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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SPECTACULAR displays of more than ordinary magnificence have been held at Rome within the last few weeks. Funeral celebrations have been held in honour of Pius IX. Grand masses have been sung and princes of the Church have assisted. The funeral gloom has given place to rejoicing. The sixth anniversary of Leo XIII.'s coronation was last week celebrated with splendid accessories in the Sistine chapel. The ceremonial is described as "unprecedentedly magnificent." It is pretty certain it had no precedent in primitive times.

THE singer of the Sierras, Joaquin Miller, has been giving his opinions on the Mormon problem at Washington before the House Committee on Territories. He characterized the Mormons as "Cranks and Gulleaus." He opposed repressive measures as only tending to incite them to further lawless acts, instead of subduing them. Polygamy, he thought, was on the decrease, and he prescribed education as a panacea for all the ills from which the people of Utah suffered. The Mormons, as a people, in his opinion, were extremely ignorant persons, led by cranks and those who had their own ends to serve, and all that was necessary to bring them back to the paths of morality was to show them their true condition. If sharper methods than those the popular poet suggests are not adopted, Mormonism will become a hoary institution notwithstanding the power of education. Education alone is unable to cope with so radical an evil as that which overspreads Utah.

THE Queen's new book, which has given rise to varied comments, has not yet made its appearance on this side of the Atlantic. Several extracts, however, have appeared in the press. The following will be interesting to our readers:—In 1871 the Queen witnessed the Scotch communion service one Sunday at the Crathie Church, near Balmoral. She writes:—The communion is most touching and beautiful. It impressed and moved me more than I can express. It is impossible to say how deeply we were impressed by the grand simplicity of the service. It was all so truly earnest. No description can do justice to the perfect devotion of the whole assemblage. I longed much to join it. To see all these simple, good people, in their nice, plain dresses, including the old woman in her mutch, so many of whom I knew, and some of whom had walked far, although they were in deep snow, was very striking. Since 1873, the Queen adds, I have partaken of the communion at Crathie every autumn.

LAST week's papers contained an almost incredible account of an act of religious persecution, a parallel for which could only be found in the records of the Inquisition. A serious disagreement between a Roman Catholic priest and a parishioner occurred at Corning, Ohio. The precise nature of the quarrel cannot yet be fully understood. One account attributes it to what is called the parishioner's "apostacy." Other accounts contradict this, stating that there was no doctrinal disagreement. Every version yet given of the painful affair admits that one serious cause of the quarrel was the part the priest played at a church fair, where gambling, etc., was carried on under his sanction. The victim of the late atrocity persistently opposed the priest's course of action. The rest followed. Denunciation, the gathering of armed men, who spirited away the obnoxious opponent of a holy fair, his friends warned off, and his exposure to cruel hardships in a bitterly cold night. The wonder is that the victim escaped with life. In any case the lottery is a mischievous affair, and the church lottery worst of all.

THE proposal of Mr. Charlton to make seduction a criminal offence has in a measure been less fortunate this session than it was last. Then it carried by a majority in the House of Commons and suffered euthanasia in the Senate. This time it has not reached the Senate at all. The Bill occupies a most anomalous position. Its principle is accepted, and cannot be

met fairly and squarely. The strongest ostensible opposition the measure has had to encounter is not that it is evil in itself, but its adoption might lead to other evils, therefore it is better to retain in our midst a certain and destructive evil, in case its restriction should lead to other evils. Even this has not been extensively repeated this time. The Bill has simply been manoeuvred out of the House for the session. The leader of the Government intervened with the motion to postpone consideration of the Bill, which Mr. Charlton pressed because the Premier's proposal meant the smothering of the measure for this session. Sir John's worst enemy would not venture to impute ignorance as to the result of his proposal. Mr. Charlton and his Bill will come again and come to stay.

APART from the political muddle caused by rival legislation, the temperance question has had another airing in the House of Commons. In moving the resolutions agreed upon at the Dominion Alliance meeting at Ottawa the other week, Professor Foster made a most elaborate speech in favour of temperance legislation. These resolutions are radical, declaring in express terms that prohibition is right and the only effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance. He quoted largely from the published opinions of moralists, statesmen, and members of the learned professions in support of the cause he advocated. Of course the fate of the resolutions in the Dominion Parliament can be easily anticipated. Public opinion is not yet matured on the question of prohibition. And its interpreters in the House of Commons will not especially on this question legislate in advance of public opinion. There are many reasons why they should. We would not only be saved from some of the scandals revealed by our election courts, but the members themselves would gain much in self-respect as well as in pocket were the custom of treating abolished. Prohibition would be an effectual extinguisher of this burning shame. It will come some day.

