

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

Vol. 25.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th, 1896.

No. 22.

Notes of the Week.

The whirligig of time brings about many curious changes. The "Hall of Science," in Old Street, London, where Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant in the heyday of their anti-Christian career held forth to admiring disciples, has now been secured by the Salvation Army, who propose utilising it as a "shelter." This is enough to make the dead Secularist turn in his grave.

The Senate of Glasgow University have appointed the Rev. Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D., Professor of Apologetics and New Testament Exegesis in the Free Church College, Glasgow, to be lecturer on the now well-known Gifford Foundation for the ordinary term of two years, beginning from October 1st, 1896. The delivery of his first course of lectures will begin, it is expected, shortly after the new year.

At the last meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, the committee on praise reported favourably to the progress made in the production of a joint hymnal for use in all the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, and which it is hoped other Presbyterian Churches in the British Isles and Colonies will adopt. It will be, if it is effected, an outward and visible sign of the unity of all the Presbyterian Churches.

The *Presbyterian*, of London, Eng., learns from several of its American exchanges that leading ministers of New York are excusing themselves from going as Commissioners to the General Assembly, and it is said that this is due to the "exciting and divisive scenes that have marked several of the recent Assemblies. It would be infinitely better," it adds, "for those who are pained by such proceedings to use their influence for improving the conduct of the sittings of the Assembly, instead of letting them slide into a worse state by their absence."

After no little discussion and a warm protest from a minority the union has been effected of the Congregational body and the Evangelical Union in Scotland. But union does not meet with universal favour. An American contemporary says:—"In Scotland Church union does not seem to be favorable with the people; and, under the circumstances, so much the better for their churches. When a church is strong it becomes proud and prosperous, and carries everything with a high hand. A minister of our Church, who lately visited the old country, said that the Presbyterian Church in England and Scotland is high, and the only place he found a pure and real Presbyterian Church was in the North of Ireland. And this testimony from a man of Scotch descent."

Nearly all the dissenting religious bodies in England, and very many within the Church of England itself, draw attention to and deplore the prevalence of ritualistic and Romish tendencies within the Established Church. Here is how a mission chapel was opened at Landport: First came a thurifer swinging the censer, which emitted the odor of incense. Then an acolyte carried the crucible. Both had red cassocks, with shoes, stockings,

and skull caps to match. Some had candles, and one had a cross. Then followed the choir, clergy, and another acolyte with an upraised crucifix, and a censor with incense. Then followed the bishop and each side of him walked two clergymen. Some clergymen wore birettas. 'Father' Dolling followed in gorgeous cope and alb."

As the question of praise in our churches is one of the irrepressible kind, it may be well to quote here the testimony of the late Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, as given in the last *Belfast Witness*, as to the effect on him of praise in Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, so far back as 1831, and to cultivate amongst us in Canada that feature of it which particularly impressed and delighted him. "I was," he says, "at church twice on Sunday; once at the Presbyterian Church, and once at the Episcopal chapel. My impressions, received five years ago, were again renewed and strengthened as to the merits of the Presbyterian Church and our own. The singing is to me delightful. I do not mean the music, but the heartiness with which all the congregation join in it."

The *Free Church Monthly* states that this year's meeting, under the Moderatorship of Principal Miller, of Madras, will be mainly a Foreign and Home Mission one, and it doubts whether Disestablishment will be discussed at all. It also hints at a new scheme. With a view to the revival throughout the whole Church of that home missionary enthusiasm which originated the Wynd movement—and that the Assembly may be asked to make certain somewhat revolutionary changes for the purpose of more effectively carrying on such operations as may seem to be required. A special commission appointed last year has been devoting a great deal of thought to the subject, and has prepared a report which is sure to give rise to discussion, which is precisely what is needed.

The Reform Bureau has its headquarters at Washington, D. C., and its superintendent is the Rev. Wilbur Crafts. Lately the Endeavorers of Mount Vernon, N. Y., presented through it a petition which was granted for the closing on Sabbath of the local Post Office. The action is regarded as important as indicating that in this matter the principle of local option under which thirty Post Offices under Postmaster General Wannamaker, were closed, will be followed up. To improve and watch over the enforcement of the Sabbath, the divorce and such laws is the duty of the Bureau. It has now become international because of some Canadians having joined it, and it is hoped that Canada and the United States may be united in an effort to elevate the Spanish American republics by sowing them with literature on temperance, Sabbath observance and other reforms.

Referring to the million dollar fund of the American Presbyterian Church North, *The Church at Home and Abroad* makes a statement which we believe will be found true of our own Church as well. It says: "The weaker and smaller churches have exceeded the stronger churches in contributions for the Million Dollar Memorial Fund and have exceeded what was expected of them. This ought to be convincing evidence that the Home Mission Churches do give promptly and liberally

according to their means, and do not lie down on the Board to be carried by the rich, as some suppose. It is also an additional evidence that the rural churches contain a great deal of the strength of the Presbyterianism of our country. It is a recognized fact that they are the main dependence for a supply of ministers and missionary teachers, and that they contribute these out of all proportion to their numerical strength."

