

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK

—: FOR 1888, —:

Edited by R. V. GEORGE SIMPSON.

The present issue of the YEAR BOOK contains, among other matter of great value, original articles, as follows:—  
**Home Missions.** By Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D.  
**The Nova Scotia Centennial Year.** By Rev. R. F. Burns, D.D.  
**The Early Ecclesiastical History of Picton, N.S.** By Rev. George Patterson, D.D.  
**Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.** By C. S. E.  
**Foreign Missions.** By the Editor.  
**What we Owe the Country and the Age.** By Fidelis.  
**The Schemes of the Church: 1877-1887.** By the Rev. R. H. Warden.  
**Missionary Work in Manitoba and N.-W. Territories.** By J. K.  
**History of Congregations.**  
**Presbyterian Colleges in Canada.** By the Editor.

Mr. Croil, of the *Presbyterian Record*, says of the YEAR BOOK: It is one of the best thumbed periodicals in our office. Every Presbyterian should have it.  
The *N. Y. Independent* says: It is one of the best ecclesiastical annuals published in the world.  
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## Notes of the Week.

THE Sabbath evening debates at Edinburgh, held in the hall of the Free Tron Church, were suggested by a German student in the university. They are crowded beyond the capacity of the meeting place, and are said to be doing good among the freethinkers. Professor Calderwood was especially successful in meeting the objections brought after an address he gave on "The Testimony of Conscience to the Bible."

IT may interest many to know that the publishers of the Revised Version, at the Oxford University Press now carry on the whole process of Bible production entirely on their premises. The Oxford Press burns its own lamp black for its ink, it makes its own ink and its own type, and its own paper at its own mills near Oxford, where a paper of exceptional thinness and opacity, known as India paper, is prepared, and, finally, it binds its own sheets in its own binding factory in London.

THE Pope has himself hinted, says a contemporary, that the Italians were in danger of dropping out of the list of Christian nations altogether; and Dr. Hamilton Magee, in the February number of the *Christian Irishman*, says a change is even passing over Ireland. "We do not say that the Irish Roman Catholic people are becoming 'Protestants' in any usual sense of the word; but they are beginning to participate in the common doubt and impatience of Roman Catholic communities everywhere."

IT seems that in India thought is awakening to the danger of purely secular instruction, and Lord Dufferin has issued a circular on the subject. The decay of India's old religion has left, where Christianity is not accepted, a waste on which irreverence and folly grow. The Governor General in Council states that he would be sincerely glad to see a large increase of State-aided schools under directly religious management. That is the hope meanwhile for India; no other way can the need be met there for a very long time.

AMONG the live newspapers of Ontario none occupies a more important place than the *London Advertiser*. Who has succeeded to the chief editorial work since the retirement of Hon. D. Mills has not been divulged, but it is evidently in capable hands. In fact, we believe we are justified in saying that the *Advertiser* is much more readable than ever before, its editorials being brief, bright and to the point. On the Temperance question especially, the *Advertiser*

has taken a more pronounced and outspoken attitude than ever before.

DR. AIRD, of Creich, who presided at the Dingwall Conference of Free Church ministers and laymen met to discuss the crofter question, moved a resolution asking that Highlanders should have their native land restored to them on equitable conditions. Much was heard about deer raids, but did not the innocent deer make disastrous raids upon the crofter's crops? Dr. M'Avish moved a resolution in favour of State aid for the erection of buildings, purchase of stock, etc., and Rev. N. N. Mackay proposed in a speech generally palliative of the conduct of the Clashmore men and women, that the Home Secretary be petitioned to mitigate the severe sentences passed upon the crofters by Lord Craighill.

SUCH details as have come to hand of the Arab attacks on natives and trading stations on Lake Nyassa, tend to show that an organized attempt is being made to destroy civilizing and Christianizing influences, and to restore the slave trade. Two Central African correspondents of the *Manchester Guardian* describe a horrible massacre of the Wa-Nakonde people. A large number of these people fled for refuge to a lagoon, where they hid among the tall reeds. The Arabs fired the reeds, their leaders climbing trees to gloat over the spectacle of the poor wretches endeavouring to save themselves from the flames. Numbers were driven into the lake where they were drowned or devoured by crocodiles; others were shot and speared in the open. The survivors, including many women and children, were seized as slaves.

THE centenary of Dr. Henry Cooke, of Belfast, falls on the 11th of May, for it was on that day, in the year 1788, that he was born in the lonely farmstead of Grillagh, among the Derry mountains. The fifty-third number of the new biographical series, published by the Religious Tract Society, is appropriately devoted to a memoir of Cooke, from the pen of Dr. Thomas Hamilton, the historian of the Irish Presbyterian Church. He recalls the interesting fact that the great preacher's mother, a woman of no little individuality and force of character, was of Scottish descent, sprung from the old Covenanting stock of the Howies of Lochgoin. His father was of English extraction; so it came to pass that Henry Cooke, being of Irish birth, had at his entrance into life a connection with all three divisions of the United Kingdom. Belfast Presbytery are making preparations for the worthy celebration of Dr. Cooke's centenary.

