

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 24.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1895.

No. 9.

Notes of the Week.

It is estimated that the number of Jews in London is between 100,000 and 120,000. There are 15,964 Jewish children attending the London board and Jewish voluntary schools of the lower grades, so that the total number is probably not far from 20,000.

One of the most interesting Bible publications of late years has recently been issued in Japan. It is a miniature Gospel of St. John, prepared by the three societies at work in the country—the British and Foreign, the American, and the Scottish—for the special use of the Japanese troops. The little book measures outside only $2\frac{3}{4}$ by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches; it has a guarding flap, the paper is extremely thin, and the type is clear and readable.

On Monday afternoon of last week Knoxonian left Toronto on his way to Bermuda, followed by many good wishes. We are glad to be able to say that our readers may expect in a few weeks to get from his pen, sketches of whatever is to be seen in that sunny island which he may consider will be of interest to our readers. These will be all the more interesting because of the writer, for they will have the flavor and relish of his racy style.

A new endeavor is to be put forth in Chicago by the friends of the Sabbath to close up saloons and other business on that day. A series of meetings is inaugurated to be held in different parts of the city to wake up an interest in the matter. Whether it accomplishes all it proposes or not, it cannot but do good. Right principles need to be presented to the minds of the people, and the sowing of such seed, even while weeping, cannot fail to bring a harvest sooner or later.

At the Bible Institute, in Chicago, there is to be held during the month of April a special course in the English Bible and a study of the various methods of personal work as applied in the missionary activities of that city. The course in the English Bible will be conducted by Prof. W. W. White, on Old Testament Prophecy, the Acts and Epistles, and by Superintendent Torrey, on the First Epistle of John. Professor Towner will hold classes in the musical department. A special course on the great fundamental doctrines of the Bible, as regeneration, sanctification, the Holy Spirit, etc., will be conducted by Superintendent Torrey.

Friends of every philanthropic movement, especially of the cause of temperance and social purity, have been looking forward with interest and high expectation to a visit to this city of Lady Henry Somerset. All such will regret to learn that owing to an attack of grippe which has laid her up in Boston her visit for the present at least has had to be abandoned. Her medical adviser has recommended her not to venture a visit to Canada at the present. This is a great disappointment, and the cause of it will be regretted. All will hope, however, that the speedy return of health will enable the distinguished lady to pay Canada a visit and give the good causes she is identified with the impetus which accompany her presence and her words.

Our exchanges from far and near all refer to the severe weather which we have just passed through. The New York *Evangelist* refers to a similar storm in March, 1888, but adds, "The

average temperature on this occasion was much lower, being one degree below zero as against 4.8 degrees above in 1888, the wind was much more violent, being 70 miles an hour as against 50, and the extent of country over which the storm extended was immensely greater, its radius being 1,600 miles as against 400 miles before. That is to say, it extended all along the Atlantic Coast from Florida to Newfoundland, from the Mississippi Valley to far out in the Atlantic. The suffering in the Southern States has been extreme. Florida has received such a blow as she can hardly recover from in this generation, for the orange trees are killed as well as the growing vegetables."

The following is the text of the resolution against the Sunday opening of saloons adopted at the large Roman Catholic meeting held on a late Sunday evening in New York: "Resolved that we are in full and hearty accord with all bodies of our fellow-citizens who are engaged in the truly laudable and timely movement to abate the evils of the liquor traffic, and who have publicly and indignantly protested against the iniquitous, unreasonable and intolerable legislation demanded in the interests and for the exclusive promotion of that peculiarly absorbing and exacting business." "This," says the *Independent*, "suggests that," and the remark is applicable to some small degree in Canada, "while Sunday rest is losing the advocacy of some of our Protestant ministers, whose names we do not care to mention, it is gaining that of the Roman Catholic priests."

