

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 21.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 1892.

No. 8.

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## Notes of the Week.

THE noted Professor John Stuart Blackie says that there is no book in the Greek language he is more intimately acquainted with than the New Testament, and that there is no vestige of authority either in the gospels, the Acts or the Epistles for holding that Episcopacy as a form of Church Government is a matter either of divine institution or of apostolic practice.

THE Russian Government has ordered that no person shall become the minister of a Protestant congregation in Russia without first passing an examination in the Russian language. It has also announced that public worship in the Protestant congregations in the Baltic Provinces must, after May 1, 1892, be conducted in the Russian language alone. The Minister of the Interior has instructed the Lutheran pastors in Livonia to use the Russian language alone when corresponding with the Greek priests. The Greek Archbishop of Warsaw has been transferred to Moscow, that he may act the more energetically against the Stundists.

THE half of the railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem was opened on December 4 last, but it may not be generally known that the issue of the shares of the company have been entrusted to a bank in Paris, the directors of which are pronounced Ultramontane. They are believed to have taken it up with the view of making Jerusalem annually the resort of tens of thousands of pilgrims, besides the great influence they will be able to exercise in future over the inhabitants, so says Mr. H. Guedella in the *Jewish Chronicle*. Soon the shriek of the locomotive will be heard in the Holy City itself. It does seem a daring innovation, but it has been preceded by the electric light.

THE last issue of the *Quarterly Register*, the organ of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches, holding the Presbyterian system, announces that the fifth general Council will meet in Toronto on Wednesday, September 21, 1892. All papers and reports to be laid before the Council should be transmitted to the General Secretary without delay. Clerks of the different Churches are requested to send to the General Secretary, as soon as possible, lists of the delegates appointed by their respective Churches to attend the Council, with their addresses. The Rev. G. D. Mathews, D.D., is the General Secretary, and his address is 25 Christ Church Avenue, Brondesbury, London, N.W.

THE ex-Moderators of the Church of Scotland have nominated Rev. Professor Charteris, D.D., as Moderator of the next General Assembly. He is a native of Wamphray, Scotland, where he was born in 1835. He graduated M.A. at Edinburgh University in 1854. He was ordained at St. Quivox, Ayrshire, was translated afterwards to Newabbey, near Dumfries, and in 1863 succeeded Principal Caird as minister of Park Church, Glasgow. He was appointed professor of Biblical Criticism and Antiquities in Edinburgh University in 1868. Professor Charteris was the originator, in the last-named year, of the General Assembly's Committee on Christian Life and Work, and as he has acted as Convener of that Committee since its formation, he is the senior Convener of any of the

committees of Assembly. Under his guidance the Committee established the well-known monthly magazine *Life and Work*, which has now a circulation of over 100,000. The Committee has also been instrumental in reviving the order of Deacons in the Church, and in founding the Young Men's Guild, and more recently, the Woman's Guild. Senior Chaplain to Her Majesty for Scotland, Dr. Charteris is the author of—besides lectures and pamphlets—"Life of Professor James Robertson, D.D.," 1863; "Canonicity: a collection of early testimonies to the Canonical books of the New Testament," 1881; and "The New Testament Scriptures," 1883—the latter work being the Croall lecture in 1882. The nomination of Professor Charteris to fill the highest office in the Church will doubtless be an exceedingly popular one. In all the great debates in the Assembly of recent years Dr. Charteris has been a prominent figure, his position, although he has not always commanded a majority of the house, having been marked by moderation and a spirit of conciliation towards those who differed from him.

THE Commission of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland has nominated the Rev. Professor W. G. Blaikie to be Moderator of the ensuing General Assembly. William Garden Blaikie was born in Aberdeen on February 5, 1820. The Moderator-elect of the Assembly of the Free Church was educated at the Grammar School and Marischal College, graduating M.A. in his native town. With the view of qualifying for the work of the ministry, he studied divinity in Edinburgh University. Having been licensed in 1842, he was shortly afterwards ordained minister of the parish of Drumblade. After the Disruption he was called to found the Church of Pilrig, Edinburgh, which was erected by the family of Mr. Balfour, of Pilrig, and some of their friends. There he was minister till 1868, when he was appointed to the Chair of Apologetics and Pastoral Theology in the New College, Edinburgh. Professor Blaikie was editor for some years of the *North British Review*. He was also at one time editor of the *Free Church Magazine* and of *The News of the Churches*. He was a long time associated with the late Dr. Guthrie in the editorship of the *Sunday Magazine*. His best known works are "David, King of Israel;" a little book called "Better Days for Working People," which had an enormous circulation; later he edited the personal life of David Livingstone, and numerous other works on theological and philanthropic subjects. In 1864 the University of Edinburgh conferred on him the degree of D.D., and a few years later he received the degree of LL.D. from Aberdeen University. Dr. Blaikie has taken a fair share in the public work of the Church, especially in regard to mission and temperance work, and his theology has been pervaded by a liberal spirit. During some years he acted as European Secretary of the General Presbyterian Alliance. For ecclesiastical controversy, however, he has no taste, and he has seldom taken part in the proceedings of the General Assembly.

