

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 23.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 1894.

No. 52.

Notes of the Week.

With respect to the Armenian massacres, the *Christian World*, of London, says: "What is needed is to give the Sultan to understand, beyond possibility of mistake, that unless oppressions cease in his empire he may no longer reckon on English countenance and support."

The recent Congress on industrial conciliation and arbitration in Chicago, and the international Peace Congress which preceded it at Antwerp, are mutually corroborative indications that the world is moving rapidly in the direction of universal peace.

The King of Hungary, Emperor Francis Joseph, has approved the ecclesiastical bills passed by the Reichrath, which provide complete ecclesiastical liberty in that country. The Catholics and the Greek orthodox bishops fought bitterly against these bills, but were defeated.

A Tokyo paper recently published a list of contributors for the national cause taken from among the servants of the various foreign instructors in the Imperial University. The sum given was not a large one, but it plainly showed that every one had cheerfully contributed to the best of his or her ability.

By a recent order of the Postmaster-General of the United States, five cents will carry a letter almost all over the world—to the countries not embraced in the Postal Union. Any deficiency of postage will be collected at the terminus, a wise ruling which will prevent the return of thousands of letters to the epistolary cemetery at Washington.

The young republic of Hawaii has done well in following the example of this country and instituting a Thanksgiving Day. President Dole designated Thursday, November 29, the same as that of the United States as "a day of National Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings of the past and the promise of the future, and of prayer for the continuance of His favor."

One of the many mysteries of banking is that men who seldom or never direct anything in connection with any bank are always called "directors." In the late defalcation in the New York Shoe and Leather Bank, the "directors" and "managers" allowed an employer, whose services were valued at \$1,800 a year, to steal about \$200 a day for eight years. And the first inklings these astute guardians of other peoples' money had that anything was wrong in their solid old bank was when they read it in the newspapers.

The Industrial School at Cambridge, Mass., has introduced fire drill in place of the military drill for the physical development of the boys. The modern methods of fire-fighting are sufficiently scientific and exacting to produce as large results, whether physical or disciplinary, as any sought by military drill. They operate, in somewhat reduced form, all the appliances and machinery that are used in large city departments. They throw ladders, connect and run lines of hose, work hand-engines, and respond to their local alarm with a promptness, enthusiasm, and system worthy of emulation by more veteran organizations, and so, instead of theoretical soldiers, are becoming practical firemen. None of the objections which are brought against military drill can be brought against the fire drill. The training thus given would be in every way useful, and the fire drill can be introduced into the schools at less expense than the military. Why not try the experiment in all public schools and colleges?

Professor Robertson, of Aberdeen, calls attention to the improvement which has taken place in the policy of the Free Church of Scotland in the conduct of its Indian missions. When he came home from the foreign field ten years ago, three-fifths of the money spent was devoted to the strictly educational work, and the remaining two-fifths had even to provide for the elementary education as well as what may be called the more purely evangelistic efforts. The proportions are now practically reversed, and steps taken will secure that in the future the work of evangelisation will be more and more developed.

Mr. Vanderbilt owns 2,000,000 acres of land in the United States. Mr. Disston, of Pennsylvania, 4,000,000 acres. The Schlenley estate owns 2,000 acres within the cities of Pittsburg and Allegheny. The California millionaire, Murphy, owns an area of land bigger than the whole state of Massachusetts. Foreign noblemen who are permanent absentee landlords and spend all their money abroad, own 21,000,000 acres of land in the United States, or more than the entire area of Ireland. Lord Scully, of Ireland, owns 90,000 acres of farming land in Illinois, which he rents out in small parcels to tenant farmers, and pockets his annual \$200,000 in rents to spend abroad.

The reappearance of Father Ducey at the sessions of the Lexow Committee, after being forbidden by his Archbishop to attend, can only be regarded as a direct and positive challenge on the part of that gentleman of the authority of Archbishop Corrigan, his ecclesiastical superior. Father Ducey has shown himself on numerous occasions to be a man of much force of character, with a striking and often eloquent way of expressing himself on public questions. If an attempt is made to haul him over the ecclesiastical coals because of his defiance of the Archbishop, the public may rest assured that Father Ducey will make the process an interesting one for all concerned.

