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THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY THE Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co.

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Notes of the Week.

A VERY attractive lecture and concert course under the auspices of the Scientific and Literary Society of Toronto University, is announced. Richard A. Proctor, who has done so much to popularize the sublime science of astronomy is to give the first two lectures of the series on Monday and Tuesday evenings, 25th and 26th inst. Mr. Proctor's lectures will be illustrated. Mr. Samuel Brandram, who has acquired a high reputation as a Shakespearian interpreter, is announced to give recitals on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 28th and 29th. The fifth entertainment is not yet definitely arranged for, but will be announced later. Such an effort to provide high-class instructive entertainments is sure, as it deserves, to meet with an encouraging measure of support.

MANY of our readers have remarked how zealous our returned missionaries are in their endeavours to promote the cause in which they are so much interested. When they re visit their native land to recuperate, their presence among us is a double blessing. They profit by the change, the churches they visit take a deeper interest in missions when in the person of the missionary the heathen plead "Come over and help us!" Mr. J. Fraser Campbell has visited the North west and addressed congregations in every part of the Dominion. Rev. H. A. Robertson, writing on the 7th inst., says, "Twenty-one years ago to-day I sailed from Halifax in the *Duyspring* for the New Hebrides." He has not been idle since his return. In all he has addressed 275 meetings, and superintended the printing of his translation of the New Testament into the language of the New Hebrideans.

DR. SEXTON has again visited Toronto and given additional lectures on the relations of science and religion. These lectures are eminently fitted to benefit all who have an opportunity of hearing them. Dr. Sexton delivered a masterly lecture on Evolution in Queen Street Methodist Church last week. He showed from the authority of the greatest living physicists who had given the matter long, patient and careful observation that the theory of spontaneous generation had no evidence in its support. After an able exposition of the theory of evolution the lecturer showed that no satisfactory account of man's origin had been reached apart from that given by revelation "God created man in His own image, male and female created He them." Dr. Sexton is himself a man of varied and profound scientific acquirements, a masterly logician, possessing the art of making his hearers grasp his meaning clearly, and best of all his heart and mind are imbued with the loving spirit of the Gospel.

It may now be almost regarded as certain that the Scott Act will be submitted to the citizens of Toronto for their decision. The resolution to appeal to the ratepayers will not be finally adopted without mature deliberation. In this city the contest will be the keenest of any that has yet occurred. The concentrated efforts of the liquor trade will be energetically directed to secure the defeat of the Act. There must be no lukewarmness among temperance reformers. There must be united, sustained and persistent effort. The vote of Toronto will carry its influence far beyond the limits of the municipality. Last week the Hon. J. B. Finch, of Nebraska, delivered a very able lecture on temperance in Richmond Street Methodist Church,

giving an historical review of the progress of temperance sentiment and work down to the present time, and presenting a powerful appeal for the suppression of intemperance. The meeting by a unanimous standing vote pledged themselves to vote for the Scott Act.

At the meeting of Protestant ministers in Montreal last week the following resolution was passed unanimously. That in the opinion of this meeting, composed of the ministers of the various Protestant Churches in the city of Montreal, full liberty of worship and liberty of speech are rights which belong to all creeds and nationalities in the land, and should be freely accorded without hindrance or question. That the recent acts of the mob in this city, whereby several of the French Protestant Churches have been repeatedly attacked and damaged, are a wanton and unwarrantable interference with these rights, such as merits the severest condemnation. That while gratefully recognizing the service rendered by the police in restraining the violence of the mob, and in seeking to prevent further damage to property and life, this meeting respectfully urges the authorities to take the most vigorous measures to prevent any continuation of these unlawful acts, and pledges to them its hearty encouragement and support in so doing.

THE death of the Right Hon. Henry Fawcett, in his fifty-first year, last week, was an unexpected event. Possessed of a remarkably sound physique, and having enjoyed excellent health, the announcement of his death occasioned surprise. When a young man he lost his eye-sight by an accident. The calamity did not discourage him. It did not diminish his enjoyment of field sports for which he had a strong relish through life. His misfortune did not diminish his intellectual ardour. In early manhood he became a valued contributor to the reviews and magazines, and subsequently published several works on political economy and cognate subjects. He entered Parliament as member for Brighton which he continued to represent till the time of his death. Mr. Fawcett was appointed Postmaster-General in the present Gladstone administration, and discharged with efficiency the arduous duties of his office. Mrs. Fawcett, a lady of much ability, aided her husband in his labours and studies with remarkable devotion.

