

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 23.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31st, 1894.

No. 5.

Notes of the Week.

We are glad to notice the name of our honored and devoted missionary to Formosa, the Rev. G. L. Mackay, D.D., proposed for the Moderatorship of the next General Assembly. If the church in this way marks its appreciation of the character and services of those who have served her well, there is no one more deserving of such a mark of grateful appreciation than is Dr. Mackay. In honoring him thus, the church would at the same time be showing the place of warm interest which its foreign mission work and workers hold in the hearts of all her people. The church does not always have it in its power by the presence at home of one of our veteran missionaries to do them honor in this way. As she has it in her power now, now is the time to do it. Then it will come in place to pay a similar tribute to the church's sense of the value of the labors of our devoted home missionaries, of the incalculable importance in every aspect of it of the great work of our church at home.

There can be no more appropriate and beneficent way of perpetuating the memory of good men who have been removed from us, than by establishing some lasting memorial of them in the line in which their activities were exercised while yet alive, and in which accordingly they were known to take a deep interest. We are glad to observe that the memory of the late lamented Mr. Howland is to be kept fresh in this way, one which we believe would have been so wholly congenial to his own mind, had not his modesty led him to decline any thing of the sort. It is most fitting that such honour should be paid him. For this purpose, at a representative meeting held some time ago, it was determined to raise \$25,000 to be devoted either to the enlarging and completing of the Toronto Mission Union, thereafter to be called the Howland Memorial Mission, or, as subscribers may direct, to the erection of a hall at the Victoria Industrial School at Mimico, towards which \$2,500 had already in his lifetime been subscribed and which when completed will be called the Howland Memorial.

The death, which took place at Edinburgh last month, of the Rev. Professor Milligan, late of Aberdeen, is much lamented. The *Presbyterian* of London, England, says of him: Dr. Milligan was one of the eminent men included in the ranks of the ministers of the Church of Scotland. After being parish minister, first at Cameron and then at Kilconquhar, he was appointed in 1860 to the then newly-established Chair of Divinity and Biblical Criticism in Aberdeen University. He succeeded Principal Tulloch in 1866 in the office of Chief Clerk of the General Assembly, of which he had been Moderator in 1882. Dr. Milligan was one of the New Testament revisers. He was the author of several theological works which mostly centred round two things—the writings of St. John and the doctrines of the Resurrection and the Ascension. Among his principal works were 'Words of the New Testament as altered by Transmission and Ascertained by Modern Criticism,' written in conjunction with Dr. Roberts; 'The Resurrection of our Lord' (the Croall Lecture, 1881); 'The Revelation of St. John' (Baird Lecture, 1885); and 'The Ascension and Heavenly Priesthood of our Lord' (Baird Lecture, 1891).

A change of very considerable importance in the organization of British Methodism is set forth in a scheme propounded by the Rev. Dr. Rigg and warmly supported by the Rev. H. Price Hughes. From the leading character of these two men in British Methodism, as representatives of its conservative and progressive sections respectively, it may be regarded as a foregone conclusion that sooner or later the plan proposed will, in its main features at least, be adopted. It is to group the thirty-five Synods in England and Scotland into thirteen divisions, and to appoint a chairman over each of these, who should be relieved of other ministerial duties and devote himself entirely to the administrative work of his division. He will, of course, be chairman of each of the two or three Synods includ-

ed in the division over which he presides. These chairmen will only be appointed for six years, so that they will not constitute a separate class from their ministerial brethren; and the functions they will have to discharge will be simply administrative. It is hoped that the new plan will do much to further the life and progress of Methodism, both in the way of breaking new ground and of reviving its energies in districts where it may have begun to droop.

The cause of temperance, it is gratifying to notice, is making steady progress in the mother country and is now rapidly acquiring that moral momentum which is the augury of still more rapid progress in the near future. An immense and most enthusiastic convention was some time ago held in Covent Garden Theatre, London, which resulted in a very large and strong deputation being sent to Mr. Gladstone, at his residence in Downing street, to urge upon him the pressing necessity of giving the Local Veto Bill a first place in the arrangement of Bills for next session. Sir Wilfred Lawson having introduced the deputation, Sir William Harcourt replied, and was followed by Mr. Gladstone, who said, in effect, that the Government were pledged to the Bill and intended on the earliest occasion to prosecute the measure with all the resources at their disposal to a final and, he hoped, successful issue. At a meeting of the deputation held immediately after parting from the Prime Minister, great satisfaction was expressed at the result thus obtained. The delegates pressed upon all societies, of which thirty-nine were represented, that earnest efforts should be made during the months intervening before Parliament meets in 1894 to render substantial support to pass the Liquor Traffic (Local Control) Bill into law during next session.

