

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Notes of the Week.

The *Bengalee*, a native Indian paper, lauds the French administration in Madagascar, and makes some very disparaging comments upon that of Britain in India in like circumstances. This leads the *Indian Witness* to make this telling rejoinder: "Does the *Bengalee* really believe that French colonial administration is more liberal than the British? Would France allow such a paper as the *Bengalee* to be published in Algiers? While France ruled Egypt were there any National Congresses there? And how many native gentlemen are in authority at Tonquin? If France ruled India, would we still have the Nizam ruling at Hyderabad, and Maharajahs ruling at Mysore, Baroda, Gwalior, Indore, and a score of other places? Verily, prejudice is more obstinate than ignorance. Ignorance can be overcome, but prejudice is invincible."

A most striking indication of the change which has taken place in India as the result of missionary work in that land, is mentioned in the last *Indian Standard*. Speaking of a three days convention held at Lahore for the deepening of the Spiritual Life, that journal says: "The Conference, which was the third of a series of six, was held in the Forman Christian College Hall, and was fully attended from the opening session to the closing one. Delegates from upwards of twenty different stations between Saharanpur and Peshawar, and representing nine different societies, were present all the time. A rough calculation gives over sixty missionaries, over fifty Christian workers, over a hundred students and teachers representing sixteen educational institutions in the Province, and over a hundred visitors. The hall, which seats about three hundred, was crowded at every session, several having to find seats on the platform steps towards the end."

In the present election manœuvres being carried on prior to the Presidential election two prominent issues are protection and the free coinage of silver. These two sinister issues are being found naturally enough allied in certain cases to gain their objects. Speaking of the protected manufacturers, willing for their own selfish ends to enter into this combination, the *Philadelphia Ledger*, an independent Republican journal, describes them as being "those manufacturers who would not be satisfied with any really protective tariff, who would always insist upon a prohibitory one, in order that they might arbitrarily enhance the prices of their products, are of the class that, no matter how enormously its profits grow under high duties, never increases wages, unless compelled by a strike of its employees to do so; that violates the Alien Contract Labor Law by importing cheap labor to compete with domestic labor; a class that extorts from consumers of its wares all it can get and yields as little as possible to the working men and women whose skill and industry produce them. Manufacturers who would do these things for the purpose of adding to the already great wealth which the really beneficent policy of protection has given them, would sell the stars off the flag as readily as they would degrade the national currency, and trample upon the financial integrity and honor of the nation."

A brief note which appears in a city daily illustrates in a striking way how rapidly the ends of the earth are being brought together, and to what extent our own Dominion is becoming a highway of travel to be developed to a degree we yet hardly dream of by means of the C. P. R. and steamboat service. It is to the effect that, a distinguished part of gentlemen, nine in number, with strange names, all from Japan, were registered the other day at one of our city hotels, on their way to St. Petersburg to represent their country and government at the coming coronation of the Czar. What is even more remarkable and more significant for, shall we say the world's future? to add, is that most of the nine speak, read, and write English with remarkable fluency. Their politeness, not only to visitors, but to one another, was remarked upon, while their easy bearing and general appearance was—in the eyes of the westerners—wonderful. They made no fulsome boast, but their quiet, earnest belief in Japan and its people, the tone in which they spoke of their Emperor, and their great men—statesmen, artists, soldiers and authors—testified to their ardent patriotism.

It is impossible to believe a man like Holmes, especially as, in addition to his having a craze for murder, he appears also to have a diseased craving for notoriety. If he has not exaggerated, his deliberate murders appear to be exceeded only those of an infamous woman in London, who, with her accomplices, appears to have made away with between thirty and forty infants put into her hands to be deliberately, as a matter of business, put to death, though not by the ingenious and refined cruelty and brutality of Holmes. If the latter has exaggerated, as it is believed he has, he may well take rank among the coolest, cruelest murderer of his time. It casts a ghastly light upon what constitutes the choicest morsels for Sunday newspapers to learn that the *New York Journal* took special pains to get that gruesome confession for a Sunday issue. Fancy families sitting at home and dining on such a dish of horrors and brutality, and its disgusting details, and the lowering, debasing and brutalizing effect it could not but have upon the average mind and heart. Yet this Sunday paper business is what many would consider a consummation devoutly to be desired amongst ourselves.

Commissioner Roosevelt of New York, for enforcing the law against open saloons on Sunday, has been subjected to violent abuse and many false and slanderous charges to which he makes the following crushing reply: "In making any extended comment, or indeed any comment whether extended or not, on Mr. Pulitzer and his paper, the *New York World*, one involuntarily calls to mind Macaulay's essay on the 'Memoirs of Barere.' One paragraph of this essay runs in part as follows: 'In him the qualities which are the proper objects of hatred, and the qualities which are the proper objects of contempt, preserve an exquisite and absolute harmony. As soon as he ceases to write trifles he begins to write lies—and such lies! A man who has never been in the tropics does not know what a thunderstorm means; a man who has never looked on Niagara has but a faint idea of a cataract; and he who has not read

Barere's Memoirs may be said not to know what it is to lie.' Of course, when Macaulay wrote thus of Barere's pre-eminence in his class, Mr. Pulitzer had not been born. We shall not hereafter take the trouble to deny any unsupported statement whatever that may appear in the *World*." This is the course which we should suggest to Mr. Laurier to follow with some of his detractors both in and out of Parliament.

An agitation has been begun among the friends of the late notorious Ben Butler in Massachusetts to have a statue erected to his memory. It has also called forth strong opposition. One writer lays down well in advance the grounds, which we in Canada may ponder to good purpose, on which a man should be entitled to such distinction before it is given. "Before erecting a statue to any public man let us have a free and long discussion of his career before the people, so that our children and our children's children may know what have been the eminent services to the State of the man whose acts have been so permanently commemorated." The *Boston Herald*, speaking of those who should be thus commemorated, says: "They should be men whom the entire people agree are worthy of that high honor, and whom all unite in regarding as appropriate examples for emulation on the part of the youth of the State. Every statue thus erected should convey the lesson to youth: 'Go thou and do likewise,' and there should be no dissent among any considerable portion of the people from the opinion that the career thus indorsed and honored has been a laudable one. For this reason there should be especial wariness in selecting as subjects for statues those who have but recently died. The judgment of history with regard to them is desirable." Every word true and a pity it had not always been acted upon.

The progress of total abstinence among railroad men is of the utmost personal interest to those who have occasion to travel by rail, which is pretty nearly everybody. A most active promoter of this cause is the Hon. L. T. Coffin, of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Its organization is the Railroad Temperance Association and the badge of membership is a white button bearing the letters R.R.T.A. Of these 130,000 are now worn by railroad men in the United States and Canada. Speaking lately at Baltimore to an assembly of railway men, Mr. Coffin said "that such was his confidence in the railroad men of this nation, he believed if it was left to them to decide whether there should be a saloon within two miles of any railway station or not, there would be such a unanimous, NO! as would well-nigh make the whole earth tremble," and there arose such a tumultuous and long-continued applause, he had to wait quite awhile before he could proceed with his address. So impressed was he with this manifestation of interest that he obtained at once 10,000 buttons, and at a convention representing divisions in all the States, Mexico and Canada, he says that 1,200 went so quick it made his head swim. Between 135,000 and 140,000 have been given out, and he says that his observation is, that this pledge of total abstinence is kept more sacred than any temperance pledge of which he has any knowledge. Mr. Coffin bears the entire expense.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Mid-Continent: Money and brains often defeat justice in this world. But there is no appeal from a decision at the bar of God.

Cumberland Presbyterian: The preacher who speaks always unkindly of other preachers has studied his Bible to poor profit, if at all.

Young Men's Era: The golden age may be in the past, but the golden opportunity in which we are immediately interested is in the present.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: Trial suggests a purpose. God is in it and means some beneficent result. It is His voice calling to a better and purer life. Out of it should emerge a stronger faith, a more chastened spirit, a richer piety and a more confiding love.

Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D.: The cords of enterprise by which this Gospel is to be carried to the ends of the earth are woven out of the very fibres of human hearts. You cannot make them out of gold and silver, or braid them out of commercial interests, or twist them out of public enthusiasm. They are woven on the loom of personal consecration in the secret place with God.

Herald and Presbyter: There are Christian people whose very presence repels any outbreak of unfriendliness. They give out from their lives so much brotherly love that it seems like sacrilege to make an outbreak in their presence. Every Christian is capable of love and peace-making, and this blessed force should be utilized in strengthening the bonds of love and peace among God's people.

President F. L. Patton, D.D.: Moderatism meant (in Scotland, before the disruption and organization of the Free Church) the Gospel without Christ—meant indifference to spiritual things, meant luxurious self-complacency which disregarded the Sabbath and tried to make the best of both worlds. Put morals in place of religion, make Sunday a holiday, deny the need of salvation . . . and you have moderatism. We have plenty of it to-day.

New York Observer: A great many people call upon an editor, and if he is accessible to all who seek him, much of his time goes practically to waste. Dr. Irenæus Prime used to say that he spent more time in grinding other people's axes than in sharpening his own, yet he always kept a keen edge on his own, and it did good service when a giant evil was to be cut down. Some callers are so agreeable, so helpful in their suggestions, so hearty in their sympathy, and withal so considerate of time and place, that it is a pleasure to see them open the door. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," and "He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast," says the wise man; I have some friends who always leave me happier and more hopeful than they found me. They can never call too often. There are others who bring their shadow with them, and it is dense and dark. I have to go out into the sunshine to get warm and comfortable again after their visits.