

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Presbytery of Peterboro will meet at Port Hope on Tuesday, 28th inst., at 10 a.m., to consider a call to the Rev. W. Donald, from the congregation of Pictou, N.S.

JOSEPH COOK says, "the free-lover has no home." That is not the worst of it. He proposes that no one else shall have one. The fact is that home, one of the most sacred of words, is not in the free-lover's dictionary.

AN English Ritualistic divine lately referred to the Reformation in a sermon as "the great wave of heresy which broke over Northern Europe in the sixteenth century." Very consistently, two of the curates of this rector, and his organist, have lately "conformed" to the Church of Rome.

PRINCIPAL RAINEY, of Edinburgh, Scotland, delivered last month a course of lectures on "The Bible and Criticism" in the College of the English Presbyterian Church, in London. He follows a course that was delivered last year on "Mohammed, Buddha, and Christ," by the Rev. Dr. Marcus Dodds.

WE have received a letter from the Rev. P. Wright, of Montreal, in reply to Dr. Cochrane, too late for this issue. Third instalment of Presbyterian Church History, Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, continuation of report commenced in this issue of Synod of Toronto and Kingston, and several communications held over, will be published next week. Correspondents are again reminded that *brevity* will very much help to insure the insertion of their letters at an early date.

AMONG the encouraging items which we find in our exchanges, says the "Philadelphia Presbyterian," we note especially that many of the Presbyteries in the Southern Presbyterian Church are receiving coloured men, as candidates, or licensing them to preach the gospel as probationers for the ministry. This is a good sign, and shows that the door is opening to that church for a great, effectual work among the Freedmen.

THE minority of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland have been beaten in the action brought to prevent the majority who united with the Free Church in 1876 from sharing the property of the Reformed Church or interest in the Ferguson Fund, which produces \$5,000 a year. The court decided that the constitution of the Church is illegal, inasmuch as it debars its members from participating in the rights of citizenship.

THE agricultural population of Russia is beginning to feel the pressure of taxes. The war has cost about \$500,000,000, and since the treaty of San Stefano was signed the expenses of the occupation and supplies are not less than \$1,000,000 a day. Great misery and distress are reported in four districts of an area of 250,000 square miles and 9,000,000 population, east of Moscow. Appeals for help are made from these districts to St. Petersburg and Moscow.

SINCE the suicide of Sultan Abdul-Aziz in 1876, Turkey has had two Sultans, five Ministers, forty Cabinet Ministers, one Constitution, one Parliament, one war, lost three fourths of its provinces, and been forced into bankruptcy. And now a plot is on foot to depose the present Sultan, Abdul Hamid, and restore Murad V., his elder brother, who was deposed on account of his drunkenness, in August, 1876. The Turkish throne might easily be seized by some military adventurer.

FROM a correspondent we are glad to learn that for several weeks past an extensive work of grace has been going on in the congregations of Riversdale and Enniskillen, in the Presbytery of Bruce. This has largely been the result of special services, night after night, conducted by Mr. Cavers, an evangelist from Galt. At the communion on Sabbath last fifty-nine were added by profession and one by certificate. There were also a number of adult baptisms. The good work is still going on, and old and young are anxiously enquiring the way to Zion.

AT a congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church, Pictou, held on the 24th ult., in response to a citation from the Presbytery of Kingston in connection with Rev. Mr. McMechan's translation to Waterdown, resolutions were unanimously passed strongly expressing the esteem and regard of the congregation for their pastor, and their regret that he should be removed from them, but offering no opposition to the translation, solely out of deference to Mr. McMechan's desire to remove to Waterdown. On the 5th inst. Mr. McMechan preached his farewell sermon to the Pictou congregation, to whom he has ministered for nearly twelve years, winning their warm attachment and the respect of the whole community.

URING the sessions of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, a large and influential meeting of those favorable to the endowment of Queen's College and the improvement of its buildings was held in St. Andrew's Church. It was stated that several gentlemen of wealth and good standing had expressed their warm interest in the project of Principal Grant, and their determination to aid him to the best of their ability. The meeting unanimously resolved to commence the work at once. It will be gratifying to the many friends of Queen's should these efforts be crowned with success, and it will prove a stimulus to the other colleges to go and do likewise. Endowment is necessary to make a success of our institutions of learning.

THERE are many people who would do well to heed the hint contained in the following: "If we were asked what single act, involving no personal loss would bring the greatest good to the largest number we should answer without hesitation, 'Pay your small debts.' There is a large class in every community,

who, though possessed of ample means are habitually slow in paying their small trade accounts, who could pay just as well at one time as another, who fail to consider what great benefit would result from the very simple act of justice of paying a small bill. They even forget to pay their newspaper subscription." Dear reader, if, on examination of the label pasted on this week's PRESBYTERIAN, you find yourself in arrears one, two, or perhaps three years, cancel the small obligation at once.

THE following was forwarded to us for publication some time ago, but was overlooked. The resolution agreeing to translate the Rev. T. Goldsmith from Seaforth to Hamilton, expressed in appropriate terms the high esteem in which he was held by his co-presbyters. We quote: "In parting with their highly esteemed brother, Mr. Goldsmith, the Presbytery would express their deep concern at the loss which they, in common with the congregation of Seaforth sustain by the change; they much regret their anticipated separation from one who has, during his seven years connection with the Presbytery, occupied so high a place in the esteem and confidence of his co-presbyters, and who has ever taken so influential a part in the business of the court, and so large a share in the general work of the Presbytery. They also sympathize with the congregation of Seaforth in the loss of a pastor so able and devoted, and who, under God, has been so largely instrumental in building up the congregation from a comparatively small beginning to its present state of strength and prosperity. The Presbytery will follow their brother to his new sphere of effort with earnest prayers that his bow may long abide in strength, and that a like measure of blessing may attend his labors in the future as that which has crowned them in the past."

SOME time ago we gave a *resume* of the Permissive Liquor Law then before the Senate of Canada. We have not seen the Bill as it passed, but we believe it received the assent of the Governor-General substantially as it was introduced, so that our readers are already aware of its distinguishing features. The "Religious Intelligencer," of St. John, N.B., in the course of a thoughtful article, offers the following weighty suggestions, which we heartily endorse. "So much has been gained to the Temperance Cause in the Permissive Law, that temperance men need now to exercise the utmost carefulness lest they do injury where they hope and aim to do good. No hasty action should be taken in any county. Nothing beyond judicious agitation should be done till a plan for work throughout the Province is perfected. "There is nothing surer than that in every county where there is the slightest chance, the liquor dealers and their friends will make most strenuous exertions to prevent the law from being adopted. They will spare neither efforts nor money, nor will they hesitate to use any means however base, to thwart the wishes of the people. Their craft is in danger and they are growing desperate. In view of this fact, it behoves temperance men to move wisely, to work unitedly, with a purpose to win. There is no doubt that if the work be wisely managed, two-thirds or more of the counties of this Province (New Brunswick) will vote by large majorities to come under the operation of the law. And every county will, we are sure, make more certain the winning of its neighbor from the rum power."