

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

A movement is being started which has for its object the holding of a Christian congress in Jerusalem in the year 1900. A public meeting will be held in Philadelphia July 4th.

"In my opinion," remarks Lord Roberts, "the good health of the British army in India is due to the sobriety of the men. Out of the 69,000 soldiers nearly one-third are members of the Army Temperance Association."

American missionaries in China have been warned that the Geary exclusion act may cause trouble for Americans living in that country. Emergency funds have been sent the various missionaries there. It will be well if our Canadian missionaries are not also injuriously affected.

A committee of the English Presbyterian Church is considering the feasibility of inaugurating a system of change of ministerial spheres by which ministers may be transferred from one church to another in cases where such change is desirable, either for the sake of the ministers or the congregations, or both.

The Southern Presbyterian General Assembly met at Macon, Ga., last week, and elected Judge J. W. Lapsley, of Alabama, Moderator. This is said to be the first time in the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States that a layman has been elected to the office of Moderator of a General Assembly.

It is reported from Rome that Pope Leo intends soon to issue an encyclical recommending a more general study of the Bible among Catholics; and another recommending the nations of Europe to settle their disputes by arbitration instead of war, and to disband their great armies; and still another on the school question in America.

The statistics of the Presbyterian Church, in England, presented recently, show a membership of 66,971, an increase of 200. The number of congregations remain the same, 290. In the Sabbath-schools there are 7,334 teachers and 78,542 scholars. Nearly one-fourth of the membership are engaged in active Christian work in the Sabbath-school as district visitors, etc.

In his "Vital Statistics" Dr. Arthur Newsholme informs us that of every 1000 clergymen between the ages of 45 and 65, only 15.93 die annually. But of every 1,000 doctors between the ages of 45 and 65, no fewer than 28.03 die every year. Some statisticians of class mortality attribute the high rate of mortality amongst medical men to the harassing nature of their duties.

In Scotland the Episcopal Church is less attractive as a profession than the Presbyterian Churches. In these incomes of nearly £1,000 a year are fairly common. The incomes of the best known ministers are not always the largest. In the Established Church, Dr. Macgregor, of Edinburgh, receives £923; while his colleagues receive £829; A. K. H. B. receives £606; Dr. Donald McLeod, Glasgow, (the editor of Good Words), £1,000. In the Free Church, Dr. Alexander Whyte, of Edinburgh, receives £1,153, which is the largest stipend paid in Scotland. The largest paid to any Presbyterian minister is at present the £1,200 to Dr. Monro, Gibson, of St. John's Wood, London.

Harper's Magazine gives this condensed description of the Chinese quarter in San Francisco: "These 3,000 souls, huddled together in spaces well-nigh unbearable, uninhabitable, jostling each other along dark and crowded thoroughfares, silently and imperturbably pursuing their mysterious ways, so supremely indifferent to all that hems them in, men they seem not, but shades 'all too palpably' from the deep-Tartarus of time."

Rev. James Stalker, the well-known Free Church minister, of Glasgow, Scotland, in a recent lecture, ventured on a moderate criticism of the late poet-laureate's work. He asserted that when one read his poetry long at a time there was a sense of being cloyed with sweetness, and one wished that simple things were described more simply. There was an artificiality which they did not feel in Burns, for instance. The cure for this would be found in avoiding a surfeit of Tennyson by using Burns and Tennyson alternately.

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. McAll, the founder of the McAll Mission, died in Paris on Thursday, May 11. His constant and arduous labours on behalf of the mission bearing his name and so dear to his heart, undermined his health. About a year ago he became ill and went to England hoping to regain his strength. He grew, however, rapidly worse, and returned to Paris about two months ago. His last official act was to preside, on April 25th, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the McAll Mission in Paris.

Of the population of the Russian Empire but 25 per cent. of the men and 2 per cent. of the women can read and write. And yet the national government appropriates scarcely \$5,000,000 annually for education in an empire of more than 100,000,000. It has been officially declared that 3,250 new schools be founded each year, it would take 260 years before everyone of the present population could read and write. With the exception of the Baltic and Polish provinces, the local authorities are indifferent to the prevailing ignorance.

At the meeting in Queen's University Friday evening, Prof. Williamson related an interesting personal experience in founding a review which has since attained a world-wide reputation. Those who heard him were surprised to learn that he was one of the twenty young men who, having recently graduated from Edinburgh University, subscribed twenty pounds sterling each, and started "The Presbyterian Quarterly" which they wrote for and edited themselves without salary. Afterwards as the Quarterly prospered and increased its scope, it became "The North British Review," and later still, "The British Quarterly Review," under which name it still wields a powerful influence in the world of letters.

In Sweden and Norway the sale of intoxicating liquors is under strict government control, according to the so-called Gothenburg system. That system originated in 1866 and has been in general practical operation during the past 20 years. In this period the population has increased 14 1-2 per cent., and the consumption of liquor has decreased 45 per cent. The number of criminals has decreased 16 per cent., likewise paupers 15 per cent. Increase of depositors in Savings Banks, 145 per cent; increase of deposits, 100 per cent. The number of temperance societies has increased from 30 to 800, and their membership from 3,000 to 100,000. The number of persons paying an income tax to the government, and thereby securing political rights, has nearly doubled during the past 20 years.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Presbyterian Banner: Christian character is not an act, but a process; not a sudden creation, but a development. It grows and bears fruit like a tree, and like a tree requires patient care and unwearyed cultivation.

