

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Belfast "Witness" mentions, as a rumour current in Ireland, that the Rev. J. Gardner Robb, D.D., of Cooke's Church in this city, is about to receive a call to the vacant congregation of Galway.

THE anniversary services of the College street Presbyterian Church, in this city, will be held on Sabbath, the 10th inst. A social in connection with the congregation will be held on the evening of Tuesday, the 12th.

PROTESTANT chapels and schools in Rome are evidently a source of disquietude to the Pope. Catholic architects, contractors, artists, etc., who aid in the construction of these buildings, are informed that they are guilty of deadly sin. Bricklayers and hodmen are excused.

THERE is to be a Pastoral Conference at Gard, France, Nov. 6th, at which M. Bénézech is to speak upon "The Relation between the Doctrines of the Evolutionists and those of the Christian Religion." M. Guillermet, of Geneva, has been asked to preside.

THE International Executive Committee of the American Y.M.C.A. has issued a call for the observance of the second Sunday in November and the week following as a season of thanksgiving and special prayer for God's blessing upon young men and work in their behalf.

AN ex-vice-roy of India, Lord Lawrence, writes to the London "Times" maintaining that Shere Ali has given England no occasion for war. The present Ameer is only doing what his predecessors had done, in refusing to receive a mission at Cabul, with the sanction of the British authorities.

AN educated Chinaman estimates the population of China at not more than 120,000,000 instead, as has been currently supposed, of 450,000,000; that the country has reached the limit of agricultural development; and that since 1761, population and prosperity have been constantly decreasing. He says that the wealth of the country is in the hands of a few, and that unless machinery is introduced, the people will not be able to support themselves.

THE "Times" prints a letter written by Sir Bartle Frere four years ago to the late Sir John Kaye, in which is discussed at great length the Afghanistan question. He argues that the advance of Russia in Central Asia might be checked; that England alone

can do it, and that she ought to draw an impassable line by extending her influence over Afghanistan. He suggests that England should let Shere Ali know she would at all hazards bar Russia's advance into Afghanistan. He would place selected agents in Herat, Cabul, and Candahar to watch the Russians.

THE programme of the annual Christian Convention to be held in Dublin this month, has been issued. The Convention is to sit in the Christian Union Buildings, Lower Abbey street, from the 11th till the 14th November, and such subjects are to be discussed, as "Work among the Masses;" "Prayer Meetings, and how to manage them;" the "Method of Deepening Spiritual life in the Soul," etc., etc. Evangelistic addresses are also to be delivered, and "Reports on the Lord's Work" to be received. Among the speakers the names of the Revs. W. Howie, (Glasgow), Dr. A. A. Bonar, James Wells, Dr. Patterson, Archibald Brown, (London), Marcus Rainsford, Allan Windle, and Sir Edward S. Hutchinson, Master Brooke, and Dr. Barton are announced, and Mr. Sankey is expected to be present to sing some of his sweet songs.

ON Sabbath evening, 27th ult., the Rev. Mr. McLeod delivered a stirring sermon in Knox Church, Stratford, directed more particularly to parents, whom he warned against the danger of having their children educated by priests and nuns in convents. Upon this point he insisted strongly. He also claimed that the journals and parties who made a practice of soliciting the "Catholic vote" were unpatriotic, as the Catholics obtained their influence by standing aloof from both parties, and throwing their influence in the direction best calculated to advance their own interests. True every word of it, and yet our politicians will continue to court the "Catholic vote" with as much assiduity as if the future well-being of the country could only be secured by such a policy. The sooner an opposite course is adopted the better for the people, if not for parties.

A LONDON paper says: "They who suppose that the Society of the Holy Cross is defunct or in a moribund condition, are egregiously mistaken. I understand that, under the mastership of the Rev. Canon Carter, of Clewer notoriety, it is being actively developed. As Canon Carter is one of the chief supporters of the practice of auricular confession in the Church of England, my readers will understand what the development of the Holy Cross Society means. One of the most dangerous societies in connection with the Church of England is the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, which numbers twelve or fifteen thousand members. Almost all the Ritualistic priests are on the roll of membership, and it is now proposed that in every diocese the priests-associate should be constituted into a chapter under the control of a vicar-general, having fixed meetings for consultation and discussion. Of course, the end and aim of all these organizations is simply to extend sacerdotal influence."

CHIEF JUSTICE HARRISON died in this city on the morning of Friday, the 1st inst., after an illness of two months. He was one of the few legal writers of note which Canada has produced. His works are the principal authorities now quoted in our law courts, and his digests are recognized by the jurists of the land as of the very highest character. His principal works were "Harrison and O'Brien's Digest," which

has gone through several editions since it was published in 1852; "Law Procedure Acts," first published in 1858, and the most noted work of all, published in the same year, "Harrison's Municipal Manual." He also published a large number of other legal works, and was at one time an editor of the "Ontario Law Journal," to which he contributed numerous valuable articles on legal topics. The late Chief Justice was in the prime of life, being only forty-five years of age. He was called to the Bar twenty-three years ago; was created a Q.C. in 1867; elected a Benchet in 1871, and was elevated to the Bench in 1875.

THE Belfast "Witness" says: "It is now open war between the Sabbath-loving people of Belfast and the directors of the Tramway Company. The high-handed manner in which, for their own gain, the latter have persisted in disturbing the quiet of our streets on the Day of Rest, and their refusal to receive any deputation, or listen to any remonstrance on the subject, have roused a spirit of most earnest determination among the inhabitants of the town who decline to submit tamely to the dictatorship of this London company. This week a car service has been started on the Antrim Road for the accommodation of those who do not wish to countenance on the week-day a company which has done its utmost to rob the town and its own employees of the rest of the Sabbath. The present is a testing time with us, and it is truly most cheering to see how its exigencies have been met by multitudes of the people. If the company still defy us, and persist in their disturbance of our streets on the Holy Day, they may find that the Christian people of this town are not so easily put down, nor so easily induced to part with a boon so precious as a quiet Sabbath, as they supposed. It is worth taking a little trouble to keep, and we mean to keep it if we can. Once allowed to go, it would not be so easily got back."

THE London "Christian Globe" thinks the different denominations of Christians are becoming more fraternal in their dealings with each other, and cites the following instances. It says: "The want of unity amongst Christians has been a great stumbling-block to religious progress. We are glad, therefore, to see a marked desire in many quarters, in spite of recent instances to the contrary, for a closer intercommunication. For example, the vicar of St. John's, North Woolwich, has, during the repair of the local Wesleyan Chapel, allowed the congregation the use of the school room for service, on the understanding that the Prayer Book is used. Mr. Bull, who is a High Churchman, says: "I am thankful to have been enabled to take this course, as it is just what John Wesley would have been glad of, and is a step towards that unity for which I ask you all to pray." Apropos of this feeling, Mr. Osborne Morgan, M.P., speaking at the laying of the foundation stone of a new Welsh Calvinistic Chapel, at Wrexham, said that although himself a Churchman, the more he saw of Nonconformists, their worship, their hymns, and their prayers, the more he wondered that the line of division should be as great as it was. Alluding to the immense sums—amounting to millions—that had been expended by the Church of England during late years in building churches and schools, he pointed to the enormous wealth of the members of that community, but added that on every hill-top and in every valley in Wales, he saw some chapel pointing with its silent finger to heaven."