THE *Christian World* says: Mr. Matthew Arnold, it seems, announced some time ago that he would write no more on religion or politics. We are inclined, after glancing over his article on "Disestablishment in Wales," in the current number of the *National Review*, to think that he would have acted wisely if he had kept to his resolve. Mr. Matthew Arnold is in such utter ignorance of the views of modern Nonconformists as to Established Churches that he thinks the Establishment in Wales might be preserved by letting the people have a veto in the choice of their ministers, and sanctioning the use of Presbyterian forms of worship in districts where they are preferred. I have no doubt whatever, he says, that if Lord Cawdor and the Bishop of Llandaff on the one part, and Lord Aberdare and Mr. Henry Richard on the other, were commissioned to make an equitable division of South Wales into districts of the Presbyterian and of the Anglican form (the cathedrals being reserved to the Anglicans), so that Establishment might follow that division, they could do it admirably and to the full satisfaction of the Principality.

MR. JAMES CLARK, proprietor and editor of the *Christian World*, died recently in the sixty-third year of his age. Marianne Farningham writes the obituary editorial which appears in the last number received. She concludes as follows: For my own

part, I regard it as an unspeakable honour and privilege to have been permitted, for the course of almost a life-time, to work for and with him. During the thirty years that have passed since my introduction to him, he never spoke to me an impatient or an unkind word, but was always most courteous, kind and considerate. He was always a friend on whom one could count. I have felt sometimes, knowing the strain of care and work upon him, that it was too bad to worry him with my own personal troubles and difficulties, but I generally did, because there was no one of whose sympathy I could be more sure, nor whose wise counsel it would be more safe to follow. There are left to me to bear, I think, but few things that could give me so real a heartache as the fact that I shall see his face no more. We shall long and sorely miss the presence of him whose gentle dignity and courteous grace can never be forgotten. But he has his well-earned repose, he 'rests from his labours and his works do follow him'; and even those who mourn his absence most deeply will ever find a joy in thinking of what he was and what he is.

THE celebration of the jubilee of Dr. Horatius Bonar, says the *Christian Leader*, is an event that transcends the limitations of sect and must engage the warmly sympathetic interest of every branch of the Christian Church. No living hymn writer—perhaps, indeed, no hymn writer of any period—has composed so many sacred lyrics which are in constant use, both in the public service of praise and in the private devotional worship and reading of Christians. Only the other day we recorded an instance of one of Dr. Bonar's hymns being sung in a Roman Catholic Cathedral in Canada; and not a Sabbath passes in which the verses of the Scottish George Herbert are not sung in hundreds of Anglican Churches. The committee in charge of the jubilee fund have arranged that the presentation of a testimonial to Dr. Bonar shall take place on 5th April; and as the desire is simply to secure an honourable offering suitable to the occasion the amount aimed at has been limited to \$5,000, of which sum \$1,500 has still to be raised. This fact has only to be made generally known to secure instantly all that is required. We are pleased to learn that the contributions already received embrace offerings from all parts of the world, including Africa and India as well as our own colonies and the United States; while the Episcopal Church has at least two honourable representatives in the Bishop of Exeter and the large hearted Dean of Melbourne.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The Rev. G. F. James, colleague to Dr. Peddie, presided over a crowded meeting in Bristo Place Church, Edinburgh, gathered to celebrate the sixtieth year of the senior pastor's ministry. Mr. James said Dr. Peddie had shown him every respect, courtesy and consideration, and that they had during the past eleven years lived together in the best of unity. When he first became assistant Dr. Peddie used to sit in the pulpit when preaching, but now, as he said himself, he was among the standing ministry and was yet able to climb three or four stairs to visit the sick and sorrowing. An address from Edinburgh Presbytery was presented by Prof. Johnstone and Dr. Kennedy. Mr. Thin, Session Clerk, presented another address from the Session, trustees and managers; while a cheque for two hundred guineas, spontaneously contributed by rich and poor, was handed to the venerable pastor. Dr. Peddie was greeted by the whole audience rising to their feet. At the time of his jubilee he had not the least idea, he said, that he should survive through another decade, and if there was still any brief space of time reserved for him in this world he hoped it might be all spent in the service of God. He referred to the interesting fact that he and his father had served the same congregation between them for 122 years. His name now stands second on the Synod roll, his only senior being Dr. Bryce, of Belfast, and only three who were members of old Bristo Church when he was ordained on 7th October, 1828, are now alive.