

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

When the Queen of Madagascar, who is at war with the saloons in her kingdom, was approached by the saloon-keepers, whose business she had suppressed, and asked for compensation, she answered briefly: "Compensate those whom you have wronged and I will pay the balance."

In an article referring to the lynching of colored people in the South, the Nashville *Christian Advocate* says it has the statement of perfectly trustworthy witnesses that of the 250,000 members of the colored M. E. Church (which is under the fostering care of the M. E. Church, South) not a person has suffered illegal violence.

The Anglican bishops have brought into the House of Lords a Church patronage bill in reference to the sale of livings. The bill proposes that hereafter all sales of livings shall be made privately, and not publicly, as at present. The bill is opposed by the Liberationists because they object to selling livings altogether; and it is opposed by the owners of livings because it will make advowsons less attractive to clerical buyers.

The elections now going on for the Norway Storting (or Legislature) may result in grave political complications, should the Radicals prove victorious. That would mean separation from Sweden—peaceable if possible, but separation. Between Norway and Sweden, the former is bent upon as little political unity as there was religious affinity between Jew and Samaritan. Sweden has shown every purpose to resist the dissolution of the union to the extent of its military resources.

From Tien Tsin, China, comes the news that an imperial edict has been issued in connection with the outrages perpetrated on missionaries and the murder of Rev. James Wylie, a Presbyterian missionary, who was recently killed at Liao Yang, by Chinese soldiers, who were marching to Korea. The edict condemns the Chinese officers responsible for the good conduct of the troops, and orders that the murderers be beheaded. It is further ordered that the chapels which have been destroyed be rebuilt at the expense of the people in the localities where the outrages were committed, and that compensation be paid relatives of Mr. Wylie. The Tsung Li Yamen, or Supreme Council, and Viceroy Li Hung Chang have expressed deep regret to the British Minister because of the outrages.

From all parts, both of the Dominion and the United States, come the most heart-rending accounts of the devastation and death wrought by fires in the forest and on the prairie. Such a length of drought and such havoc have not for a long time been experienced in the country. Fires of the kind such as our newspapers are filled with, are one of the most terrible scourges that can come upon a community, and there is hardly one that man is more helpless to contend with. What pitiless, most cruel suffering, death and loss have thus come upon many of our people. We may well pray for the beneficent, plentiful rain from heaven and be ready wherever it is called for, with the practical, friendly help which very many will need in view of their loss and the approach of a long, cold winter.

On a late Sabbath morning, Mr. Thomas Spurgeon, having read the weekly notices, stated that the amount of the collections on the previous Lord's Day was unusually large for a Communion Sunday, over £67 having been placed in the boxes. The secret, he continued, lies in the fact that one friend, who signs himself "Presbyterian," put in no less than £42 10s. I say this that our Presbyterian friend may know that we received the sum safely,

and are very thankful to God for it. I mention it also in case any other Presbyterian or Methodist, or, indeed, any other brother, wishes to do the same; and that if there are any who cannot give £42 10s they may do what they can, so that to day's offerings may not look very small in comparison with last Sunday's." Quite like a Presbyterian.

A very happy illustration of union between Methodists and Presbyterians has lately been given in Sherbrooke, Quebec. A Union Meeting of the Presbytery of Quebec and the Methodist District of Quebec, was held in that town on Wednesday, Aug. 29th, in the Methodist Church, and in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. After devotional exercises and the chairman's address, a programme was taken up and disposed of, consisting of papers or addresses and discussions upon "The State of Religion within the Bounds," "Means and Methods of Aggressive Christian Work," "Possible Co-operation within the Bound," "How Sectarianism Hinders Christianity," "Possible Amalgamation within the Bounds." Practical measures of this kind, conducted in a fraternal spirit over the whole church could not but be attended with the best results, and if ever a larger, corporate union is to be brought about, it must come by such steps as this which we notice, being taken, first of all.

The fourth quadrennial General Conference of the Canada Methodist Church is at present in session in London. It is now some years since the various bodies of Methodists in the Dominion were happily united into one organic whole under this General Conference whose jurisdiction stretches from sea to sea, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Since then the Methodist Church has gone on and prospered mightily, 50 per cent. of increase in numbers and strength of organizations being the progress as estimated by the General Superintendent. Two hundred and fifty chosen men, the representatives of conferences many thousands of miles apart compose the conference. Its deliberations and decisions will be followed with great interest not only by Methodists from one end of the Dominion to the other, but by all interested in the cause of religion and morality in the land, because of the effect they may have in these and other important respects in moulding the future history of our yet young but growing country. In the heartiest manner we wish that wisdom and harmony may mark its deliberations, and the divine blessing and guidance be vouchsafed to all its measures.

