

FRENCH PROTESTANTISM IN CANADA.

Showing the opinion of the ministers and most intelligent of the laymen among the French Protestants in favor of a union of all their separate missions into an independent national church, I give in this letter another instalment of testimonies.

From an educated layman who has done a good deal of mission work: The present system of conducting French missions work is very defective and urgently needs to be revised. First, because it tends to confirm rather than dispel the popular prejudice that every sect of the French religion is a different religion.

From a minister of long experience, high ability, and a close observer: I believe that it is very desirable, if it were possible, that all the churches in Canada should combine and form but one, the members agreeing to leave in abeyance their denominational views and to unite on the fundamental Christian truths.

From a regularly settled pastor over a congregation in another city: I believe it is very desirable, if it were possible, that all the churches in Canada should combine and form but one, the members agreeing to leave in abeyance their denominational views.

From a layman in Montreal, formerly a missionary: The divisions of Protestantism do us an immense injury. I am certain the Gospel would be preached more extensively in our country if the various sects were united.

From another country minister of long experience: I believe a union in heart and mind and spirit between Christians is possible, but it is possible to form an external union.

From the Rev. Jos. Provost, formerly Presbyterian minister of Montreal, now of Mowbraytown, Ohio: In Canada, where the Protestant element meets with the opposition of Rome at every step, it is necessary to be united.

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The conflict of sects and the confusion resulting from it are a direct obstacle to the conversion of French Roman Catholics to the Gospel.

I have other testimonies to the same effect, and since these letters began to appear they are arriving unsolicited, but wanting of space precludes me from presenting more.

No English Christians have done more— or as much—for the evangelization of French-Canadians than Mr. John Dougall, the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, the late James Court and the late Rev. Dr. Taylor.

Reaching beyond the present and penetrating the future, he cherished a hope which was dear to his heart, and to which he devoted much of his time and energy.

This letter was signed by Prof. Coussart, the Rev. Messrs. Ducloux, Lafleur, Doudiet, Cruchet, and Mr. F. L. Van Buren.

The total amount paid into the British Exchequer on account of rent and royalties and other revenues of the Crown Lands for the year ending March 31 last was \$1,900,000—a less sum than \$1,800,000 for the year 1877-78.

By a special agreement with the Government, the proceeds of the Crown Lands are to be applied to the improvement of the lands and to the benefit of the people.

It is a very interesting and instructive volume, and one of the best of the kind published in this country.

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LITERARY REVIEW.

One of the most magnificent and beautiful books prepared for the holiday season, contains the last great work of Gustave Doré's pencil—a series of twenty-six drawings illustrative of *The Raven*, by Edgar Allan Poe, and drawn expressly for Harper Bros., who publish the illustrated poem with every luxury of paper, type and engraving.

Do not profess a series of variations upon the theme as he conceived it, "the enigma of death and the hallucination of an insupportable soul."

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tion of "Lead, Kindly Light," by John Henry Newman. There are eight illustrations by W. St. John Harper and G. K. Halm, while each verse is printed with a different design of buff on white. (Dawson Bros.)

FRENCH-CANADIAN PROTESTANTISM.

Sir,—It might be supposed, from Mr. Abbott's paper in last Saturday's Witness (8th inst.), that I favor his views on French-Canadian Protestantism.

I. The real, permanent causes of divisions among Christians are, I think, on one hand, the unfairness of the human mind, which cannot take for granted any of the truths revealed for every man to act according to his own light.

2. The English churches which carry the work of evangelization in Canada, as well as in foreign lands, have chiefly in view the glory of God and the spiritual welfare of immortal souls.

3. As to the missionaries themselves, if they were absorbed by "little quarrels and denominational jealousies," as they are represented to be, they would not be doing their duty.

4. We are advised to amalgamate the French churches, in other words, to form a new church, which would be a great step forward.

5. I am glad to see that by the publication of Mr. Abbott's letters your mind has been cleared up.

6. The Diotiss; or, A Far Look Ahead, by Ismar Thuisen (G. P. Putnam's Sons), is a clever romance, picturing the perfection of civilization as it might be supposed to be reached by the human race many centuries hence.

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WOMEN AND TEMPERANCE.

The following is the report of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union meeting in Detroit held at the last meeting of the Montreal Union.

