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Goldwin Smith's Brain. The statement which has been going the rounds of the press, that Professor Goldwin Smith has willed his brain to Cornell University, appears not to be literally true. Dr. Smith's own account of the matter, as given to a Toronto reporter, is as follows. He said: "I have hitherto looked upon this thing as a joke, but now I see it has been taken seriously. I shall certainly keep my promise made to Professor Wilder, of Cornell. A short time ago I met this gentleman, who is professor of physiology, and we talked on the subject of the brain. He informed me that he made a specialty of brain collections. In a joking way I told him he could have mine when I was finished with it. The whole thing was done in a joking way, but now that the matter has been taken seriously, I will certainly make arrangements that my promise shall be carried out. I am now in my eightieth year and the legacy may fall soon." Professor Smith came to the United States in the sixties to become professor of history at Cornell, and it is said he ever since maintained the most sympathetic relations with the University. What a man wills shall be done with his brain after he is dead, is of course much less significant than what he does with it while he lives. Few men of his time have been better furnished as to brain machinery than Goldwin Smith, and that he has used it industriously and for what he has understood to be the interests of humanity will hardly be questioned.

The Rhodes Scholarships. Dr. G. R. Parkin, as organizing agent for the trustees of the Cecil Rhodes scholarships, has been recently in Oxford for the purpose of consulting the University and College authorities with a view to framing for the approval of the trustees a scheme for the election of the scholars. Dr. Parkin has expressed his satisfaction at the attention which the Colleges have given to the matter and their discussions as to the best way of working the Rhodes students into the University system. It is stated that the bequest will elect for the first year 70 to 75 students and a similar number in the second year. In the third year there will be about 30. Each College is prepared to take from two to five students every year. Oxford University has twenty Colleges, and there are from eighty to two hundred under-graduates in each College.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier goes to Virginia. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has gone to Hot Springs, Virginia, for rest and recuperation. The Premier was accompanied on his journey by Lady Laurier, and by his brother, Henri Laurier, and his wife. Sir William Mulock was also one of the party. It seems that Sir William was himself much benefited by a visit to Hot Springs some years ago and has encouraged the Premier to test the virtues of the place. An Ottawa despatch speaks quite optimistically of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's physical condition. It is said that he has taken on flesh and is much improved in appearance since his return from Europe, a few weeks ago. It is understood to be a stomach trouble from which the Premier principally suffers, and that he has experienced material benefit from a course of treatment which his physicians have prescribed for him. In order, however, that he may be fortified against the exhausting strain of the approaching session of Parliament it is considered advisable that he should rest for a few months under the most favorable conditions for recuperation which are to be had. On Thursday last the Premier completed his sixty-first year. However his political acts and policies may be

criticised by a great number of his countrymen, there are few who do not recognize the distinction and charm of Sir Wilfrid's personality, and men of all parties and creeds will cordially unite in wishing him health and long life.

The Newfoundland Treaty. It is understood that representatives of the United States and Newfoundland Governments have reached an agreement as to the terms of a trade treaty between the two countries, and what purports to be a copy of the full text of the treaty has appeared in the daily press. According to this text the treaty provides that certain articles, chiefly agricultural products, are to be admitted into Newfoundland from the United States free of duty, and it names a maximum duty on certain other enumerated articles when imported from that country. It is also provided that, should Newfoundland lower its duties on the articles enumerated, the United States should get the benefit of such reduction. The treaty also guarantees to United States fishing vessels in Newfoundland waters and ports the same privileges as are enjoyed by vessels of the Colony in regard to the purchase of bait, trading, etc., but does not secure to them the benefit of fishing within the three mile limit. In the interest of Newfoundland it is provided that practically all the fish products of the Colony, except fresh codfish, shall be admitted into the United States free of duty. It would seem that such a treaty would be for the general advantage of both countries. It will doubtless, however, meet with opposition in Congress in the interests of the Gloucester fisheries, but whether or not the opposition will be strong enough to defeat it, remains to be seen. Very naturally the proposed treaty gives rise to apprehensions as to the effect it will have, if concluded, upon the interests of Nova Scotia in one of the principal industries of that Province.