"Prosperous Presbyterians" is the heading in the *Hamilton Evening Times* of an account which it gives of the annual congregational meeting of St. Paul's and Central Presbyterian Churches in that city. It might be adopted for nearly all our congregations. A great number of reports of annual congregational meetings has been sent to and published in whole or in part in our columns, and many more have passed under our notice. Without exception almost, the reports are of a favorable and hopeful kind and report an advance on former years. We believe this state of things is general throughout our church and should be very cheering tidings to all interested in its welfare. If this is the state of things regarding the congregational interests of the individual churches which make up the whole body, there is no reason why there should be any large deficit in the schemes of the church connected with its general work at home and abroad. Naturally each individual congregation has a sense of responsibility and self-respect with regard to its own standing which is not generally felt in the case of the schemes of the church. But if congregations, as a rule, have been able to carry on their own affairs not only without falling behind, but to make advance, surely a little effort on the part of the whole church should enable us to close the year without deficit and without retrenchment in our work. Let there be the long pull, the strong pull and the pull altogether and it can be done.

Last week was marked in the city by the large number of congregations which held their annual meetings during the course of it. Among those reported in the daily press were St. James' Square, St. Andrew's west, Westminster Church, Deer Park, Bloor St., Fern Avenue, Old St. Andrew's and Knox Church. It is interesting and encouraging to note that in almost every instance the reports presented, notwithstanding the depression of business or other drawbacks, are encouraging and helpful. In most cases the balance is on the right side as to finances. Membership reported is generally on the increase, and S. Schools and young peoples' missionary and other societies large and doing good work. The growth of the city involving residential changes, while it helps some congregations so that they can-

not but grow, militates against some others, so that if they hold their own they do well. It is very necessary that those churches more in the business parts of the city where they are much needed, should receive the loyal and earnest support of their members both in money and work. A serious matter that almost all of these congregations have to deal with, is the large debts weighing upon them incurred in building, and the large amounts annually needed for interest and to keep large churches and all their fittings in a state of good repair. It is said by some that in view of the millions of heathen to whom the Gospel should be sent without delay, for every dollar, raised and spent at home, there should be one for the spread of the Gospel abroad. If this is a correct ideal state of the church, large as are the sums raised by the churches in this city, much yet remains to be done before this ideal is reached.

A symposium of Roman Catholic dignitaries in the United States on the division of public funds for the support of parochial schools in which the tenets of their church shall be taught, appears in a late number of the *New York Independent*. Such a use of public money we believe to be opposed by the vast majority of American citizens, and they rightly see in it a certain source of danger to the integrity of their system of public schools. If our experience in Canada in this matter is worth anything to them, let them beware of yielding in the smallest particular to the claims of the Romish hierarchy on this subject. If the first step is allowed, it is impossible to tell where or when it shall end. They will do well to hold to the position taken by the *Interior* in a late issue. It says: "Almost without exception the bishops protest that they are not hostile to the public free-school system. Nevertheless, they nearly all desire religious teaching—by which they mean the dogmatic system of the Catholic church—so much of it as children may learn. But that would destroy the free school system. It is impossible to conceive of the two coexisting in this country. The Catholic prelates withdraw the children because their catechism is not taught. How many would remain if it were taught? We would insist upon our Shorter Catechism. The Methodists would withdraw if we had our way, and so all a round. It is preposterous for a man to say that he is not hostile to the free-school system so long as he makes demands which he and every one else knows are destructive."

The opening last week of the magnificent new quarters of the Toronto Athletic Club, constituted an era of its kind in the history of athletics in this city. It was fitting that this event should be signalized by the great gathering which came together in honor of the occasion. We regret to see from the columns of the *Week*, that some members of one organization which took part in the opening ceremonies, have subjected themselves to severe strictures at the hands of that excellent journal for conduct on their part which it describes as "filthy jests," and characterizes as "obscenity at once disgusting and degrading." We would be very far, indeed, from making any sweeping charge against the devotees of athletics in general, that conduct of this kind should have occurred at all is deeply to be regretted. It showed that those who were chargeable with it and who could enjoy it, expected that their audience were like-minded with themselves. In this case, as we would expect, there was prompt disapproval of it. The *Week* deserves credit for its strong and manly condemnation, and we hope its words will be heeded. The pursuit of athletic sports in reasonable measure, is not only harmless but desirable, and nothing could be more fatal to them than the fear that they should be associated with what is low or vulgar and still worse, not pure and clean and of good report. Many young men who delight in athletics are members of our churches, Christian associations and like societies, and it rests largely with them, by resolute discountenance of everything which in the smallest degree savours of filthy jesting or profanity, to keep our athletic sports, as we would fairly believe they now are, safe for the morals of our young men as well as a means of physical training for the good of their bodies.