

# The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIV.—No. 34

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

\$1.50 per Annum

## The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No 23, 21, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2161, Toronto, Ont.

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Toronto, Feb. 24, 1898.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In common with other countries, Canada mourned Miss Willard's death by special public services, on Sunday. In Toronto a large gathering assembled in the Pavilion, under the auspices of the Canadian Temperance League, at which many high tributes were paid to the deceased lady. The Toronto Woman's Christian Temperance Union held a memorial service on Tuesday in Cooke's Church, when the feeling of sorrow prevailing was suitably expressed. It is supposed that the succession to the leadership rests according to the constitution, with Lady Henry Somerset, or failing her Miss Agnes E. Slack, World's Secretary.

The news of Miss Willard's death has been received, the world over, with unfeigned sorrow. She was perhaps the most widely known and admired woman of her day, and she held her place in the hearts of the people, by her deep womanly sympathies, as much if not more than by her brilliant intellectual triumphs. Her life is an object lesson to women who are workers in the cause of temperance and social reform. No small element of her strength lay in her "reasonable moderation" as it has been termed, and in the exceptional wisdom she displayed in dealing with complicated questions.

There is much rejoicing over the withdrawal by Lady Henry Somerset of her letter to Lord George Hamilton, on the C. D. Acts. This was the letter which caused so much divided feeling in the W.C.T.U., and now that it has been withdrawn, no

doubt peace and harmony will once more prevail. Lady Somerset's reason for withdrawing the letter is that it has been greatly misunderstood and consequently caused division and criticism which were proving injurious to the cause she wished to promote.

A vigorous effort has just been made to re-open the Briggs case in the American Presbyterian Church with a view of getting the Assembly to rescind its action and restore the Union Professor to his Status as a minister. The Rev. Dr. Hayden wrote a letter to the papers urging it, and it is stated that they had even selected a certain western minister to be put forward as next Moderator on that issue. Inasmuch, however, as Dr. Briggs has in no way modified his position nor even expressed regret for the harsh and offensive language in which he expressed his views, there is little prospect of success. The leading church papers, even those favorable to Dr. Briggs have counselled peace. In fact, instead of Dr. Briggs being restored there is the possibility that Dr. McGiffert, another Union Professor, may be called to account for his views, as expressed in his recent work on "The Apostolic Age" He certainly has made some statements which it seems hard to reconcile with the Church's creed as to the authority of the Scriptures, and explanations are felt to be in order.

The anniversary celebrations in honour of the poet Burns, brought forth a speech from Rev. Dr. Rankin, Muthil, An Ex Moderator's an ex-moderator of the Established Church of Scotland, which has set the good people of Edinburgh by the ears, and the Scot everywhere, a thinking. Dr. Rankin got off such remarks as these:—"At this moment it is a simple fact that 'freedom and whiskey gang thegither,' while teetotalism is a tyranny and a perversion of the word of God." "Would not I," he continued, "give a year's stipend to get Robin back for a month to take off the Kirk shams of to-day? We would then have the wholesome play of genius over the insane multiplication of churches, of whom 600 or 700 are localized devils—the play of genius over sham foreign missions largely prosecuted to glorify one sect against another at home, and burning satire over the money-raising that is substituted for gospel preaching." Dr. Rankin has quite a following in his church, but indignation is running high over this hysterical outburst.

It is always difficult to find encouraging features in the religious life of France. An English writer, in close correspondence with Protestants in France, thinks he sees very many such features now. Among them he names several societies which are devoted to the conversion and enlightenment of Roman Catholics and the revival of feeble and scattered Protestants; there are many congregations in all parts of the country that consist entirely of those who have come out from Rome: large numbers of people are begging that a pastor or an evangelist may be sent them, people, too, who stand their ground in the midst of severe persecutions. He names several departments in which this is true. We