

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 12.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1884

No. 17.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE occupation of Hunghoa by the French marks a definite stage in the solution of the Tonquin difficulty. This was declared to be the ultimate object of the French expedition. All the diplomatic bluster of the Marquis Tsong has been futile. The Chinese offered no serious resistance to the French advance. It is reported that Tsong has been summoned to Peking to consult with the authorities. The French are now established in Tonquin. The serious question still awaiting settlement is that of the war indemnity. It is now pretty certain that the French will obtain nearly all they ask for.

THE trouble between Orangemen and Roman Catholics in Newfoundland, which culminated in the Harbour Grace riots has not yet subsided. Excited feeling between the parties still exists. On Sabbath week as the English church congregation of Carbonear was leaving church they were attacked by a hostile crowd. Firearms were discharged, but fortunately no fatal results followed. The Orangemen have since shown a determined front and have been guarding the streets at night. Such outbreaks of religious rancour are to be deplored. They often lead to fatal consequences, always to feelings of bitter resentment.

It is pleasing to note that Canadian art is rising in popular appreciation. The annual exhibitions of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts are growing in importance and excellence year by year. There is now a distinctive school of Canadian art with its characteristic subjects and methods of treatment. All over the country artists are to be found doing good work, and as might be expected some give great promise of rare future excellence. The exhibition of the Royal Academy, opened at Montreal last week by the Governor General, contains a large number of excellent pictures by Canadian artists. The exhibition has attracted a large number of visitors.

EASTER MONDAY is the day set apart by our Episcopal brethren for the annual business meeting of the congregation. From the reports appearing in the daily journals it may be inferred that their financial affairs are managed with prudence and economy. There is in the various churches in Toronto a fair, though not very marked increase in the grace of liberality. Another gratifying feature is the spirit of harmony generally prevailing. There are no indications whatever of any unseemly wrangling. Contributions for church purposes by means of the envelope system is growing in popular favour. It possesses many advantages. In the English Church, as in all others, it has wrought satisfactorily. It is the best system hitherto advised.

THE tercentenary celebration of the founding of Edinburgh University has been held with imposing ceremonies. At some of the proceedings as many as three thousand were assembled. Academic degrees have been bestowed with liberal hand on many men eminent in literature, science and theology. Among these are named Robert Browning, Sir John Lubbock, Sir William Gull, Major-General Clark, Lieut.-General Alison, Sir Frederick Leighton, Sir James Paget, John S. Billings, Assistant Surgeon-General U.S.A., Sir William Jenner, Lord Namer, James Russell Lowell, M. de Lesseps, Professors Virchow, Von Ranke, Helmholtz, and Goldschmidt, of Berlin, Principal Cairns, Alfred Tennyson, Dr. Fordyce Barker, of New York, Principal Dawson, of Montreal, and others. A congratulatory despatch from the Prince of Wales was received with loud applause. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon Professor Green, of Princeton, N.J. At the banquet Mr. Lowell responded to the toast of "Literature."

THE filibustering expedition of Auguero is it seems not quite so insignificant as it first appeared to be. A small brig with a few adventurers on board might hardly be expected to produce important national results. Its escape from an American port produced

but little sensation at the time. On landing in Cuba, Auguero and his band met everywhere with sympathizers. The movement gathered strength as it advanced, and its leaders are credited with plundering and burning the estates of those who refused to aid or join in the movement. It has for the time paralysed financial and commercial interests. The present insurrectionary attempt in Cuba has caused great excitement in Spain, and important changes are in contemplation. It is considered probable that Captain General Castillo will be replaced by a man of more energy, probably the present Governor General of the Philippine Islands, F. de Rivera. Spanish cruisers are keeping a strict watch on vessels trading between United States ports and Havana.

WITH some people gambling seems to be an infatuation. In all cases it is a dangerous and a ruinous one. Others try to make it a means of livelihood. As a trade, it would be difficult to find one more disreputable. Rag-picking is an honourable occupation compared with gambling. Professional gamblers are about the worst scoundrels that prey on society. It is no mitigation to say that were there no dishonest simpletons, there would be no pigeon-pluckers. There are degrees of wickedness; the fools who make a habit of gambling are descending rapidly, but the knaves who live by it have little further to fall. In a recent trial in Buffalo several gamblers sought to evade justice by corrupting the members of the Grand Jury. This coming to the judge's knowledge, they were told that if there was any violation of the law, its penalties would be rigidly enforced. The judge was in earnest, and the jury felt it. They gave the names of those who approached them, and speedily arrests followed. There is no good reason why an American judge should not be just even though the judiciary is elective.

