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Notes of the Week.

THE Canadian Press Association, after the annual meeting held in Toronto, at which the retiring president, Mr. G. R. Patullo, in his address referred to the growing importance of the Provincial press, the need of amendment in the law of libel as related to newspapers, and the absurdity, not to say dishonesty, of seeking to secure subscriptions by means of the chromo system, started on a most enjoyable trip to Montreal, the White Mountains, Boston and New York.

THE admirably conducted institution at Belleville for the education and care of the deaf and dumb is doing an excellent work. The Superintendent states that there are many deaf and dumb children whose parents are not aware of the liberal provision made by the Province for such afflicted ones. Every deaf and dumb child in Ontario, of suitable age and capacity, may have instruction and training in intellectual culture and in some useful occupation, by attending the institution for the deaf and dumb at Belleville. There were 240 pupils in attendance last session, but as a number completed their education and left in June, there will be room for all for whom admission is desired when the institution re-opens in September.

MR. ERRINGTON, the Roman Catholic M.P. who was frequently employed on unofficial diplomatic missions to the Vatican, does not come so triumphantly out of a Parnellite attack as John Bright. The popular tribune's defence was simply overwhelming, while the deft politician's was miserably evasive. The Home Rulers profess to have got possession of documents alleged to be in Errington's hand-writing, showing that he was commissioned by the late Government to negotiate for the appointment of an Irish Archbishop suitable to them. The reply was that the document referred to was either a forgery or it was genuine; if genuine, it had been obtained dishonestly or dishonourably. The defence is not very ingenious and it certainly is not very satisfactory.

THERE is no abatement of the cholera ravages in Spain. The returns show that the number of cases and deaths are mounting up with fearful rapidity. When new cases reported aggregate between 4,000 and 5,000 and the deaths number 1,500 daily, it is seen at a glance how terrible the condition of the country must be. It has again broken out in Marseilles and several fatal cases are reported to have occurred in Paris. In Marseilles the re-appearance of the scourge is due to the neglect of sanitary precaution, which after the dreadful experiences of last season seems unaccountable. It is marvellous that the American Continent has so far escaped the visitation of this deadly foe. The season is advancing and it may be that the cholera will not appear on this side of the Atlantic, but it would be folly to neglect all necessary precautions.

CRIMINAL precocity is not indigenous to American soil. The quiet old German town of Spires has been the scene of an atrocious school-boy plot that has shocked all Fatherland. In the high school was a subordinate teacher whom the boys intensely disliked. Nine of them conspired together for his "removal," daggers and revolvers having been procured. Matters, however, did not proceed too far, as the younger

pupils became alarmed at the daring nature of their enterprise, which they revealed to the authorities. This is not an adaptation of American methods, but the outburst of native Teutonic barbarism. The American method of getting quit of an unpopular teacher is not a resort to the desperate expedient of the revolver or dagger, but communicating to parents the pupil's dissatisfaction with the teacher and in due time some obliging trustee will be found willing to let the teacher know that his usefulness is gone.

THE English House of Commons has passed the Criminal Amendment Bill, the principal feature of which is to extend protection to young girls. Before the recent terrible revelations there was a disposition to defeat the object of the promoters of the measure; but public vigilance has been aroused and it was no longer possible to trifle with the requirements of public morals. There is also increased activity in bringing offenders to justice, as recent events in Liverpool evidence. A clause in the Criminal Amendment Act required the punishment of medical men who granted certain certificates. This was negated by a very decided majority. The honour of the medical profession is supposed to be a sufficient guarantee that in general it may be relied on to discountenance vice; but then every profession has its quota of black sheep. No medical man who regards his reputation would be guilty of the baseness to which, according to recent disclosures, some members of an honourable profession lent themselves.

WHAT is to be the fate of the leader of the North-West rebellion? He had a fair and impartial trial. Able counsel both for the prosecution and defence exerted themselves to secure a forensic triumph. So conclusive were the evidences of Riel's guilt that no one pretends that the verdict of the jury could rightly be other than it is. The plea of insanity was not seriously entertained, and the accused repudiated it almost contemptuously. Louis Riel is now under sentence of death, but scarcely any one believes that it will be carried out. His crime is a serious one. He cannot shake off responsibility for the lives lost during the campaign, and it is clear that the Indian rising and massacres occurred at his instigation. He was let off once, only to renew at the first opportunity his ambitious schemes, so fatal to his deluded followers. If his crimes do not merit the death penalty it would be difficult to say for what offences it is the appropriate punishment. But the French Canadians have a sentimental sympathy for Louis Riel, therefore he won't be hanged.