Chamberlain goes to South Africa. Colonel Secretary Chamberlain was enthusiastically "farewell-ed" in Birmingham last week on the eve of his departure for South Africa, the local leaders of both political parties cordially uniting in this expression of goodwill. In the course of a speech of considerable length Mr. Chamberlain spoke of the purpose of his trip. It was, he said to be a matter of business, and not a mere parade. He was bound on a new venture, and he admitted the possibility of failure. He could not expect that all the bitterness in South Africa would quickly die out, but the Government would at least relieve all suffering. The desire was to make South Africa one united nation—united in heart as well as in name, and in view of the example which was furnished by Canada he thought the hope that this would be accomplished not unreasonable. Mr. Chamberlain said that he expected to see the representatives of every political section in South Africa. He could thus learn more in three days than by a month's study of despatches in blue books. He believed that he would be met half way and that he would gain the friendship of the King's new Boer subjects. Mr. Chamberlain's mission, as thus outlined, is certainly one in which the men of all parties in Great Britain and in all parts of the King's dominion may most cordially wish him success.

Marconi and Wireless Telegraphy. Comparatively little has been heard of late in reference to the Marconi trans-Atlantic system of wireless telegraphy. Some six months ago statements were made in Mr. Marconi's name which indicated an assured expectation that long before the end of the year messages would be passing freely by that system between Cornwall and Cape Breton. Whether the delay indicates that some unanticipated difficulties in transmission and failure of expected results have been experienced or whether it is due to other causes, the public is not informed, and probably there has crept into the pub-

lic mind, along with curiosity as to the real facts of the case, more or less skepticism as to the practical feasibility of the Marconi scheme. During the past week Mr. Marconi, now in Nova Scotia, is reported as having made a statement in reference to the situation, which, although not definite as to achieved or expected results, is in a general way optimistic. He declined to say anything in reference to the experiments at the Table Head, C. B., station until he should have finished his work there, when he would make a full statement. The station, Mr. Marconi further said, was not yet complete—a portion of the machinery having not been adjusted and a part not even installed. He said, however, that the S. S. Carlo Alberto in Sydney harbor had received from the station in Cornwall, England, the longest message ever received by wireless telegraphy, and that it was received without difficulty. He could, however, say no more about it, as his agreement with the Italian Government is that it is to make public all the results of all experiments made on the Carlo Alberto. Mr. Marconi said further that since his coming to Table Head some improvements had been made in both the sending and receiving apparatus, with the result that messages could now be sent at the speed of forty words a minute, as compared with sixteen or seventeen words a minute, which was the highest speed which had been attained a year ago.

The Wesleyan's Prospective Editor. In last week's issue of the *Wesleyan* the readers of that paper are introduced to its prospective editor—Rev. John Maclean, M. A., Ph. D.—by means of his portrait and a short biographical sketch. In accordance with appointments made by the General Conference at its late session in Winnipeg, Mr. Bond of the *Wesleyan* will go to Toronto to become editor of the *Guardian*, succeeding Dr. Courtice who retires on account of broken health, and Dr. Maclean will come from the Northwest to assume editorial charge of the *Wesleyan*. The change we understand is to take place in the spring. Dr. Maclean is about 50 years of age, a Scotchman by birth, he came to Canada in early manhood and completed his education at Victoria College, taking the B. A. and M. A. degrees in course. In 1880 he volunteered for the Northwest Mission work, and spent several years among the Blood Indians, near McLeod, Alta. He has made a special study of Indian languages and is said to be one of the best living authorities on the Indians of Canada. Some of the results of his investigations and experiences in this connection have been given to the public in his books, entitled "Canadian Savage Folk," "The Indians of Canada," etc. Dr. Maclean is also the author of a number of small volumes of a distinctly religious type, of which the latest issued is entitled "Light for Daily Living." Those volumes evince a deeply religious temperament and a strong grasp of Christian truth, and they are written in graceful and vigorous English. Dr. Maclean, we are sure, will meet with an appreciative reception when he comes to the East.

Another Nova Scotian becomes Principal of Queens. Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., which failed to secure Dr. Barclay, of Montreal, as principal, has now found a successor to the late Principal Grant, in another Nova Scotian—Dr. Daniel Miner Gordon of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. Dr. Gordon is a native of Pictou and is in his 58th year. He was educated at Pictou Academy and at the Universities of Glasgow and Berlin, was ordained to the ministry in 1866, and for a time ministered to St. Paul's church, Truro. Afterwards he held pastoral charges in connection with St. Andrew's church, Ottawa, Knox church, Winnipeg, and in 1887 became minister of St. Andrew's church, Halifax. Dr. Gordon was appointed to be professorship in Theology and Apologetics in the Presbyterian College, Halifax, in 1894. He took an active part in promoting the Union of the Presbyterian churches in Canada and has been regarded generally, as one of the stronger personal forces in the denomination.