

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The Boy's Brigade is an institution already well-known in this country and richly deserves to be encouraged. Since its institution, about twelve years ago, it has grown with wonderful rapidity, and now numbers no fewer than 750 companies, with 2,600 officers and 33,000 boys in the United Kingdom alone; while in Canada, the United States, and South Africa the movement is spreading, and about 30,000 boys have been enrolled.

Thursday last was a roaster. According to the showing of the instruments at the Observatory here, the hottest we have had in May since it was built, 94 degrees in the shade being the highest reading, and the difference above the average 21 degrees. There was a sudden boom during the day in straw hats, and in the evening doorsteps were at a premium. The clerk of the weather is making it hot for the ladies attending the National Council of Women.

We learn from the *China's Millions* the following interesting and important information: A letter, just received from Ta-li Fu, Yun-nan, dated 12th March, tells us that the connection between the Burmah and China telegraph wires was probably made that day or the day previous. This means the connection of the whole Imperial Telegraph System of China with the British Imperial Telegraph System in India, and it provides an all-land route for messages from Peking to Calais."

At a farewell reception to Lord Hopetoun, held at Government House, Melbourne, Australia, on the occasion of the departure of himself and lady for Britain, several deputations presented addresses, among the rest a large deputation from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, headed by the Moderator (Rev. Dr. Rentoul), the Clerk (Rev. George Hatt), Rev. Professor Macdonald, D.D., and the Rev. Alexander Marshall, with some Presbyterian members of Parliament, including the Hon. James Balfour and Mr. Robert Harper.

The provisional programme for the fourteenth International Christian Endeavor Convention has just been published. It offers a bill of intellectual, social, moral and spiritual fare that might almost alarm the most voracious, unless his digestive apparatus, both physical and mental, is in the most vigorous state. Three great meeting places, besides quarters for overflow meetings, are being provided. One, the Mechanics' Building, and two immense tents to be erected on Boston Common. These tents are within two minutes walk of the United Society's headquarters, and are only one square distant from Washington Street, which is probably the busiest thoroughfare in Boston.

At the meeting held lately of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, the subject of education took an important place. Protestantism in Quebec, which is largely an educational matter, was presented in an admirable paper by the Rev. J. R. McLeod and by Rev. T. J. Taylor in a telling address upon Presbyterian representation upon the council of public instruction. The Synod expressed regret that the Presbyterian Church is so inadequately represented as to members on the Protestant committee of the Board of Public Instruction for the Province Quebec, and appointed a committee to wait on the government, and make representations as to the facts, with a view of having our Church fairly represented on the committee, and report to next Synod. Finally Coligny College, Ottawa, was congratulated on its prosperous condition and commended to the sympathy and liberality of the congregations within the bounds.

Our confrere of the Halifax Presbyterian *Witness* thinks the Toronto Presbytery and others which have nominated the Rev. Dr. Stalker for professor, rather "upsetting" we suspect. It says: "The Presbytery of Toronto deserve credit for their good courage in nominating Rev. Dr. Stalker of Glasgow, for the vacant chair in Knox College. Of Dr. Stalker's eminent fitness for the position there can be no doubt. A number of our Presbyteries and our Synods in pre-union times nominated Dr. Marcus Dods for a vacant chair in the Halifax College, but Marcus Dods would not leave the—well, the attractions of Glasgow to come to reign over us here. Perhaps the nominations of Dr. Stalker will not end in disappointment."

The correspondent of the *Belfast Witness* in Melbourne, Australia, says that at the Antipodes "at present the universal topic of conversation in Melbourne is the departure from our midst of Lord and Lady Hopetoun. The Earl of Hopetoun has undoubtedly been a most popular Governor. He has shown an unfailing tact and wisdom in his public appearances. Lord Hopetoun has been a loyal member of the Presbyterian Church. His infant son, whom he has called Charles Melbourne Hope, and whom he takes home as a living souvenir of Australia, was baptised in the Scots Church by the Rev. Alexander Marshall. When in the country, I have reason to know that the Governor constantly attended the Presbyterian Church, and expressed his appreciation of the services of our hard-working country ministers."

