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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Prohibitionists in the United States are to hold a National Convention at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the 21st May. In the various States those in favour of this radical method of extinguishing the drink traffic are selecting their delegates for this great national convention. Prohibition, though not accepted by all earnest temperance men in the United States, is growing in popular favour, and is destined to secure a constantly increasing support.

WHEN William Ewart Gladstone entered on his seventy-fifth year, a few weeks ago, he was waited on by many deputations who offered their congratulations and presented addresses. Not the least picturesque of these was a deputation of the Indian residents of London, many of them brilliantly attired in native costumes, who presented Mr. Gladstone with a birthday address. The policy of the Government in India was eulogized. A suitable address was made by the British Premier.

THE second Montreal winter carnival in every way surpassed the one held a year ago. A much greater number of visitors were attracted to the magnificent eastern city. The ice palace, the diversified games, and brilliant fêtes were objects of interest to the great crowds that assembled in Montreal. Many distinguished visitors were there. Lord and Lady Lansdowne made a most favourable impression. The great pageant is over and people have resumed the usual course of every-day life and the carnival is now only a remembrance—to many no doubt a very pleasant one.

WHILE the praises of Martin Luther were echoing round the world, in connection with the recent celebration, it is pleasing to see that the claims of John Calvin were not forgotten. So thoughtful and scholarly a divine as Principal Tulloch assigns him rank *par excellence* as the theologian of the Reformation and expresses the object of his mission to raise a coherent front of scriptural dogmatism in opposition to the old ecclesiastical dogmatism, and thereby at once save the principles of the reformation from license and strengthen and consolidate them against Popery—such was Calvin's great work as a theologian.

ANOTHER disaster has befallen the troops at present endeavouring to check the advance of the False Prophet. Reports leave no doubt that the small detachment under command of Baker Pasha has met with a disastrous defeat. It is stated that two-thirds of his contingent were cut down. A large proportion of the Egyptian soldiery displayed abject cowardice. Many of them were badly armed while the allies of El Mahdi were inferior in point of numbers. The latter succeeded in routing the forces led by Baker Pasha and in capturing guns, stores and ammunition. The leader and most of the more conspicuous officers escaped with their lives. There is no immediate prospect of a speedy end of trouble in the Soudan.

ONE by one the men who have been prominent in the movements of the time are passing away. The famous American orator, Wendell Phillips, died last week in his seventy-third year. He was generally regarded as one of the most effective and graceful public speakers in the American Union. His fame was acquired in connection with the movement for the abolition of slavery. He entered on that conflict at a time when the "sum of all the villainies" was not regarded with the popular aversion it is now. With earnestness and ability he advocated emancipation. The cause was greatly advanced by such men as William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips, the logic of events did the rest. Since the war Mr. Phillips frequently appeared on the public platform, but his occupation was gone. The mind that grasped a great principle seemed unable after its triumph to discriminate between economic truths and mischievous

fallacies. Latterly he was more of a show platform orator than a public teacher.

WHEN called upon to perform that most pleasing of professional duties, the marriage ceremony, the minister ought to see that the strictest requirements of the law are complied with. It may in the circumstances be very prosaic, but it is absolutely necessary to make the celebration of the union contingent on the production of the marriage license. A scamp of a soldier down in Halifax went with a young girl to a Methodist minister to get married. He had no marriage license. The minister very properly demurred, but on being assured that it would be forthcoming on the morrow, he consented to join the ungallant warrior and the lady of his choice in the matrimonial bond. Foolish man! The license was never got. The soldier after a short time turned round on his deluded victim and told her she had no claim upon him, as a marriage without a license was illegal. And the too confiding minister is being sued for \$200, the penalty of celebrating a marriage without a license. The story carries its own moral.

SOCIALISTIC movements are acquiring strength in various European states at the present time. In Russia Nihilism is more than usually active. The Parisian workmen are in a state of deep discontent. Revolutionary gatherings take place from time to time, though as yet they do not appear to occasion uneasiness. They are more symptomatic of unrest than of immediate danger to the stability of the Republic. The mailed hand of German Imperialism is laid heavily on all who advocate anarchic opinions. It is surprising in these days that a journalist should be imprisoned for two years for publishing a congratulatory address to Cardinal Ledochowski on his birthday, but so it is reported. Spain is disturbed; it is thought that the loyalty of the army is not to be depended upon. In Austria the situation is grave. There, it is said, that the condition of affairs resembles that immediately preceding the revolutionary outbreak of 1848. The recent murders and murderous attacks on police officials have increased the alarm. Startling events in European politics may occur at any moment.

ONE of the most interesting and deserving charities in Toronto is the Hospital for Sick Children. In connection with it a practical Christian work has been quietly carried on for the last nine years. It has been gradually extending, and could be still more extended than it is at present. Its good work is limited only by the resources placed at its disposal. It is gratifying to learn that year by year kind friends have come to its aid in increasing numbers. The more the good work done by the unpretending institution is known the more cheerfully will aid be rendered to enable the Hospital for Sick Children to extend its beneficent ministry. The annual meeting was held last week, and from the report submitted it is learned that twelve full cots at \$100 a year, and four half cots at \$50, equal to two more, have been added during the year, and that through the generosity of one of the citizens, who gave \$2,000 for the purpose, a Convalescent hospital had been established on the Island. During last year the total amount received by the hospital reached \$5975 87. At present there were thirty-two children being cared for, and the running expenses amounted to \$250 a month.

AN exchange says that a novel method has been suggested for providing for the poor in the city of Washington. It is to compel by law the poker-players in the more than five hundred gambling houses in that city "to pay ten cents from the pot of every hand played, the same to be paid over to the charitable institutions of the city for the alleviation of the many poor and distressed applicants for charity." A writer in the *Washington Post* thinks that \$2,500 could be raised every night by imposing such a tax. Gambling and whisky-drinking, now on the increase, should wake up Congress to do something for the suppression of vice and the protection of the poor women and

children of that city, whose husbands, brothers and sons are continually dragging them into wretchedness and poverty by their bad habits. A movement against gambling there, it is said, would hit a good many men in high places. So much the more need of action. It cannot be had a moment too soon; and if it should strike big blows at the very roots of card-playing, even "for amusement," it would be a step in the right direction. Whist-playing generally ends in gambling, and gambling in poverty, and poverty in crime or immorality of the worst kind, and too often in suicide.

THE people in British Columbia are as strongly averse to Chinese immigration as are the people in California. The British Columbia Government have forwarded a petition to the Governor-General asking that the Dominion Government bring in a bill to restrict Chinese immigration into that Province. The address sets forth the views of the Provincial Government in a very positive manner. The growing evil of Chinese immigration is referred to, which they say can only be stopped by restrictive legislation. The Chinese population of the Province is placed at 18,000, the majority of whom were brought over by the Canadian Pacific Railway contractors in a state of comparative destitution. They are now thrown out of employment and become a charge on the revenue of the country. The influx of this undesirable class of immigrants, it is represented, works seriously against the Province being settled by a white population, owing to the degrading habits and associations of the Chinamen. A bill has been introduced by the Government, in the Provincial Legislature, making it compulsory for every Chinese person over fourteen years of age to take a license, for which \$100 will have to be paid annually, failing to do which, a fine of \$40 will be imposed. Any one employing a Chinaman who has not a license in his possession will be liable to a fine of \$50.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather report shows that a very great change in the conditions from the previous week has taken place, there having been a long continued period of low barometer, with a temperature above the normal. The extreme cold and high barometer of the previous week will be remembered. Considered with this change a considerable increase in the total number of diseases reported is seen. Of these a large number appear of affections of the respiratory organs. Thus Bronchitis has a total percentage prevalence of 12.5, Influenza 8.4, Pneumonia 4.9, Consumption 4.3, and Tonsillitis over three. Thus practically over 30 per cent. of the diseases reported are of this nature. The two Zymotic diseases, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria, are not even included in this list. Comparing it with the previous week it will at once be seen that there has been a large increase in this class of diseases, apparently consequent upon the changed atmospheric conditions. Anemia is, however, noticed to be much less largely reported than it is in spring and summer months. Neuralgia and Rheumatism are both prominent in the reports for the week. Fevers have notably decreased, although Intermittent is still present in its favourite haunts, notably in District X., north-western shore of Lake Erie. Enteric Fever does not appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. Of the Zymotic diseases of a contagious character, Whooping Cough still holds the most prominent position. In District VIII., north shore of Lake Erie, where lately it has been so prevalent, it has apparently receded, but still remains prevalent in District X. From these it seems to have spread laterally, and has now appeared in both District VII. (north-east shore Lake Erie), and IX., east shore Lake Huron. Measles and Scarlatina are both reported—the latter in considerable amounts—by several correspondents, and malignant types with deaths have occurred. Schools have here and there been closed from its prevalence. Diphtheria, though not reported in large amounts, is still reported as prevalent in malignant form from various localities, whole families being affected with much attendant mortality.