

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PRESBYTERIANS take their share of useful work wherever they are. Their spheres of activity are diversified. The *Christian World*, published in London, thus mentions the names of some who are well-known in Canada: Presbyterians are coming to the front. Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., is to second the address to the Throne at the opening of Parliament. The other night Dr. MacEwan officiated at Battersea, in the absence of Mr. Moody, and on Sunday morning, Dr. Monroe Gibson took Mr. Spurgeon's place at the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

RAILWAY companies are, not without reason, severely blamed when preventable accidents to life and limb occur. It is but fair that accidents for which they are not responsible, should be traced to their proper source. It is a dangerous practice jumping on and off moving trains. At any season of the year the habit is attended with danger, but in winter it is doubly dangerous. A commercial traveller, anxious to get off at Whitby where the train was not timed to stop, jumped. His rash leap was a fatal one. The injuries he received were so severe that he died the same evening. Life is getting far too fast.

WHILE the Mormon problem is being keenly discussed by the politicians and moralists of the United States, the different sections of the Church are not remaining inactive. Among the adherents of Mormonism in Utah are 50,000 of Scandinavian and Lutheran stock. A special effort is being made to restore them to Christianity. The Presbyterians are working through Norwegian evangelists. The Methodists have appointed a Norwegian missionary to Salt Lake, where he has erected a church edifice and opened a school. The Swedish Lutherans have sent a minister who has gathered a congregation, and a Danish Lutheran clergyman will soon commence operations.

A RECENT cable despatch from Rome says: The College of the Propaganda, finding its means of action and influence liable to be crippled by the decision of the Court of Cassation, has determined to put its wealth beyond the reach of the Italian Government by removing its financial base of operations from Rome, and establishing new financial bases in London, Paris, Vienna, New York, Bombay and Sydney. The archbishop in each city will be delegated to receive the subscriptions which were hitherto sent direct to the Propaganda treasury at Rome, and to apply them to the work of the Church in their own countries. The administration of the Propaganda will remain at Rome.

THE need for abandoning the barbaric forms with which the dead are interred is being generally recognized. The Council of the Church of England Funeral and Mourning Reform Association have issued a statement in which they urge the importance of the work of their society in the direction of the improvement of cemetery chapels, the encouragement of a better taste in respect of tombstones and monuments, the avoidance of excess in the use of flowers at funeral, and the disuse of crapes and scarves, as also of metal coffins and brick graves, which unduly retard the return of the body to the earth. They are of opinion that excess in funeral observances has often led to absolute want, followed in many cases by permanent pauperism.

SERIOUS disasters from flooded rivers in the western States are again reported. These destructive overflows come regularly with the spring rains and the melting snows. Every year, lamentable losses of life and property occur. Great discomfort and suffering are annually caused to thousands, and yet no effective efforts are made to avert loss of life and property. There is no end to the admiration with which engineering triumphs are hailed. A new, and not impossible triumph awaits it in the prevention, or at all events, in mitigating the deplorable results attending the overflow of low lands during spring freshets. It

is not creditable to humanity that such a great sacrifice of life should mark the breaking-up of each successive winter.

THE Morrice Hall lecture by Professor Ross, of Queen's College, Kingston, on "Christ, the great miracle of Christianity," was a singularly able and exhaustive presentation of the truth of Christianity. Professor Ross, a thoughtful and scholarly man, is fully alive to the intellectual and spiritual requirements of the age. The report given in the local journals, leaves the impression that it was an intelligent and clear defence of the great distinctive truths of revelation. In these days when the "higher criticism" mania is infectious, it is gratifying to find scholarly men who can forcibly present "the form of sound words" with heart-felt conviction. When the chilling winds of current scepticism have given place to a more genial spring-time, the indifference to the doctrines of the cross will disappear, and the loftiest minds of the coming age will repeat the saying "Oh, Galilean, Thou hast conquered!"

THE meeting to discuss the question of separating the sale of liquors from that of groceries, in St. Andrew's Hall, Toronto, last week was a significant indication of the state of popular feeling regarding the matter. It confirms the opinion widely entertained that people, generally, are in favour of the measure. The Rev. T. F. Sweeney and Mr. Hoyles, on behalf of the Church of England Temperance Society, made telling speeches. Rev. R. Wallace, an earnest temperance worker, and who is thoroughly conversant with the statistics of the subject, proposed the motion approving of the change, and pledging to work energetically for its accomplishment. The Rev. P. McF. McLeod made the meeting lively by a direct and manly criticism of the course pursued by the city council. A gentleman, known in the political and press circles, essayed a defence of the existing state of things, but with poor results. When the vote was taken, one solitary vote stood up for "the contrary." Let temperance workers, let all good citizens remember that a vote at a public meeting is one thing, and a vote at the polls quite another. It is the latter that tells.

