

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

From recent information it appears that the largest Presbyterian congregational income in England is that of a Liverpool church, Sefton Park (£7,876); and sundry London churches stand next, viz: St. John's Wood (£6,208), and Marylebone (£5,237), whilst the largest stipends are paid to Dr. Pentecost (£1,500 and manse), Dr. Monro Gibson (£1,200), Rev. John Watson, M.A. (£1,200, including £200 for assistant), and Dr. David MacEwan (£1,000).

The following from the *Belfast Witness* is interesting by way of contrast with Presbyterian hobnobbing with reverend fathers of the Roman Catholic church: "It is reported that Protestant chapels have been closed at the instigation of the Catholic clergy of Spain throughout the provinces of Galicia and Toledo, and in the Balearic Isles. In Madrid pressure has been brought to bear upon the Governor to order the congregation of the Protestant church to enter their place of worship by a small side door. The main entrance facing on the street is kept strictly barred."

At a presentation made lately to Rev. Professor Story in connection with his being made Moderator of the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, Marshall Lang, Principal Caird, and several other leaders of the church spoke kind words of their fellow-presbyter. Dr. Caird was especially eulogistic, and incidentally he remarked that personally he would as soon undertake to command the Channel Fleet as become Moderator of the General Assembly. In his reply Dr. Story drifted naturally into the sphere of politics, and declared that the duty of the church was clear and plain—to enter into no compromise, no negotiation, to hold their position, to think of no scheme of re-union or reconstruction which was vague and visionary, and about which they knew nothing.

In a recent debate in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Crispi replied to those who charged him with subordinating his policy in the east of Europe to the interests of the other members of the Triple Alliance, by reading from diplomatic documents to prove that when the Bulgarians chose Ferdinand as their Prince, he (Signor Crispi), as Italy's Foreign Minister, opposed the views of Russia, Turkey, and England in supporting the principle of respect for the free will of the Bulgarian people, and he was proud to say that he prevailed. He declared that Italy's policy in the East had been throughout in favour of a pacific development of all nationalities. His speech closed with these very significant, suggestive and hopeful words: "The world is progressing. Humanitarian questions are becoming greater in importance than national questions. Foreign policy cannot be regarded now as it was by Mazzini, and those in the Chamber who believe themselves to be the vanguard of opinion as regards foreign policy are now in the rear guard."

Canada has, upon the whole, been so favoured with good men as representatives of Her Majesty in the office of Governor-General, that we cannot cease to have a friendly interest in their future course. Lord Lansdowne, who went from Canada to take the place of Governor-General in India, lately returned home to Tulliallan Castle, Scotland, where part of his boyhood was spent and was presented with an address of welcome by the inhabitants of Kincardine-on-Forth and district. In acknowledging the address, on behalf of the Dowager Duchess and himself, his Lordship spoke of the services which Scotsmen were rendering to the Empire in all its different parts, and said he came back from his stay abroad with a very deep feeling of anxiety that nothing which we, the people of these islands, might do might have the effect of diminishing the respect with which we were regarded by our fellow-subjects in all parts of the Queen's dominions or of weakening the ties by which the Empire was held together.

The *Interior* recalls the Presbyterian General Assembly which met at Philadelphia a hundred years ago. It was opened with a sermon by Rev. James Latta, a learned and eloquent Irish divine, a champion of Watts against Rouse. Dr. Witherspoon, President of Princeton, was there, and so was John McMillan, the pioneer of the then west, 26 ministers and eleven ruling elders formed the entire roll of that Assembly. Only two ministers were then in Ohio. That Assembly admitted representatives from New England Congregationalism to sit and correspond and vote. The Assembly exhorted its Home Missionaries "to avoid all doubtful disputations, to abstain from unfriendly censures or reflections on other religious persuasions, and adhering strictly to the great doctrines of our holy religion which influence the heart and life in the ways of godliness, to follow after the things that make for peace and general edification."

Miss Sadię Means is an employee of a telephone company in Columbia, S. C., who was excluded from the communion by the Session of the church to which she belongs because of her being employed in the telephone service a part of Sundays. She appealed from the session to the Presbytery, which sustained the action of the Session. An appeal was taken from the Presbytery to the Synod of South Carolina, which reversed the action of the Presbytery and Session and ordered Miss Means to be restored to her place as a member of the church. The Presbytery and Session appealed to the General Assembly; and at its late meeting the Assembly sustained the Synod, and Miss Means is restored to membership. This case is an interesting illustration of the way in which a member of the Presbyterian church, however poor, has his rights safeguarded by the constitution. The rights of that young woman were guarded as carefully by the church as if she had been a princess. This is as it ought to be.

In the Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly, a woman, Mrs. L. M. Woosley, who had been ordained to the ministry by the Nolin Presbytery in Kentucky, claimed a seat. The General Assembly of 1893 had sent to the Presbyteries two overtures, one proposing to amend the Form of Government so as to allow the ordination of women as elders or ministers; the other proposing to forbid it. Thirty-three Presbyteries voted in favor of allowing ordination to women; fifteen voted for the amendment to forbid it; fifty-six voted against any change in the Form of Government; twenty-two did not vote. So the Constitution remains unchanged; it gives no countenance to the ordination of women. The General Assembly sustained the action of the Synod of Kentucky, which declared her ordination "null and void," and instructed the Nolin Presbytery to strike her name off its roll. But, which appears somewhat strange and inconsistent, the Assembly endorsed her continuance in the work of a lay evangelist.

Much sympathy has been aroused in England by the representations of a coloured lady as to the lynching of negroes so common in the Southern States. To this *The Christian Observer*, of Louisville, Kentucky, and an organ of the Southern Presbyterian Church, thus trenchantly replies. Only recently an Englishman was presented before a Cape Colony judge, charged with the murder of three blacks in his employ, and was discharged with a rebuke for not killing more of them! One of the laws of Cape Colony prohibits negroes from carrying weapons of any kind, not even a small walking-stick. This, the whites claim, is necessary, as experience has taught that they must be kept in a condition of non-resistance, and as harmless as possible. Another law prohibits them from walking on the pavements used by whites. Not long ago one of the newspapers of the Colony contained a report of the public whipping of forty or fifty of them for presuming to take this liberty. They were flogged in the public square. In view of these reports of the Cape Colony press, there is not likely to be any great rush of Southern negroes to enjoy the boasted hospitality of the English people.

The "touch of nature which makes the whole world kin," has been again strikingly exhibited in the feelings of universal horror and indignation which have been called forth by the brutal assassination of President Carnot of France. That country, which the newspapers have been pointing to as being left without a single ally in Europe in spite of her vigorous courting of Russia, has attracted toward it the sympathy and commiseration of all the nations, because of the foul deed which has deprived her of a patriotic and virtuous chief. The private virtues of the dead President appeared to have deserved and won universal respect, and, descended as he was from a line of ancestors who have served their country well as he himself has done, his name and fame will now be doubly endeared to his countrymen. Words fail to denounce with sufficient strength the infatuation, the cruel and murderous principles and deeds of the assassin and his partners in guilt, which strike at the very vitals of society, and the triumph of which would make this earth unfit to live in. Such a cause defeats its own end and can only bind the nations and all right thinking people in one common purpose, to crush out by every possible means, organizations and men who can only attain their vile ends by rapine and the shedding of innocent blood.

Another Ontario election has come and gone with its speechifying, its eager but orderly excitement and meetings great and small; its educative work in self-government; its disappointments and surprises, glad or grievous; its verdict of a free people at the polls and the quiet and loyal acceptance of it as final; and accordingly all is now going on in the usual and orderly way. Leaving out of sight everything connected with a hotly contested election which one could wish was not to be seen or heard, it is really, after all, a most instructive and suggestive spectacle. What long and hardly learned lessons of past history are summed up in a self-governing people choosing their rulers by free election, and then quietly and with general mutual good feeling going on to the usual work of every-day life. It is not in our line to descant in these columns on the virtues or the vices of Sir Oliver Mowat personally, or of his Government, but with all respect to those who may differ from ourselves in their political convictions, we frankly confess that we both loyally accept the verdict of the country and heartily rejoice in it, and wish for the doughty Premier who has fought Ontario's battles so well, another four years of such wise, pure and beneficent legislation as will fitly crown his long, honored and successful premiership.

Now there has come again the season that, like Christmas and several other things, comes but once a year. Colleges and schools of all kinds have closed or are just closing, and have sent their pupils and students home crowned with honours, or to moralize over disappointment and defeat, or to enter with hopeful or trembling hearts, as the case may be, upon their life's work. Ecclesiastical bodies have met and discussed, wisely or otherwise, the important and far-reaching subjects which have been brought before them, examined and put their machinery into good working order, overhauled their accounts and taken as far as possible an outlook into and prepared for the future. The legislation of the Provinces has been attended to, and that of the Dominion is making fair progress, and all things point to a season, long or short, of holidays, when the usual but inevitable and useful monotony of life and its daily round of toil will have a little break and let up. It is a good thing; a little unbending is healthful for everybody, even if it be nothing more than a trip to the Island of an afternoon or evening, around the Belt Line, or a sail to Niagara and back, or a week in the free, open country, where one may eat, or sleep or wake, or dress how and when one likes. To all our readers who have a holiday in prospect, long or short, far or near, we present our hearty good wishes that they may have a pleasant time and safe and happy return.