One of the most interesting features of the Convention was the address given by Mrs. Willard on the subject of "The Influence of the Temperance Cause upon the Moral and Social Progress of the Race."

The Convention was opened by the President, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Thompson, of Hillsdale, N. Y., who read a letter from the National Executive Committee.

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A NEW CELTIC SOCIETY.

"The Celtic Society of Montreal," to encourage the study of Gaelic, Welsh, Irish and Manx literature, was formed on Thursday, with Mr. John McCollin as M. P. for Gienacerry, as Honorary Secretary, and Mr. J. J. MacDonell as Secretary.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 2 columns: Subscription type and Rate. Includes Daily Witness, Weekly Messenger, and terms for Ministers and Teachers.

ADVERTISING RATES.

WEEKLY.—20c per line first insertion, and 15c per line each subsequent insertion for large type or cuts.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—When remitting by postal order, please specify the name of the Post-Office and the Province or State.

ISSUED LAST WEEK.

Table showing circulation statistics: Number copies of Weekly Witness, Daily Witness, and Messenger.

We invite communications from farmers giving their experience on matters interesting to them as a class, also enquiries which we cannot answer ourselves, some of our readers may.

The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1883.

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS."

Before the issue of another number of the Weekly Witness that festive which is always regarded as a red-letter day throughout the world will have once again come and gone.

RENEW AT ONCE.

In the midst of your other business at the close of this year do not neglect to renew your subscription to the Witness, a duty which should not be postponed until the very last moment.

NUTRITIOUS FOOD.

"Having brought up a family of six 'on the Witness,' and, after an experience of twenty-five years, I am of the opinion," writes the Rev. Wm. Hall, from Portadown, Ireland.

THE POET PEER.

Mr. Tennyson has been raised to the peerage of the United Kingdom as Baron Tennyson. It is well that the injury done to many great men's fame by changing their names has not been repeated in this case.

honor paid by a people to its patriot bard, and is conferred in ancient form by the Sovereign as a right acknowledgment of Manly loyalty.

OUTCAST LONDON.

The wealthy and well-to-do half of London have just had forced upon them some knowledge of how the poverty-stricken and vicious half live, and they are once again apparently thoroughly alive to the abject misery and terrible vice which exist at their very doors.

The great London dailies published day after day, and are still publishing, columns of reports, of letters from all sorts and conditions of people, and of led editorial on the subject. Clergymen and scientists, and prominent men of all professions and business, preach and lecture, and almost every one else listens and reads and talks about it.

SACRAMENTAL WINE.

The question of the quality of wine that ought to be used in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has, happily, so far, caused but little disturbance in the churches. It is evidently one calling for the exercise of great forbearance on both sides.

years rapidly increasing. In this connection we cannot too highly commend the efforts of the Montreal Woman's Christian Temperance Union to encourage the use of unfermented wine in the churches, and to procure it for those desiring to use it.

THE UNCOUNTED ASSET.

When this Province fell into the hands of unscrupulous men who disposed of its assets in order that they might enrich themselves by the transaction, one asset of enormous value either escaped their notice or was found to be at that time, at least, beyond their reach.

Another attempt to form a separate and distinct colony in the United States has failed, though in this case every attempt was made on the part of the founders to keep the colonists together, and the strong bonds of nationality and religion were upon their side.

The Lake Sailors' Union now in session in Detroit is one of the strongest labor unions on the Continent, and one of the most successful. For the past two or three years they have practically fixed the rate of wages upon the lakes, and on more than one occasion vessels sailing with non-union crews have been so injured that but few owners or captains cared to repeat the experiment.

THE STATISTICS OF THE YEAR's results of agriculture in Ontario have now been completed by the Provincial Bureau. The wheat and coarse grain reports we gave and commented upon some time ago. The late returns are of hay, roots, live stock and wool.

NOT ONE SERMON in a thousand would be injured by considerable shortening. The length of sustained attention obtainable from the average will power is not over ten minutes. The preacher who goes beyond this should consider himself responsible for keeping his hearers' attention from flagging.

MR. JOHN S. KENNEDY is the American member of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company which holds an absolute monopoly of the transportation trade of the Canadian North-West, and which can practically lower the price of all that the farmers of the North-West produce, and raise the price of everything that they buy.

