

THE general spiritual state of the college, we are glad to hear, is good, and we note a growing loyalty to *Alma Mater*, from which we expect to see abundant fruit ere long. An earnest enquiry, moreover, as to the special work of Congregationalism in the Dominion gives signs of determination to work understandingly in the allotted field. Very hopeful are the indications.

THE cold weather of the early part of this month, February, is "unprecedented in the memory of the oldest inhabitant"; so say the feelings as the cold pierces. Unfortunately records have no feeling, and they tell a different tale. Note the following comparison of February, 1875, with the present month up to the 14th, taken from a city paper :

Day.	1875		1885	
	Mean Temp.	Min. Temp.	Mean Temp.	Min. Temp.
1	15.6	3.0	10.9	4.0
2	27.7	15.0	-1.5	-14.9
3	25.7	8.2	14.9	4.0
4	3.4	20.0	23.7	17.2
5	7.5	-2.6	4.6	-5.1
6	-1.2	10.4	-4.2	-14.1
7	-2.5	-15.0	11.3	-0.6
8	-4.0	-12.0	16.2	9.6
9	-7.7	-14.8	26.8	10.0
10	8.0	-15.0	2.9	-2.6
11	16.6	-0.4	-5.9	-13.4
12	-5.3	-10.3	6.0	-4.4
13	-2.0	-16.0	2.0	9.
14	-4.6	-10.0	....	....
15	-1.9	-12.4	....	....
16	7.3	-3.0	....	....
17	9.1	-0.8	....	....
18	2.1	-9.0	....	....
19	17.3	-0.5	....	....

It may be remarked that the mean temperature of January, 1875, was considerably lower than that of January, 1885, but the fact that the minimum thermometer during February, 1875, for sixteen consecutive days never rose above zero is something that we in 1885 may be glad to read of without experiencing.

THIS February month has been crowded with sensations and perplexities, in which many see the "perilous times" of the last days. We are not ourselves disposed to believe that these days are more crowded than some others which have already passed. The

present, and that which comes home, always overshadows all the rest. Nevertheless, anxiety enough is in the air, and a present voice calls us to consider.

THE reckless use of dynamite which has wrecked parts of the old historic White Tower, the original donjon of London's ancient fortress; and wantonly injured the New Parliament Buildings, is a sad example of madmen's power. Any fool can cast a firebrand, and there are wicked fools among us. Yes, and cowardly fools; for O'Donovan Rossa, who has made for himself an extravagant living by spouting, at a safe distance, blood and dynamite against the tyrant power of England, roars like a baby at the pain personally felt from the trembling hand of a crazed female. Our best hope for the braggart is that he may feel the smart a little longer, be made to see his folly, and then pass to where the wicked cease from troubling.

THE dread power of mischief placed within reach of the common people will not be, in the long run, inimical to society. Despots and intriguers may learn that desperate men may reach them when they cry peace and safety. A little dread of having measured out to themselves the recklessness they manifest for others may be wholesome. Above all this must the lesson be pressed,—Society's true safeguard will eventually be found, not in watch and ward, detectives and rewards, but in the acceptance of that righteousness by which alone a nation can be exalted.

THOUGH still there are conflicting rumours, the generally received belief, confirmed, is that in the Soudan, Khartoum has fallen and General Gordon dead — treachery the cause. Other brave men have fallen, such as General Earle and the heroic author of the "Ride to Khiva." Of course British blood is up, and the Mahdi must be crushed. Those cruel Arabs must be taught to bow submissively to Western civilization. We honestly feel something must be done; but what? we as honestly confess we are puzzled even to think.

WHAT are we doing in the Soudan? Are not the unvarnished facts something like this. The Khedive of Egypt learnt the ruinous trade of borrowing. European capitalists