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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

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## Notes of the Week.

WHAT is said to be a printer's error occurs in the Revised Version of the Old Testament. It is to be found in Ezekiel xxxviii. 16. In the words: "I will bring thee against My land, that the nations may know thee," in the place of the latter word, read *Me*.

DR. BRYCE, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, advises the management of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition and the railway to cancel the announced excursion from Montreal, on the grounds of the danger of infection and of the dread of it which would keep other visitors away from the Show.

RUSSIA still maintains her despotic course in regard to religious matters as well as political. The Government has issued a decree making the Greek Church the established religion of the Baltic Provinces. Protestantism will simply be tolerated. Children born of mixed marriages are to be trained in the Greek Church. The decree, it is stated, is certain to excite great discontent among the German settlers.

THE news from Spain at last begins to give encouragement that the climax is passed in the scourge that is upon the land. The number of deaths from cholera daily reported is considerably decreased and no new districts in Spain have been infected. The situation in Southern France also is slightly improved. An unconfirmed rumour says that cases of the disease have appeared in Italy, which were traceable to Marseilles.

A NEW society has been organized in Chicago, Ill. The society is known as the American Medical Foreign Missionary Society. The object of the society is to educate worthy young men in the profession of medicine who are willing to devote their time to mission work. It is the intention of the projectors of the society to establish sub-agencies in different parts of the United States. The society will depend altogether on voluntary contributions.

SEVENTEEN years ago the death penalty for murder in the first degree was abolished by Minnesota, and life imprisonment was substituted; but the gallows has just been re-erected. Michigan tried the same experiment, and not long since a bill was passed by the Lower House of the Legislature re-enacting the hanging policy, although it failed of adoption in the Senate. Maine did no hanging for six years, and then went back to capital punishment.

THE descendants of the Huguenots throughout the world are preparing for the approaching bi-centenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Abroad, a volume will be brought out, entitled "Synods of the Desert," being the "Acts of the National and Provincial Synods, held in the Deserts of France, from the death of Louis XIV. to the Revolution." In the United States, the Huguenot Historical Society is taking steps to celebrate the event.

THE *Christian Observer*, reviewing the condition of the Southern Presbyterian Church, says: Probably

the most painful feature of the table is the picture it sets before us of a dwindling ministry. In 1880 we had 1,139 ministers and licentiates; now, although the membership has meanwhile grown by 15,000, only 1,138. In 1874 we had one minister to every 100 communicants; now we have only one to every 120 communicants. This explains the cause of so many vacant pulpits in our Southern States.

DR. E. A. MEREDITH calls attention to the fact that "the common goals of this continent are to-day little in advance of the goals of fifty years ago." He insists that the purpose is the repression of crime, and his point is that for the youth who are under criminal sentences the common goal is a school in which education in crime becomes compulsory. Indiscriminate intercourse he deems the great evil of our present goal system, and quotes numerous authorities to show that it is condemned everywhere by public opinion.

AMONG the things which thirty-five years ago went to make up the crime of high treason in Italy was the possession of a Bible, which was in the list of revolutionary and forbidden books, and for a man to own it was to subject him to prison, the galleys, and even to death. Now Bible depots are established in every Italian city, and itinerant vendors circulate the book freely. In a conspicuous store in the Corso, Rome, a whole window is filled with copies of the Italian version of the Scriptures. The New Testament can be purchased for five cents, and a separate Gospel for two.

THE explorers in the Congo Valley are surprised by the crudity of life there. The natives have no domesticated beasts of any sort, nor do they raise or catch any animals to eat, as they know nothing of flesh as food. No semblance of clothing is worn, and diet is practically confined to spontaneous products of the soil. Letters from missionaries say, too, that the negroes there are so low in mentality that any hope of Christianizing them must be based on a long and patient course of intellectual training. They are too densely ignorant to comprehend the simplest statements of doctrine.

THE *Montreal Witness* gives a specimen of a Papal prayer: Special services were held in the Church of Notre Dame to invoke the intercession of St. Roch with the Almighty to prevent the further spread of small-pox in Montreal. Prior to the celebration of High Mass, the Rev. Father Picard, the officiating clergyman, recited the following prayer, peculiar to the festival of the saint: "Oh, Lord, we, Thy servants, pray that you may keep your people. By continued piety, and through the prayers and merits of the blessed St. Roch, make them secure against all contagion of both soul and body through Christ our Lord. Amen."