At the celebration of the jubilee of Professor Green's connection as professor with Princeton Theological Seminary, one of the principal addresses was given by Professor McCurdy, of Toronto University. He took a four year's course in Princeton Seminary and was tutor in Hebrew there from 1873 to 1877. From 1877 to 1882 he was instructor in Oriental Languages, and in 1888 was appointed professor of the same subject in Toronto University. The subject of this recent address was, "Dr. Green's Contributions to Hebrew Learning." President Patton, of Princeton, took the place in the programme of the late lamented Dr. Chambers. The subject of his address was, "Dr. Green's Services to the Church at Large." Dr. William McPheeters, of Columbia, S. C., took the place of Dr. Moore, of Virginia. The celebration marks an important epoch in the history of Princeton, and of the progress of the study of Oriental Literature.

"The Christian Literature Society for India was founded in 1858 as a memorial of the Mutiny. The aim of the Society has been to spread the knowledge of Salvation through Christ among the millions of India, by means of elementary Christian Education and Christian Literature. During the thirty-eight years of its existence it has accomplished a vast amount of work with exceedingly small means. Over 1,100 Christian Teachers have been trained in its different training institutions and sent into the mission field; over 80,000 heathen children have been educated in Christian truth; 1,667 different publications have been printed in 18 languages; and the total number of copies issued since the commencement has now reached the large figure of 21,000,000. The number of copies printed last year was 1,060,900; 8,166 children were under instruction, chiefly in lower Bengal; and 70 students were in the training institution at Ahmednagar."

The judgment of the Privy Council on the Prohibition case submitted to it for decision may not yet be fully understood in all its bearings, but as to its substantial meaning there appears but little doubt. Probably no man in the Dominion is more entitled to be considered an authority upon what the Privy Council judgment means than is Mr. J. J. MacLaren, Q.C., LL.D., who presented the case before the Court for the Government of Ontario. Speaking of the decision to a representative of the *Mail and Empire*, he said that, "roughly speaking, the Privy Council had answered the first six questions submitted to them—which related to whether the Province had power to prohibit—in the negative. With regard to question seven, which referred to the competency of the Ontario Government to pass local option legislation, they had answered it in the affirmative. On the whole the temperance people had reason to be satisfied with the judgment."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Prof. Story: The pulpit never will lose its power, unless the person in the pulpit is powerless.

Ram's Horn: Undertake something for the Lord, in the name of the Lord, and you will soon be surprised at how much you can do.

Mid-Continent: Perhaps there would be less complaint of the minister "preaching over the heads of the people," if the people would study the Bible and sound religious books more, and devote less time to novels and secular newspapers.

Lutheran Observer: The man who omits family worship when company is present is bold before God and bashful before men. Such a man, instead of being ashamed of his God, should be profoundly ashamed of himself.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: That is not the richest Church which has the best furnished theological seminaries, but which has the most Hannahs who devote and prepare the Samuels for the Lord's service. The home is the best place for the preparatory work of the ministry. It will be a sad day for the Church when gifted sons are not laid upon God's altar by Christian parents, and trained for this high and noble purpose.

Dr. Herrick Johnson: The best example of self-denying liberality in the Bible is recorded of woman. The best example of loving service in the Bible is recorded of woman. The best example of conquering prayer in the Bible is recorded of woman. The gift was a widow's mite; the service was the anointing of Jesus with a box of ointment; the prayer was a mother's prayer for a daughter possessed with a devil. Jesus never let fall such words of royal commendation as concerning these three women. Of the poor widow he said, "She hath cast in more than they all." Of Mary he said, "She hath done what she could." And to the Canaanitish mother he said: "O woman, great is the faith! Be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

Rev. W. T. Herridge, B.D. (addressing gathering of Locomotive Engineers, at Ottawa): Whatever be our tariff regulations in other things, in the matters of truth and justice and mutual good will there should always be an unrestricted reciprocity. We are loyal to British institutions, and you would not think much of us if it were otherwise. You are proud of your Republic, of her vast extent, her almost illimitable resources and the extraordinary energy of her people, and you have every reason to be so. But though we differ from you somewhat in modes of government, we are both sprung from the same loins of heroes, we both look back to the same ancient memories, we both speak the same language and belong to the same noble race, and we both share the same magnificent and inspiring task, to mould and fashion the destinies of this great North American continent. Therefore we twine our flags together, and while we say "Long live the Republic," we know that you will answer us: "God Save the Queen?"