

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE movement in favour of conferring political rights on women is extending. The Nova Scotia Legislature has enacted a measure similar to that which was recently put on the Statute Book of Ontario. Widows and unmarried women possessing the necessary property qualification are entitled to vote at elections. However anxious some may be for the possession of the privilege, there are many who will not care to exercise it.

THE struggle between Church and State in Germany, known as the Culturkampf, has not yet terminated as was supposed. Prince Bismarck has informed Herr Windthorst and other leaders of the clerical party that for the present no more concessions were to be made. This announcement they strongly resent. They threaten to oppose the Government measures, the anti socialist bill, and others which are considered important. The leaders of the clerical party have also begun a popular agitation with a view of arousing antagonism to the Chancellor's policy.

ANOTHER evidence of the growing strength of the temperance cause is found in the recent formation of a Licensed Victualler's Association in Montreal. All connected with the drink traffic are either hastening to enroll as members, or to provide the sinews of war. The determination to reduce the number of licenses has caused commotion in the camp. Brewers are subscribing liberally to the funds of the Association. An effort is being made to secure an Act of incorporation from the Quebec Legislature. Active efforts on the part of the liquor interest ought to make the friends of temperance equally energetic, in advancing a cause which in every respect is in the best interests of the commonwealth.

AN announcement is made that after this year's competition Canadian candidates for the Gilchrist Scholarship in London University will not be eligible. As yet no sufficient reason has been assigned for this unexpected change. It is simply said that hitherto it has not proved satisfactory. If the announcement is correct it is to be regretted. A prize of such a nature as a London University Scholarship to a successful Canadian student was a great stimulus to diligent work and an honourable ambition. There is, however, no use in grieving over it. Canadian students will be no less earnest in their endeavours though an enviable distinction of this nature should be denied them.

LAST week a miserable tragedy occurred in Toronto. It is another case of evil habits leading to wretchedness, misery and death. Drink and immorality led to their logical sequence in the Allkins-Hackett tragedy. An artist found his erring wife and a street-car conductor in a neighbour's house. A passionate quarrel ensued, the injured husband drew a revolver and according to testimony fired indiscriminately, one shot inflicting a dangerous wound on Hackett, and another striking Mrs. Allkins in the leg. Both were removed to the hospital where the latter still remains. Her wounds are not considered dangerous. Hackett has since died, from the effects of the injuries received. The coroner's jury returned a non-committal verdict. The way of the transgressor is hard.

IN one of the last addresses made by the late Duke of Albany at Liverpool, he characterized drink as "the only terrible enemy which England has to fear." He was led up to this thought in speaking of teaching cookery in connection with ragged schools. He thought that if they could train the children early to see the difference between what dirt and waste and shiftlessness make of a poor man's dinner, and what thrift and care and cleanliness can make of it at the same cost, they would be civilizing them almost more directly than by their sums and grammar, and would be taking in flank their great enemy. "Drink—drink, the only terrible enemy whom England has to fear." This

sentiment elicited the loudest acclamations from the crowded hall.

THE Franchise Bill introduced as a Government measure in the British House of Commons has safely passed its most important stage—the second reading—by a substantial majority. By its provisions it is expected that nearly two million votes will be added to the British electorate. There has been no great agitation over this important reform measure. The excitement over the Reform Bill of 1832 was alarming. That attendant on the passing of the bill of 1867 was less pronounced and now memorable chiefly from the Cassandra-like croakings of the philosophers. Much was made of "a leap in the dark," "shooting Niagara," and similar metaphorical sayings. And now in 1884 a still greater extension of the franchise is contemplated calmly. After the Easter recess popular discussion of the subject will be more lively. It is generally expected that the Lords will throw out the Bill, an action which would lead to an appeal to the country.

THE Swedish State Church is frightened at the Evangelical Alliance. The *Independent* thus describes the situation: An acute attack of bigotry has induced the Swedish Lutheran bishops to do an inhospitable act. The Evangelical Alliance was invited to hold its General Conference in Stockholm, and representatives of the State Church, including bishops, joined in extending the invitation, and consented to appear on the programme. Now, because the Archbishop of Upsala and some of his co-religionists do not want to compromise the State Church by appearing in a body which contains representatives of dissenting churches in Sweden, they ungraciously appeal to the various branches of the Alliance to withdraw their acceptance of the invitation to meet in Stockholm. No time has been lost in acceding to this request, and their lordships are to be spared the danger of contamination. We would that they could see how evangelical Christendom regards their act.