ARCHDEACON FARRAR will visit America this month. He is expected to arrive at Quebec on or about September 11. He goes thence to Montreal, Toronto, Niagara and Chicago. Returning eastward, he visits Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, at the latter city delivering lectures in the course known as the Griswold Lectures. The Archdeacon will be accompanied by two friends, the venerable Archdeacon Vesey and a brother of Jean Ingelow, the poet. It is announced that Archdeacon Farrar will deliver several lectures in the larger cities. His subjects are "Dante," "The Talmud and its Authors," and "Browning, the Poet." While in Toronto, Archdeacon Farrar will be the guest of Professor Goldwin Smith. He will leave America by the last of November.

IN view of the recent remarkable discoveries in Egypt, a Cairo correspondent of the *Nation* has referred to "the growing conviction of Egyptologists (not of Bible defenders, but of Egyptologists, mark you!), that the earliest Egyptian civilization we know of is the highest, and that all that we know of it is its

decadence." Why, the Book of Genesis tells us that! "The oldest pyramid is the largest and best built; the oldest temple—that beside the Sphinx at Gizeh—shows masonry since unapproached; the oldest papyrus—though as yet hardly understood—is the wisest; and the tombs and temples of the Theban period are filled with extracts from ancient books not yet found complete." That's it! All that is necessary to bring a scientist to the defence of the Bible story is—science.

THE *Congregationalist* very properly remarks: If the Cunard Company be not misrepresented grossly in the daily papers, the orgies which were allowed upon a recent trip of the *Gallia*, in spite of the protests of the respectable passengers, must have been shameful. We personally have seen so much indulgence allowed to hard drinkers and gamblers on the steamers of this line that we can credit the stories of the particular trip referred to without much difficulty. The Cunard line is in some respects one of the best; but it is high time that its managers comprehended the fact that boisterous rowdiness ought to be stopped upon their ships. The orderly portion of the public will learn rapidly to let that line alone, if things go on as they have been going, and it is not so superior to its rivals as to be able to afford to offend the public sense of good order.

SIX months ago a party of over forty missionaries left the Mersey for St. Paul de Loanda, South-West Africa, to conduct their work in that district, and to penetrate into the interior. The party was sent out by an American missionary society, and was in charge of the American Bishop Taylor. The accounts which from time to time have been received in England have represented the missionaries as undergoing terrible hardships, and the latest information shows that those of the party who are alive are in a most deplorable condition. The party on leaving Liverpool included men, women and children, and were evidently totally unacquainted with the nature of the country they were going to. Shortly after their arrival, many of them were stricken down with fever, and several of them died. The missionaries appear to have been ill-provided with funds, and although two or three of the party have returned home, they were only enabled to do so by the consideration of the English steamship companies trading to the port. A gentleman who has been engaged trading at St. Paul de Loanda for some time past has just arrived in England, and has given a sad account of their condition.

THE Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Association for 1885, together with the official report of the 26th international convention of these associations, held in Atlanta last May, making in all a pamphlet of three hundred pages, has just been published by the International Committee at Twenty-third Street and Fourth Avenue, New York. The Year Book contains very complete reports from the nine hundred American associations, and lists and reports of the two thousand associations in Europe and other parts of the Old World. There are now in all 2,931 of these societies. The reports show that eighty-two of the American associations own the buildings they occupy which are valued at over three and a-half millions of dollars. Add to this the other real estate, building funds, furniture, etc., and the total net property is \$4,353,090. Last year's current expenses of 608 of the associations in the United States and Canada aggregated \$687,587; 317 report libraries, valued at \$265,703; 993 Bible classes and Gospel meetings for young men only, with a total average attendance of 15,690, and hundreds of educational classes, lectures, literary societies, sociables and reading-rooms are reported. Nearly four hundred men are at work as general secretaries and other paid officers of local associations and State and International Committees. Associations are reported to exist in 190 colleges, and 69 railroad branches, 12 German branches and 34 coloured associations send in reports.