

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL 14.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th, 1885.

No. 22.

"In every respect a credit to the Presbyterian Church in Canada."—  
*Barrie Gazette.*

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

"Without doubt the best religious publication in Canada, and a welcome visitor to thousands of families."—*St. John's Beacon.*  
THE PRESBYTERIAN is recommended by the General Assembly as "worthy the hearty support" of the ministers and members.

AN Agent wanted in every congregation in the Dominion. Liberal commissions to suitable persons. Specimen copies mailed free on application. Apply at once to  
**C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Toronto.**

## Notes of the Week.

THE last meeting for the season of the Toronto Ministerial Association was held on Monday week. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Dr. Rose, occupied the chair. The following topics were introduced:—"The Advantages of the Ministerial Association," by Rev. W. S. Blackstock; "How to Make the Association still more Profitable," by Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A.; "Prevalent Sins," by Rev. John Burton. While the various topics received brief consideration, the devotional element was made more than usually prominent. The Association adjourned to meet at the call of the Secretary.

THE Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, at a special meeting held recently, passed unanimously the following resolution: This Board deplores the desecration of the Sabbath by the publishing and selling of newspapers on that day in our city, heartily endorses the steps taken to prevent a recurrence of these acts, or any other interference with the sacred character of the day, and names the President of this Association, Mr. J. J. McLaren and Mr. W. A. Douglass, as a committee to aid in all lawful proceedings to prevent any breach of the laws securing the proper observance of the Lord's Day.

A RUSSIAN Jewish reformer, Joseph Rabinowitz, the leader of a new movement among the Jews of Southern Russia, succeeded in opening, on January 5, at Kishenev, the capital of Bessarabia, a synagogue in which Jesus Christ is recognized as the Holy Messiah. This was done under the authority of the Minister of Police, who was present. In his discourse, Rabinowitz sought to prove that the expectation of the Jews was met in Jesus. A Lutheran minister assisted in the service. The chief hope for the movement lies in the fact that it is from within the Jewish body; and the opening of what may be called a Christian synagogue has created a great sensation among the Israelites of Russia.

AT the reception in Free masons' Tavern, London, given by the Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, Mr. Spurgeon, among a number of good things, said: In regard to all the main articles of Christian faith he held by the Westminster Confession, and he hoped the Presbyterians would never abandon it. They would not easily come by anything better. He did not say that there might not be a minor point or two on which there might be omission or fresh wording, but in everything of importance they ought to maintain that form of sound words. Of course they would not get any credit for doing so from the public judges of intellect and genius. These were of opinion that the great man was he who could cogitate a new system of theology every month. A man's orthodoxy was held to be sufficient proof of his intellectual weakness.

REFERRING to the issue of Sunday newspapers in Toronto, the *Dominion Churchman* says: The scene at the several news offices was extraordinary, they were literally besieged by thousands of customers. Papers were seized and torn as hungry dogs might tear at morsels of meat, and, after all this excitement, the participants simply took home intelligence which they could have gathered from half-a-dozen lines on a

bulletin board! One of the chief officials of a paper issued on Sabbath said to us that no salary would compensate the father of a family for spending Sabbath as he was compelled to do, and that he must seek work elsewhere if called on again for such services. That illustrates well the tyrannous action of a loose state of the law, when men, for bread, would be compelled to violate their consciences and outrage their nobler social instincts if their Sabbaths were not protected by law.

STRANGE infatuations seem at times to take possession of athletes. The insane freak by which Captain Webb lost his life is yet fresh in the public recollection. Another deed of reckless folly has just been added to the long list, showing either that a morbid desire for notoriety, or an inexplicable impulse, can lure strong men to a purposeless death. A swimming expert last week, by a very obvious device, eluded the police on Brooklyn bridge and made the mad plunge of 135 feet into the river beneath. His melancholy death was without benefit to any one. It demonstrated nothing, it verified no theory. He was a martyr neither to principle nor to science. Humanity is not enriched by his life, nor benefited by his death. When rescued from the water he was insensible, but, recovering a momentary consciousness, he asked his friends, "What kind of a jump did I make?" Most people will be disposed to answer that this man, who thus sported with his life and its possibilities, made a very foolish jump.

THE London correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes: I am informed that, in the highest quarters, the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland is regarded as a remarkable success. It has afforded evidence of the strength of the loyal party in that country, which is peculiarly acceptable at the present time, and it has, at the same time, awakened a feeling of cordiality on this side of the Channel, which may, in its turn, have valuable results. Some time ago I stated that the Government had in contemplation—if the time at their disposal was sufficient—the introduction of a measure of the highest importance with reference to Irish administration. It is now pretty certain that nothing can be attempted in that direction during the present year, but I am in a position to state that there is now a decided opinion in very influential quarters that the days of the Vicerealty are numbered, and that in the near future Ireland will be placed on an entirely different footing. Its affairs will be managed by an Irish Minister, similar in his status and powers to the proposed Minister for Scotland. The suggestion that there should be a Royal residence in Ireland is, I have also reason to believe, receiving serious consideration.

OF the gallant young Lieutenant Fitch, who fell in the charge of the Royal Grenadiers at Batoche, and whose impressive funeral took place in this city this week, the Rev. Principal King, of Manitoba College, writes: It is twenty-two years since I first saw him, then a winning child of four years of age, the joy and pride of his father and mother. He attended for many years the Gould Street Presbyterian Church, and was a pupil in its Sabbath school. He was all through a gentle and affectionate youth, seldom meeting one without a smile. It is not singular that he was greatly beloved by a wide circle of friends and that he was an object of special fondness to his parents, who saw in him not only an only son, but one in every way dutiful and affectionate. There have been already many mournful losses in this deplorable and, one can scarcely avoid saying, most unnecessary conflict; there cannot have been many, if indeed any, which will occasion wider and more tender sorrow than this. His parents, old and respected citizens of Toronto, will receive from all who know them the deepest sympathy; but how little can even such sympathy do to relieve the life-long sorrow which must be theirs.

LOUIS RIEL fell an easy prey to those who went in pursuit of him after the rebels were driven from

Batoche. Maxime Lepine has also surrendered; the only other Half-breed leader of consequence is Gabriel Dumont, who hitherto has managed to elude capture. Poor Riel is at this moment an utterly discredited hero. By those so recently associated with him he is spoken of as a miserable poltroon. It seems somewhat peculiar that his possession by the commander of the forces in the North-West should be so very embarrassing. After his first attempt at rebellion he was treated with worse than mistaken leniency. Had he been adequately punished for his first crime, it is all but certain he would have been the last man to engage in a second attempt. Through his instrumentality serious injury has been done to the immediate prospects of the North-West; the rising has made a heavy drain on the public finances, and many valuable lives have been sacrificed by the criminal folly and culpable ambition of a petted demagogue. Let him have a fair and speedy trial, and let inflexible justice be done, despite race or provincial prejudices, sickly sentiment or party exigencies. Stable government, the principles of justice and true loyalty forbid paltering with treason.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Peterborough Review*, writing from Atlanta, Georgia, states that the sixteenth annual International Secretaries' Conference of the Young Men's Christian Association has just closed, having held its sessions from Thursday to Monday last in the city of Chattanooga, Tenn. The gathering included about 170 secretaries from all parts of the States and Canada, from Portland, Oregon, on the west, to Bangor, Maine, on the east, and from Peterborough on the north, to New Orleans on the south. There were also present the secretaries of the London, England, Association, and from Berlin, Germany. The conference was deeply interesting and very instructive. Many topics relating to the better accomplishment of the Association work were discussed, the experience of the older secretaries greatly benefiting those more recently in the work. The discussions were frequently spirited, but the greatest harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout. On Sunday, 10th May, a very large open air meeting was held at the railway station, which resulted in great spiritual awakening. Immediately afterwards, the largest hall in the city was filled by a mass meeting for young men, at which even greater results were seen. Other meetings were held on Monday and Tuesday evenings with similar experiences.

THE sittings of the United Presbyterian Church Synod were begun in Edinburgh on the 14th inst., when Dr. Logan Aikman, Glasgow, was unanimously elected Moderator. Before vacating the chair, the retiring Moderator, Dr. Hutton, Paisley, delivered a short address, in which he referred to the present political crisis. While they prayed for peace, they also prayed for the final liberation of Churches from State control, and, come war or peace, Disestablishment with its equalities and self-resources approached. It was reported at the Synod meeting on Tuesday that the number of church members was 179,801, an increase of nearly 1,700 over last year; while the Sunday schools numbered 92,000, an increase of 2,000. The morning and afternoon sittings of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church on Wednesday were entirely devoted to the consideration of the report of the Home Mission Board on the Scheme for the Augmentation of Stipends. A great many proposals were made, but in the end, by a large majority, a motion was carried remitting the whole subject to a special committee to draw up a scheme, to consult Presbyteries, and to report. The evening sitting was devoted to consideration of mission schemes, and to the hearing of agents from abroad. The total income from all sources of the United Presbyterian Church for the year 1884 was \$1,950,980. The income from purely congregational sources, \$1,760,325, shows an increase of \$55,250 on that for the year 1883; but the income from non-congregational sources, \$187,650, shows a decrease of \$93,715 on that for the year 1883. There is thus a decrease of over \$35,000 in the total income of the Church, but this is more than accounted for by the falling off in the amount of legacies paid to the home and foreign mission schemes.