

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 10

TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1882.

No. 5.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Lord Mayor of London called a public meeting relative to the persecution of the Jews in Russia, and the "Journal de St. Petersburg" is much excited thereat.

At a recent meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, it was resolved to ask the General Assembly to grant congregations the liberty of employing instrumental music in public worship at their discretion.

ENOCH PRATT, of Baltimore, proposes to establish and endow a "free circulating library for the benefit of the whole city" (Baltimore) at a cost of over one million of dollars, provided the city will grant and create an annuity of \$50,000 per annum forever, for the support and maintenance of the library and its branches.

GOVERNOR ST. JOHN, of Kansas, in a recent speech, said: "We have raised the black flag on the whiskey traffic, and propose neither to give nor ask quarter." The Governor is thoroughly in earnest as to the execution of the law against the whiskey traffic, and the majority of the people in Kansas are with him.

THE wonderfully beneficent operation of "filling a man's mouth with an empty spoon" has been once more successfully performed. The new city council of Dublin, elected largely under rowdy and Romanist auspices, has conferred the freedom of that city on the Land League leader now languishing in the bondage of Kilmainham gaol.

THE Western people are taking hold of the temperance reform with a will. The success of Kansas has set the people of adjoining States to thinking, and Nebraska is tightening the reins upon the sellers of liquors. It is reported that a large number of grog-shops have been closed in Arkansas, and that the reform steadily advances in other States.

THE Czar of Russia has given his consent to convert seventeen imperial palaces into institutions of learning. These palaces will, of course, be used for higher schools, while nothing is done for the improvement of popular education. Russia has a school population of 15,000,000, and the number of children in primary schools is a little over one million.

GOVERNOR SHERMAN, of Iowa, in his inaugural address, earnestly recommended the Legislature to concur in submitting to the people a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors within the state. The Governor claims that the people have the right to have this question presented to them for a direct expression of their views.

THE Gaelic-speaking students attending the Montreal Presbyterian College now enjoy the rare advantage of a course of lectures on the language and literature of the Scottish Highlands. The lecturer is the Rev. Neil MacNish, B.D., LL.D., of Cornwall. The second lecture of the course was delivered on the 20th ult., the subject being "The Proverbs and Legendary Part of Gaelic Literature."

MR. SPURGEON had a bazaar at the Tabernacle, in the first week of the year, to raise money for one of his Orphanages. In noticing it, the Belfast "Witness" says: "Some people object to such methods of raising money for religious purposes, but the strong common sense of the great preacher keeps him from making such a mistake. He recognizes the giving of work as well as the giving of money for God's service."

AN order has been issued in India that in future all Protestant (Established Church of Scotland or Church of England) and Roman Catholic Churches which have been built by Government, "or which have

been built by private individuals wholly at their cost or with the aid of Government," shall, if they have been made over to Government, be repaired and maintained in proper order at the cost of the State and be treated as State property.

THE allowance to the Educational Department of Japan for the current school-year is only 614,601 yen (one yen about \$1), against 1,181,100 yen last year, a reduction of 266,499 yen, or nearly twenty-five per cent. It is right to observe, however, that the estimates of every department have been largely cut down, and that much of the decrease under the head of education may be attributed to the substitution of native teachers for highly paid foreign professors.

THE State of New York expended \$9,675,992 last year upon her public schools—a larger amount than any other State. Illinois follows her on the list, with \$6,735,478; then comes Pennsylvania, with \$7,046,116. The smallest sum expended (\$7,056) was that provided by Wyoming. New York has 386,225 illiterates, out of a population of 5,082,871; and Massachusetts 168,615, out of a population of 1,783,085. Georgia is the State suffering most from illiteracy. It has a population of 1,542,180, and of this number 967,099 persons either cannot read or cannot write.

"WE are very glad," says the New York "Independent," "to see in a Southern Presbyterian paper, 'The Christian Observer,' a vigorous argument by the Rev. J. B. Carne, on Mr. Park's case, showing with great force that a coloured minister must have equal rights with a white one, even to voting in a presbytery. Says Mr. Carne: 'I defy the world to show me where Jesus or the Apostles ever knew the difference between Greek and Jew, Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free. There were no distinctions in church membership, nor yet in the right to rule.' That is edifying language to be addressed to Southern Presbyterians. There has been progress since 1860."