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Governments interested in the navigation of the lakes, and that is the seaworthiness of the hulls of lake vessels. So far, their petitions have done but little good, but they apparently have determined not to be disheartened, and as they are not over cautious men some rather lively action may be expected.

THE RECENT DEPARTURES from nature's horology have suggested a great many propositions for getting rid of the inconvenience arising from the diversity of time in different places. A very interesting suggestion is that Greenwich time which now prevails all over Great Britain should be extended to all the world.

THE AMERICANS LAST YEAR reduced their rate of letter postage from three cents for half an ounce to two cents, and at the present session of Congress an attempt will be made to make the rate still more liberal by making it two cents an ounce.

WHY TENNYSON'S SPRING SONG, published in the Youth's Companion, a Boston paper of great excellence and immense circulation, should have been sung so unseasonably upon the stream of time needs some other explanation than that which the critic chorus affords.

MR. SUNSET COX, who is a Democrat, has cornered President Arthur and the Republicans. Mr. Arthur had, by a cordial and appreciative apology for absence from a Fenian funeral, just succeeded in doing the decent for the Irish vote, when all the game was spoiled by Mr. Cox, who collected a lot of equally responsible demagogues, who with as much gravity as they could assume under the circumstances, asked the President to interfere in the case of an American citizen unjustly condemned in England for slaying without premeditation an execrable informer.

THE APPEARANCE has for some time been that the Liberals were losing ground in Ontario. The elections on Friday, however, suggest a turn in the tide. The Liberals, instead of losing, as was confidently expected, have actually gained ground.

THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY management has made the first official breach in the standard time. As it runs through part of two time-belts the adoption of the more western one is probably a great convenience to it, but for the people it defeats the intention of the new system that the railway time of no place shall differ more than half an hour from its true time.

THE CONGRESSMAN whose duty it is to do the screeching for the Bird of Freedom has risen to the full height of his privileges. The ingenuity which spread-eagle Robinson must have put into his resolution demanding information as to whether Mr. Lowell had received a title from England and whether he was still in the pay of the festive fowl represented by the mover, might, if properly spun out, have formed the ground work of a gross highfalutin diatribe.

SIR LEONARD TILLEY, while giving the subject of granting a bounty raised by taxing Canadians to American capitalists who talk of going into iron manufacturing "his best consideration," had also better consider whether it be worth while to make wealthy Americans more wealthy at the cost of making Canadian farmers and laborers poorer.

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ENGLAND proposes to fortify Assouan at the first cataract of the Nile. This is certainly prudent in the extreme. It would make absolutely defensible most of what is classical and all that is strategically important of Egypt, and it would set a definite and very moderate boundary to England's assumption of responsibility in that country.

WHEN THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY contract was up for discussion the Hon. William MacDongall was opposed to it, and gave valid reasons for being so. Mr. MacDongall has now spoken out in favor of the Ontario boundary award.

OSCAR WILDE cannot, it appears, cross his legs without creating a lawsuit. He must be too altogether utterly disgusted to hear of two photographers fighting in a Washington Court over the question of whether or not one of them was the "author" or "inventor" of his pose.

discouraged at the losses sustained in their victorious battle, and the four hundred black troops massacred at Saakim are said to have slaughtered ten times their own number of their enemies.

A MANIFESTO of the Dominion Alliance, Quebec Branch, appears in this paper setting forth the existing condition of the law, and especially those provisions of the new national License Act, which ought to receive immediate attention from all interested in the question of temperance.

EVERYTHING is at a standstill in the country waiting for winter roads. Our subscribers should take the earliest opportunity of remitting their own subscriptions along with those of any neighbors they may fall in with and not wait, perhaps in vain, for some friend to make the usual rounds.

THE PEOPLE of Wexford have given a sample of the kind of freedom they mean to have in Ireland by and by. They attacked an evangelistic meeting, made a bonfire of the Bibles and drove the police into barracks. Religious liberty and freedom of speech are evidently not among the blessings to be looked for under the coming regime.

THE ARAB WAR would be a much more dangerous thing if it had not such a tendency to burn itself out. An Arab army costs no more than the blowing of a trumpet, but when forage and plunder fall the army melts even though flushed with desert victory.

