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Notes of the Week.

THE Forestry Report, prepared by Mr. R. W. Phipps, and issued at the instance of the Ontario Government, contains much information concerning the uses, value and methods of tree-culture. It is not always the case that official reports are distinguished by literary grace, but Mr. Phipps, even when writing on what some might consider a prosaic subject, cannot help clothing his thoughts in fine classic English.

AT a recent meeting of the Senate of the University of New Brunswick, the *St. John Telegraph* informs us, a resolution was passed, allowing women the privilege of entering the university, and taking the course laid down for male students. It will be remembered that nine young ladies in the Victoria School passed the matriculation examination a few days ago. Some of them may present themselves in September, along with the sterner sex. Eight male students will enter from the Collegiate School, Fredericton, and two or three young ladies, beside one who passed the matriculation examination last year.

THE insatiable greed of gain is producing a large number of criminals. Exposure and punishment do not seem to deter others from risking everything in their dishonest ways. The corrupt aldermen of New York may find opportunities for reflection in a State prison, but the career of crime goes on. Canada is a fine country to come to, but the numerous dishonest refugees who have lately sought an asylum in the Dominion make us anxious for an extradition treaty without loopholes in it. The latest arrival is supposed to be the trusted manager of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company. A fitting address of welcome has not yet been presented to him.

CHINA has been considered the most hopeless of fields by the critics of missions. But the work is now beyond the reach of criticism, notwithstanding the grievous disadvantage from the brutal treatment of the Chinese in Christian lands. Miss Gordon Cumming, the intelligent and entertaining traveller, says that Christianity is fast making its way in China, and of this the *Spectator* says: Well it may, for there is no state of society of which we have ever read so like that of the later Roman Empire as that which prevails in China to-day. What will be the result of the introduction of an explosive and democratic force like Christianity into an ancient but decadent civilization such as China is to-day, no one can tell. It can hardly fail to be startling.

WITH the heated season come again reports of the increasing ravages of the cholera scourge. The Italian peninsula this time is the principal seat of this dread pestilence. For weeks it has been carrying off numerous victims, and has, according to rumour, made its appearance in France and in Spain. The number of cases and the mortality have been rising, and people, in Italy especially, are becoming alarmed. For the last three years danger has been apprehended of the spread of cholera to this continent, but as yet it has not made its appearance. It is hoped that it may still be averted, yet there is no room for indifference and neglect. The laws of health must be carefully observed, and a rigid quarantine should be strictly enforced.

WHILE Great Britain is in the throes of a keen electoral contest, Russia is busy intriguing in the East. The conditions of the Berlin Treaty are becoming too irksome for the Czar. He has closed the free port of Batoum, as a tentative measure, it is conjectured. Russia has also been uninterruptedly interfering in the internal affairs of Bulgaria, and Russian papers are calling for the deposition of Prince Alexander, if the people do not accomplish that object themselves. It is generally understood that Russian agents, ever since the close of hostilities between

Bulgaria and Servia, have been active in promoting disaffection among Alexander's subjects. It is also asserted that the Czar's emissaries are busy at present in Macedonia. Russia seems bent on creating disturbance.

ONE of the relics of barbarism preserved in England by class legislation, says the *Christian Leader*, has received its death warrant from a moribund Parliament, which contrived to do some good work even while in the throes of death. The Desertion of Women Bill has been read a third time in the Commons, after a clause had been added most properly extending its operation to children. Henceforth wives who have been deserted will be able to claim maintenance without resorting to the extremely disagreeable course of entering the workhouse a brutal condition which has hitherto prevented many a respectable woman from receiving her rights. Perhaps the Peers, however, may deal with this matter as they saw fit to do with the Durham Sunday Closing Bill. The House of Lords is responsible for the survival of many social abominations.

IT is a pleasing sign of the times that the various Churches are beginning to entertain ideas of union. That is the first step, however many and difficult subsequent steps may be. At the Congress of Churches, recently held in Cleveland, the Rev. Dr. John Henry Hopkins said: We Protestant Episcopalians are willing to give up everything that is peculiar to us for the sake of unity. First, we are willing to give up our name. It is unscriptural, as are all the denominational names. But "how about Apostolic succession?" Oh, that is not peculiar to us. It belongs to the Catholic Church from the beginning. The same of Confirmation. We are only trustees for these things: we cannot give away what is not ours. It will take time before the denominations thoroughly make up their minds as to what they are prepared to give up and what they are to retain.