IN an interview with a representative of the *Scottish Leader*, Mr. Moody said that whilst eternity alone could tell what the results of the evangelistic movement have been, he had far more confidence now of great good having been done than he had at the outset. Where the advent of his colleague and himself had been preceded by preparation, and the work followed up after they had left, the results had been very gratifying. For example, there had been excellent results in Aberdeen, Dingwall, Dunfermline, Nairn and Wick. They had never had so much support from the ministers as during this visit, a fact particularly evident in the case of the Established Church, in which the evangelistic spirit seemed to be spreading. The only foundation for the opinion that it is desired to connect the movement closely with the Free Church is that in the north that Church is the strongest and its churches are therefore more resorted to than those of the other denominations. The great size of many of the churches in the outlandish districts had been a surprise to them. A defect, however, was the lack

of a hall for meeting with enquirers. Asked what he thought of Rev. Dr. Rankin's attack, Mr. Moody said that if they had known each other personally the minister of Muthill would not have used the strong language he did. A minister had told him that day that Dr. Rankin was a very fine man, and he, Mr. Moody, was very glad to hear it. The late Dr. Kennedy, of Dingwall, had given utterance to a similar dislike, which a personal interview would probably have completely changed. With regard to the remark of a journal that he would find Scotland very different this time from what it had been on former visits, he had simply to say that he found Scotland more cordial than ever. He had always been very fond of Scotland, and her people had always treated him well. They were very reticent and shy, but when a Scotchman was converted there was stability in him. Everywhere fruits of the work of 1873 and 1882 are being come across. The recent gathering in Edinburgh of ministers and Christian workers was the largest of the kind he had ever addressed, and gave him much encouragement.

THE news of Dr. Donald Fraser's death has evoked a sympathetic interest in Canada, where he was so well known. Reminiscences of him are being called up. The *London Advertiser* says: It will be interesting to know that for a number of years the father of this celebrated divine, John Fraser, was a resident of this city, having come from Inverness, Scotland. He was the first manager of the Bank of Montreal here, then a frame building on Dundas Street, nearly opposite where the Market Lane now is. Shortly after coming to Canada he married a daughter of the well-known Mr. Torrance, of Montreal. He always took an active part in the Liberal ranks. When Lord Elgin visited London Mr. Fraser was one of the delegates appointed to meet him at Nilestown, and drove from there in Lord Elgin's carriage. John Fraser was always a very pious man, and preached in Presbyterian churches in the city quite often. While driving friends out to London township one day a farmer's waggon and team, driven by a reckless driver, collided on the Proof Line near the old Montgomery House, upsetting it and breaking his leg. Death resulted from this accident. His remains were interred where St. Andrews Church now stands, but were afterwards transferred to the Scotch Cemetery, Adelaide Street North. The *Montreal Witness* has the following: Colonel D. Torrance Fraser, brother of the late Rev. Dr. Fraser, of London, had had a letter from Dr. Fraser in the end of January, in which he stated that he was then in excellent health and expected to pay a visit to Montreal in the course of the summer, as he was to attend the Pan-Presbyterian council in Toronto in the summer. Dr. Fraser's great tact made him invaluable to the Presbyterian Church, particularly in arranging matters of difficulty between congregations. It is remarkable that Dr. Fraser passes away within a few days of the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's death. They were great friends, and both were admirers of Mr. Gladstone, with whom they were in complete accord, until the latter's Irish policy alienated them, as will be remembered by those who watched these events. His splendid powers of speech and eloquence on the platform also caused him to be sought after very much. Thus he had to pay many visits to new churches opening up, and to attend meetings for Christian evangelical work. In Canada—in Montreal especially—Dr. Fraser's fiery style and impassioned earnestness are still remembered. Cote Street Church often rang with his denunciation of evil and tyranny. The flowing locks and the bright burning eye of the then young Presbyterian minister often aided that index finger in fixing a point indelibly upon any one. "Dr. Fraser was the only minister that could rivet my attention or interest me as a boy," said a gentleman to Colonel Fraser, while speaking of the death of his brother. This same remark might be made of the rising generation of that day who attended Cote Street Church. To such as heard him Dr. Fraser's words will not be forgotten, and the sorrow at the news of his death will spread over a wide area in the Dominion.