

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIV.—No. 2

TORONTO, JULY 15, 1897.

\$1.50 per Annum

O ye who only seek your own,
Who hold yourselves so dear,
That ye can never give the sad
One simple word of cheer.
Believe me, if ye wish to spend
A life of happy ease,
Seek not your own, but how ye may
Your weary brothers please.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

When a man is told that the whole of religion and morality is summed up in the two commandments—to love God and to love our neighbor, he is ready to cry, like Charoba in Gebir, at the first sight of the sea: "Is this the mighty ocean? Is this all?" Yes, all; but how small a part of it do your eyes survey! Only trust yourself to it, launch out upon it, sail abroad over it, you will find it has no end; it will carry you round the world.

Lord Cromer's report to the British Government on the condition of Egypt during the past twelve months is noteworthy, especially because of his description of the new experiment of State advances to the natives, taking their crops as security. Up to the present time the natives have been oppressed by the only money-lenders in Egypt, the Syrians, Greeks, and Hebrews, who exacted from thirty to forty per cent. interest. Lord Cromer has now inaugurated a plan of making advances on crop security, charging no more than six per cent. interest. He has thus saved an enormous amount to the natives, and, like a thrifty ruler, has not forgotten the other side of the balance-sheet, for he shows a profit on the undertaking.

One of the most important of all religious gatherings of the English speaking world during the present year is the Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican or Episcopalian communion, which on June 30th convened in Lambeth Palace, London. About two hundred prelates of churches in fellowship with the English Church were in attendance, besides all the Archbishops and Bishops of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and all the Colonies of Great Britain. The first services were devotional. The actual work of the Conference began on Monday July 5th. The sessions of the Conference will close on August 2nd, although from July 12th to 21st, there will be no general meeting, the time being devoted to committee work. No part of the debate or discussion will be open to the public. Great prominence is given in the programme to the subjects of Church Unity, Comparative Religion, and the Labor Problem.

An English Earl, who was a sceptic, was travelling not so long ago in the Fiji Islands. "You are a great chief," he said to one man, "and it is a pity for you to listen to those missionaries. Nobody believes any more in that old book called the Bible that they try to teach you, that you have been so foolish as to be taken in by, nor in that story of Jesus Christ—we have all learned better." The eyes of the chief flashed as he replied: "Do you see that great stone over there? On that stone we crushed the heads of our victims to death.

Do you see that native oven over yonder? In that oven we roasted the human bodies for our great feasts. Now if it hadn't been for the good missionaries and that old book, and the great love of Jesus Christ which has changed us from savages into God's children, you would never leave this spot. You have reason to thank God for the Gospel, for without it you would be killed and roasted in yonder oven, and we would feast on you in no time."

The last week in June witnessed the closing of the public schools of New York. Out of 1,885 candidates who presented themselves at the City College only 42 per cent. passed. It was said that the examinations were more rigid than in former years and the percentage higher because of the lack of space in the City College. There were 778 who passed the examination. Nearly 1,500 candidates from 62 grammar schools entered for examination at the Normal College, 628 passed.

The British Museum has just secured, through the generosity of the well-known art collector, George Salting, one of the most famous relics in existence. It is known by the name of the Santa Spina, and consists of a large amethyst of exquisite beauty and artistic interest, hollowed out to inclose an alledged thorn from the crown of thorns of the Founder of the Christian religion, while one side of the gem is covered by minute paintings on lovely translucent enamel. It was presented by Sultan Saladin to St. Louis of France, and was until about a hundred years ago one of the most celebrated treasures of the French nation. Coming into the possession of the late Baron Pichon during one of the periodical revolutions which occasionally turn things upside down in France, it was put on the market at his death and has now, after a good deal of negotiation, passed into the possession of the English Government at a heavy price.

The General Assembly of the Irish Church, says the *Belfast Witness*, was this year not expected to be very remarkable. Yet it has produced some new departures which will be memorable. One is the Hymnal in concert with the Scottish Churches. Another is the employment of Licentiates, so as to assist over worked pastors and thus acquire some experience before ordination—a thing greatly needed. Another is the erection of an Assembly Hall, Mission Offices and Young Men's Premises on Fisherwick Place Belfast—an enterprise worthy of the church and sure to be a great advantage in many ways. Then in connection with Assembly meetings is the new and improved method of voting for salaried officials by ballot so as to avoid personal irritation, and by proxy on occasion, so as to save the expense and trouble of special Assemblies. And the Provident Fund for Ministers will be of economic value and a much needed prophylactic of penury in old age. The chief debate of the Assembly was on the subject of the Hymnal. The opposition was directed, however, not so much against the particular Hymnal proposed as against the use of hymns altogether. Though brought up by a memorial said to be signed by eight hundred elders the result was a foregone conclusion and the approval of the Joint Hymnal was carried by a large majority in a full house. The reports on the various Schemes of the Church showed them all to be in a prosperous condition. Educational matters received some attention and an effort is being made to secure more effective religious instruction in the Public Schools.