

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 22.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 1893.

No. 39.

Notes of the Week.

The article in Blackwood on Glengarry, founded on an unpublished autobiography, by Miss Macdonell, of Rothesay, the chief's daughter, contains a hitherto unpublished poem by Sir Walter Scott on Glengarry's death. It was from the chief the novelist got his favourite staghound Malda.

The "Year Book" of the Congregational Church, just published, shows that the Scottish Congregational Churches have a membership of 14,643, the number of congregations being 94. Sitting accommodation is provided for 44,000. Attending Sunday schools and Bible classes are 16,905 scholars. Four students have recently been "licensed," and all of them have already received calls.

The Vanderbilts are planning to reproduce the extended English estate in North Carolina. A residence is being put up at Asheville which, it is said, will be the most magnificent private residence in the world, and recently 20,000 acres of land in the near vicinity, has been purchased, of which it is proposed to make one of the finest game preserves in the world. Every farm-house has been torn down, and gamekeepers are already in charge of the property.

Edison, the famous electrician, is said to have declared himself to be no longer an Agnostic. 'No person,' he is reported to have written, "can be brought into close contact with the mysteries of nature, or make a study of chemistry, without being convinced, that behind it all there is supreme intelligence. I am convinced of that, and I think I could, perhaps I may sometime, demonstrate the existence of such intelligence through the operation of these mysterious laws with the certainty of a demonstration in mathematics."

Much interest has been centred in Belfast in connection with the annual meetings of the Trades Union Congress. It may not be generally known that in almost every branch of labour wages are lower in Ireland than on the other side of the Channel. The knowledge of this has awakened some apprehension among Belfast employers, and they do not much like the advent of the labour parliament in their midst. On the part of the Lord Mayor, Sir James Hazlett, a well-known Presbyterian elder, welcomed the members of the congress to the city.

Mr. Thomas Spurgeon has returned from Australia to occupy his father's place tentatively for a year. On the Sabbath succeeding his arrival he preached in the Tabernacle twice, and made a very favorable impression on the multitudes who came to hear him. The prayer meeting which was held on the succeeding Monday, was attended by three thousand people. Many ministers were present, and messages of congratulation by telegram and otherwise, were read from a number of quarters. Mr. Spurgeon showed in his address that he had inherited his father's humour. All the evangelical Churches will wish for a blessing on the pastorate which has been entered upon so hopefully.

The following is a copy of the communication sent by Mr. L. J. A. Papineau, son of the French-Canadian patriot, to Archbishop Duhamel, Ottawa, on the occasion of his change of faith: "I wish

to notify you that I abjure and renounce all allegiance to and communion with the Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church in which I was baptized, but which I did not practise, and in which I did not believe since my twenty-fifth year. I respect the Catholic Church, as I respect all sincere and conscientious opinion and beliefs, but I feel it my duty to join the Presbyterian Church (Calvinist); it is perhaps the most rational of the numerous sects which divide Christianity, and besides was the religion of my late wife, and is that of my little children."

The annual Convention of Christians at work, in the United States and Canada, will be held under the auspices of the International Christian Workers' Association this year, in Atlanta, Ga., for seven days, November 9-15. These Conventions have now been held for seven years, and are interesting large numbers of earnest Christians throughout the country. Under the terms of the invitation, special delegates are appointed by churches, while any Christian can attend as general delegate with the privilege of reduced rates, and in some cases entertainment. In nearly all parts of the country railroads are offering facilities for going, and Atlanta Christian people are preparing to welcome the delegates in their usual hospitable manner.

Emperor William was entertained last week at a banquet by the municipal authorities of Metz and the high officials of Lorraine. In his speech he thanked the people of Lorraine for the cordial welcome which they had given him and for the repeated demonstrations of loyalty which they had made daily during his sojourn at Urville. Metz, he said, had shown herself to be especially devoted to the Emperor and the Empire by their enthusiasm in the last few days, the people of Lorraine had given proof that they were happy in belonging to Germany. They had learned to appreciate German unity and the greatness of the Empire. They now declare themselves to be thoroughly loyal and desirous of labouring in peace and enjoying unmolested what had been earned for them. The unity of Germany ensured the keeping of the peace. Lorraine would forever remain German, protected by God and the German sword.

During the last few years, Professor Barnard, of the Lick Observatory, has been engaged in photographing in detail the "Milky Way." When the plates are finished, which will not be for three years, it is expected that the facts revealed by them will revolutionize the old conceptions of this remarkable phenomenon. The text-books declare that the "Milky Way" probably contains twenty million suns; but Professor Barnard estimates that the camera will record the presence of at least five hundred millions, with the certainty that there must be a still larger number which are not visible. One of the stock arguments of infidelity a few centuries ago was that the Bible overestimated the number of the stars. It represented them as innumerable, while learned astronomers who had counted them knew that there were only about a thousand of them. Science has now proved that there are more than can be numbered. Their number can only be estimated, and the estimates usually conclude with intimations that more will be shown when we get larger telescopes.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: A covetous man cannot own anything.