A SHORT time since the W.C.T.U. of the United States called the attention of the authorities at Washington to the base traffic in Canadian girls for immoral purposes. Some of the statements made by that association have been questioned; but it is noticeable that in every case the denials have come from parties who do not wish to be considered remiss in the discharge of their duties, from policemen, railway officials and the like. It is always difficult to bring home the charge of procuring young women for a short life of degradation and certain ruin. Young persons are hired as domestics, or to fill situations, and glowing prospects are held out to them. Being inexperienced they suspect no danger; they soon find out that they have been miserably deceived. This traffic has been going on for years, not only in large cities, but also in country districts. It is high time that systematic efforts were made to suppress this systematic villany.

THE attempt to put a stop to pulpit sensationalism, says the *Perth Courier*, deserves the support of the press at large. Sensationalism in novels is bad enough, but in the pulpit it is simply intolerable. Much of the light literature of the day has been degraded by it, and if allowed in pulpit ministrations it will degrade them too. It has made its way into the press, with bad results there also. Every newspaper reader knows, or ought to know, that sensational newspapers are unreliable, and are never trusted by men of sense. If the pulpit becomes sensational, if the preachers aim at becoming rivals of circus clowns and cheap Jacks, they and their sermons will very soon cease to command public respect and attention. We are happy to say that the pulpits of our country towns and rural districts are as yet generally free from sensationalism; but if the thing becomes the fashion in city pulpits it will not be long before it spreads to country ones. Therefore the evil should be opposed from the very outset. These are in our opinion the friends of true religion who make a farce of its public ministrations.

THE following, from the *Leeds Mercury*, a journal in full accord with the Church of England, is an indication of the estimate formed in some quarters of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Nobody need be surprised that Canon Liddon has refused the Bishopric of Edinburgh. Even had his election been unanimous, the Canon might well have hesitated to take office in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The ecclesiastical body which maintains the English Communion north of the Tweed is a narrow and intolerant sect. Like the Stuarts, who vainly strove to impose their rule upon the Scotch people, it has learned nothing and forgotten nothing in its adversity. It is still the Church of the few, and has never sought to ally itself to any but the wealthy classes. Its pretensions to monopoly are ridiculous, and were never anything else. In such a sphere the eloquent Dr. Liddon would have become a nonentity, comparatively speaking, and he has acted wisely in deciding to remain a minor dignitary of the Church of England rather than become a member of a hierarchy which receives no consideration from the bulk of the Scottish nation, and is not even greatly esteemed by the prelates and people of the English Establishment.

REFERRING to Archbishop Taschereau's appointment to the cardinalate, "Eubulus," a regular correspondent of the *New York Observer*, says: The adulatory representations and addresses of the subservient Legislature and City Councils could not occasion surprise. There was a dazzling splendour—a gay showiness about this elevation which charmed the sensuousness of devotees. But was it necessary for the Protestant Bishop Bond, of Montreal—a man who was remarkable for his evangelical tone and godly example as a fervent preacher of the true Gospel of the grace of God—was it proper for him to hasten to Quebec, and personally visit the palace in order to present to a Cardinal Prince of Rome the congratulations of his Church? This was done, and was applauded as proper and becoming by the Synod of Canada, over which Bishop Bond presided. Is there no distinction between Romanism and Protestantism? There are social amenities which ought to be maintained among all classes of society; but there is a difference in regard to the constituent elements of the two systems, as I understand them, and I do not want to think that there is no difference between Romanism and Episcopalianism. Yet, it is a fact that the latter scarcely recognizes the large bodies of Christian workers operating beside it in Canada as part and parcel of the Church of Christ.

THE firm attitude of the Irish Presbyterians in opposition to Home Rule has called forth many expressions of respect and sympathy, but not so many of cordial approval and endorsement. Last number of the *Belfast Witness* has an editorial finding serious fault with Principals Rainy and Cairns for attending Mr. Gladstone's Edinburgh meetings. It intimates that the Irish Church may be led to oppose the Church Disestablishment movement. The *Pittsburg United Presbyterian* voices a sentiment generally entertained on this continent, when it says: The Presbyterians in Ireland are doing their part in promoting public excitement, in increasing, also, the religious animosities that it ought to be their effort to diminish. Although admitting that the generous course of the Government in past years did good, they refuse to accept greater generosity, and are ready to fight any proposition that looks toward it. Their fear seems to be that once Home Rule is established the Catholics will wield the power, and that then, the old spirit remaining, and the protecting care of the Government withdrawn, they will be at the mercy of infuriate enemies. It all illustrates how hereditary feuds are perpetuated, and how, under exaggerations that appear in times of excitement, they blind good and sensible men to truth and reason. The friends in this country of the noble Ulster Presbyterians can do them no greater kindness than by persuading them to a better mind.