THE last blue book received from Ottawa is monotonous but interesting. It is entitled "Return of Liquors sold to Parties in the County of Halton under the Canada Temperance Act." It contains the names of purchasers, the quantity and kinds of liquor obtained, purpose for which they were used and the names of prescribing physicians. With three exceptions the purpose for which liquor was required is described as medicinal. To the general reader the Return might be a matter of curiosity, to the medical profession it will simply be invaluable, because it seems to demonstrate the therapeutical value of alcohol. Whether the professors of the healing art will follow the lead of the Halton medicos in making such liberal exhibitions of the stimulating fluid remains to be seen. In that county the disciples of Haunemahu must be few in number, since liquor has not been prescribed in homœopathic doses. The Halton physicians will have to revise their pharmacopœia.

IN the town of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, a full fledged lottery has been for long permitted to flourish undisturbed. Attention has been called to it again and again, but no steps have up to the present been taken for its suppression. The good people of St. Stephen are ashamed of its existence and have at last taken action. A public meeting was held. Resolutions were adopted deploring the evil and appealing to the Government of Canada to take steps to remove the lottery swindle existing in this town, and further that an humble petition be presented to His excellency the Governor General in Council, praying that action be taken immediately to this end. Hon. George F. Hill suggested that where the petition stated that the lottery brought disgrace upon the town of St. Stephen, it should rather say "upon the Dominion of Canada." He held that it was a matter that the Dominion Government should deal with, and it was disgraceful to the whole Dominion that action had not before been taken for the suppression of the lottery. On motion his words "and the Dominion of Canada" were inserted in the petition.

THE New York Methodist Conference last week used great plainness of speech in the discussion of existing evils. Mormonism, divorce, Sabbath desecration, perjury and bribery came in for vigorous condemnation. The report of the committee on Public Morals contains the following on the subject of divorce: "The frequency of divorce is another social evil that demands the closest thoughts of the Church and the nation. Marriage is often contracted with reckless levity, and from motives foreign to those which alone can satisfy the conjugal relation. The unions effected with such immoral facility are often dissolved with a facility still more immoral and more corrupting. It is a shame and disgrace to faulty Protestant civilization that in one of the old Puritan commonwealths the proportion of divorces to marriages is as one to ten. Nor is it any extenuation of the shame that Romanism is equally or even more guilty in this respect. But it is not in recrimination that we should seek the remedy. The disease destroys while the doctors differ. The will of God on this distressing subject should be clearly understood, and the efforts of all good citizens should be directed to the enactment of statutory regulations by the several State Legislatures."

IT is painful to note from time to time that serious charges of dishonesty at examinations in public institutions of learning are made. Within the past few years several official inquiries have been held, and sufficient evidence has been elicited to show discreditable tricks have been resorted to by candidates who sought to obtain certificates of competency to which their merits could lay no claim. Victoria College, Montreal, is the latest institution in which this great evil has shown itself. It is asserted that students at Victoria University had for several days previous to examination been in possession of the questions on which they were to be examined. One of the Laval professors has drawn attention to the abuse, giving circumstantial details in support of the charge. In doing so the professor is discharging a duty he owes to the fair fame of the college, the parties implicated, and the cause of education. There has been too much reason to deplore the existence in the public life of Canada of brazen attempts to gain unworthy ends by disreputable means. It is inexpressibly sad to see the same degradation showing itself in connection with our educational institutions. What can we expect the current of our national life to be, when attempts are made to poison it at its source?

MR. WESTON's great pedestrian feat has demonstrated that temperate habits do not hinder athletic successes. The eminent medical scientist Dr. W. B. Richardson said: "All might be satisfied now that stimulants were perfectly useless for sustaining great physical effort, whether under tropical heat or polar cold. He, in the interests of medical science, had been watching Weston for the last week, and Mr. Green, a most accomplished observer, had never left Weston, recording his pulse, breathing, weight and height, and every circumstance that could ultimately be of use in making this great experiment of benefit to the world. The conclusion was that he was in a perfectly healthy condition, both of body and of mind, and if examined for insurance would be returned as a first-class life. Nothing in the shape of fatigue or strain of any kind was apparent, and that was to be attributed to his having lived so perfectly healthy and natural a life during his long period of exertion, and to his having taken nothing which had strained the heart or confused the brain, or interfered with the natural process of waste. Such a feat could not be done on beer, wine, or stimulants, unless in such small quantities as not to produce their characteristic physiological disturbance, when, of course, it would be a cheat. Weston was not a remarkably strong man, and had nothing peculiar about him, and though his body and limbs were admirably constructed, there was nothing massive or powerful in his build. He owed his success, therefore, to the method in which he had carried out his work."