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NOW READY.

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## Notes of the Week.

DETAILS of the earthquake felt over the Spanish peninsula have shown that the calamitous results have been far more serious than was at first supposed, many hundred lives have been lost and much property has been destroyed. Shocks have also been felt at Carinthia in Austria, and in Wales.

AT the last meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association a resolution expressive of the many unobtrusive excellencies of character possessed by the late Dr. Carroll and unswerving fidelity in his lifework was placed on record. The Rev. Robert Wallace read an elaborate and forcible paper on Biblical Arguments for Prohibition.

ONE of the supporters of the late Dr. Begg, Dr. Stuart Muir, of Leith, has been preaching in praise of the Pope, and otherwise so demeaning himself that the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh cited him to appear before it. He disregarded the citation, and appeared as preacher in an Episcopal church in Edinburgh on a late Sunday, dressed in a gorgeous costume.

IT is said that while Henry George was making an eloquent speech in England, and was showing that the land ought to revert to the people who were its original owners, he was rudely interrupted by an unfeeling person in the audience, who called out, "Then are you Yankees going to give back the States to the red Indians?" There are some people who are willing to upset any pretty theory by asking awkward questions.

IT has been decided to keep the Exhibition at New Orleans open on Sunday, notwithstanding many remonstrances against it. It is stated that the Catholic Archbishop of New Orleans is in favour of keeping open on Sunday, and that this influenced the managers in their course. The Plenary Council gave it as their opinion that the institution of the Sabbath should be maintained, and this is the interpretation New Orleans puts upon the decision.

ANOTHER political pastor in Brooklyn has come to grief. The circumstances are sad. The Rev. John R. Thompson, of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, took an active part in the Presidential campaign. He was sure his oratory would do some good. He overtaxed his powers and had become a confirmed victim of the chloral habit. It is thought that he felt so ashamed of himself that he could not again face either his friends or congregation and has disappeared from home, his whereabouts being unknown.

IN the Swiss republic there is not a little rampant infidelity. When the circumstances are considered this is not a matter to be wondered at. It is, however, surprising how a vigorous fidelity exercises the virtue of toleration. The Salvation Army has had a bad time of it in the Swiss cities. Nihilists and anarchists find asylum there, but the Salvation Army is persecuted. The demoralizing doctrines of Mormonism are openly proclaimed, and crowds go to swell the Utah delusion. It is a fresh illustration of the fact that there is nothing so credulous as unbelief.

THE veteran Premier of England has passed his seventy-fifth birthday, and has received the congratulations of a wide circle of friends. There is one rule both in public and private life that Mr. Gladstone has followed, which accounts for the universal respect in which he is held. When he delivered his inaugural address as Chancellor of Edinburgh university a quarter of a century ago he stated that all true greatness of character must be based on moral principle. This is the secret why Mr. Gladstone has earned the respect he now enjoys; he has sought to follow his conscientious convictions of what is right, in preference to what is merely expedient. His personal integrity, as well as his talents will give him an honoured place in the pages of England's history.

THE erratic Scotch ex-professor, John Stuart Blackie, does not seem to mellow with age. Rounded completeness of character does not come to him. With all his fervid patriotism and desire to perpetuate national glories, he lends his aid, such as it is, to undo an institution that a greater than Blackie did not hesitate to affirm made Scotland loved at home and revered abroad a well-spent and Christianly kept Sabbath. The volatile old man has been giving a Sunday lecture, in Glasgow, on Scottish song. Scottish songs are world renowned for their fine feeling, fire and pathos, but magnificent as they are they would form a poor substitute for the songs of Zion, that express the highest aspirations of the soul. Has John Stuart Blackie entered his second childhood?

IN a recent number the *Christian Leader* says: Simultaneously with the resolution of the Birmingham magistrates to put down lotteries at bazaars, an incident that has led to some searchings of heart in other places besides the midland capital; we hear from India that the launching of a lottery at Hyderabad by a Roman bishop has been the unwitting instrument in calling down the heavy hand of the supreme government upon all lottery schemes whatever. The governor of Bengal first took action in the matter, and he was sustained by the Roman Catholic viceroy, who issued an order which has been read with profound satisfaction by all friends of morality throughout the empire. The order applies to every province of India; and the pious and the sporting lottery are to share the same grave.

THE way some so-called employment agencies in Toronto are conducted affords a striking illustration of man's inhumanity to man. Men out of employment had been sent to Callendar with the promise of work on the extension of the Northern railroad in process of construction. Fancy the cruelty of taking six dollars apiece to pay for the fares of these unfortunates, and when the terminus was reached, leaving them to make their way to Callendar as best they could at this season of the year. Some of the most determined men, after great hardship, reached the place named, only to find that the contractor whose name had been given them had no existence. At last accounts some of the unfortunates were wandering in the woods, friendless and destitute. It is to be hoped that the statements of these duped men will be thoroughly tested, and if found substantially correct, then let the heartless scamps who run fraudulent employment agencies receive the punishment they deserve.

As was hinted some time since the only opponents of the Scott Act, *i.e.*, those interested in the liquor trade, abandoning direct appeals to the people, hope to make a flank movement by approaching the legislature, praying for alterations in the Act to curtail its power. Like the Tooley Street tailors, the liquor interest assumes to speak for the people of Canada. The circular sent with the petitions starts out with a statement that can only be fitly characterized by a familiar Saxon word of three letters. The statement referred to asserts the belief that the people of Canada desire to have certain amendments made in the Temperance Act of 1878. Not in the sense they indicate. If they believe anything of the sort they are a more credulous class than

is generally supposed. The friends of the Temperance Reformation must not be idle. They had better set about getting up counter petitions at once. If they work with their old-time vigour and zeal this attack on the Scott Act will disclose the weakness and desperation of those who make it.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Toronto branch of the Evangelical Alliance containing the programme for the week of prayer, the meetings to be held in Shaftesbury Hall, at four o'clock p.m. Monday's meeting was presided over by Rev. H. M. Parsons, the principal themes being Praise and Thanksgiving. At the meeting on Tuesday, Rev. Manly Benson occupied the chair, Humiliation and Confession being the leading subjects. To-day the Rev. H. Grasett Baldwin is announced to preside, and the subject, "Prayer for the Church of Christ." To-morrow, Rev. S. A. Dyke is to conduct the meeting, when families and instructors of youth will afford subjects for intercession. At the meeting on Friday the Rev. A. F. Macgregor will preside, when the Nations will be prayed for. The closing meeting, to be held at three o'clock, will be conducted by Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Home and Foreign Missions and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit being the principal subjects for supplication. The annual meeting of the Toronto branch of the Alliance will be held on Thursday evening, at which the Hon. Oliver Mowat will preside.

THE *Golden Rule* well says: We have now entered upon the New Year. It is 1885. The Old Year is behind us. Its record we cannot change. But we may improve on that record during this year. We pity the man who thinks that his life cannot be improved upon even more than that man who considers his labour as perfect. Only consciousness of imperfections leads to improvement. For the man who is always right, we have little hope, but for the man who longs to do better we have great hope. Now, as we open the new book, and mark its unsullied pages with our deeds, mindful of the past, let us ask God to help us to do better work and to live better lives than last year. There is a deep and urgent call for the noblest living and the best action now. It stirs one's pulse to think of the good deeds which ought to be done. The earnest man, who would do good, will find his hands full. Let him do the first thing which ought to be done, and keep on doing. Strong, true, unselfish men and women are needed not only in the Church, but in business, at home, everywhere. Do we belong to this class? Will we help others this way?

THE display of indecent theatrical posters in American cities and towns has awakened a determination to take effective measures for its repression. The *Independent* says: Morality cannot be sustained on this let-alone and gratify-everybody theory. We will not say that the world belongs to the saints, and that they have a commission to rule it. But we respond to as much of that opinion as is involved in the proposition that the moralities and decencies are sovereign things, and that, in their name and by their authority, decent people ought to insist on ruling society. The streets must be made safe for boys and young women. Could the people know the full extent of this evil, it is not out of the possibilities that here, in democratic America, they would propose some kind of a censorship to stop it. Liberty that goes beyond all bounds dashes at last on the hard wall of the necessity of restraining it. We are not far from this point now in some aspects of the matter. The evil has already gone so far that private vigilance cannot meet it. And when things are so that, do what he can for his boys, a father cannot keep them reasonably out of harm's way, it is time to complain of the law, or at least to invoke it. The citizens of Philadelphia, under exactly the same provocations, have awakened to the necessity of protecting their streets and their youth, and taken measures which promise result in repression. The evil is general, and there is probably no city or large town in the country that does not suffer more or less for want of a good and well-executed law.