

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

PROFESSOR PIAZZI SMYTH, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland and Professor of Astronomy in the University of Edinburgh, has resigned his position. Professor Smyth did not teach astronomy, but has devoted much attention to the Great Pyramid, which he believes to contain the inspired standard of weights and measures. He has established quite a large and enthusiastic sect holding this belief.

THE Hon. G. W. Ross, Ontario Minister of Education, has had the honorary degree of LL.D. conferred on him by the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland. The intelligence, energy and tact with which the Ontario Education Department is conducted is generally recognized not only throughout the country, but wherever an interest in educational progress and efficiency prevails. In Dr. Ross' case the honorary distinction is deservedly merited.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science met at Bath, England, last week. Canada is well represented, Dr. Sterry Hunt, Dr. MacFarlane, of Ottawa, and Dr. A. C. Lawson, of the Geological Survey, are expected to take part in the proceedings. When the British Association meetings close the World's Geological Conference takes place, and Dr. Lawson is expected to appear as the exponent of Canadian geology.

THE Ontario Sunday School Association will hold its Convention at Kingston on October 16, 17 and 18. Among the prominent workers who will take part are, Bishop Vincent and Mr. William Reynolds, president of the International Sunday School Association. It is expected that there will be a large attendance of workers from the Province of Quebec, who are certain to receive a warm welcome from their Ontario brethren. Reduced rates by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific will be made to all attending the Convention.

DR. MARCUS DODS' paper read at the Presbyterian Council, has occasioned much controversy and not a little misapprehension. His friends extend to him their full confidence, as the following sentence from a letter by the Rev Norman L. Walker, of Dysart will show: I may be quite at sea in my interpretation of the essay, but until I hear to the contrary, I will continue to believe that Dr. Dods intended to commend in his own way a method which is in general use among wise men already, and had no thought whatever of proclaiming from the pedestal of the Alliance his own private opinion about the fallibility of Scripture.

A FELLOW PASSENGER of Matthew Arnold in his voyage to England, returning from America, noticed that he every morning industriously read a small book bound in morocco. Picking it up one day he found it to be the New Testament in Greek. He commented to Mr. Arnold on his regularity in reading it. "Oh yes," he said, in his characteristic manner, "I find it the most delightful reading I can get; and its style and merit as a work of literature never ceases to please me." Mr. Arnold had a remarkable familiarity with the text of the Gospels.

AN English contemporary says: The young man who rules Germany seems to have a knack of making speeches that need revising for the press. The habit is one which may create dangerous situations or may only reduce the speaker in public esteem. To say that you will defend your house and goods will promote order, but what is likely to be the effect of vowing that the whole family will perish in the front garden rather than lose a corner of it? Certain provinces may be legitimate property and very useful, yet forty-two millions of people have something else to do in God's world than to die on one field for a claim which they certainly could not exercise after that feat. We fear that the braggadocio of the German Emperor has

something to do with the lamentable success of Boulanger in his candidature just now.

A CORRESPONDENCE has been published between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Carnarvon, in reference to the opening of churches for private devotion on week days. Lord Carnarvon is in favour of the movement, and so also is the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it is mentioned by his Grace that among those who approve of it are the Bishops of Durham, Winchester, and Peterborough, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Duke of Westminster. Lord Carnarvon thinks that in the meantime the proposal might be confined to towns, but on this point the Archbishop expresses no opinion. The movement purports to be made in the interest of the poor, especially of the religious poor. It is believed that they will welcome the opportunity to rest within the churches on week-days when they feel the need of quiet which they cannot obtain in their own homes.

AN event of an entirely novel character has just occurred in the Edinburgh Extra Mural School, in the recognition of Dr. Sophie Jex Blake as a lecturer on midwifery, whose lectures will qualify for the examinations and diploma of the Scottish Colleges. On Dr. Jex-Blake's application for such recognition, a committee was appointed, consisting of the president of the College of Physicians, with Fellows of the two Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, before whom Dr. Jex-Blake passed a satisfactory examination, and to whose inspection she submitted the lecture rooms and museums at Surgeon Square, where she proposes to lecture. As a result of this examination and inspection, a formal diploma of recognition as a lecturer has been granted to her, and this event marks an important new departure, as it is the first case in which a woman has been recognized as a lecturer in a public medical school in Great Britain.

A MISSION sent to Palestine from the Russo-Polish Jews, and to which considerable English subscriptions were received, has returned to Berditcheff, the centre of Jewish life in Russia. They were directed to explore the whole of Palestine, and report on the districts best suited for an extensive emigration. After eight months' exploration they declare against any general project of Jewish emigration into Palestine. The soil is reported as unlikely to repay cultivation. It is chiefly the property of the Sultan, and unless the Jewish colonies were protected by the Great Powers they would be harassed by the exactions of the Turks and ravaged by the Arabs. The report of this commission is not deemed quite conclusive by some well-informed Jews in England. A leading rabbi from America who is now in England is visiting London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, urging that certain fertile spots be selected, and a limited emigration be at first attempted.

THE Rev. Vilb. Bock, of Orslev, Denmark, speaking at the recent Y. M. C. A. Conference at Stockholm said: For those who stand without there is a cloud over this work; they imagine that we wish to take away from the young the sunshine and joy of youth, and make them old men at twenty; but for us who are within, and have lived with sanctified young men, the glory of the Lord shines beautiful and grand in this work. Neither ought we to make these Y. M. C. A.'s more comprehensible and acceptable to the world by abating anything—the earnestness of Christianity, in making them half-Christian, half-worldly, sometimes singing psalms, sometimes ditties. No doubt these associations would thus become more acceptable to the world, but the glory of the Lord would disappear; the world would take hold of them and introduce worldliness. For some time they will suffer religion at the side of worldliness, but the end of it will be just as if some one would venture to give to Satan one finger, he would be sure to grasp the whole hand, by-and-by the world and worldliness would take all.

PRESBYTERIAN union in Brazil was accomplished and ratified on or about the 30th ultimo, if no change was made from the previously announced plan. Hereafter we need not think of two Presbyterian missionary establishments in Brazil, connected with the parent Churches in the United States. Long ago the workers there wanted to obliterate, as far as they themselves were concerned, the distinction between the northern and southern branches of the Church. Though there were distinct missions supported from different funds, the workers were one body in purposes and methods, and yearned to be one in fellowship. There were, according to the most reliable report, thirty-three churches, under the care of the Presbytery of Rio and about half that number connected with the Southern Presbyterian mission. These organizations were to unite last month, with the blessing of the churches in the United States carried to Brazil by clerical delegates, and with the sanction of the Assemblies which formally approved the formation of a Brazilian Synod, formed of Presbyteries which shall be separated from both the Assemblies in this country, and constituting in Brazil a distinct and independent Church, free from foreign control.

THE Guelph Ministerial Association, disapproving of certain features of the Central Exhibition, have issued the following protest which is signed by most of the ministers in the Royal City: The Guelph Ministerial Association regrets the necessity of protesting against the special attractions of the Guelph Central Exhibition for this year. Because: 1st. Such attractions are immoral in their tendency. 2nd. The payment for such performances out of the funds of the society is a perversion of public money. 3rd. The use of city property for such purposes is an unjust usurpation of the rights of the moral and religious part of the community. We also express our deep regret that the Highland Cadets and Naval Brigade, hitherto so carefully guarded, are to be in any way associated with such "attractions." We therefore appeal to all persons in the community to consider whether it is their duty to withhold their patronage and presence this year, hoping thereby so to influence the directors, that the society may be restored to its proper status and thus the all important interests of agriculture and arts be preserved and exalted. Resolved, that this protest and appeal, together with a programme of the attractions, be sent to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

A MOST interesting meeting was held in Association Hall last Thursday evening, presided over by Mr. Stephen Caldecott, president of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association. The chief speakers were Mr. Daniel Spencer, general secretary of Railway Missions and editor of the *Signal*, and Herr Cohen, a convert from Judaism and a prominent lecturer in England on religious and social questions. Mr. Spencer described the work in which he is engaged, viz., the advancing of the spiritual, moral and material interests of railway employes. Reading rooms are established in England at many stations available to the men. Wholesome literature is circulated among them, convalescent homes are established for injured employes, orphanages are provided for fatherless children, and, in fact, everything possible is done to better the condition of this meritorious class of public servants whose calling is one of great risk and danger. Mr. Ratcliffe, who, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, does excellent service among the railway men in Toronto, spoke encouragingly of his work among them. There were some 2,500 persons so employed, and in forcible terms he solicited help in volunteer work and aid in the distribution of literature. Herr Cohen is a man of marked personality, quaintly dressed in antique style of raiment. As a speaker he is earnest, forcible, graphic and direct. He at once succeeds in placing himself on cordial terms with his audience, securing their attention and holding it throughout. Though of Prussian nativity he has a complete mastery of accurate and racy English.