

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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WE want all our old friends to help extend the circulation of THE PRESBYTERIAN. Premium Lists have been forwarded to all who aided in past years; but should any miss reaching their destination, a postal card intimating the fact will get an immediate reply. Now is the time to commence the work. New subscribers are entitled to balance of the year, free.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

TO take a religious paper it is only necessary to save five cents a week. Any child can do this by running errands or doing a little extra work. Try it!

THE "Edinburgh Review" oracularly says: "Every phase of New Testament scholarship was represented in the New Testament company, but the niceties of idiomatic English appear to have found no champion."

THE Paris Bible Society has just issued a revision of the French Bible, the work of twelve scholars selected by the Society. The publication did not create as much interest as did the late English Revision, so much for the effect of Romanism in France.

As a specimen of the foolish things that can be said when men see but one thing, we quote a short extract from a Baptist paper: "But for infant baptism the Church of Rome could never have existed; it made the Church of Rome, and now the Church of Rome makes it."

THE "Church Times" of London, which professes nothing so much as reverence for the historical Church of England, a few hours after Dean Stanley's death told its readers that the late Dean managed Westminster Abbey as a combination of the Crystal Palace and Madame Tussaud's, with a dash of the Necropolis, and that his absorbing desire was "to secure eligible corpses for interment."

BEWARE of an irreverent tone in the pulpit. Sanctimoniousness lies away on one extreme, undue familiarity with the exalted Lord lies on the other. "A lawyer, who once heard a popular clergyman offer prayer, said: 'If that dominie should address the judge of any Court of Common Pleas in the style in which he addresses the Almighty, he would at once be fined for contempt of court.'"

DR. TALMAGE is nothing if not extravagant. Sabbath week he closed a sermon on the newspapers with the following words: "The Christian newspapers will be the right wing of the apocalyptic angel, and the printing press will be the front wheel of the Lord's chariot." But the best thing Dr. Talmage ever did was to get out of a newspaper, and somehow a great many people call the rant which he talks "eloquence."

IN writing from Jerusalem, Dr. Herman Guthe (who, by the way, is editor of the "Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins") announces that he has the best of material for reading the Siloam-conduit inscriptions, and is able to set the rendering of Professor Sayce to rights in several not unimportant points. In the vicinity of the Pool he also found an unusually large amount of fragments of glass and earthenware, but of comparatively late age.

THE eminent Scotch divine, Horatius Bonar, has said: "While unbelief in various forms is coming in as a flood upon our land, it is comforting to see how faith is returning to France. Superstition and scepticism are in repute with us. They are losing favour with our Southern neighbours. The present French mind seems as open to truth as ours is to error. The Bible is amongst us as a stale and familiar volume; to them it is a fresh book of interest, of wonder and joy."

A WRITER in a contemporary, referring to the value of a religious paper in the family, uses the following strong language: "So deeply do I feel the need of

such a paper as an educating force in my life and home, that I count it not among the luxuries, but necessities of my table. And I am sure that where it is taken and read it will be an invaluable educator of both the home and the church into the life which we live by the faith of the Son of God." Help us, therefore, to circulate THE PRESBYTERIAN more and more widely.

THE Free Church of Italy, best known through Father Gavazzi, was organized by a General Assembly at Milan, in 1870. It is a purely Italian organization, not one of the preachers, except Gavazzi, according to the report of 1876, being able to speak English. The Free Church has been quite prosperous. Though it has derived much of its financial support from Great Britain and the United States, its affairs have been managed so as to avoid contracting debts, which fact is given as a reason why still better progress has not been made.

THE McAll Mission is now entering on the tenth year of its existence with the most cheering prospects. It has now fifty stations in France, twenty-nine of which are in Paris. Ground has been broken in St. Etienne, a large and rapidly growing manufacturing town. The working classes, who form the majority of the people, are nearly all infidels. Some opposition was roused at first, but the halls are now crowded with attentive hearers. Gospel hymns are very popular. "Tell me the old, old story" is as widely sung in the French as in the English tongue. The Bible also often foreruns the preacher. Seven millions of copies have been distributed in France by the British and Foreign Bible Society, principally among Romanists.

THE Japan "Gazette" of September 26th, which has just come to hand, devotes its principal article of two columns and a half to an account of the religious services held on the previous day at the Union Church in Yokohama, in commemoration of the late President. United States Minister John A. Bingham, Admiral Clitz and staff, and other public functionaries, were present, and the whole occasion was solemn and appropriate. The porch-way and the pulpit were draped, and many of the audience wore deep mourning. Rev. J. H. Ballagh preached the sermon. Other parts of the service were conducted by Rev. J. L. Amerman, Rev. A. A. Bennett, and Rev. J. Soper. The holding of this service, and the extended notice taken of it by the leading journal of the country, are events worthy of mention.