AT its last meeting, several members of the Presbytery of Toronto spoke of the injurious influence on personal religion of secret societies. The remarks made, as might be expected, have given great umbrage to the Masonic and other fraternities, some of whose representatives have given expression to views that will not tend to create a favourable impression of the organizations with which they are connected. Personal abuse and imputation of despicable motives to such men as Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and Professor Gregg are felt to be entirely beside the mark. Neither of these gentlemen would have made the observations they did unless they were persuaded that the position they assumed was correct. Neither Masonry nor any other institution can in these days claim exemption from criticism, but such criticism should be fair and honest. Mr. Macdonnell's sincerity, and Professor Gregg's honesty and prudence are so well known that it is a marvel why they should have been personally singled out for personal misrepresentation. The Masonic body, like every other organization, contains within its ranks good, bad, and indifferent. Men of all sections of the Christian Church are to be found within it pale, but there is no reason why it should be shielded from honest criticism. In dealing with mysterious organizations, however, their critics should be thoroughly acquainted with the facts on which their animadversions are based.

THE Belfast *Witness* states that the preparations for the approaching meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council are going on vigorously and successfully under the care of the Rev. Dr. Watts, whose whole heart is in the business. Belfast has come out well in the matter of funds, having subscribed nearly \$6,000 towards the expenses, while contributions from other places bring up to a total of over \$6,500, as reported at the meeting of the committee yesterday. Dublin is about to make a beginning in the same direction. The Maiden City, notwithstanding the fact that it has the General Assembly to entertain next summer, will, we are sure, do its duty, as it always does; and Cork, Coleraine, Ballymena, and other towns, will, doubt-

less, not be behind. We are specially pleased to notice the particularly strong delegation which the old Church of Scotland is likely to send over to the Council—Dr. Marshall Lang, of Glasgow, whom Belfast people had the pleasure of hearing for the first time last autumn, is a host in himself; Dr. Charteris will be a most able and welcome co-adjutor; Dr. Matheson, of Inellan, is one of the foremost men of the Kirk; and Mr. J. A. Campbell, M.P., and Mr. Cuthbertson will well represent the laity. Professor Godet is coming from Switzerland, and many representatives from America and the Colonies. The meetings are intended to begin on June 24th, and must be of surpassing interest. If the rest of the country only does its duty as Belfast is doing, they must prove a magnificent success and do much to further the interests of Presbyterianism the world over.

THE Free Library has been auspiciously opened on the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of Toronto. The spacious hall, handsomely decorated, was crowded to its utmost capacity. Many had to retire without a chance of witnessing the opening ceremony. Many remained who were equally unfortunate. The spaces within the hall were filled and the corridors were crowded. The building has been reconstructed. It seems admirably adapted for the purpose to which it is now devoted. The ceremonial began with the declaration by the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario that the Free Library was now open. Dr. Daniel Wilson, the President of Toronto University, delivered an admirable and appropriate address. The Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, then addressed the assemblage, remarking that free libraries were the proper complement of the Provincial educational system. Mr. Henderson, Oshawa, a student at Toronto College, effectively read the celebration ode. Rev. Dr. Withrow then delivered an appropriate address, and Professor Goldwin Smith, who was very cordially received, concluded the more formal part of the proceedings with a characteristic speech. Amid considerable amusement, ex-alderman Hallam, chairman of the Board, who presided on the occasion with tact and ability, loaned the first volume to the Lieut.-Governor, and others to two of the oldest citizens of Toronto. Much praise was deservedly accorded to Mr. Hallam for the generous and energetic manner in which he has conducted the Free Library movement from its inception to its successful consummation. Prof. Goldwin Smith also paid a well merited compliment to Mr. Bain, the librarian.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The disease conditions of this week are of a similar character to those of last, both in nature and amount. A change, very extreme indeed, took place in the temperature in the latter part of the week, and in this respect must have produced very serious effects. It will be noticed that Bronchitis, Influenza, and Pneumonia have all increased. As remarked last week, the relations of Bronchitis with extreme cold seems closer than either Pneumonia and Influenza. Tonsillitis and Consumption do not, as usual, show a marked change. The two infectious zymotics affecting the respiratory organs, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria, show in the case of the first a slight decrease, and in that of the latter an increase. An illustration of the infectious nature of Diphtheria has been given by a correspondent, where two deaths from the disease were caused in the following way: "A baker took a cat belonging to one of the families affected with diphtheria out into the country one and a half miles, and dropped it from the waggon near a house by the roadside in which were three children under five years of age. The eldest child took a fancy to the cat and continued to fondle it for two or three days, when he was attacked and died, as also did his little sister." Comment is unnecessary. Regarding Measles and Scarlatina, nothing need be said, further than that neither occurs in the six most prevalent diseases in any District, and Mumps is still present in small amounts. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent still prevails to about the extent that it has during past weeks of the winter months, though less than last week. It is noticeable that Typho-Malarial appears for the first time in many weeks amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases.