

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 20.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th, 1891.

No. 17.

IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

IMPROVED SCHOOL REGISTER

For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

Both the above have been carefully prepared in response to request made for some thing more complete than could heretofore be obtained, by the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Convener of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. These books will be found to make easy the work of reporting all necessary statistics of our Sabbath Schools, as well as preparing the reports asked for by the General Assembly. Price of Class Rolls 60 cents per set. Price of School Registers 10 cents each. Address—

PRESBYTERIAN PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO. (Ltd.)
5 JORDAN ST., TORONTO.

Notes of the Week.

THERE is under consideration a plan for a South American Roman Catholic Council on the model of the one recently held in Baltimore. When it will be held is not yet decided, but the majority of the bishops indorse the project. The aim of the Council will be the entire re-organization of the American Churches.

FOURTEEN Presbyteries in the United States have taken action in regard to the teachings of Professor Briggs, of Union Theological Seminary, New York. They either protest against the confirmation of Professor Briggs by the Assembly or they propose a thorough investigation of his position before such confirmation.

PRINCIPAL RAINY delivered the closing address of the Session at the New College, Edinburgh. Referring to the discussion of public questions in the pulpit, he said that it was only on matters in which principles of morality or Christian principle were conspicuously concerned that the pulpit could usefully and worthily be heard.

THE M'All Mission is prospering in Grasse. A hall has been hired, and large audiences gather every Sunday to hear the Gospel. M. Réveilland and M. Hirsch, from Paris, lately visited the charming little town and held a series of meetings in the local theatre. A new branch of the mission has been established at Besançon, the birthplace of Victor Hugo.

GOOD work, it is said, is already being accomplished by the Glasgow branch of the Anti-Gambling League. At the last meeting of its committee Mr. Bogle, the secretary, submitted a correspondence with the Lord-Advocate, who intimates his acquiescence in the suppression of lotteries. Instructions were given to report to the authorities a Church bazaar about to be held in Glasgow at which a lottery is announced.

AT the International Convention of Old Catholics held in Cologne, it was learned that quite a colony of Jansenists still existed in France. In all they number about 5,000 souls in Forez and Dauphiné. They have been without church and priest, their old men having led in worship, and the works of Nicole and Hamonbourg constituted their source of edification. They have now petitioned the Old Catholics to supply them with a priest.

THE census of India shows that the total population, 285,000,000 in 1891, has increased by 30,000,000 in the ten years since the last census in 1881, but of this increase 3,000,000 is due to accessions of territory by conquest. Allowing for that, the rate of increase seems to have been nearly twelve per cent., and if it continued for fifty years the population would then reach the stupendous total of 500,000,000. Even now India holds a fifth of the human race.

DR. DUDGEON, of Pekin, delivered a striking address at the annual meeting of the Glasgow branch of the society for the suppression of the opium trade, over which Mr. Andrew Mitchell presided. Mr. William C. Maughan read the report which stated that the consumption of opium was increasing in India and the Straits Settlements, but two Asiatic nations, Japan and Corea, have had the courage and enlightenment entirely to prohibit the import and use of the deadly drug.

THE American Presbyterian Assembly is to meet next year in Portland, Oregon. This puts the vivacious Chicago *Interior* into an ecstacy of delight. In this fashion it relieves its pent-up feelings. Ho for the Pacific slope in '92! There is \$25,000 already in sight for the extra expense of the Assembly in going to Portland. The other 'slopers will put up enough to pay the balance of it. They want the Presbyterian Church to see for itself its empire of the setting sun. Then we shall be 3,000 miles from New York. That alone will be worth the money.

A REGULAR contributor of the Belfast *Witness* writes. The age of sensibly-conducted meetings is surely come. At the Royal Hospital a large assemblage, under the chairmanship of Sir David Taylor, elected a house physician. The usual preliminaries were gone through—they heard the speeches of the proposers and seconders, took the vote between the rival candidates, and elected one of them—all in the space of twelve minutes! I am glad to think that the Longwinds and the Interminables are finding their occupation gone. Dr. Morrow, who has got the hospital, is very highly spoken of.

THE Belfast correspondent of the *British Weekly* writes: The closing meeting of the General Assembly's College, Belfast, was held recently under the presidency of Principal Killen, D.D. The Gamble Library Hall was crammed with an audience eager to hear Dr. Heron, Professor of Church History, discourse on "The one Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church." The address was chiefly a review of Mr. Gore's book, "The Church and the Ministry," and certainly any one who went expecting to hear a thoroughgoing bit of historical and theological criticism did not go disappointed away. Dr. Heron contended ably for the New Testament episcopate pure and simple.