THE progress of civil and religious liberty in Austria has been in direct opposition to the strenuous efforts and the anathemas of the Church authorities. Austria has been for ages one of the main supports of Rome, but she has been defeated by Protestant Prussia and the temporal power of the Pope has been overthrown. Religious liberty has been, ostensibly, granted to Protestants, and this populous field awaits now the sowing of the seed broadcast. Eighty per cent. of the people of Hungary are now Protestant, and in Bohemia many conversions have been made. But in the new provinces of Bosnia the circulation of the Bible is restricted far more than under the late Mohammedan rule, and in Moravia and the Tyrol the agents of the Government are very severe against whatever is opposed to Papal rule.

MR. RASSAM finds a complete fulfilment of all the inspired men of old foretold respecting the destruction of Babylon. "If any one wants to be convinced how literally and truthfully the different prophecies about the utter destruction of Babylon have been fulfilled, he has only to visit that country and see with his own eyes the complete desolation of what was once upon a time called in Holy Writ 'the glory of kingdoms.' Indeed, the destruction of that city was so complete that one wonders whether the accounts given of its greatness and magnificence by different Greek and other historians were not rather exaggerated; but the words of God cannot fall to the ground, as Isaiah

predicted that 'the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah;' and again: 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and all the graven images of her gods He has broken unto the ground.'

THE Congregational Jubilee Fund reached £70,000 before the close of the Manchester meetings, which have left only the pleasantest remembrances behind. The "Nonconformist" says the Congregationalists at Manchester caught a little of the Methodist "fervour and passion," and have entered upon a new epoch. It says: "Its (the Union) attention was concentrated on the work which the Free Churches have to do, rather than on the assertion of the rights they have to maintain. Almost every part of that work, at home and abroad, was passed under review, and so discussed as to exhibit a deep conviction that, by the efficient doing of that work, Congregationalists would supply the most conclusive argument as to the value of their own system. The meetings were eminently practical throughout, and in this respect derived considerable benefit from the American visitors. The presence of these Transatlantic friends in such numbers was itself a pleasing feature of the meetings; but such a speech as that of Dr. Storr's on home missionary work has a distinctive value of its own, as pointing the way to that wide concentration of evangelistic force by which alone the work of Church extension can be done."

THE Rev. Dr. William M. Taylor, of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, being asked by a reporter of the New York "Evening Post" to what extent the Revised Version of the New Testament had been adopted in the Congregational Church, said that it was fast replacing the old version in the pulpits. A significant step in this connection was its adoption in Yale Seminary, an institution which has great influence in the Congregational Church. For himself, Dr. Taylor believes that a further revision, in which some account of the consensus of criticism will be taken, will be found advisable before the revision committee disbands. Especially on the score of its English will it need revision, he thinks. The revisers had apparently been too much engrossed by the Greek to consider the English, and the result was that many passages were almost literal translations from the Greek, but had lost all English flavour even to becoming almost unintelligible. The work should be revised again, if only for the purposes of substituting idiomatic English for such passages as the following, in St. John xvii. 24: "Father, that which Thou hast given Me, I will that, where I am, they also may be with Me; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me."

IT was deemed necessary by Pope Pius IX., in 1876, to send an apostolic delegate to Canada, with instructions to confer with the Catholic bishops in reference to questions which had arisen with reference to the meddling of bishops and priests with political matters. Another decree has just been issued on the same subject by the present Pope. It states that there is too much of such interference in politics by the clergy, and, to remedy this excess of zeal, the bishops are reminded that the Vatican, in condemning Liberalism, does not mean to condemn all parties bearing the name "Liberal." It refers only to doctrine; not to politics. Therefore those Catholics who say the Church condemns the Reform party in Canada do not say truly. As to what steps shall be taken concerning Catholics who, on account of alleged undue influence by the clergy, appeal to the courts, the Vatican will lay down no rules, leaving such cases to the bishops, who are to take care to guard the honour of the clergy, and to observe "the greatest reserve in regard to political affairs, especially where there is danger of provoking violent war against the Church, Protestants being already prejudiced and irritated against the clergy, under the pretext of undue interference in political elections." The decree concludes with saying it is the intention of the Holy See to have these instructions "vigorously enforced."