

# The Presbyterian Review.

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## OVER LAND AND SEA.

Walk with us, Jesus, when the day is spent ;  
The robin's voice is full of tenderness,  
And all the air is silent with excess  
Of sweet devotion, peace and calm content.  
Ope thou our hearts that we may see aright  
The scripture of the world, the burning page  
That shines upon our eyes from every age,  
A warning fire to sin, a tender light,  
With vistas of the great immortal throng.  
Ask us, O Jesus, if we understand,  
The wondrous voices of the sea and land,  
As thou didst them who read the prophet's song,  
And knew Him not their blessed risen Lord.  
Read thou with us thy Father's hidden word !

A century ago Presbyterianism held the eighth place among denominations of the United States. Now it is in the fourth.

"The Sabbath School Association of Ontario intend holding the half yearly meeting of the general Executive Committee in Toronto about May 22nd, when arrangements will be made for the 31st Provincial Convention which will be held in London Ont., on October 27th 28th and 29th.

The Province of Ontario is entitled to send 57 delegates to the International Sabbath School Convention to be held at Boston in June next. A number of delegates have already been chosen and the remainder will be appointed at the half yearly meeting.

Much interest is shewn in the work of the Association, throughout the Province. The County Associations are co-operating heartily both financially and otherwise."

The total population of the earth is estimated at about 1,200,000,000 souls, of whom 32,214,000 die annually—i.e., an average of 98,848 a day, 4,020 an hour and 67 a minute. The annual number of births, on the other hand, is estimated at 36,792,000—i.e., an average of 100,800 a day, 4,200 an hour and 70 a minute.

Dr. Cuyler of Brooklyn preached his fiftieth anniversary sermon on Easter Sunday. Though now retired from the active duties of the pastorate his industry is increasing. It is stated that in a single week recently current numbers of forty religious papers, reaching six hundred and forty thousand subscribers, contained articles from his pen. May he long yet be spared to charm the public with his glowing eloquence. His articles are ever directed to the quickening of spiritual life and to the stimulating of a healthy active piety.

The *British Weekly* invited information from its readers in all parts of the United Kingdom as to the length of the sermons preached in the churches of all denominations on the 8th of March last. Naturally there was considerable variety in the returns, but the two extremes were wider apart than one would have imagined. Two stretched out to one hour and twenty eight minutes while the shortest was five minutes and three quarters. It is not very surprising to find that one of the two longest was delivered at John O'Groats' in the extreme north of Scotland. It was hardly to be expected however that the shortest should be in an English Methodist Chapel. More than one half of those reported on were thirty minutes or over.

First week in April the two Presbyterian Colleges in Belfast and Derry held their closing meetings previous to the long vacation. Professor Heron, in Belfast, gave a lecture on "The title, 'The Church of Ireland,' and the claim involved in it historically considered." He showed that the Anglican Church was never in any real sense the Church of the *Irish* people, never in any true sense *national*, that never since history began has a claim been set up and a title assumed with so little warrant, or a fiction foisted on the world as history with so infinitesimal a nucleus of fact. He urged that the Episcopal Church should be content with the title, "The Anglican Church in Ireland," and renounce a title which is not defensible either on the ground of history or charity.

In Derry, Professor Petticrew continued his defence of Calvinism with which he had begun the session, and dealt with the passages in the Gospels which, he believes, favor the system. Dr. Horton again came in for severe criticism for statements in his book, "The Teaching of Jesus."

Cardinal Manning was quite opposed to the organising of a Romish house of learning at Oxford, thinking it dangerous to his Church. But Cardinal Vaughan has no such fears. On the contrary we learn with horror that the Jesuits have come to Oxford in full swing. The embargo laid by the College of the Propaganda on Oxford and Cambridge has been withdrawn, and we are told that a well-known gentleman in Society is now the Papal Legate at Oxford; and that he is seldom absent from the more important academic functions at Oxford. Then in vacation he is off to the Vatican, where he is one of the Pope's chamberlains. For the past sixty years the Oxford atmosphere has been most hurtful to the Protestant faith; but the dangers are now so much increased that, notwithstanding all its literary—pecuniary social, and academical—advantages, all true Protestant parents should think twice, and even ten times, before they expose their sons to the intrigues of the Jesuits. Gold can be bought too dear.

It is wonderful how concentrated some minds are in regard to Foreign Missions. We are told that they are too costly, that we are spending too much money abroad in this sort of work; yet such persons have nothing to say about the enormous sums spent in personal luxury or in various kinds of amusement. It seems to them a wasteful expenditure to contribute millions for the spread of the Gospel, yet all that is given to this purpose is a mere pittance compared to what is lavished upon even one item of worldly gratification. Statistics show that all the Protestant Churches of the United States give annually to Foreign Missions \$11,250,000. How large the sum and how creditable to the Church! say some. What a tremendous waste! say others. But, on the other hand, note how paltry this sum appears alongside of what is "paid every year by the American people for their theatrical entertainment!" Dion Boucicault said that it amounts to \$200,000,000. Think of it and make the application! Eighteen dollars annually is given to maintain the theater, whose influence is demoralizing, and which the country could dispense with to its moral advantage, for each dollar yearly contributed to extend the Gospel to the nations of the earth, or to multiply an agency which carries Christian enlightenment and redeems humanity.—*Philadelphia Presbyterian*.