

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 18

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th, 1889.

No. 12.

Notes of the Week.

DR. DALLINGER'S microscopical researches have proved, he contends, that there is nothing in the scientific facts which Darwin brought to light that conflicts with the vital truths of Christianity. In his own words, "there is an absolute gulf between matter in a living state and matter in a state not living, in even the lowest forms. Therefore the conclusion is that the whole series of living things originated in a primal and competent creative act."

THE *Christian Irishman*, writing on the causes of the poverty of Ireland, appeals with fearlessness to Roman Catholics, whether it is not their general belief that their clergy are as a rule unfeelingly exorbitant in the matter of money. It mentions the case of a respectable, hard working servant girl who, the other day had to give £4 to her priest before she could get the nuptial tie fastened. The Irish laity, as they grow in intelligence and in intercourse with other countries, are becoming more aware of the undoubted fact that the religion of their Church is pre-eminently a religion of money.

THE question of Disestablishment will come up very early for discussion in the British House of Commons. Dr. Cameron has secured a place on Tuesday, March 12, for the second reading of his Bill for the Disestablishment of the Scotch Church. On the following Tuesday Mr. Dillwyn will move the second reading of his measure for the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales. In connection with this it may be observed that Mr. Carvell Williams, so well known in connection with the Liberation Society, has been adopted as Parliamentary candidate for the Mansfield division of Nottinghamshire.

AT a recent meeting of the Free Church Deacon's Association, held in Greenock, Mr. John Miller gave an address on "The Representation of Deacons in the Higher Courts of the Church," in which he urged that ministers should be relieved of committee work in connection with the financial affairs of the Church, and pleaded for an enlarged lay representation in Edinburgh. Most of those who took part in the discussion which ensued supported the views of Mr. Miller, and the executive of the Association was unanimously empowered to memorialise the Presbytery to overture the Assembly on the question.

ACCORDING to the newly-published edition, the sixty-fourth, of Daniel's "Lehrbuch der Geographie," considered the most accurate general statistical work in the world, the inhabitants of the globe number 1,435,000,000. There are 3,064 known languages, and 1,100 religions. There are 432,000,000 adherents of Christianity; of these 208,000,000 are Roman Catholics, 123,000,000 Protestants, and 83,000,000 Greek Church. Besides these there are fully 100-sects, with 8,000,000 followers. The Jews number about 8,000,000, and the Mohammedans, 120,000,000. There are on the globe 1,000,000,000 non-Christians.

DR. MARCUS DODS completed this year twenty-five years of conspicuous and splendid ministerial service in the city of Glasgow. All this time he has remained faithful to his first charge—Renfield Free Church—notwithstanding repeated offers of the most prominent positions open to a Presbyterian minister. The very intelligent and influential congregation to which he ministers are devising means to celebrate the event worthily, and one of them is to give their minister a six months' holiday. This is very wise. The timely relaxation of incessant strain would in many cases materially lengthen the life and work of ministers. Dr. Dods, we believe, proposes to spend his holiday on the Continent.

THE South Sea Kings, the Godeffroys of Hamburg, that great trading company through whose influence the project of the German acquisition of Samoa was first commended to Bismarck, failed a few years ago for no less than \$5,000,000. One of their instructions to their traders ran thus: "Give no assistance to missionaries, either by word or deed, beyond what common humanity demands, but

on the contrary, wherever you may find them, use your best influence with the natives to obstruct and to exclude them." The explanation of this is, that in many parts of the Pacific the natives are still content to sell their goods for beads, tomahawks and tobacco, but the missionaries instruct them to demand payment in clothing and in coin.

NUMEROUS bodies during the week have formulated vigorous protests against Jesuit incorporation and the granting of the indemnity to that organization by the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. In Ottawa a branch of the Dominion Alliance has been formed, and one of its first acts was to adopt a strongly-expressed resolution on the subject. The Presbyteries of Paris and London have also placed themselves strongly on record against Jesuit encroachments. In London, England, a largely-attended and influential meeting of the Protestant Alliance was held lately. The question of the Jesuit incorporation in the Province of Quebec was referred to and discussed. A resolution of sympathy was passed with the Protestants of Canada in their struggle for civil and religious liberty, and the desire expressed that Jesuit aggression may be defeated.

PRINCIPAL RAINY has at last agreed to accept the invitation of the Australian Churches, and to attend the celebration of their jubilee this summer. Mrs. Rainy is to accompany him. His last long absence was in America. Although Dr. Rainy is never at his best until thoroughly roused by opposition, the Australians will hear in him a speaker not inferior in the high qualities of moral thoughtfulness even to Dr. Dale and Dr. Maclaren. Dr. Whyte has not been able to accept the invitation to accompany Principal Rainy. There is before his congregation the difficult and delicate business of choosing a colleague. Besides Dr. Rainy, Dr. Macgregor, of Edinburgh, and the Rev. R. J. Lynd, of Belfast, are to visit Australia. Dr. Donald Fraser is also anxious to do so, if the interests of his congregation do not suffer; and in all probability this desire will be carried out.