THE cholera scourge which wrought such havoc along the shores of the Mediterranean, in Italian and Spanish towns as well as in France, having subsided, it was thought that the ravages of the pestilence were stayed for the present season at least. A new alarm, however, has been occasioned by a severe outbreak in Paris. It is now stated that isolated cases had occurred there in midsummer, but so energetic were the precautionary measures and so great the anxiety to suppress the fact that it was thought all danger had passed. It reappeared at Nantes, and now it is extending with alarming rapidity in Paris. It is not confined to one part of the city, though it has fastened on a little street running off the Faubourg St. Antoine, inhabited mainly by rag-pickers, and where the lowest class of drinking saloons are numerous. If the present death rate continues, panic is sure to ensue. Cholera in Paris, if not immediately checked, means its rapid extension elsewhere. On this continent there should be no relaxation of precautionary efforts. When spring comes it is possible that this dread pestilence may proceed westward on its destructive path.

THE betting mania is certainly on the increase. The amount of money staked on the United States Presidential election is simply enormous. In all ranks of life the maddening fever has spread. The magnates of Wall Street, as was to be expected, readily entered into this form of gambling. The boot-blacks and newsboys followed the lead of their "betters." Jay Gould is said to have staked \$15,000, and another enthusiastic politician from the wild West went as high as \$30,000. The betting wave has also swept over Canada. In our cities and towns large sums on the Presidential candidates have been offered and taken. The same absurdity has started in Eng-

land, and heavy bets were made pending the result of the election. People get excited during a keen contest and are prepared to evidence the sincerity of their opinion by the deposit of their money. The bets offered on a candidate are now an element among partizans, exercising an appreciable effect on the result. A bet is no better evidence of a sound opinion than a profane oath is a proof of a swearer's truthfulness, or a duel of a man's courage. The evil is assuming alarming proportions, when in New York city alone, \$2,000,000 were staked on whether Blaine or Cleveland would be President. This demoralizing practice will have to be discarded.

LATE accounts from Montreal indicate that the excited feeling occasioned by Mr. Chiniquy's visit is passing away. On Wednesday evening a body of five hundred young men formed a bodyguard for the protection of the lecturer. They discharged their duty peaceably, seeing him safely to his conveyance, and escorting him home. Having reached his residence, Mr. Chiniquy in brief but characteristic terms thanked the young friends for their kindness in coming to his defence. On Thursday morning a meeting of Protestant ministers was held in Knox Church, to protest against the recent interference by the mob with the meetings held by the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy. Thirty-four ministers were present, connected with the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Reformed Episcopal Churches, convened by the Presbyterian Committee of French Evangelization. The Rev. Principal MacVicar was appointed chairman and the Rev. Professor Shaw secretary. Vigorous speeches were made by representative ministers in favour of freedom of speech, notably by Rev. A. B. Mackay, who maintained the right of Mr. Chiniquy to treat any subject in any way he wished, and if opponents did not like it they need not listen. He claimed that the Protestants of Montreal were too weak-kneed, and on this account Romanists were becoming increasingly intolerant.

IN feudal times the barons were very respectable members of society. They had the *entree* of palace and castle. Many of them lived by plunder. The robber-barons have a place in history. We live in a more peaceful and refined age. Wayfarers do not now encounter knights errant who arrest their progress and rob them on the highway. We have improved on that rude and clumsy method. In our time banks erect magnificent piles of buildings, and the offices are furnished and decorated on the most artistic principles. The modern representative of the robber-baron dresses in the faultless costume of the nineteenth century and has winsome ways. He may by some inscrutable mystery become a bank director or president, and the plunder of the robber-baron of the good old days was trifling compared to the average defalcation of the dishonest bank president of the period. The ex president of the Exchange Bank of Montreal, who finds the air of New York more agreeable than our cold Canadian clime, has been officially interviewed as to his disposition of certain bank funds, and intriguing to wreck the Royal Canadian Insurance Company. With regard to the stock he says. There was a private arrangement between Gilman, myself and another, by which Gilman was to act in purchasing the stock of the Company, and myself and another were to aid him financially in doing so. I allowed Gilman an overdraft in the bank, which money he applied for the payment of shares purchased. When I subsequently, as President, called upon him to pay the overdraft, he partially did so by means of the cheques referred to. I would like to add that the third person referred to is not La Banque du Peuple or any person connected with it. He was then asked. Were you and Gilman and the third party to share in the profits of this Royal Canadian Stock transaction? At the time the arrangement was made between us, Gilman owned a considerable block of stock, over 2,000 shares. The third person and myself were not to participate in the profits arising from Gilman's purchase previous to the date of the agreement, but we were to share in all purchases made subsequently. This agreement, which was in triplicate, was made about the end of 1882 or the beginning of 1883.