

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 22.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th, 1893.

No. 28.

Notes of the Week.

The Dominion Government has decided to grant a sum of £1,000 to the Victoria relief fund as a tangible expression of the sympathy of the Canadian people with those of our kinsfolk who have been deprived of father, son or brother by the awful disaster.

Christian people who expect to attend the World's Fair may be glad to know that daily lectures are given at the Bible Institute, Chicago, by some of the most eminent Bible teachers of America and Great Britain. Among them are the Rev. Hubert Brooke, of England, Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, Prof. W. G. Moorehead and Prof. J. M. Stifler, Dr. Theodore Monod, of Paris, and Rev. John McNeill, Rev. John Riddell and Rev. John Robertson, of Scotland. These lectures, which are held at 9 and 11 o'clock every morning excepting Sunday and Monday, at the Bible Institute, 80 Institute Place, are open to every one, and a cordial invitation is extended to all who may be interested, to attend.

The translation of the reply of the Chinese Ministers to U.S. Minister Denby's communication with reference to the Geary Act, has been published, and any dispassionate reader cannot but be convinced that right and reason are on the side of China in this matter. The presentation of the case by "Prince Oh'ing," indicating the Act as cruel and unjust, is calm, dignified and convincing. Protested strongly against the Act as derogatory to the dignity of China, and an injury to the fair name of the United States, the Ministry ask the Government of the United States to reconsider the Act and agree to some other and less objectionable line of policy. Everyone caring for the good name of the nation will hope and pray that this reasonable request may be granted.

Drought and heat, unprecedented since 1844, have been prevailing in England, the thermometer standing at 85 degs. and 90 degs. In the shade, and almost uninterrupted drought lasting for 113 days. Fields are parched, grass has failed, root crops have been dug up as hopeless, and for want of fodder, farmers have been compelled to sell their stock for whatever they could get. Hay is from \$40 to \$45 per ton. The supply of milk has become deficient, and a water famine is threatened in many places. Serious fires have broken out elsewhere and in some parts of the country there have been terrific thunder-storms. Cases of sunstroke have been frequent. At last accounts indications of a change had set in, and refreshing showers had fallen, but much more rain is still needed.

There is something inexpressibly touching in the sight of those hundreds of men on board the Victoria standing calmly, steadily, every man at his post on the fast-sinking ship without one movement to save themselves from certain death, until the word of command was given. And one cannot but feel unbounded admiration for that silent, heroic courage which every man of them shared. It really, it might be said, is an object lesson to the whole nation, and raises it up unconsciously to a higher standard and ideal of devotion to duty. Such self-control, such confidence in a commander, such patient waiting for his order, has in it a moral character and lifts it above the region of mere physical courage. It is not without parallel in

the history both of the navy and army, and so long as that spirit abides, nothing can be demanded of them, possible to man, which they will not be able to do. What a noble example to all professing Christians of implicit obedience to and confidence in the Captain of their salvation.

The Princess May, who has just been married to Prince George, is highly spoken of in the July number of the Young Woman, and as very possibly a future queen, her character is a matter of public importance. It says: "One of Princess May's most cherished charities is the Home for the Dying, at South Hampstead, known under the charming name of Friedenheim. While battling with her own overwhelming sorrow early last year, the cause of this home came under her notice, and where nothing yet had been able to make her forget her loss, the thought of the poor sufferers who are sent away from hospitals because they are past help, and who have no home in which they might spend their last moments free from want and care, roused her at once, and the pathetic figure of the sad girl-widow came gently forward and pleaded for the mute ones standing helplessly and hopelessly on the border of the grave. Princess May has long been an active friend of poor and destitute children. The bride-elect is one whose face in connection with ragged school work has since her childhood been passing like a dream through the haunts of misery and care, and no slight will, I venture to say, be more agreeable to the royal bride and bridegroom than the spectacle of comfortably-seated poor children associated with those institutions in which the royal family have long taken an exemplary and useful interest."

Owing to the action of the Government in India restraining the free coinage of silver as currency, the financial world has been called to face a new and in some countries, perplexing situation. This is especially felt in the United States. President Cleveland has taken a step very unusual with rulers, and yet what we would consider, in the case of a free and self-governing people, a very wise one. He has taken the nation into his confidence through the medium of the newspaper, and given to it a general statement of the position of the Government on the financial question, coupled with the announcement of his purpose to call an extra session of Congress not earlier than the first nor later than the fifteenth of September, unless unexpected contingencies should necessitate an earlier meeting. The President thinks it "not amiss that our people should be informed authoritatively that the time is at hand when their representatives in Congress will be called upon to deal with a financial condition which is the only menace to the country's welfare and prosperity." He declares it needs no present eye to perceive the danger that results to the country from the continued purchase of seven tons of silver daily, a purchase which has to be paid for gold, with the natural result that "this gold having thus been subtracted from the Government's stock is eagerly seized by other nations for the purpose of strengthening their credit at our expense." Disturbing as the situation is, there is no reason why our vast national resources and credit are not abundantly sufficient to justify the fullest faith and confidence. "The things just now needed," in the President's view, "are coolness and calmness in financial circles and study and reflection among our people."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM

United Presbyterian: The brotherhood of men is a truth which needs as much emphasis now as in the days of Paul. If it was rightly recognized, the great chasms between classes would be bridged.