UNDER the auspices of the local Presbyteries of the three Scotch Churches, a largely attended meeting was held in Edinburgh to consider the subject of the Nyassa Land Missions and the action of the Portuguese in that part of Africa. Resolutions were adopted declaring that the missions had produced the most satisfactory results, and appointed a deputation to lay before Lord Salisbury the importance of the missions being continued in undisturbed freedom. The speakers expressed the fear that if the Portuguese got a footing in the region the slave trade would increase, a pernicious drink traffic would be introduced, and missionary enterprise would be seriously crippled if not destroyed. Among those who spoke were—Rev. Dr. Scott, St. George's Established Church; Principal Rainy, of the Free Church; Rev. James Buchanan, Foreign Mission Secretary of the U. P. Church; Rev. Horace Waller, of the Church of England; Rev. John M'Murtrie, of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland; Rev. Alexander Hetherwick, of the Church of Scotland African Missions; and Rev. James Scott, of the Free Church Missions.

THE annual report of the Governors, Principal and Fellows of McGill University, Montreal, for 1888 has just been issued. That McGill University is having a successful career and is doing excellent work is attested by the following brief extract: The work of the several faculties of Law, Medicine, Arts and Applied Science in McGill has been carried on in the present session with its usual success. The affiliated colleges in Arts—Morrin College, Quebec, and St. Francis College, Richmond—are in a prosperous condition, and will, we hope, send up several candidates for the University examinations. The four affiliated theological colleges have worked, as heretofore, in perfect harmony with the University, and their privileges as to free tuitions, have been augmented, while their number of students has increased to about 160. The McGill Normal School has pursued its eminently useful labours with increased efficiency and public approval, as shown by the large number of its students in attendance from

the country districts. At the close of the last session one hundred and two degrees were granted in Arts, Medicine, Law and Applied Science. Among these were eight ladies, who constituted our first graduating class from the Donalda Special Course.

MR. CAINE, a British M.P., who has been making a tour of the world, follows in the wake of Canon Taylor in his criticism of Foreign Mission methods. This is how the *British Weekly* disposes of him: Nothing needs to be said in reply. The mere fact of having enough to pay for a ticket to India, and fortitude enough to face the horrors of seasickness and the weariness of railway travelling, the insects and the heat of India, are all the critical equipment which Mr. Caine possesses. Sitting in his easy chair at home, he might have gathered all the facts he has to go upon. His criticism is more than ordinarily ignorant and arrogant, but that may not be surprising. He is of opinion that the China Inland Mission and the Salvation Army are the bodies that deserve support, but he never seems to have investigated for himself the real results gained by either. The attack upon missionary effort which would be formidable, if it were made, would be an attack from missionaries themselves. Yet the Churches at home consider that they are constantly sending out as fresh recruits their most devoted, and not least able men. These men are in a position to know everything that passes; they are in a position to test the value of different methods. Whenever they report that existing methods are unsatisfactory, and, better still, when they are able to show better methods giving better results, then a revolution in missions will take place. But such attacks as this of Mr. Caine deserve no serious heed, and we regret that a man whom Nonconformists have some considerable reason to esteem should have added to his already abundant difficulties by making them.

THE *Chicago Interior* says: The Scotch-Irish of America are to hold a congress in Columbia, Tennessee, May 15, at which distinguished sons of the race are to be present. Mr. A. C. Floyd, of that city, is the corresponding secretary, and he will send a programme to any who wish to attend. This race is peculiar for two traits of character—which can be accounted for by their history—pugnacity and piety. Your Scotch-Irishman is as ready for a prayer meeting as he is for a battle, and as ready for a grip as he is for a prayer. Some incline more strongly to the one mode of spiritual exercise than to the other, but no true Scotch-Irishman stands back when he has an invitation to either. They came to this country in two streams, one reaching the Carolinas and spreading into Virginia. The McCormick family is from that branch. The other stream came to Pennsylvania, of which the writer of this is a descendant. So the *Interior* is Scotch-Irish through and through. That accounts for it. And hence also it becomes us to speak modestly of the blood. If any body speaks disrespectfully of Scotch-Irishmen, they will thrash him or pray for him, whichever he seems to need most. It is a favourite maxim with us that the thrashing, in the order of nature and of grace, goes before the praying, and that is the mode of procedure most in favour with our people. Now the interesting question is how the race came by their two leading traits of character. We suppose that in brief terms it may be an explanation, that the original Scots were Irish. They crossed over the sea and fought a place for themselves on the western coast, driving out the Picts. At a later date they carried Christianity to Scotland. Then came the Reformation era, and those of them who were the most ardent for religious liberty went back under the Romish persecutions. They also did some fighting under Cromwell. The Scots who went back to their old home were devotees of religion and liberty. They made their mark under the revolutionary epoch, on the forum and in the field. Patrick Henry knew who he was talking to. So far as we know the race has not been divided in battle until the late war of the Rebellion brought the Southern and Northern branches face to face as foes. We suppose the history of this people will be brought out fully in the coming Congress; certainly it will bring out an array of talent that will make the proceedings highly attractive.