Longfellow: The greatest grace of a gift, perhaps, is that it anticipates and admits of no return.

Ram's Horn : On the day when the Gileadites contended with the Ephraimites and took the fords of Jordan, there was but one word that could save the Ephraimites. They must say "shibboleth" or perish. So there is but one name that will save at the river of death—Jesus.

Dundee Times: Of all titles given to Mr. Gladstone during his long career, that of a Glasgow schoolboy deserves recording. At a recent examination in the school, the inspector asked who was the patron saint of Ireland, and received the unexpected answer, "Mr. Gladstone."

Governor McKinley: The demand of the time and the need of the hour is the young man, securely grounded in honesty and integrity, the man of pure character. It is the highest thing we can have, the best thing any of us can have. The safest companion, the strongest friend. It lasts longer and wears better than anything else.

Interior : Saloon-keepers are the most hardened and unreachable of men. The saloons are mostly owned by the distillers and brewers. The workingmen who sustain the saloons, are out of work, and the saloons, therefore, are at present run at a loss. The owners close up a saloon which does not pay. They will probably soon close a thousand or more of them.

Rev. Frank S. Arnold : Peter once used this expression to his Lord, saying, "I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison and to death." But thrice before the cock-crow Peter denied so much as knowing who Jesus was. Some there are like Peter, who are over-confident. Being ready with them, means nothing more than an impulse. It is not that they have underestimated the test, so much as that they have misplaced their strength; have put it in self instead of in God.

The Presbyterian: The power of the press has been much magnified of late years. The secular newspapers have indulged in great boasts of the irresistible force which a united press must possess. The power has been fairly tried in the contest for the closing and the opening of the gates of the Chicago Fair. The great daily newspapers of Chicago, and some of New York and Philadelphia, united in a fierce clamour for "Sunday opening." They did their best—rather, it may be said, they did their worst—and failed. They did not discern the strength of the religious sentiment of this country, and, in their ignorance, they arrayed themselves against it, and were defeated. The lesson, we hope, will not soon be forgotten.

Rev. Dr. Cuyler : When our houses take fire, the first impulse is to go after a bucket of water. But if temper takes fire, the first impulse is to throw on more fuel. Now the best water bucket for aroused temper is resolute silence. If whenever an irritating act were done, or an injury struck us, we should firmly

ly seal our lips for even ten minutes, we would save ourselves many a quarrel, many a heartburn; many a mortification, many a disgrace to our religious profession. Speech is often explosive and shattering. Silence is cooling. It cools us off, and cools other people. One of the calmest men I ever knew told me that he used to be violently passionate, but he broke his temper by resolutely bridling his tongue until he cooled down.

Ram's Horn : Whenever the question of Sabbath rest has been taken away from a foreign-born judge or the Sunday newspaper and given to the people for decision, the verdict is usually agreeable to good morals and good conscience. The World's Fair is not the only instance. The Citizens of Toronto, Canada, have decided in a popular vote by a majority of more than a thousand, that street cars may not run on Sunday. This verdict is given not in consideration of the religious character of the Sabbath alone, but in consideration of the fact that thousands of men would otherwise be directly or indirectly compelled to labour. Every true humanitarian should believe in and work for a Sabbath day of rest.

Mr. Moody : When we find our reading outside of the Bible and good literature, and are carried away by the pleasures of the world, we are not in fellowship with God. God offers all things to those in fellowship with Him. We can't get away from the old Gospel, for God is not changeable, and what we want to-day is to come back to the old paths. The Church needs nothing so much to-day as separation from the world. We don't want border Christians—Christians who yoke themselves with ungodly men. Are you hand and glove with the world ? Give Christ the first place. If you walk with God the things of this world will look small to you. Sunday newspapers are evil. God will never do much with these card-playing, theatre-going, horse-racing Christians. Let us be dead to the world ; let it call us bigots if it wishes.

Rev. Ed. S. Hume : I will call your attention to certain movements lately begun in India. Twelve years ago municipal privileges were granted to the larger cities of India by Lord Ripon. And since then the educated and thinking natives of India have been agitating for greater political privileges to the taxpayers of India, and out of it has come the National Congress of India. At first missionaries and native Christian preachers stood aloof, thinking the movement to be a purely political affair; but the leaders of the movement have shown a desire to listen to the Christian preachers and missionaries, and be influenced by them, so that among the delegates chosen at Ahmednuggur in 1891, were two missionaries, and of all the delegates meeting in the Seventh National Congress in 1891, at Nagpore, one-fifth were Christians, and a Christian was elected president of the Congress. Another movement is that of temperance. The British Government in India sells licenses to distil liquor and retail it to the highest bidder. No decent Mohammedan nor Hindoo would do this that a so-called Christian government is doing in India. God is overruling even this now for good, and the natives are coming to understand the difference between real Christians and nominal Christians. Under the lead of Christian workers, some 60,000 in Benares signed the temperance pledge.