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CHOICE BOOKS I WITHOUT MONEY !!

Canada Presbyterian Premium List

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN is now so well and favourably known as to require no words of commendation at our hands. The twenty-first year of publication commences with the first week of January, and Publishers, Editors, Contributors and Correspondents, will unite in the effort to make the coming volume better and more useful than any that has preceded it.

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Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. W. P. Paterson, B.D., of St. Michael's parish, Crieff, finds, as the result of some study of the matter, that the minister's stipend is in proportion to his stature. Those of five feet ten enjoy the livings of \$1,500 a year, those below that height and above five feet eight the livings between \$1,000 and \$1,500, while the small men get the livings under \$1,000. A strong voice in the small man, however, sometimes raises him, and a weak one in the tall man lowers him.

DR. BANNERMAN declines to call the attention of the Free Church College committee to Professor Bruce's introduction to "Inspiration and Inerrancy," on the ground that while Prof. Briggs says some questionable things in his address, the papers by Dr. Evans and Dr. Smith are valuable contributions to theological discussion, offered in a believing and reverent spirit. Mr. Macaskill intends to bring the matter under the notice of the Church, by publishing his letters to Dr. Bannermann on the subject.

THE chief procurator of the Holy Russian Synod, M. Pobedanostseff, has arrested a number of Protestants in Tiflis, Caucasus, and sent them into banishment in the mountainous regions of Transcaucasia. Among them are Kalveit, a prominent merchant, and a leader among the Baptists; his son-in-law, Baghdasarian, a preacher to the Protestant Armenians; Lavashoff, a leading Stundist; and Mazaiff, a wealthy and prominent Molokan. Almost all the leading men of the new movement are either in prison or in exile.

A CONFERENCE took place in Glasgow recently, under the auspices of the Established Presbytery's Commission, on the housing of the poor, at which were present by invitation representatives of the other Presbyterian Churches, the Episcopal Churches, the town council, and several public boards and societies. There were many speakers, the project which was most approved of being that of labour centres at which men and women willing to do work would be helped to procure it. It was agreed to continue the conference, and a large business committee was appointed.

A "VOICE from Italy," a little pamphlet published by the Scottish Religions Tract Society, tells of the excitement throughout Italy in connection with the insults of the French pilgrims to the memory of Victor Emmanuel, at the tomb of the Liberator. The Church of Rome is endeavouring to use her success in her labour propaganda to bring back the temporal power, but King Humbert and the Italian people are determined that Rome and United Italy shall stand together in spite of all clerical opposition. Dr. Gray, of Rome, is able to report that the sale of the Scriptures is greater by many thousands this year than in any former year.

GLASGOW Free Church Presbytery, by fifty-two to eleven, have approved of the Declaratory Act respecting the Confession. Prof. Candlish, who made the successful motion, admitted that some of the expressions might have been improved, and that the only perfect remedy was either a thorough revision of the Confession or the preparation of a new one. Both these were attended at present with great difficulty, but he was willing to face the task if the Church were so minded. Rev. William Patrick, in seconding, characterized the act as patchwork resulting from a compromise which, however, commended itself to sensible men. Disapproval was moved by Rev. Henry Anderson, who charged the measure with toning down the Word of God, and

with a tendency to foster the young moderatism that was rapidly rising in the Church.

THE Rev. Dr. Oliver has been calling the attention of the students attending the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh, to the unguarded statements of such men as Professor Drummond on the subject of attendance at Church and of formulas of religious belief. He questions that gentleman's ability to judge of the Christianity of non-churchgoers, and characterizes as mischievous the contemptuous tone in such phrases as "our little Scottish theological forms." Dr. Oliver, warning the students against sensational preaching, admitted that there were eccentric preachers whose naturalness differentiated them from the sensationalists. But the sensational advertising, the dramatising of the Scriptures, the scenic painting in bold colours, he regards as degrading to the pulpit.

MR. CHEOK HONG CHEONG, Superintendent of the Church Mission to the Chinese in Victoria, recently received a public welcome at Exeter Hall, and is about to address meetings throughout the country on the opium question. He wears a pigtail, but conforms so far to the ways of the island which he is visiting as to put aside the silk pants and fancy shoes of his countrymen for trousers and leather boots. Mr. Cheong speaks English fluently. He left his native land for Australia when he was a boy and completed his education at Melbourne University and Divinity Hall. Mr. Cheong comes, he says, to plead with Englishmen against the opium curse at the request of Chinese victims of the drug in Australia. On being asked if the opium was imported into the colony by English merchants, he replied that no Englishmen had anything to do with it. The drug was sent to agents by the Hong-Kong opium farmers.

THE London *Presbyterian* says: A peculiarly solemn and tender feeling prevailed in the North London Presbytery while occupied with William Burton Alexander's death and the resignation of John McNeill. The great legacy Mr. Alexander has left is the memory of what he was. The contrast between the ease and honour in which he might have lived, and the hard and depressing toil to which he devoted his declining years—that is a thing not to be forgotten. William Burns enriched our Church with the record of a Christ-like life; and Mr. Alexander has added to that noble bequest. That Mr. McNeill should leave us is a cause of deep regret. He has proved himself an evangelist indeed; and he goes to a wider sphere for the exercise of his peculiar gifts. Not a congregation, but a country will be his field. Most sincerely do we wish him God-speed. We shall number him on the roll of those who were ours, and we shall hope to see him again as occasion may call him to the South. Nothing could have exceeded the tender grace with which Mr. Turnbull spoke of his labours and his prayers; and, in going, he adds one more name to the great memories of Regent Square.

THE Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society have been discussing the use of short-bread at the Lord's Supper, which appears at one time to have been universal throughout the south-west of Scotland, and still holds its ground among the Presbyterians in the north of Ireland. Rev. Dr. Ross, of Londonderry, says they adhere to it because our Saviour used unleavened bread at the institution of the ordinance. We suspect the reason has followed the custom, and that the use of short-bread originated at a time when no leavened bread was familiarly known. Oatcakes were till a recent date the common form of bread in the regions in question; and the best oatcakes were made "short" or brittle by the meal being mixed with butter. From this it was but a step to the short-bread as we have it to-day. We question whether Presbyterians have ever concerned themselves much as to the particular kind of bread used at the Passover or the first Holy Supper in Jerusalem. Questions of that sort are made much of in Churches that attach a superstitious importance to the minutiae of ritual, and are alien to the genius of our more robust and spiritual faith.