THIS season and last, our Baptist brethren have adopted a course in connection with McMaster Hall, which has many things to commend it. Men of acknowledged eminence have been invited to give courses of lectures to the students, on subjects of great interest, bearing on the adaptation of the principles of Christianity to the practical problems of the age. It may be objected that the college session is for study, and the time is short enough without the introduction of what would be more or less distracting from proper academic work. Against this is to be placed the inspiring influence of the personality and matured thoughts of those who come as special lecturers, and the enthusiasm such visits awaken in young and ingenuous minds. Besides the lectures being open to all who wish to attend, a sustained interest in the college is stimulated. Dr. Moss, of Indiana State University, last week gave an excellent series of lectures bearing on the relation of Christianity to the vital interests of existing civilization. He is a clear, logical thinker. He comprehends, from a Christian standpoint, the moral and social requirements of the age, and presents his crisp thoughts in a lucid and attractive style.

TORONTO was highly favoured last week. Matthew Arnold, the apostle of "sweetness and light," paid a visit to the city. The Illuminati were in ecstasies over him, but the great body of the Philistines pursued their course without reflecting that a rare opportunity of seeing and hearing a distinguished representative of the literary culture of the Victorian age was in their midst. Matthew Arnold gave two of his lectures in Shaftesbury Hall, to large and select audiences. The first was on Literature and Science, in which he combats Professor Huxley's claim to make science the only sphere of mental culture worth the name. "Numbers," formed the subject to the second lecture. Many

excellent things are contained in it, though several opinions appear not a little paradoxical. After all, the lofty and wise sayings of a cultured philosophy do not evoke from the heart of humanity an enthusiastic response. They may be highly appreciated in the cloisters of the learned, but the busy toilers, who have neither the time nor the training for abstract and abstruse speculation, will find the solution of life's mysteries in Christ, "in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

THE recent discreditable proceedings in connection with a church bazaar at Kingston have been the occasion of doing much good. Many people are so easy going that they see little harm in the expedients too often resorted to for raising funds for church purposes. Others who feel that such methods are, to say the least, anything but agreeable, do not wish to interpose, and so the mischief continues. Rival churches vie with each other and these questionable devices become common. People don't like to raise their voice against them. It only requires a good-sized scandal to give an opportunity. Thus the recent incidents connected with the Kingston bazaar were sufficient to arouse attention. Queen's College Missionary Association has taken up the subject with fervour and energy. With characteristic directness its members have protested against the raising of money for church purposes by such discreditable and reproachful things as lotteries, political elections, tea meetings, picnics, and bazaars. The members pledged themselves to revive the apostolic means of carrying on Christian work—viz., by direct voluntary contributions. The opinions of our young friends on this subject are worthy of consideration—and adoption—by others.

AT the opening of the British Parliament the usual Bradlaugh scene occurred. The atheistic agitator accompanied by Henry Labouchere and Thomas Burt went forward to the table and administered to himself the oath, whereupon the Speaker informed him that this procedure was not in accordance with the rules of the House. The leader of the Government declined to interfere, and the motion of Sir Stafford Northcote that Mr. Bradlaugh be not permitted to take the oath, was carried by a majority of 113. Much may be urged in favour of a modification of the parliamentary oath, yet while it is upheld by so large a majority in the present Parliament no object is gained by the repetition of this unseemly farce on the part of Mr. Bradlaugh and his abettors. Mr. Labouchere spoke of the oath in terms about as contemptuous as Mr. Bradlaugh himself. He, however, is shrewd enough to comply with the forms of the House, while availing himself of his privilege to insult them in debate. The Bradlaugh *fiasco* cannot long continue, and so doubt a measure will be devised to prevent its recurrence. Mr. Bradlaugh having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds has again come forward as a candidate for the representation of Northampton.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Much of the same conditions as regards temperature have been present during this week as in the last. It naturally follows, that whatever effect seemed then to follow atmospheric conditions, have continued to be produced during this week. Respiratory diseases continue to be present in large amounts, Bronchitis having increased to fourteen per cent. of the total cases reported. Pneumonia has rather decreased, while Influenza retains its previous position. Fever Intermittent affords, probably, the most interesting and instructive example in the report of the weather influence, it having increased with the continued mild weather, and shows six per cent., instead of four per cent. of prevalence, as seen in last week's report. The contagious Zymotics, as a class, do not show a high prevalence, Whooping Cough, being the only one largely prevalent. It continues to be present amongst the six diseases in Districts V., south of Georgian Bay, VIII., north shore of Lake Erie, and IX., east shore of Lake Huron. Scarlaitina has decreased, and Measles has disappeared from amongst the most prevalent diseases. Diphtheria has similarly grown less, although from District I., Eastern Ontario, the report shows that its endemicity is there well marked.