THE "Presbyterian Journal" says: "One of our most finished Biblical scholars pronounces Prof. Green's reply to Robertson Smith 'the greatest effort of Dr. Green's life; the best work he has ever done.'" The "National Baptist" says: "We remember when Colenso sent forth his crudities some eighteen years ago, how Prof. W. H. Green, of Princeton, showed up his folly, and so we anticipated a radical exposure when the same person took Prof. Smith in hand; and we have not been disappointed. He has turned our indignation against Prof. Smith into pity. His blows are heavy, for the whole Scriptural argument is on his side; and he leaves Prof. Smith like a knight unhorsed and wounded." And the New York "Observer" awards great credit to Prof. Green, as well as to Prof. Watts, of Belfast, for "demolishing" Robertson Smith's book.

THE General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church last May appointed two committees to revise the Confession of Faith and Form of Government. The first committee, whose work was to be revised by a second committee, consisted of three members—Ministers S. G. Burney and A. Templeton, and Elder John Frizell. The second committee was composed of five members, four ministers and one elder. The chairman was the Rev. C. H. Bell. These committees have met and done their work, and the revised symbols, together with a report to the General Assembly, are published. The next General Assembly will consider the revision, and, if it is deemed satisfactory, it will be submitted to the Presbyteries for their views. If a majority of them sanction it, and the General Assembly again approve it, the revised Confession of Faith and Form of Government will go into effect. The Cumberland Confession, which is a revision of that of Westminster, was adopted in 1813, and further changed in 1829. It embraces the thirty-three chapters of the Westminster symbol in the same order, but with omissions, alterations, and explanations. The committees, in

their joint report, give the reasons for revision, and explain the changes decided upon. The first committee held sessions lasting a week, in November, in Lebanon, Tenn., completing its work on the 24th. The second committee met on the 25th and adjourned one week later. The discussions of both committees were harmonious, and their conclusions were adopted with unanimity. They say they have not changed a single fundamental doctrine. They attempted to "draw with precision the boundaries between your theological scheme and those of other Churches, and then to allow the utmost liberty of opinion within those bounds." They believe that "every intelligent Cumberland Presbyterian" can subscribe to the revised Confession. The reasons for revision have to do with obscure expressions, discrepancy of doctrinal statements, length and style, arrangement, etc.

IN the course of an address delivered in Zion Presbyterian Church, Brantford, on the evening of the 23rd ult., Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions for the North-West, stated that he had travelled by buggy and cutter over 2,000 miles in visiting the different settlements, and yet, although preaching twice and often three times a day, never missed an appointment. This was, he thought, a sufficient reply to such as complained of the roads in the North-West, or abused its stormy weather. He found settlers west as far as Fort Ellice in the north, and west of Turtle Mountain in the south. In other words, Manitoba was settled for about 300 miles from east to west, and 100 or 120 from north to south. The audience, he thought, would have a little better idea of the area when he stated that between Lake Huron and Toronto, and between Lake Erie and the Georgian Bay, there was an area of about 22,500 square miles, or 14,500,000 acres, while there was already occupied, more or less sparsely, in Manitoba, about 20,000,000 acres. The large bulk of this area was good land. There was a good deal of low land, but it could easily be drained, and much of the sandy land would afford excellent pasture for sheep. This, however, was only the beginning of the North-West. At Touchwood Hills were found 8,000,000 acres of arable land. At Qu'Appelle was some of the best land in the whole country, if surveyors could be relied on. Prince Albert, Edmonton, the Ben and Peace Rivers, were referred to also as very fertile. The soil, the reverend gentleman characterized as a rich alluvial deposit, and he thought no soil could excel that of the North-West in fertility. The layer of black mould was from two and a half to four and a half feet deep at the Red River, but diminished in depth as one went further west. In the west, too, it was much more mixed with loam, but the poorest of it that he saw under cultivation was much more fertile than the Brantford Plains. Except that of Shoal Lake, he saw but little alkali land. A little manuring and judicious tillage, he thought, would cure the alkali districts. He found the people contented wherever they had taken up land, everyone thinking that his own district was the best in the country. The seasons were next touched upon. Winter set in, he said, about the 10th of November, and continued till about the beginning or towards the middle of April. He gave a flat denial to the statements made regarding the extreme severity of the climate. He had lived in the North-West for eight years, and thought that he knew the severity and felt the cold as well as a stranger. Take the winter all in all, he would as soon live in Manitoba as in Ontario. The reverend gentleman next dwelt on the disadvantages of the country, touching on many of them; referred to the Syndicate; indicated who should go to the North-West, urging strongly that our healthy, marriageable daughters should go and be companions for the enterprising young men of the country. Education and churches, speculation and mining, all came in for a word, and the rev. gentleman, after making out fully that the land was a good one and a fair, urged in an earnest appeal that all efforts should be put forth to provide the people of the North-West with the gospel.