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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OF Father Hyacinthe, the *United Presbyterian* says that he is still in the United States, meeting everywhere a pleasant reception and increasing in all who see him sentiments of personal esteem. He lectures—in French—to audiences interested in his earnestness and agreeable utterance, (though they do not understand what he says. His effort is to raise money for his church, his denomination, in Paris, said denomination consisting of himself and his wife. His work is among Protestants, but he is not a Protestant, and has no claim upon those of that faith. He has had a splendid opportunity to reform and do a great work, but he was not equal to it, and his life must, therefore, pass uselessly along a course of mistaken mediocrity.

THE protracted struggle between the clerical and the liberal parties in Belgium has, for the present, culminated in the triumph of the former. In the elections held last week, the liberal party was completely defeated and the ministry forced to resign. The Pope sent congratulations to the victorious party, but the hostility of those smarting under defeat led to serious and destructive rioting. Buildings were injured, houses and shops broken into and plundered. The Catholic library was attacked, and the Papal arms on its front torn down. The rioting and destruction proceeded for a time unchecked, as the authorities at first made no adequate efforts to disperse the rioters. They succeeded, however, in making a number of arrests.

THE death of another eminent Presbyterian minister, who was widely known both in Scotland and Ireland, is recorded. The Rev. John Macnaughton, of Belfast, after a lingering illness, has passed away. His first charge was that which afterwards became well-known as the congregation to which Dr. Cumming ministered—Crown Court, London. Here, however, Mr. Macnaughton did not long remain. He accepted the pastorate of High Church, Paisley, where his pulpit power attracted large audiences, his usual congregation numbering about 1,600. He took an active part in the contest that issued in the formation of the Free Church. He was an able platform speaker and ready debater. Receiving a call to Belfast, he was inducted pastor of Rosemary Street Church in 1849. In this charge he remained till death dissolved the relationship. He was a very successful minister in the truest sense. He did good service in the cause of the Gospel during a lengthened and highly esteemed ministry.

THE committee to whom is entrusted the arrangements for the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Belfast, are making satisfactory progress. At a recent meeting, the Mayor of Belfast reported on arrangements made for reception of Council on evening of 21st June, in Exhibition Buildings, Botanic Gardens. The Rev. Dr. Watts reported that the financial efforts were attended with satisfactory results, and that Larne had answered his appeal in a very generous way. The Rev. George Shaw reported that he had been enabled to make good progress in locating the deputies, but that much remained to be done before his department of the work was complete. The Rev. Dr. Killen reported that arrangements were in progress to dine the deputies on three successive days in the Ulster Hall. The Rev. H. Hanna reported that the issue of travelling tickets to continental delegates, in so far as the names had been returned to him, was complete. Mr. Hanna also reported that the Carlisle Memorial Church had, in the kindest manner, been put at the disposal of the Council, should it be needed.

THE annual meeting of York Township Sabbath school Association was held at Eglinton last week. Various subjects of practical and helpful interest to all engaged in the work of Sabbath schools were discussed, such as "Sunday School Teachers as Moulders of Character," introduced by Mr. John Milne; "Suc-

cessful Sunday School Teaching," by Rev. R. Stillwell. The Rev. G. M. Milligan spoke in the evening on "The Necessity of the Special Application of Tact in Sunday School Teaching." He urged that the teacher must have tact in enlisting and laying hold of the children's sympathies; tact in bringing the child's mind into sympathy with Bible history; teachers to have this tact must understand the Bible, and have qualifications which enable them to apply this understanding and knowledge to the subjects before the scholars, the fact of knowing and understanding each scholar, his temperament and natural inclinations. Mr. Moore introduced the subject of "What a Teacher Ought to be out of School." Mr. John Lennox was appointed president, Mr. R. C. Steele, and Robert Anderson, first and second vice-presidents, respectively.

LETTERS from criminals on the eve of execution are not in general edifying. Of course they obtain the widest possible circulation, and are read with avidity. The ordinary reader has considerable difficulty in discriminating between what is genuine and what is spurious in them. Their protestations of innocence are painful, and the religious and moral homilies they address to their fellow-men are frequently of a ghastly description. The two unfortunate men who were executed at Picton for murder have each left behind them letters for publication. They most positively assert their innocence. The evidence adduced on the trial was strongly corroborative of their guilt. Juries are reluctant to condemn an accused murderer, but the jury in the Lazier murder felt compelled to render a verdict of guilty. Petitions praying for the commutation of their sentence were duly considered by the Executive, who saw no reason to interfere. The law was suffered to take its course. There is no harm in intense pity for criminals, but there is the greatest possible harm to the community in that morbid sentimentality which makes pets of prisoners and in effect says to the murderer: "You may grin at the gallows; it won't hurt you."

