lutheran Church proposed that all the Protestant churches in the city should hold commemorative religious services on the 11th of November. A meeting will also be held on the 10th, and a great demonstration on the 12th, at which some of the grandest specimens of Luther's music will be rendered.

THE great centres of population, the cities and towns of Canada, while showing much progress, the result of energy and enterprise, have a dark shadow that waits on their prosperity. Ministers from country districts and from other lands settle in cities and towns. There has been a laudable effort to provide church accommodation for the growing population. Increasing numbers, however, absent themselves from Church and religious services. If they do not come to the Church it is the Church's duty to go to them. A movement is to be made in Toronto to

bring the claims of the Gospel before the non-church-going classes. Several eminent Christian workers approached the Toronto Ministerial Association, who have agreed to conduct two weeks' special services in different parts of the city. When arrangements are perfected, the scheme will be definitely announced. It is hoped that the effort will receive the encouragement and support of the Christian people of the city, and that it will result in the accomplishment of great and lasting good.

SCOTTISH Episcopalianism is becoming aggressive, and, at the same time, seems disposed to coquet with Presbyterianism. In a different sense from Paul it says, "we seek not yours but you." It will have nothing to do with the system. That must be renounced, root and branch. Lord Forbes, presiding at a meeting of the Scottish Church Union, held in Edinburgh, said he believed that all those persons who, like Mr. Mackonochie, Mr. Green, and others, had been subjected to persecution and trial in England, had gone through it to fight for the truth with regard to the doctrine of the blessed sacrament. The most unrighteous and unjust case was that of Mr. Mackonochie. He hoped disestablishment might soon be got so that many Presbyterians might be induced to join the Episcopal Church. They would there get a great deal more than they got at present (no doubt of it). But if they did join they must acknowledge bishops, priests, and deacons. They had adopted this ground, Lord Forbes added, because they had antiquity for its foundation. The Presbyterians in Scotland and elsewhere do not generally incline to such views as Lord Forbes has taken the trouble to express.

THE Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise have completed their official connection with Canada. They have gone from our midst to resume their place in the life of the mother land. They have carried with them pleasant recollections of their sojourn in the Dominion, and they will be remembered by Canadians with kindly esteem. In his public capacity the Governor-General took an active and most hearty interest in the progress of the country. He visited nearly every part of it, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He carried on the good work begun by his brilliant predecessor, Lord Dufferin, of making himself perfectly acquainted with the condition, requirements, resources, and possibilities of the country. Canada has to thank Lords Dufferin and Lorne for the increased interest she has been able to attract within the last few years. From several of his parting words it is evident that the Marquis and his wife have a great liking for Canada. They mean to revisit it at no distant date. The Princess will be remembered for the quiet, unostentatious way in which she discharged the social duties of her position. Whatever she could do for education and philanthropy she cheerfully did, and as well as for the promotion and encouragement of artistic culture and social refinement. Her example in these respects is worthy of imitation.

THE question of greatest interest to our Anglican friends in the west, has been who was the best man to succeed Helmuth in the bishopric of Huron. Several worthy local men were named in connection with the dignity. Much correspondence on the subject found a place in the columns of the local newspapers; but the Synod has by a decisive majority gone beyond its bounds for one to rule over the affairs of their Church. The first choice in every respect, a wise one, fell on Dr. Sullivan, Bishop of Algoma, but his duty to that diocese, to which he was only appointed a short time ago, has prevented him from accepting the important position to which the Synod of Huron called him. After four ballots, the Rev. Maurice Baldwin, D.D., of Christ Church, Montreal, was elected Bishop of Huron. He is highly esteemed, not only in his own Church, but also in all branches of the Evangelical Church. He is an eloquent preacher and an earnest worker in the cause of the Gospel. As a pastor, he has been eminently successful in doing good and efficient work wherever he has exercised his

ministry. Dr. Baldwin will make a worthy successor to Bishops Hellmuth and Cronv... The choice made by the Synod of Huron clearly shows that the western diocese of the English Church is not pining for ritualism.

THE original leaders of the Scottish Free Church are fast disappearing. The men who, by their firm and uncompromising adherence to popular rights, took a prominent place in the movement that resulted in the disruption of 1843, are becoming few in number. Chalmers and Cunningham, Candlish and Guthrie have gone, and now the death of Dr. James Begg is chronicled. He began his ministry in Paisley, where, however, he did not long remain, having received a call to Liberton, whence he moved to become minister of Free Newington Church, Edinburgh. He not only took part in all prominent ecclesiastical questions of the time but was also an ardent social reformer. He dealt the death-blow to the repulsive botanic system that existed in several parts of Scotland. Of late years he has been the leader of the extreme Conservative wing of the Free Church of Scotland. He opposed—to the verge of a second disruption—union with the United Presbyterian Church. He was the strenuous opponent of all change in matters and forms of worship. Even till within a short time of his death he was zealous in organizing resistance to the introduction of instrumental music in the services of the Free Church. He was a man of great vigour, mental and physical, a prince among popular platform speakers of Scotland. Dr. Begg is one of the prominent figures in the ecclesiastical history of our time. In the particular phase of thought he represented he has left neither equal nor successor.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Owing to the meteorological conditions of last week, Bronchitis seems to have declined somewhat in degree of prevalence; Influenza and Consumption are less than last week; while Pneumonia is rather less, except in District V., south of Georgian Bay, where it has attained a position amongst the six most prevalent diseases. Regarding the prevalence of fevers of a specific nature, it is extremely interesting to note the fluctuations in the area and prevalence of Intermittent. Last week it was noticed to have extended until it was prevalent in six out of ten Districts, and had a percentage degree of prevalence amounting to eight per cent. It was further noted, however, that the temperature was uniformly low, falling in every District except one to below freezing point. Such extreme cold is well known to prevent the free development of malaria germs, and hence we have the interesting fact of its sudden recession, falling from six districts to five in area of prevalence, and from 8 to 4.7 per cent. In degree of prevalence. There has probably never been in the various reports a more marked example of the influence of temperature on disease. Fever Enteric, however, is not regulated by the same conditions; since we find it to have increased in degree of prevalence from 3.5 to 3.9 per cent., although in lateral distribution it seems to have become somewhat narrowed. Amongst contagious Zymotics, we have to remark the sudden rise to a position of grave importance of Diphtheria, which, although it had appeared in the report of last week amongst the six prevalent diseases in District IX., east shore of Lake Huron had not shown a sufficient prevalence to appear in the first twenty diseases. But from some cause, more or less difficult of determination, it has advanced until it has appeared in two Districts, and has an actual intensity amounting to 3.5 per cent. of the total recorded diseases. Districts IX. and X., the south-eastern part of Ontario, are those most affected by its prevalence. Its epidemic prevalence in several localities shows once again how imperfect is the general knowledge of the means by which the disease is propagated, and still more how utterly careless are those amongst whom it appears of the interests and welfare of others, and how inadequate are existing local organizations—if they exist at all—for its isolation and restriction. This great advance is the natural outcome of neglecting to extinguish the first sparks as much as an extensive conflagration follows the failure to extinguish the first flames.