THE Rev. Dr. Chambers, one of the American revisers of the Old Testament, announces that the work of the revision of the British and American authorities is now nearly completed. "We have," he says, "been through the whole of the New Testament twice, and at present we are going over different passages in various books, giving the finishing touches, as it were. When the work will be finished I cannot say; there is no certain time fixed for a specific amount of work, and the translators on the other side will send us from time to time books, chapters, or passages for our criticism. The publication of the revised edition will probably take place toward the end of this year, but I cannot speak with certainty. Our work has been confined exclusively to re-translating. We have not attempted to re-edit the sacred Book, that is, we have not exercised the function of critics in any other way than in regard to the meaning of the language in the original. In almost every instance we have followed the Masoretic text. In points in which there is a difference between the American and English translators our version will be appended."

THERE is a boom in the ancient manuscript business. Certain individuals place a high value on these precious monuments. The late Mr. Shapira was disposed to take \$1,000,000 for the worthless parchment he offered to the British Museum. The now famous manuscript, "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles," found by Bryennios in the Farrar Library, at Constantinople, is generally accepted by the most competent scholars as authentic. At present, however, it is better not to be too sure; the question of its authenticity is not yet absolutely decided. It is not the original of "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles," but a copy of older manuscripts that have disappeared. It is written in cursive characters and therefore not earlier than the tenth century, while the contents of the manuscript are supposed to date back to the second. The interest in this discovery is growing and the questions raised by it will lead to animated discussion. Various editions and translations by eminent scholars are announced. Since then a Greek sailor has disposed of rolls of Hebrew parchments which are now being examined by Dr. Hakavy, of the Imperial Library of St.

Petersburgh. Greek sailors labour under a misfortune. People have a habit of suspecting their veracity.

A CASE was tried in the Recorder's Court at Montreal last week which discloses a disgraceful state of things. A young girl recently from England met with two young men and a young woman. The quartette adjourned to a restaurant where they had supper. The girls hesitated about going to their respective boarding houses at a late hour. The party then went to a hotel, where boisterous doings occurred. The recently arrived English girl afterwards preferred a charge of assault against one of the young men. The magistrate did not disbelieve her testimony. The other young man, a bank clerk, entered the witness box, and with disgusting levity and shamelessness, virtually confirmed the girl's story, who by her folly had placed herself in a dangerous and compromising position. The Recorder dismissed the case because through ignorance or heedlessness the girl had laid herself open to attack by being in such company. Equally disgraceful with the cynical moral insensibility of the bank clerk unmistakably displayed by his evidence, was the disgusting ovation tendered the feather-headed young rouses by their admiring friends when the trial was concluded.

IN most of the provinces forming the Dominion of Canada energetic steps are usually taken for the suppression of lottery schemes. It is very different in the Province of Quebec. Last year an endeavour was made to pass a lottery bill in the Legislative Assembly. It carried in the Assembly and was almost passed by the Senate. It has been introduced again this session and it is generally supposed that it will carry. It is satisfactory to know that every honest voice that protests against this proposed legalized iniquity has not been silenced. The Quebec *Chronicle* with just indignation denounces the measure in terms such as these: The bill itself is a wonderful scheme. It provides for the organization of a most gigantic system of lottery holding. The price of the tickets must not be less than one dollar each nor more than ten dollars each, and no drawing shall be for less than \$50,000 nor more than one million of dollars. Think of this, and remember that this curse, this moral blot has to be authorized for a period of fifty years! What sort of a Province will Quebec be at the end of fifty years of lotteries? Wherever lotteries are in operation the morality of the people is low, vice triumphs, and the whole community is given over to a vicious system of catch-penny existence. Such places seem to be forsaken by God and honest men. Is Quebec to drift into wickedness in this way?

THE London *Presbyterian*, the successor to the *Outlook*, commenting on the work of the Committee for the Revision of the Standards says: We understand that the committee appointed at last Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England on the Confession of Faith and the relations of office-bearers to it, have agreed on their report. We believe they recommend, first, that the formula by which ministers and elders signify their adhesion to the Confession be so altered as to ask for assent only to the "system of doctrine" contained in it. Next, they recommend the Synod to agree to an Act declaratory of the sense in which it understands the Confession, on the lines of the Act passed some years ago by the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. They do not recommend anything in the way of a new Confession of Faith, but ask the Synod, in re-appointing them, to authorize them to consider whether a "briefer and more available compendium of fundamental doctrine" might not be in itself valuable, and besides aid in solving the difficulties which led to the appointment of the committee. It will be evident from this that the committee has moved cautiously, and is not at all predisposed towards violent changes; and much as we desire more liberty from our Presbyterian friends, whose life-to-day can no longer express itself in symbols that were framed two hundred years ago, we cannot but commend the wisdom that decides to move slowly and altogether.