A. Barnes: It does not require great learning to be a Christian—to be convinced of the truth of the Bible, and to be conformed to its requirements. It requires only an honest heart, and a willingness to obey God.

Jewel: The Word is "fire," and burneth; a "hammer," and breaketh the hardness of the heart. It is mighty in operation, cleanseth the inner man, openeth the conscience, is "a savor of life unto life," the means of salvation, the word of reconciliation.

Prof. H. Drummond: I say there is no happiness in having or in getting but only in giving; and half the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting, and in being served by others. It consists in giving and in serving others.

The Interior: Last Sunday, the opening of the Fair proved to be the worst fiasco of all, not half the average for week days, and not a sixth of the expectations. Did ever mortal man make a huger blunder? A leading director said he would open if it cost the Fair two millions. He will have to double his figures before he will cover the loss.

Mid-Continent: It was recently stated by the Hon. Carrol D. Wright, the well-known statistician, that facts show that "for every dollar the people receive from the saloon, they pay out twenty-one." This statement should be heeded by the business men and municipal authorities who claim that saloons must be licensed, as they largely supply the community with its revenue.

S. S. Times: Character will show itself in the outer man. If the character be deteriorating, it will gradually give signs of this in the expression and features. If the character be making progress Christward, it will steadily suffuse the face and glow in the very form and bearing. A man may deceive himself as to the direction of his moral movement, but God has so ordered nature, that a man can not permanently deceive his fellows on that point. The light or the shade of his inner character will, sooner or later, be manifest in a man's exterior.

Christian Inquirer: In contending earnestly for what we believe is truth we need to maintain a modest and teachable spirit. As no man or body of men is infallible, it is impossible for any to have possession of the whole truth. Whatever opinions we espouse we may unwittingly hold some views which are not in accord with Divine teaching; and with the most ardent desire to maintain the truth we may be so warped by the prejudice, growing out of the early inculcation of error, that we may not be emancipated from its influence.

Alfred Schofield, M.D., in Good Words, says: After all, there is nothing but Christianity that suits all ages, from the child at his mother's knee, to the patriarch on his dying bed. A typical old age, must be truly Christian, not alone in faith and doctrine, but in love and good works; and at no time through life does the heavenly life so illumine the thin walls of the earthly tabernacle, as

just before it is taken down and folded in the grave. But this serenity, this sunshine, can by no means be acquired in a moment. The foundations of a happy old age should be laid in early life.

Spurgeon: I have heard that in the deserts, when the caravans are in want of water, they are accustomed to send on a camel with its rider some distance in advance; then, after a little space, follows another. As soon as the first man finds water, almost before he stoops down to drink, he shouts aloud, "Come!" The next, hearing his voice, repeats the word, "Come!" until the whole wilderness echoes with the word, "Come!" So in that verse of the Scripture, the Spirit and the bride say, first of all, "Come;" and let him that heareth say, "Come;" and whosoever is athirst, let him take of the water of life freely.

A well-known atheist says: "I look over the earth and see mountains, meadows and streams, and men. I look into the heavens, and by day I see the blue sky, the many-hued clouds, and the golden sun, and by night the myriad twinkling stars, and the white moon. I look among all that live and move, but I do not see God." Of course he does not. To Peter Bell, a living primrose was only a primrose. To Wordsworth, the meanest flower that caught his eye brought thoughts "too deep for tears." Only a reverent believer discerns God behind His created works. One form of sight is physical; another mental; a third spiritual. One wanting spiritual sight can no more discern God, than a jellyfish can see the moons of Mars. And that is the trouble with our atheist, and with all like him.

Christian World: Sometimes we become discouraged in our work and think it is all in vain, and yet we have the assurance that work done for the Lord is never in vain. In 1817, Robert Moffat, a Scotchman, penetrated the wilds of South Africa in the interests of missionary work. How useless his work seemed to him, but, was it so? Only recently a census was taken of Bechuanna, the district in which he laboured, and where he fancied he had accomplished nothing. In a territory of 170,000 square miles, two and one-half times the size of Missouri, there was found a population of 72,000 whites and natives, almost all of whom were Christians. Poor Moffat fancied he had wasted his time, but nothing really good is ever lost; and the bread which that earnest, hard-working man cast upon the waters, has returned many days after he has gone to his rest. Let no one be discouraged.

Rev. J. Denovan: What craze is it that makes women—sensible women many of them, too—associate ordinary domestic work with this idea of social degradation, so that if one of them happens to be caught by a visitor in a kitchen, or in a dress suitable to ordinary domestic work, the visitor must be entertained with an elaborate apology? Why apologize? I never yet heard a carpenter make an apology or being detected standing in his shirt sleeves and ankle deep in shavings; nor did I ever hear a blacksmith apologize for the smut on his hands and face; nor a baker or the flour-dust on his face and raiment; nor a painter for the shape and brilliant tints of his overalls. Why should wife or daughter deprecate and deplore the attire and condition in which honest domestic work puts them? Every person possessed of a modicum of brains understands and appreciates the situation, and honours the woman properly attired for the work divine providence has brought to her hand.