

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 19.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th, 1890.

No. 15.

Notes of the Week.

MR. ARNOLD, Secretary of the British branch of the Evangelical Alliance, announces that the next Ecumenical Conference of the Alliance will be held in the city of Florence, Italy, in April, 1891. He says that for several years past it has been in contemplation to hold one International Conference in Italy, but the way has not been open until the present.

THE Rev. W. A. Primrose, a young Irish minister of exceptionally high character and promise, has died under peculiarly sad and touching circumstances. After a very distinguished collegiate career, he was called in September last to the important charge of First Ballymoney; but almost simultaneously was attacked by his last illness, and, resigning the pastorate, retired to his father's home, where he has died, deeply regretted.

THE trustees of Robert College, Constantinople, appeal to friends of Christian education in the east for \$150,000 to build a chapel, halls, gymnasiums, etc., and also to increase the endowment fund for two new professors. The people of the east have manifested their confidence in this institution by paying about \$500,000 for the education of their sons in it; and many hundreds of its alumni are growing up to be leaders of their people.

PROFESSOR HENRY DRUMMOND has left for Melbourne in response to the invitation from the students in the university of that city to labour for a time in their midst. The professor expects to be absent about six months, and intends, if possible, to visit Tokio University, Japan, on his way home. He is taking with him the cap and belt and other accoutrements of the Boys' Brigade, for the purpose of giving that organization a start in the colony.

It is likely that the Rev. William Park, of Belfast, an accomplished scholar, an eloquent preacher, and a devoted Christian worker, will be appointed Moderator of the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Mr. Thomas Sinclair, J.P., Belfast, an elder, has been suggested. Mr. Sinclair would adorn the position, and the church, says the *British Weekly*, would then make as effective a protest against sacerdotalism as is well competent to her.

THE Lutheran Church in Russia is about to be brought under the control of the State, as a part of the scheme for the more perfect Russification of the German elements of the Baltic provinces. The stubborn independence of the Lutheran pastors has been a great obstacle to the carrying out of this policy, therefore it is proposed that these pastors shall only be appointed or confirmed in their appointments after the consent of the secular authority at St. Petersburg has been obtained. A similar rule applies to the Roman Catholic clergy in Russia.

SAYS the *Christian Leader*: When Dr. Duff began his work in Calcutta he looked upon female education as an impossibility. "You might as well," he said, "try to scale a wall 500 yards high as attempt female education in India." To-day there are more than 90,000 females receiving instruction in the Province of Bengal, and many of India's most gifted daughters are pressing forward into the higher departments of education. What fifty years ago was the missionary's despair is now his brightest hope.

THE Rev. Andrew Urquhart, M.A., senior Free Church minister at Portpatrick, died recently in his eighty-sixth year. He was ordained in that town in 1832, and at the Disruption took the great part of the congregation with him. For the first four months of its existence the people worshipped in the open air, the bigoted proprietor of Dunskey estate refusing both site and material. Ultimately a site was obtained from a private source, while the sand was brought from Arran and the stones from another parish. Mr. Urquhart was a fellow-student and life-long friend of Dr. Candlish and one of his sisters was married to the late Dr. Watson, of Dundee.

THE London Evangelization Committee of the English Presbyterian Church have had under consideration the question of Mr. McNeill's being employed to conduct evangelistic services on Sunday afternoons in the Central Hall, Holborn, or some other suitable building. Mr. McNeill has given his consent, and a guarantee fund has been raised to secure the cost of advertising and hire of hall. Dr. Fraser ventured to warn Mr. McNeill against overtaxing his strength by preaching three times every Sunday; but Mr. McNeill, in reply, said he had been preaching, however, three times every Sunday since he had entered the ministry, and even before that, and he did not as yet feel any bad effects of it. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the services.

MEMORIALS have continued to pour in upon the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference reflecting the views of the Christian Church and Temperance reformers on the drink question in Africa. A memorial from the Church of England Temperance Society, bearing the names of the two archbishops, chairman, Canon Ellison, and others, was presented. The President, in reply, said that he was hopeful that the great zone, consisting chiefly of the regions under Islam, which is as yet untouched by the drink traffic, may be preserved intact, and that it is possible that a great improvement may be made in the districts where the traffic has gained a footing by the imposition of a general import duty upon an identical scale all round the coast.

THE Rev. John Smith, of Broughton Place Church, has given notice in Edinburgh Presbytery of a motion to the effect that in respect it was incumbent on the Church, especially in times of general inquiry regarding the authority and substance of the faith and its bearing on current problems, to devise some means for adequately considering present-day questions, and in respect it was of prime importance that fuller opportunity should be given them than was possible during the meetings of the Synod for conference as to spiritual life, the Presbytery should overture the Synod to take means to ascertain the mind of the Church on the expediency of appointing annually such a representative gathering or conference as might be sufficient to meet these ends.