The *St. Louis Presbyterian* of August 24th is responsible for the following:—"The Catholics have boycotted all men not of their faith, ousted them from office, and put themselves in their place. For example: In the Sheriff's office in San Francisco there are eighty-eight appointees—of these, eighty-seven are Romanists, and one a Jew. In the County Clerk's office, in the same city, there are fifty-five appointees—of these fifty-four are Romanists, and one is doubtful. Are all the people in San Francisco, city and county, Roman Catholics? Again: In Chicago, the mayor, chief of police, chief of the fire department, postmaster, State's attorney, clerks of the circuit, probate and superior courts, a number of the judges, forty-five of the sixty-eight aldermen, sixty-seven per cent. of the school teachers, eighty per cent. of the fire department and ninety per cent. of the police force are Romanists." A similar condition of things it avers exists in New York City and State, and so it adds "all over." Says the editor of the *Pittsburg Messenger*: "We are inclined to doubt the statements and would welcome any evidence that would help to settle our doubts. If they are true there can be only one conclusion, viz.: that there has been most thoroughly organized effort on the part of the Roman Catholic Church to secure these places of power. If they are correct, patriots should begin their denunciations farther back than the A. P. A."

Making every allowance for possible filial partiality, which if it did not exist would be unnatural, the language of Lord Dufferin respecting his mother, in the memoir accompanying his lately published collection of her poems is very beautiful and a most loving and touching tribute of a son to a mother's memory. Speaking of her peaceful end he says: "Thus there went out of the world one of the sweetest, most beautiful, most accomplished, wittiest, most loving and lovable human beings that ever walked upon the earth. There was no quality wanting to her perfection, and I say this, not prompted by the partiality of a son, but as one well acquainted with the world, and with both men and women. There have been many ladies who have been beautiful, charming, witty and good, but I doubt if there have been any who have combined with so high a spirit, and with so natural a gaiety and bright an imagination as my mother's, such strong, unerring good sense, tact and womanly discretion. For these last characteristics, coupled with the intensity of her affections, to which I have already referred, were the real essence and deep foundations of my mother's nature."

The address delivered lately by Lord Salisbury as President of the British Association, continues to receive a large amount of attention. It is one of the most striking which has fallen under our notice. It deals a very strong, if not a deadly blow, for the thing cannot be killed, at that spirit and language of towering pride of intellect and boastfulness which in the realm of science is characteristic of our time. "Behold we know not anything" is the irresistible feeling with which one rises from reading it. Whatever one may think of Lord Salisbury's politics one cannot but acknowledge the wealth of his information, the keenness of his humour and satire, and the force of his intellect. It is a great comfort to plain people, who in their own humble way, have never been able to get over the force which the argument from design has upon their mind, to find such men as Lord Salisbury and Lord Kelvin, whom the former describes as "the foremost scientific man in the world," agreeing together "that the argument of design has been greatly too much lost sight of in recent zoological speculations. Overpoweringly strong proof of intelligent and benevolent design lies around us, . . . teaching us that all living things depend on one everlasting Creator and Ruler."

The Labour Question is an irrepressible one, and with the advance of civilization, appears to become only more complicated and the more impossible of satisfactory solution. No such difficulties gather around Labour Day. It is welcomed and apparently enjoyed by all. All reports in all our exchanges from every part of the country chronicle its general, glad, and, in many cases, enthusiastic observance. Not only from large cities and towns, but from small country villages, come glowing accounts of games, processions, bands of music, banners, symbolical displays, speeches, and all the etceteras properly belonging to a general holiday. The weather everywhere appears to have smiled upon the day and been on its best behavior. The sight of a whole people turning out to keep holiday in a rational way is a most inspiring one, and has an uplifting effect upon the whole body of the people. It speaks volumes for the character of our population that in no single instance have we seen the slightest reference made to cases of drunkenness, accidents or riots on account of indulgence in drink, or anything but a high degree of general enjoyment either in an organized way or by citizens finding individually their own ways and means of enjoyment. While there is still much to discourage and distress the lover of his kind, a better day has surely dawned, and the lot of the toiler is not so much as it once was, one long, weary, ceaseless, remorseless grind, and along with this has come, happily, the power to enjoying in a rational way the increasing number of pauses from the daily round of labor.