THE *New Zealand Presbyterian* reminds treasurers of congregations of the regulation passed by the Synod for the payment of probationers. In doing so it quotes the regulation, which speaks well for the liberality of the congregations under the Southern Cross. It is as follows: The vacant congregation shall be held responsible for the payment of probationers and ministers sent as supply, and shall pay at the rate of, at least, \$20 per week in cases in which the charges were self-sustaining before the vacancy occurred, and in which full ministerial service is rendered by the supply sent; and in cases in which charges were not self-sustaining, at the rate of \$15 per week for similar service, but for mere pulpit supply it shall be at the rate of \$10 for every Lord's Day, along with travelling expenses.

THE *New York Independent* says: The Federal Government of Canada waited until after the elections before taking action on the Manitoba School Act and Dual Language Act. These two Acts passed by the Manitoba Provincial Parliament provide for the abolition of the Catholic separate schools and the disuse of the French language in the courts and Legislature. The Federal Government has decided not to veto these laws, leaving them simply for the action of the courts to decide on their constitutionality. In Ontario and Quebec the system of separate religious schools, now done away in Manitoba, is still enforced. But the Manitoba people thought they had no use for sectarian schools. This shows the drift in Canada, and if, as seems likely, the courts maintain the constitutionality of these laws, the separate schools in these provinces cannot long be maintained.

IT is stated that not very long ago, an old man and his son, living in a small town in Russia, were suspected by their priest of heterodoxy. The priest, wishing to test their orthodoxy, visited them, taking with him an *icon*, or holy picture. This he held, asking the suspects "What is this?" "An image," was the joint reply. "An image of what?" enquired the priest. "Of wood," returned the heretics. They should have answered that it was a holy *icon* of God, and then the priest would have been as-

sured of their orthodoxy. The priest set the law in motion, and father and son were arrested and thrown into gaol. After a two months' imprisonment they were tried on a charge of blasphemy, found guilty, and sentenced to banishment to Siberia. But they had the temerity to appeal, and the Court of Appeal in Tiflis, after a long hearing of this question, decided that the *icon* was actually an image, and was likewise made of wood. Father and son returned to their home. Now it is proposed that persons similarly accused shall be deprived of the right of appeal, the sentence pronounced by the court being immediately put in execution.

THE *New Zealand Presbyterian* has the following: It is generally supposed that the proceedings of ecclesiastical bodies are dry and uninteresting to the public, and that those of the Presbyterian General Assembly are no exception. The sitting concluded yesterday has, however, differed considerably from the rule, and not only have the debates been free from dry, set, or dogmatic speeches, but there were now and then humorous sallies that "brought down the house." One of the northern members was specially noted for his dry humour, and whenever he arose there was always an expectant look on the faces of members as something amusing was anticipated. On one occasion a member rose to move a motion, when the humorist also got up, and the former sat down. The northern member thanked his friend for giving way to him, especially as he wished to take the opportunity of moving the motion for a private reason. When he left home his wife said to him: "How is it that I don't see your name in the reports of the Assembly as having moved a motion?" He had replied: "My dear you don't know anything about it. If you were there you would not move a motion either. There is just a coterie of members who move all the motions." His wife replied: "Well, if you do not move a motion this time you will not go back to the Assembly." The gravity with which the statement was made only tended to aggravate the burst of merriment that followed. Later on the humorous member seconded a motion, when one of his friends remarked to him: "That is another point for you."

THE death of Dr. Adolph Saphir took place recently at his residence, Lansdowne Road, Notting Hill. Mrs. Saphir had died four days before. They were closely bound in life, and in death not very far divided. Dr. Saphir was one of the fruits of the Free Church Jewish Mission at Pesth, and he came over to Edinburgh as a student in New College. He brought to the work of the Christian ministry very rare gifts. His acquaintance with German writers, particularly with the Christian mystics, was both wide and deep, and he attached himself with peculiar tenacity to the theology of the Cross. His literary gift was marked from the first and soon attracted the attention of Dr. Norman M'Leod, who engaged him as a contributor to *Good Words*, in which his earliest papers appeared. He was first settled in the ministry at South Shields, where he published his book on "The Conversions of the Bible," which, although like all his writings unequal, contains some very fine and noble passages, perhaps the most memorable ever written by him. He soon found his way to London, where he acquired very great influence as a preacher and as a religious writer. His health was delicate; the exertion of preaching twice a day was too much for him, and he was thus compelled to resign his pastorates both at Notting Hill and Belgrave, though to the last he preached when he could. He supplied the Presbyterian pulpit at Bournemouth during part of the winter. In his own way, Dr. Saphir was undoubtedly one of the best preachers of the day. Many hearers felt that he went deeper than anyone else, and although his discourses were long, and apt to be somewhat diffuse, they were to the last full of felicities in style and thought. His vogue as a writer rather declined, but his books are always worth reading and consulting. His sympathies were wide, and he numbered many well-known literary men among his early friends. He has left an appreciable impress on the religious life of England.