ONTARIO.

IN spite of the fact that the fate of the Mowat Government is, as the Opposition journals say, trembling in the balance, the most exciting topic of discussion in this city at present is the liquor traffic. The cause of this is twofold. Attention has been forcibly drawn to the matter by the apparent intention of the Dominion Government to put their Act of last session in operation, and a crusade has been set on foot to secure in the city the complete separation of the liquor traffic from the ordinary grocery trade.

MEANWHILE the uncertainty about the law is not having any paralyzing effect on the temperance societies. During the past year they have done more than ever to bring about a by-law declaring that no holders of shop licenses shall keep their alcoholic beverages in stores where groceries are sold. The power has been given to the municipalities to do this, and it is needless to predict the result of such a struggle. Whatever it may be this year, the temperance cause will undoubtedly triumph before long.

IT WILL triumph all the sooner if the right to vote even at municipal elections is conferred on women, as it probably will be this session of the Legislature. Requests have been sent to the various municipalities of the Province, by the Women's Suffrage Association, for petitions to Parliament, and already results highly favorable to the cause of these reforms are visible. The City Councils of Toronto, Ottawa, and Kingston, the County Council of Welland, and one or two less important corporations, have resolved to send the desired petitions, and their example will probably be extensively followed.

IMPROVED MUNICIPAL MACHINERY is wanted for the city, and if it is not provided soon some favorable opportunities for effecting important public improvements will have passed away. The nuisance caused by slaughter-houses, cattle-byres, and piggeries at the mouth of the Den must be abated. The sewerage of the city must be kept from pouring into the harbor, and the nature of the city site is downward to the Den and the obvious remedy for the above evils is to intercept the city sewerage by an arch across the Den and carry it and the refuse from the Den into a common receptacle. What that shall be, where it shall be located, and what use shall be made of the site, are questions which are presently being solved. The matter has been left referred to sanitary experts, some medical and others engineering, and there is little doubt that a

TENNISON'S NEW POEM.

Once more the Heavenly Power Makes all things new...

THE PEW SYSTEM.

We generally hold that the Church consists only of believers...

VISITORS.

A most desirable visitor of my acquaintance always calls early enough in the morning...

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

CLARA'S HILL.

It was our very first, when we were children, to believe everything we saw in print...

THE CASE STATED.

ADDRESS OF THE QUEBEC BRANCH OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE TO ALL GOOD CITIZENS IN THE SEVEN PROVINCES OF THE DOMINION.

The final objective point of the Dominion Alliance is the total suppression of the liquor traffic...

READABLE PARAGRAPHS.

A SIGH FROM THE SLAVERS.

Do you hear the people weeping, oh my brothers, Do you hear the wailing and the sobbing...

OUR PRAYER TEST.

A TRUE SKETCH.

School was dismissed. Boys and girls were hurrying out with jest and merry laughter...

LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY COME.

Can the gospel do for Africa, China, Japan, South America, Mexico, aboriginal inhabitants...

THE BREWERS AND THE CHURCH.

Archdeacon Farrar has met the challenge of the brewers with firm and manly front...

CHILDREN OF THE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE.

There are six children living. One of the four daughters, Charlotte, is living in happy wedlock with a young officer...

THE SITUATION IN MONTREAL.

The greatest work of the Quebec Branch of the Alliance will be in the City of Montreal...

THE RESULTS OF GRAMMING.

If the evidence did not exist in black and white very few persons would credit the amount of ignorance displayed by many of the candidates...

A YOUNG LADY IN CHICAGO HAS SOME VERY PRACTICAL IDEAS ABOUT MISSIONARY WORK.

She is a student in the Female Baptist Missionary Training School and is not yet twenty years of age...

IN A LETTER FROM A PASTOR OF A WESTERN CHURCH.

He writes, speaking of twelve converts who he had won during the year, used this suggestive expression...

NOBODY IS HAPPY WITHOUT AN AIM AND OBJECT IN LIFE.

It is a sad thing to see a man who has no aim and object in life, and who is content with a narrow and selfish life...

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Advertisements.

LEE & CO'S FIVE CENT MUSIC! 54 Dublin Bay, 55 Bright Morning, 56 When the Mists have Rained...