Under ministers and churches in last week's issue we notice with pleasure that St. Columba Church, Victoria, B.C., had been made the recipient from friends last Christmas Day of several very useful and timely gifts. "A handsome sweet-toned Doherty organ," from one; "a very nice pulpit from two young men of the parish"; and a "large pulpit Bible" from a lady in Seattle, U. S. There are churches and individuals who have many things, such as communion vessels, organs, Bibles, hymn-books, which are of no use to them, but which would be of great value to some struggling mission. How would it cheer and encourage many a struggling mission to find that they were thought of and helped in such a way. "I wish," writes one to us, "that I could get communion vessels now for my missions. I don't like to borrow, nor yet use glass. Dr. Robertson can always tell of missions where any such gifts would be most acceptable."

Referring in a recent issue to Protestant missions in countries under the control of France, in view especially of the its threatened occupation of Madagascar, the *Independent* says: "It is a simple fact that the French Government has been and still is practically, though not theoretically, hostile to Protestant missions. The records of its rule in the South Seas, on the West and North Coasts of Africa, and throughout all its colonies, are sufficient proof. We do not forget that the Paris Evangelical Society has done splendid work in Tahiti, but it has done better work under English rule in Basutoland; and in Tahiti it reaped the fruit of the labors of English missionaries who had been practically driven from their work by the French Government. Throughout the Levant and everywhere in Asia the French Government is notoriously in alliance with the bitterest enemies of Protestant missions, and no statement from Government officials can cover up that fact. We believe, and have good grounds for our belief, that the occupation of Madagascar by France would be a very severe blow to Protestant missions."

The following from *Colonies and India* of a late date will be especially gratifying to all Winnipeggers: "There can be no doubt as to the future of Winnipeg. It is sure to become a large city. Whether its expansion will be slow or rapid, depends upon the way in which the Western country is settled up. For some years, at any rate, its progress is likely to be of the slow and sure description, depending as it must do upon the welfare of the agricultural community of which the population of the country tributary to it largely consists. A few days may be spent in Winnipeg very pleasantly by the visitor. There are excellent hotels in the city, chief among them being the Manitoba Hotel, erected by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The drives and rides about the country are delightful, and it is a convenient centre for excursions, North, South, East, and West. Fishing may be obtained in Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, where the finest whitefish are caught; and big game shooting—moose and deer, as well as bear—may be obtained within 40 or 50 miles of Winnipeg, in the district between the two lakes already mentioned. And in the proper seasons small game is also very abundant.

A New York Roman Catholic priest, Father McSweeney, speaking of the European and American Sunday said: "When the founders of this Government came here, they came for liberty, not for license. They didn't come here to found a new Germany or a new Italy or a new France. We who came after them had heard of George Washington, and Jefferson, and Hancock, and we wanted to share in the Government they had helped to found. We had originally a quiet Sunday the country over. The people answered the ringing of the church bells, and we thanked God for the American Sunday. And now we do not want any foreigners to attempt to break up that Sunday and its observances. We don't want their summer gardens and their lager beer on Sunday. If they can't do without them let them go back where they came from." So say we. We commend these sentiments to all our Sunday street car advocates with the recommendation that, if they want such a Sunday as is here condemned, let them go where they can get it, and allow the large majority who wish to enjoy the rest and quiet which now prevails amongst us and which they who have lost it are most anxious to recover.

On Thursday last there was a somewhat grave, albeit a very happy and hearty handshaking scene at the Union Station here. Revs. Messrs. Goforth and Slimmon, and Dr. Malcolm, medical missionary, were all again leaving for Honan, China. Quite a large company gathered to see them off. The principal of Knox College and some of his colleagues were there; a strong force of students was on hand; the Foreign Mission secretary, several pastors from the city and many friends, male and female, showed their interest in them and their work by their presence. A few minutes before leaving a body of students started, "Blest be the tie that binds," etc., which was heartily joined in by nearly all, the missionaries bravely taking their part, and some had to be content with making melody in hearts which were too full for audible praise. "God be with you till we meet again" followed. "All aboard," shouted the conductor, in stentorian tones. The last good-byes were said, the engine whistled, the train moved off, and our missionaries, accompanied with many prayers and good wishes, were on their way to their far off field of labor, "These are courageous men," said one, himself a devout and courageous man, as he turned thoughtfully from the scene and bent his steps homeward; and the response was, "They are indeed courageous men."