WHEN a person is placed in perilous circumstances he may be extricated by the performance of a hazardous feat. Timid women have clung to ledges in escaping from fire, that no inducement could have persuaded them to undertake voluntarily. There is no justification, however, for the absurd feats that professional showmen and others occasionally resort to for the sake of notoriety. Swimming the Whirlpool Rapids, or leaping from the East River Bridge, New York, is simply a picturesque form of suicide. Equally indefensible is the effort to cross the Atlantic in a small boat, which, though having been done occasionally with success, is always attended with most imminent risks. The little dory *Neptune*, which was to leave the Cornish coast for New York has been passed off Cape Clear unoccupied. The son of Erastus Wiman, of New York, and a companion reached Montreal in a small boat *via* the St. Lawrence where, without intending it, they had to run the Long Sault Rapids in their frail barque. The young man writing to his father very properly says: "The feat of shooting the Long Sault Rapids on the Canadian side in a skiff is one probably never achieved before. I shall not seek to defend the action nor to pronounce it anything but a foolhardy venture, to undertake which a combination of events forced us."

IT is not a safe thing to impugn the motives and malign the memories of the Scottish Covenanters. The Camden Society has issued two volumes com-

plied from historical documents in the British Museum and private collections. The perusal of these has prompted the Glasgow *Christian Leader* to speak with emphasis of the detractors of the Covenanters. The general A. K. H. B. receives a stinging blow. In the letters of the callous oppressors there crop up fresh illustrations of that nobility of character which makes the name of the Covenanters one of moral power to-day, despite all the efforts of reactionaries and unbelievers to rob them of their reputation and to make the world believe that they were at the best only a set of ignorant and narrow-minded fanatics. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd not only preached but printed a sermon in which, while shedding tears over the marble tomb of Sharp, he sneeringly denied the title of the Covenanters to be regarded as witnesses for Christ, maintaining that they were merely political zealots; but this shallow view of a *dilettante* pulpiter of our own time is rebuked by many an unintended tribute to the religious and moral dignity of their victims that is to be found in the letters of the persecutors. We are told of the "unparalleled obduracy" of the people, who were not in the least terrified by the Bardadoes or any mode of punishment which the fiends were able to devise, and how in many a homestead there were brave matrons who upbraided their husbands and sons for not dying on the slopes of the Pentland Hills. No mere political motive ever did inspire a passion like this. True, it was for the rights of a king that these witnesses were contending; but these were the crown rights of the Redeemer. Only the love and fidelity inspired by the Cross could have sustained the hearts of the sufferers in that struggle which has done more than aught else to make the name of Scotland a moral force in the world.

THE Standard Assurance Life Company, which has had a very successful career not only in the old country but also in Canada, have just completed a very fine building in Montreal, the formal opening of which took place on the 31st inst., when the Manager, Mr. W. M. Ramsay, was presented with an illuminated address and a splendid oil portrait of himself. The presentation took place in the board room of the new premises by Mr. Charles Hunter, Mr. Ramsay making a feeling reply in the course of which he made complimentary reference to the assistance he received from the officers of the Company. Mr. Thomas Kerr, Chief Inspector of Agencies, replying on behalf of the officers, said: I regret that more of our number are not present, as many of these gentlemen could respond better than I can; but I can say for them that there is but one feeling among them in regard to the kindness, the generosity and consideration which Mr. Ramsay exercises towards them in the discharge of his duties as Manager of this large corporation, a corporation which for many years has had a firm footing in every British colony. The duties of the Manager of a good Life Company are often difficult, as he has to discriminate between the efficiency of agents and that of rival companies. I can say for the outside agents of the Company that in their estimation Mr. Ramsay is a model manager, and his mistakes, if any, are always on the side of caution. Life agents have got the credit of having, if not a sufficiency of brains, a competency of cheek; but I think the Manager will bear testimony in this case that, if he found any lack of brains among our officers, there was a corresponding lack of cheek. In regard to my own connections with Mr. Ramsay, were he not present I might say much. However, I may be permitted to say that after doing business with the public for over thirty-five years, I can say that having come in contact with many men of different phases of character, with none of them were my associations of a more pleasant and agreeable nature. Gentlemen, I almost pity a man who gets a presentation. I do not speak from experience. He has to pass through an experience that is anything but pleasant. On behalf of the officers of the Standard Life I beg to tender you my hearty thanks. Mr. Charles Hunter and Mr. D. M. McGoun of the Standard also returned thanks and spoke highly of Mr. Ramsay.