Bible Reader: You will not pray until you get under a cloud, and you will stop praying the moment the sun comes out. You wonder why God delays his answer. Now be honest; does such praying, under such circumstances, deserve an answer?

F. W. Robertson: Eternity is crying out to you louder and louder as you near its brink. Rise, be going! Count your resources; learn what you are not fit for and give up wishing for it; learn what you can do and do it with the energy of a man.

The Interior: It is very hard to believe that a thing is rightly done, when it is not done our way. It is human nature to forbid men when they do not follow us; only that divine wisdom which comes from on high is able to receive as for itself whatever is not against it.

Ruskin: How often it is difficult to be wisely charitable—to do good without multiplying the sources of evil. To give alms is nothing unless you give thought also. It is written, not "blessed is he that feedeth the poor," but "blessed is he that considereth the poor." A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money.

Spurgeon: See the spider casting out her film to the gale—she feels persuaded that somewhere or other it will adhere and form the commencement of her web. She commits the slender filament to the air, believing that there is a place provided for it to fix itself. In this fashion should we cast forth our endeavours in this life, confident that God will find a place for us.

Presbyterian Witness: We desire the reformation of the Church of Rome; and for this purpose we should like her intelligent people to study the story of the Church before the Reformation. It is unutterably dark, distressing, hateful. We do not hold any men of the present generation responsible for the past, except when they make it their own by endorsing and defending it. There is many a dark and dreadful episode in the history of the reformed Churches; but these survivals, these evils, these crimes, are condemned by Protestants—condemned and deeply regretted. Let a similar condemnation come from the other side, and it will be at least a wholesome sign of the times.

The Independent: It is one of the curiosities of sanitation, that it remained for the regiments of British soldiers in India to demonstrate that it is healthful surroundings which make healthy people. When dry camping grounds were made imperative and the use of proper hygienic food commanded and protective clothing insisted upon, soldiers became daily inspected to prevent evasion of sickness, and perfect cleanliness of person, clothing, bedding and camp, was enforced and made to take the place of the fatalistic notion that "of course the India service is terribly destructive, but what can Tommy Atkins do." It was found that the death rate could be brought down lower than in rural England and gave a new impulse to sanitary effort in the home country.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: Money has a vast purchasable power, but there are many things which it cannot buy. "A good name" is not secured through riches, but through noble principle and worthy deed. A clean character is of the highest worth, yet the gold of the millionaire cannot purchase it, while it may belong to the poorest of the land. Sympathy and love are not the product of gain, but of a generous nature, and a renewed heart. Content is better than rubies, but is the fruit of divine grace. Holiness of heart and purity of life, though of priceless value, come by the way of the cross, and as the result of the Holy Spirit's transforming and sanctifying influence. Heaven is the grandest of all prizes, yet it is bought without money and without price, and is the inheritance of the grace of God. He is the wise man who bends his greatest exertions to the acquisition of the gifts which money cannot obtain.

Dr. Joseph Parker: God has promised that a period shall be put to the reign of sorrow: "God shall wipe away tears from off all faces" (Isa. xxv. 8). Can we now wipe away our own tears? Never. If any man dries his own tears he shall weep again; but if God dries our tears, our eyes shall never lose the light. It all comes, therefore, to a consideration of this solemn question, What shall put an end to this sorrow? Shall we by frivolity drown our sorrow? shall we banish our grief by pre-engaging our memory with things that die in their using? or shall we say: Thou living God of all joy, thou only canst put an end to human woe; make my heart glad, and then my face will shine: take the guilt away from my conscience and my nature, and then my tears will cease to flow? This is interior work; this is a spiritual miracle; this belongs to the reign of God and the ministry of grace. We resign ourselves, not passively and murmuringly, but actively and thankfully, to God, that He may make us glad with His own joy. The Lord awaits our consent to the drying of our tears.

Rev. Prof. John McNaughton, M.A.: When once the ravage of the sins that war against the life has robbed a human soul of these things, the jewels of its crown, its royal birthright, tears are of no avail. They are gone; no repentance, though we bathe in floods of it, can bring them back. Well for many of us here that we can still cleave to the hope of life and immortality, brought to light by Jesus Christ, and look towards that land beyond, where under more genial suns and in a larger air the soul so dwarfed, and stunted, and deformed by the waste of sin and time, may grow at last to the fair proportions of God's plan, and flower into the bloom which has been nipped and mildewed here. The past is gone forever, but the future is our own. Never, perhaps, in this world, can some of us attain our full birthright, never become what we might have been, what God meant us to be. The spring-time of our mortal life may be past and many powers of heart and will that once might have been ours will quicken no more on earth. But we are encouraged to believe that there is still time for us if we seize upon it, to lay hold of the inexhaustible possibilities of growth that lie for us in the boundless seed field of eternity. If we seek God as the repentant Esau sought his earthly father with the exceeding bitter cry: "Bless me, even me also, O my father," we shall find that our Heavenly Father is rich in reserves of blessing, and that He still has one to bestow even on the most unworthy.