SLEEVE PROTECTOR. Every lady who dresses the afternoon is obliged to remove her dress to wash dishes or perform any of the various household duties...

A FAIR OFFER. If you will send us with this slip 25c., or 3 three-cent stamps, we will mail you a sample package...

POPULAR STORIES. ONE HALF CENT EACH. 1 Death of Maria, 2 The Broken Yarn, 3 The Fisherman's Daughter...

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS. 100 quality 40 for 10c., 100 for 40c.; 100 for 75c.; 500 for \$1.00 for 10c.

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MONTREAL NEWS.

The Rev. Mr. Mackay, of Crescent Street Church, is recovering from diphtheria. The Rev. Andrew Paton, of Penpont, Scotland, has been severely ill from typhoid fever.

Old COTTE STREET CHURCH has been sold for \$15,000, to be converted into a cigar factory. SOLICITORS ELECTION will be held on the 27th of January and the nomination a week earlier.

The STOCK MARKET was higher last week in nearly every security on the list, and speculation was lively, especially in gas stock. THE INJUNCTION to restrain the Canada Atlantic Railway from negotiating its bonds was dissolved on Tuesday.

The Rev. Dr. POTTS has now convalesced, the malaria having left him. He contracted it while in the South, recently. Mr. G. W. CRAIG, who retired from the bank of the Montreal Loan and Mortgage Co., still remains in the hospital.

The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Côte des Neiges has called the Rev. Thomas Christie, who leaves Trinidad Station on account of ill health. Mr. OSCAR WILKINS, whose child was killed by an icicle which fell from the St. Lawrence Hall a few days since, sued the proprietor for \$10,000 damages.

The COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS have obtained some concessions in the Grand Trunk Railway, one of them being that of 2 1/2 cents per mile net. TEN of the ten dollar unsigned Consolidated Bank bills, part of thousands stolen several years ago, have been presented for payment in Montreal by an Italian.

Mr. S. THOMPSON was sued for not paying his water rates, though he insisted he had done so. His steward found his receipt and now sues the city for damages. THE GAS COMPANY and the New Citizens' Gas Company continue to excite attention, the latter endeavoring to secure permission from the city to lay their pipes in the streets and rip up the roads.

The WINTER CARNIVAL to take place in Montreal in February is assuming definite shape, and the various committees want only a hundred volunteers to make the affair very pleasant for visitors. Mr. FRANCIS MARTIN, a Grand Trunk employee, was run over and killed on the track at Point St. Charles on Wednesday morning last. His car was killed on the same spot in the same manner thirteen years ago.

The CANADIAN WOMEN'S BOARD of Missions held their thirteenth annual meeting on Tuesday afternoon and showed that good work had been done in the past year. Their marriage in India was much deplored. LUCAS NEWTON, who sought the protection of the nuns because she held to be a Catholic while her mother was a Protestant, has been handed over to her mother again. The nuns very quickly turn the matter up.

LA SENEVAL, the famous financier, politician, and speculator, has taken exception against the Toronto Mail for \$100,000, alleging that that newspaper has injured him by representing his financial position to be bad. Mr. J. K. WADE lectured on lumbering in Toronto last week, and told his own story of how and how the dollar had come from the English swindle into his present fortune through patient industry and perseverance.

ALDERMAN J. H. MOONEY, the wool and leather manufacturer, compromised with his creditors at fifty cents on the dollar, with liabilities of \$155,000. He is granted his own terms to pay. MEANTIME he retires from the City Council. Mr. F. E. GILMAN has taken an injunction to restrain the directors of the Royal Canadian Insurance Company from selling a number of shares which they held as part of the stock of a director who became insolvent some years ago.

The "GRAPHIC" of New York is again in trouble, as an agent named Brown, of Chicago, and a number of others have taken a suit against it to compel it to wind up. Its head office is in Montreal, where it was launched as a speculation. DOM SHERIDAN, the Pope's Commissioner to America, was received with great pomp at the Notre Dame Cathedral on Wednesday. He will be sent on his way to Washington on Monday, and he gave the Pope's benediction to about eight thousand.

The MONTREAL PRESBYTERY has decided to ask the ministers in country charges to keep their pulpits open for the coming year.

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