Mr. Samuel Finley, treasurer of the Wesleyan Theological College and treasurer of McGill University, speaks in the highest terms of Dr. Petersen, the new Principal of McGill:—"Dr. Petersen is a splendid fellow. He is in the prime of life; his wife is a very nice lady; he is a man of the finest character, and is spoken of even by those who opposed him in the college, in which there were two parties, as being an admirable administrator. I believe he will be well received, and that the Governors have made a good choice. I may say that the Governors, realizing all the importance of the position, gave more attention to this appointment than to any other question which has ever affected McGill. In this connection I must say that the Chancellor, Sir Donald Smith, has spared no time or trouble, but has worked with the greatest energy, being desirous to get the very best man. He was assisted by some of the most eminent men in England and Scotland."

At the last meeting of the Victoria Institute, London, the subject of the "Early Man" was considered. In dealing with it the evidence for the existence of "a missing link" was first examined, the subject being introduced in an able paper by Professor E. Hull, LL.D., F.R.S., late Director-General of the Geological Survey of Ireland. He quoted the investigations of many specialists showing that it was impossible to recognise in any case anything which could claim to be regarded as even an approach to a missing link. After this the question of the earliest man was taken up and introduced in a paper of very high merit by Sir J. William Dawson, C.M.G., F.R.S., in which he described the physical character and affinities of the Gauchers, or extinct race in the Canary Islands. The author dealt with the historical facts connected with this people and their mode of life, and relationship to the ancient inhabitants of Western Europe and Africa, and the many reasons which pointed to their being related to the early colonists of Eastern America. The special characteristics of their skulls were very fully dealt with, as also their weapons, ornaments, and apparent mode of life. In the discussion which ensued several speakers gave evidence in support of the position taken up by Sir W. Dawson.

On the 29th ult. the first issue of the *Christian Guardian* under its new editor, the Rev. A. C. Courtice, made its appearance, and contained his salutation to his large constituency which is modest, devout and spiritually earnest in tone. His first editorial is on the important subject of "Loyalty to Christ," as the foundation on which as editor he proposes to build, because, as he well remarks, "all true building on that foundation abides." In this article also he pays a well-deserved meed of praise to those who have preceded him in the editorial chair, and to their work, and in a separate short article he pays a becoming and brotherly tribute to the retiring editor, Dr. Dewar. His commanding quality he considers to have been "strength," and concludes with this statement which will be generally accepted: "Even his opponents in controversy will admit his ability, and the whole church will be grateful for his editorial work and for his advocacy of sound doctrine, temperance and purity in common life, and the proper relations of church and state."

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, Dr. Donald McLeod, has been favouring an interviewer with his opinion of Scottish novelists who have risen lately into fame. He says: "They are splendid, and quite distinct in their characteristics. Barrie started with his 'Thums,' a work of genius. Then in Crockett's 'Raiders' there is a touch of Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson. Crockett's romance has nothing of 'Thums' in it beyond good Scotch. In my opinion, his 'Men of the Moss-Hags,' at present running in *Good Words*, is the best he has written, and it is the story on which he says he has bestowed most labour. It has been said that Mr. Crockett is writing too much, but a great deal of what he has been publishing rapidly in recent years was written some time ago, and the author is as fresh as ever. Perhaps in some respects the 'Bonnie Brier Bush' is nearer Barrie. Ian Maclaren has a pathetic touch that moves one to the very depth. He has not shown Barrie's humour, but he has pathos, and nothing finer has been written than some of his Drumtochty sketches since 'Rab and his Friends.'"

The Royal Canadian Humane Association has been constituted under this name by the gracious permission of her Majesty the Queen. It has for its objects: To reward all persons, who, with promptitude and bravery, and at personal risk or hazard of their own lives, save, or make strenuous efforts to save the lives of others; and further to secure such unity and concert of action as will promote the purposes common to the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty, under whatever name they may be known. In order to place this Association on a proper financial basis, so as to be able to prosecute its work, and, as stated, to reward persons who risk their lives in saving those of others, the generous aid and sympathy of Canadians interested in humane work, from one end of the Dominion to the other, is most earnestly solicited; in a prospectus and circular which have come into our hands. The want of a Dominion Association for the recognition of acts of heroism and bravery has long been felt; and now that one has been formed, under the auspices of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, we would hope that, to the present appeal of the officers of the Association, a prompt and generous response will be at once given. The benefits and inspiring influence of such an Association to deeds of noblest and unselfish daring are too well known to need any argument. Surely in every part of the Dominion an Association like this, so congenial to the spirit of our people, will meet with hearty and universal encouragement and support. Last Saturday in the Assembly Hall of the Ontario Educational Department, His Excellency the Governor General presented medals to persons who had risked their own lives in saving those of others.