

The Presbyterian Review

Vol. XIV.—No 46.

MAY 19, 1898

\$1.50 per Annum

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Toronto, Ont.

Publishers and Proprietors:

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada.

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ADVERTISING RATES: Under three months, 15 cents per line per insertion—three months, \$1.00—six months, \$1.75—one year \$3.00

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Pope and the United States.

Between the desire to uphold Spain and the desire to advance the interests of his church in the United States the Pope is having just now a trying time. No wonder he wished he might die before a war broke out between these two powers. His sympathies are evidently with Spain, but to restore the balance in some measure the Papal Alegate in Washington has issued a pastoral urging all Catholics to support loyally the American government in its efforts to liberate their Catholic co-religionists in Cuba. If His Holiness had made some real effort on behalf of these same Cubans at an earlier time he might perhaps have averted the war altogether, but he is too much beholden to Spain to interfere in that way. The issue of the war is likely to be the most serious blow to the papacy since 1870, when Catholic France was humbled by Protestant Germany and Victor Emmanuel absorbed the Papal States in a united Italy. Should the dismemberment of Austria, as seems not unlikely: follow the death of the present emperor the end of the century may find the Pope without a friend on whom he can rely among the powers of Europe. The Papal sun is evidently on the decline.

Evangelical Reaction in Germany.

As is well known nearly all the chairs of theology in German Universities are held by professors who are more or less rationalistic in their teaching. Very many of the active pastors, however, are strongly evangelical and recently they have been taking steps to keep up the evangelical succession. At the last

meeting of the Prussian Synod it was decided that in addition to the usual university training candidates for the ministry must hereafter spend at least one year as assistant to some pastor chosen by the Consistory to attend a course in one of the practical seminaries. Both the Consistory and the practical seminaries are controlled by the conservative party. It is hoped that this measure will bring all candidates under evangelical influences at a formative period in their studies and imbue the more earnest at least with sound principles.

The Romeward Trend.

There is a movement in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States to change the name of the organization to the American Catholic Church. If they succeed they are likely to leave behind their Protestantism and also those of their people who have Protestant convictions. Alongside of this movement is an active propaganda in favor of the compulsory celibacy of the clergy. The young clergy are being advised against contracting marriage and those who are engaged are being urged to break off their engagements. The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States is but a small body anyway though it has a good deal of social influence in the cities. But we venture to say it will become smaller still if these tendencies prevail. If it is drifting toward Rome the steady drift of the popular mind is all the other way, and is likely to continue so.

Pointe-aux-Trembles Valedictory.

By a not unnatural error the Pointe aux-Trembles Valedictory, which appeared in our last number, was attributed to the Rev. Albert Rondeau. It was good enough to have been written by anybody. The author, however, has not yet attained that dignity, being in fact only one of the Senior pupils of the school who was giving expression to his natural regrets on leaving the school where he has made such good progress in his studies. He has had little opportunity of using his English anywhere as yet except in the school and still speaks it with a strong French accent. It is but another proof of the good work the school is doing.

Mission to Cuba.

We are glad to notice signs of an awakening interest in the spiritual condition of Cuba on the part of the American Churches. At the spring meeting of the Presbytery of St. Louis a resolution was passed urging the Bible Society to send in its colporteurs as soon as the way should be clear and a collection of \$250 was promptly forwarded for this purpose. The obligation of the United States to Cuba as well as to the countries of Central and South America does not end with securing them good government. They owe them the gospel as well.

A Candidate for Knox College Vacancy.

Among the names spoken of in connection with the vacant chair at Knox College is that of the Rev. J. E. MacFadzean M.A., Glasgow, whose testimonials