OUR Congregational brethren, at the meeting of their Union in Montreal last week, placed on record, in clear cut terms, their protest against what is generally regarded as dangerous tendencies of the time. They are in harmony with the position taken by the Evangelical churches in Canada on Sabbath desecration. They also resolved that in the opinion of this Union all forms of lottery—whether in behalf of emigration schemes, charitable institutions, church purposes, or otherwise—are immoral in tendency and should in no way receive legal sanction from either our Provincial or Dominion Legislatures. A keen and spirited discussion showing unmistakable opposition to any connection between Church and State, arose out of the following resolution: That State aid for denominational purposes, either sanctioned or otherwise, is pernicious; that in times past it has been the fruitful source of irritation and strife; and that, therefore, we deprecate any movement on the part of any Church organization or educational institution whereby agitation shall be renewed; and respectfully urge upon the Attorney-General of Ontario that no such application for the use of public funds be entertained. A large deputation was appointed to present the resolution to the Attorney-General.

MR. SPURGEON tells us, says the *Christian Leader*, that not very long ago he was asked to interpret a lady's dream which struck her as very important. Its chief feature was a man whose head she could not see, but could hear the dropping of blood! When Mr. Spurgeon placed the ridiculous vision in its true light, as the result of a nightmare, or of indigestion, he fell in her esteem from the position of a prophet to that of an ignoramus. The woman's own minister, it seems, had given her a highly spiritual interpretation of the dream, and thereby raised himself in the lady's esteem. It furnishes a very sad illustration of the depraved moral as well as low intellectual condition of some Christian communities in England, that in the

body to which the clerical interpreter belongs there are not a few brethren who are prepared to endorse popular superstitions, or at least to utilize them for good purposes, smiling as they do so. Mr. Spurgeon charitably withholds the name of the denomination, but he very properly warns its ministers that they had better not encourage these superstitious notions among their people. The results may be most mischievous. "Once or twice within the last dozen years," says Mr. Spurgeon, "the Church at large has escaped from the fever of fanaticism by a hair's breadth, and the peril ought not to be perpetuated by unrebuked ignorance."

THE secular press, says the *Pittsburgh United Presbyterian*, is paying more than usual attention to the temperance question, and is more respectful than formerly in its treatment of it. These are good signs. Among those which have recently condemned the liquor traffic in pretty vigorous terms may be mentioned the *Tribune*, *Evening Post*, and *Nation*, of New York city; the *Press and Record*, of Philadelphia; the *Toledo Blade*, and the *Chicago Times*. These words are of peculiar significance on account of the paper from which they are taken, the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. It is a business which is opposed to every clergyman in the country. It is a business which every merchant and business man hates and detests. It is a business which is a standing dread of every mother. It is a business which makes ninety per cent. of the pauperism for which the tax-payer has to pay. It is a business which makes ninety per cent. of the business of the criminal courts. It is a business which keeps employed an army of policemen in the cities. It is a business which puts out the fire on the hearth, and condemns wives and children to hunger, cold, and rags. It is a business which fosters vice for profit and educates in wickedness for gain. Drunkenness comprises all other vices. It is the dictionary of vice, for it includes every vice. Drunkenness means speculation, theft, robbery, arson, forgery, murder: for it leads to all these crimes.

FROM the judicial bench we generally expect to hear calm and passionless utterances. Expectation in this respect is generally implemented. Our judiciary stands high in the respect of the people; it is well that this is the case. There are occasional exceptions when the judge speaks impassioned words from the bench. To seize the proper occasions, and to speak the right words, demand great tact and discrimination. Judges have rare opportunities for reading criminal human nature, and they are better skilled in the involutions of crime than laymen generally. They have opportunities of forming correct estimates of what are the strongest incentives to crime. In warning the public against evil courses of conduct and action they are doing good service. Judge Jellet, in addressing the grand jury at Picton, alluded to the efforts made in behalf of the prisoners condemned for the Lazier murder, and concluded by uttering these emphatic words: "Are we to have any faith in justice, in juries, in the law of the land? Are we to accept the maudlin utterances of these fanatics based upon the words of the criminals themselves, and let the criminals out to prey upon us? If these men were innocent they are in heaven, and better off ten thousand times than any of us. I here proclaim that the course of the men who in their excitement—their idiocy, I might almost call it—say that a judicial murder has been committed, have tried to stay the process of the law, is almost criminal. We should be proud and glad that the law has taken its course, and it is high time that these maudlin sympathies should be shut off. If murderers are to be set free on their own evidence, why not let them go at once when they plead 'not guilty' at the bar before being tried. We may now have the satisfaction of feeling assured that every scoundrel feels now that he cannot pull out his weapon and murder without being punished. The only effect of these maudlin efforts to secure mitigation of the punishment of criminals, is to disorganize the whole result of judicial proceedings."