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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

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## Notes of the Week.

THE Prohibitionists of Iowa, convinced that juries will not convict rum-sellers, have obtained a law providing that forbidden bars may be closed by injunction. The defendants in some test cases now expect to have the statute declared unconstitutional on the ground that it denies to them the right of trial by jury.

THE tone of the Pope's late "allocation" implies that he is not altogether easy in his mind as to Prussia, and cannot look upon the progress of affairs in France as other than menacing to the Papacy. Ireland he judiciously abstained from mentioning—although, no doubt, a good deal of thinking takes place concerning it.

THE New Hampshire Legislature, which two years ago passed an act providing for instruction in the schools on the effects of alcohol and narcotics, has at its present session, now just closing, passed a law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes or tobacco in any form, to persons under sixteen years of age, imposing a fine of \$20 for each violation.

THE Philadelphia *Press* recently took a vote among its subscribers upon a number of timely questions. One of them was: "Would the substitution of light wines and malt liquors for strong alcoholic drinks remove the evils of intemperance to such an extent as to make further prohibitory legislation unnecessary?" The vote was remarkable. It stood, ayes, 163; nays, 881.

THE Pope, it is stated, has recently sent "a morsel of the True Cross" to the Queen of Spain. If anybody outside of the Roman Catholic Church were honestly to make such a pretence as that, he would be universally pronounced a lunatic. There can be no mistake about that. But such supreme absurdities are so common within the pale of Holy Mother that they have ceased to excite surprise.

It does seem rather hard upon the Clerical party in France for the Government to forbid the clergy advising their parishioners how to vote. In the election of next month the fate of the Church in France is to be decided, practically. The anti-Clerical forces are allowed to use every means and every influence to gain votes against the Church. It is a curious interpretation of "liberty" to deny the Church equal rights of defence.

NEWS has just been received from the Congo that the mission steamboat *Peace* has returned, without mishap of any kind, from a journey up the Congo of nearly 4,000 miles. It brings back most encouraging intelligence. The whole country on both banks of this noble river is said to be open to missionaries for the preaching of the Gospel. The Congo region discovery promises to mark an epoch in modern history. All the reports are encouraging.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: On the recommendation of the Right Hon. Lord Waveney, Mr. John M'Meckin, Churchfield, Portglenone, has been appointed to the commission of the peace for County Antrim. Mr. M'Meckin is a magistrate for County Londonderry. This is another Presbyterian on the Antrim magistracy. Mr. M'Meckin is brother to the

Rev. D. M'Meckin, Ballymena, and connected with a family identified with Irish Presbyterianism for generations.

SIX thousand Bibles a day is the average issue from the London depot of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and from various foreign depots taken together, the issues are still greater. Not only in England and France does the Society employ printing presses, but also in Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Cologne, Vienna, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, Constantinople, Beyrout, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Shanghai, Capetown, Sydney and other centres of activity.

A HEATED discussion has taken place at a meeting of Thurso Parochial Board, Caithness-shire, over a motion that the cemetery be opened for a few hours on Sabbath evenings, for public walking and recreation. One member protested against the proposal, as tending to Sabbath desecration. Ultimately the motion was carried by six votes to four. But several members, after denouncing the motion, left the meeting, rather than vote. A few years ago, and not many either, the proposition would have been thrown out without a division.

STATISTICS of 1884 are said to prove that there are 76,960 evangelical preachers in the United States, 126,109 congregations, and 10,561,648 communicants. Of miscellaneous sects there are 38,791 preachers, 10,763 congregations, and 7,169,655 adherents. If each member of an evangelical church represents two even, including children, who are adherents, the evangelical population amounts to 31,684,944. On the other hand, the Romanists claim 6,905 priests, 7,663 congregations, and 6,800,000 souls, constituting the entire population adhering to Rome.

MR. C. C. BLAKE, who publishes at Richland, Kansas, a monthly periodical called the *Future*, and devoted to "a calculation of the coming weather through astronomical mathematics," cheerfully predicts that the weather until October 1 will be "as favourable as could generally be desired." We are inclined to have some confidence in this prediction, less on account of Mr. Blake's astronomical mathematics than because he says that "if there is anything he detests more than another it is infallibility." This is a good sign, as is also his aversion to the name of weather prophet, and differentiates him from most vaticinating meteorologists.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Herald and Presbyter* writes: "It is not generally known that South Carolina, alone of all the States, prohibits divorce, permitting it on no ground; that it prohibits the sale of liquor everywhere in the rural districts, allowing it only in incorporated towns, and giving these places local option, of which about half the towns avail themselves; that it forbids the running of all freight trains on Sunday, and all passenger trains, except such as carry the United States mail; that it classes duelling with murder, and disfranchises the lottery ticket dealer." This is certainly a noble record for a State in these degenerate days. *Si sic omnes.*

ON the 20th day of next June our noble Queen will enter on the fiftieth year of her reign, and preparations are being made for a grand year of rejoicing over the event. But three sovereigns of England have reached the year of jubilee. These were Henry III., whose coronation took place October 16, 1216, and his death occurred November 16, 1272, giving him a reign of fifty-six years. The year 1266 was his jubilee. Edward III., crowned January 25, 1327, and died June 21, 1377, having closed his jubilee but six months before his death; George III., who came to the throne in 1760 and died in 1820, after a turbulent reign of sixty years. The peculiarity of the long reign of Victoria is that it has been one of almost unbroken peace and wonderful prosperity, which may well be celebrated with a jubilee.

THE political campaign in England hangs fire except upon the Irish question. Mr. Gladstone is back from Norway in better health than when he left home, but it is still uncertain whether he can take part in the canvass. Mr. Parnell, of all the leaders, is the only one who has frankly announced his line of action. It has not proved popular in England. The press has met his demands with the reply, "impossible." Lord Hartington, speaking for the Liberals, declares the same thing. The two great English parties, he says, would unite to veto Mr. Parnell's plans. They may, but the Conservatives are not marching right forward with that assertion in their mouths as they ought to be doing. On the contrary, they are saying little or nothing on that point. On all questions save this the Liberal party lacks unity. Everything waits for Mr. Gladstone.

THE United States Consul at Sierra Leone has sent to the State Department a despatch giving an account of the movements of an army of 100,000 men in the interior of Africa. This movement, which the Consul styles extraordinary, and which is certainly so if his information is trustworthy, is among the Mohammedans of the Nigritian regions, and extends from Timbuctoo to the west coast. A Mandingo named Samudu is at the head of the movement. His army, divided into three portions, is said, for one thing, to have driven away certain French troops near the headwaters of the Niger. Another portion is operating in the regions east of Liberia, while the third is approaching the coast a few miles north-west of Sierra Leone. The tribes are said to be submitting to the demands of Samudu, or, as in the case of the kingdom of Soolima, are subdued by force. The result of the movement, it is thought, will be to suppress the disturbing elements that have come from some of the plundering and vagabond tribes of the interior and open the region to trade. But while heathenism is overcome, Mohammedanism takes its place, and Samudu's success means the establishment of the faith of the False Prophet over all that region of Africa. Still, if the country is open to trade it will be open to the Gospel, and so this Mohammedan, all unwittingly, may be preparing the way of the Lord.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH delivered an address before the recent meeting of the American Historical Association at Saratoga, on the political history of Canada. The British Empire, he said, was made up of elements—India, the military dependencies, the crown colonies, and the self-governing colonies. The self-governing colonies were really independent nations, bound to the Mother Country only by a nominal tie, though the moral tie was still strong. Americans were hardly conscious of the recent extensions of Canada and the growth of her aspirations. . . . More power was given to the Federal Government in Canada than in the United States. The framers of the Canadian constitution believed that secession was caused by want of power in the central Government of the United States, whereas it was caused solely by slavery. The appointment of the judges for life was a British feature in the constitution and secured their perfect independence. They tried disputed elections to the general satisfaction. Party was for the first time formally recognized by framers of the Canadian constitution. The question whether party could continue to afford a firm basis for government was the political problem of the day. The break-up of parties was seen in all European countries, and had begun even in the United States. . . . Canadian confederation was still on trial and had great difficulties, both geographical and political, to contend with. A veil hung over the future. The speaker said he could not venture to discuss there any question connected with the internal relations of Canada; but he might say that when fears of American interference had been expressed on his side of the line he had always told those who expressed them, he had never heard a single word of ill-will toward Canada, or a single utterance of desire to aggress upon her, or to interfere with her in any way; and as far as any action of the American people was concerned her political destinies were absolutely in her own hands.