ON the motion of Rev. R. A. Watson, the author of "Gospels of Yesterday," Dundee Presbytery have unanimously agreed to overture the U. P. Synod, asking for a special inquiry into the present position and working of the theological college. Mr. Watson said that throughout the Church grave doubts existed as to whether the college was efficient. The students' action in criticizing their professors had been criticized, but they must remember that the Synod had imposed a fee upon the students attending the college, and that change, he expected, had given the students a feeling that they had a right to criticize the teaching. Rev. John Reid thought the inquiry would do good if some arrangement was come to, whereby there should be some supervision or superintendence of the work of the professors.

THE following sensible expressions appear in last week's issue of the *Pittsburgh United Presbyterian*: The ministers get many intimations that they should preach on certain subjects, and very often instructions, or what amount to instructions, that they should do it on specific days. One day they are delivering sermons on civil service reform, another on the labour question, a third on temperance, the Sabbath, child labour, or some other theme that may be the absorbing one of an individual or the excitement of a neighbourhood. Sometimes it is also promised that the churches agreeing to these proposals shall be favoured with the presence of interested persons, who, though they do not attend regularly the preaching of the Gospel, will be pleased to hear discussions of these important questions. There is an element of good in all this; it suggests to ministers what people are thinking about, and now and then enables them to address them, not alone on their favourite themes, but on the truth of salvation itself.

Beyond that it may not have much value, as the ordinary minister learns from his own observation what is best and most seasonable for those who are to hear him.

DR. THAIN DAVIDSON, in one of his recent discourses, frankly announced as detestable the way in which some well-meaning but foolish and ignorant people speak as though depth in depravity were the most fitting qualification for receiving the Gospel. By some street preachers and in certain mission halls, he said, things are said that are fitted to convey the impression that, other things being equal, drunkards, libertines and profligates are positively more acceptable to God than those whose lives are morally pure; and if some vile wretch has been picked up out of the gutter of bestiality, and persuaded to utter the Gospel shibboleth, he is trotted out before the community as a living proof that, compared with the better classes of society, thieves, adulterers, blacklegs and villains of every kind, are very near the kingdom of God. I call this a hideous and blasphemous burlesque of the Gospel. It is high time the notion were forever exploded, that a man must be a rake before he can taste the joy of true conversion; and that human hearts, like boots, must be smeared and blackened before they are polished. This sensational evangelism is as hateful as it is unscriptural.

THE appointment which has been made to the Chair of Greek in our Belfast Queen's College is, says the *Belfast Witness*, one which must give general satisfaction. There has been selected for the professorship a gentleman who is at once a highly accomplished Greek scholar and an educationist of lengthened and most successful experience, while the natural desire of the *alumni* of the college to have its chairs filled by Queen's men has been gratified by the appointment of a former student, the traditions of whose career there still linger about the class-rooms. To the Presbyterian Church it must be peculiarly gratifying to have such an important chair filled by a scion of the excellent Dill stock, and especially by a son of the venerated Rev. Dr. Dill, of Ballymena and Derry. The appointment may, we presume, be taken as an indication of the wish of the Government to maintain in the college that due proportion among the religious denominations which is requisite to preserve the confidence of the community. Even with the addition of Prof. Dill, the college has only some seven or eight Presbyterians among its eighteen professors. There can be no question that, all round, the appointment is an excellent one, and one which must signally redound to the advantage of the college.

THE first Presbyterian church and manse in the Australasian colonies were erected at Hobart, Tasmania, for Rev. Archibald Macarthur, who was sent out in 1822 by the United Associate Presbytery of Edinburgh. His ordination took place in the church of Dr. Jamieson, the Scottish lexicographer, Mr. (afterwards Principal) Harper being the preacher. It is common in the other colonies to assign the premier position to the Scots church at Sydney, and to speak of Dr. Dunmore Lang as the pioneer Presbyterian minister of Australasia. But authentic records show that he did not arrive in Sydney till May, 1823, nearly six months later than Macarthur. Rev. James Scott, preaching in 1855 at the celebration of the jubilee of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart, gave the dates with minute care; and he mentioned that Dr. Lang, shortly before his death, informed him that he visited and preached in Hobart before he entered on his ministry in Sydney. Mr. Macarthur resigned in 1835. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Presbyterian settlers on the banks of the Hawkesbury at Portland Head, New South Wales, had built a church in 1809; and from 1802, the year in which these colonists arrived, they held religious services after the form of the church of their fathers for twenty-one years before the arrival of a minister. Mr. Macarthur's successor at Hobart was Dr. John Lillie, sent out by the Church of Scotland in 1837. For his successful work in vindicating the equal status of his church against the claims of the Anglican body, he received the degree of D.D. from Glasgow, his *alma mater*.