"Temperance Sunday" in England owes its origin to the late Dr. Alexander Hannay, who, in 1877, induced the Congregational Union, at its assembly in Leicester, to agree to a recommendation that all Congregational ministers should observe such a Sunday, the second in November being suggested. Since then the suggestion has been accepted more or less by all the Nonconforming communions, and the last Sunday in November fixed unitedly as the day to be thus set apart; the only communion which this year has fixed another date being the Presbyterian Church of England. On that Sunday special sermons were preached on "The Sin of Intemperance," while in most of the Sunday schools special addresses were delivered to the children on the advantages of temperance.

The new Licensing Bill of Mr. Seddon for New Zealand is by far the most remarkable step yet recorded in the Temperance crusade. Under the new Bill clubs are to be treated in the same way as publichouses; grocers' licenses are to be abolished; one fourth, instead of one half, of the electors constitutes an operative poll; a majority of the votes recorded at an operative poll will carry reductions of licenses. A three-fifths majority of those voting will carry prohibition in any district; and if three-fifths of those voting throughout the Colony declare for Prohibition, then New Zealand will be declared a Prohibition State, and, in that event, the importation and manufacture of intoxicating liquors will become a criminal offence. The elective Licensing Committee is abolished, and a committee consisting of the stipendiary magistrate and the chairmen of various local Boards in the district is substituted. Anybody who has been convicted for drunkenness thrice in six months is to be classified as an habitual drunkard; his photograph is to be placed in the bar of every publichouse in the neighbourhood, and to supply him with drink will be a legal offence.

Speaking in Glasgow lately, Dr. Gunn, of Futuna said he had been told that Christianity was sweeping the native races in the South Sea Islands off the face of the earth; but this is a slander. Christianity has acted as a preserver. Their own heathen customs were the cause of the decrease at first, and, no doubt, the rate was accelerated by the advent of non-Christian white men. But if it had not been for Christianity the population of such islands as Aneityum would have been almost extinguished. The natives of Samoa are holding their own, and the Sandwich Islanders are on the increase since being evangelised. They cannot take on a Western civilization, but they can take on a Christian one suited to their circumstances.

According to reports the American Bible Society prints the Bible in the following tongues: English, Welch, French, French Basque (Pyrenees), Spanish, Catalan (Eastern Spain), Portuguese, Norwegian (in German type), Arab, Syriac (ancient), Syriac (modern), Arabia (Mesopotamia), Ebon (Marshall Islands), Kusnie (Strong's Island), Gilbert Islands, Penape (Ascension Island), Swedish (in German type), Finnish (in German type), Dutch, German, Polish, Hungarian, Bohemian (in Roman type), Italian, Bulgarian, Esthonian (Dorpsat), Armenian (ancient), Armenian (modern), Mayan (Yucatan), Mortlock, Hawaiian, Zulu, Benza (West Africa), Grebo (West Africa), Mpongwe (West Africa), Mohawk, Choctaw, Cherokee, Seneca, Dakota, Ojibway, Moskokee, Delaware, Nez-Perces.

The news has flashed from far-away Samoa that the well-known novelist, Robert Louis Stevenson, had died suddenly from apoplexy. His remains were interred on the summit of Palamo. At the time of his death Mr. Stevenson had half completed the writing of a new novel. Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Nov. 13th, 1850. He was educated at private schools and at the University of Edinburgh, and was called to the Scottish bar, but traveled and devoted himself to literature. One of his earliest works was an account of his travels in California, but the work which established his reputation as a writer of fiction was "Treasure Island," published in 1883. Among the most popular of his works is the ghastly yet fascinating "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

While "to speak nothing but good of the dead" may be carried too far, especially of men who have filled commanding public positions, for the effects of their character and policy bad as well as good do not die with them, and may leave a lasting and disastrous inheritance behind them, yet, as the charity which thinketh no evil is none too common, particularly perhaps in public life, it is very pleasant to see and welcome it. The above ancient saw is having a very noticeable illustration in the case of the late Sir John Tompson, which must be very comforting indeed to his family and friends, so far as anything of such a kind can give comfort. And next to the only abiding comfort, as we regard it, is there any more sweet, consoling and sustaining than the uniform testimony of men of all parties, creeds, and races to the services and merits of the departed? Making all allowance for the tragic and pathetic circumstances connected with his death, the absolute unanimity of not only the tribute, but the high tribute paid to the character and eminent services of the departed statesman as a public servant, especially considering his somewhat short career, is certainly remarkable, and can only be accounted for from the fact that he was a man of more than ordinary ability, as well as of personal worth in very many respects. We trust that this feature of Canadian political life being now so universally exhibited, "of rendering honor to whom honor is due," is one that will continue to characterize the public men and the press of Canada.