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## Notes of the Week.

FOURTEEN counties in Michigan, which have already held elections under the Local Option Law of that State, have decided in favour of absolute Prohibition. It is estimated that at least twenty other countries will take the same course.

AFTER much difficulty and long delay a bishop has at length been chosen for the Episcopal Church of Nova Scotia. The gentleman on whom the choice fell this time has seen his way clear to accept the office. Dr. Frederick Courtenay, of St. Paul's Church, Boston, is to be the new occupant of the Episcopate. He is not expected to enter on his new and exalted duties till after Easter.

LAST week the board of trustees of Princeton College, New Jersey, formally accepted the resignation of President McCosh, to take effect at the end of the present college year. A motion was adopted making provision for his future relations with the college, and establishing for his benefit an annual honorarium of \$2,500, besides which he will retain his present position at the head of the School of Philosophy of the college. The board then unanimously elected Professor Francis L. Patton, D.D., LL.D., Stuart Professor of Ethics, as president. The numerous friends of Dr. Patton are confident that he will advance the prestige and usefulness of Princeton, for which President McCosh has done so much. It is very gratifying to observe the generous acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by the retiring president.

A MINISTER of the English Presbyterian Church the Rev. Hugh McIntosh, Brockley—has been delivering a short series of special sermons on the Down Grade: Its Cause and Cure. Speaking on the subject on a recent Sabbath night, Mr. McIntosh said that if the great commotion and controversy caused by Mr. Spurgeon's trumpet-blast had done no other good, it had at least served the purpose of awakening a new interest in those things which concern our everlasting peace. There was too much need for this cry from the great watchman on Zion's towers, and certainly the evils proclaimed were not confined to the two denominations only. This again showed the necessity of a precise creed and thorough Church government, which were to be found neither in Independency nor in Episcopacy, but in Presbyterianism.

THE hour for the expected great European war has not yet struck but the pendulum continues its steady oscillations. Now it seems as if war was about to be declared; again the diplomatic declarations are profoundly peaceful. Meanwhile preparations for hostilities are unrelaxed. There has been no recession of troops from the Russo-German frontier. Details are being everywhere perfected, loans are being negotiated and armours are working their hardest that millions of men may be ready when the occasion comes. The publication of the Austro-German treaty was quickly followed by Prince Bismarck's remarkable speech—remarkable both for what it says and for what it suggests but does not say. The present tension cannot long continue. In a few weeks war will either be indefinitely postponed or become a certainty.

THE editor of the *Christian Leader* says This is the conversation which one of my correspondents heard in a London suburban train the other day. Good-morning. All well at home? Yes, thanks; but our number is getting much reduced. What do you think my youngest boy has done? He left school in the spring and off he set to the city and found for himself a situation in Finsbury at 12s. a week. Not long ago he said to me, "Father, by the bye, I am going to Winnipeg. I've made all the arrangements, the ship leaves Liverpool on such and such a day." He made just as much fuss about leaving as if he were going up to see "Buffalo Bill." He has arrived out all right, and the last letter advises

that he has got a situation as clerk in the mechanical department of a railway system at 25s. a week, likes the work and sees his way. And how old did you say he is? Seventeen. And how did he manage about his passage money? Why, saved it out of his wages of course. This kind of emigrant is always sure of a cordial welcome in Canada.

A MEMORIAL for presentation to the Queen is now being largely signed by the bishops and clergy of the Anglican Church and ministers of various Protestant denominations. It solemnly protests against her Majesty's Government "permitting an envoy from the Pope to approach the Throne with a message from the Vatican, and advising her Majesty to hold intercourse with the Pope or Pontiff by means of a special mission to Rome on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of Leo XIII. as a priest, to offer 'the idolatrous sacrifice of the Mass.'" The memorial goes on to warn her Majesty that such a mission was "calculated to endanger the security of the Throne to raise doubts in the minds of our fellow-subjects as to their allegiance—to disturb the feelings of loyalty, respect and affection which they entertain toward your royal person, to imperil the Protestant constitution of these realms, with its heritage of civil and religious liberty, and to dishonour the name of Him by whom kings reign and through whom your Majesty enjoys world-wide sovereignty."

IN the county of Brant a vigorous and energetic Sabbath School Association has been in existence for a number of years. It has attained its present state of efficiency and influence through the energetic and zealous efforts of the president, Mr. W. N. Hossie, and the various officers. The Nineteenth Annual Convention will be held in the Baptist Church, Paris, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th, 21st and 22nd of February, commencing on Monday at half-past seven p.m. Its membership is open to all pastors, officers and teachers and adult scholars of Evangelical Sabbath schools in the county. Superintendents are requested to ascertain who will attend, not later than Feb. 13, and forward the names by post card to the secretary, Thomas Webster, Paris. Tuesday forenoon and afternoon is given to denominational conferences, that are to be held in the school rooms and churches indicated by programme for these sessions. Every school should be represented on the occasion of this new feature in the county convention. The usual arrangements for reduced fares over the Grand Trunk Railway within the county will be made.

THE following extract from a letter gives some idea of the terrible disaster that befell Honan: A stupendous disaster has overtaken an immense and populous tract of country in North China. About the end of October last the mighty Yellow River, which in 2,500 years has changed its course five or six times has once more burst out of its old channel at a point about 300 miles from the coast. Frantic efforts were made to close the breach in the embankments which had been sodden and weakened by ten days' continuous rain, but all was in vain. The breach finally widened to the breach of 1,200 yards through which issued the whole contents of the currents. The escaped torrent in its progress to the sea was swelled by other rivers, whose channels it invaded, until, at last, it was a volume of water thirty miles wide, and from ten to thirty feet deep. The absence of railways and telegraphic communication must have made flight much more difficult than it would have been in a country of more advanced civilization. Walled towns and multitudinous villages were swept away by the raging flood. In a tract of territory about thirty miles square, 1,500 villages were submerged. Accounts necessarily differ as to the number of persons drowned. A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Peking, thinks it can hardly be less than one million, and probably is not so high as two. Still, he admits that the European in Peking, who by his relations with the Chinese Government is in a position to be better informed than any one else, has put the number at 7,000,000.

THE *Christian Leader* thus comments on the ministry of the press. Our excellent contemporary, the *Sunday School Chronicle*, has always been a well-equipped journal in every department, but the first number for 1888 appears in a much improved form, indicative of the progress of the great Sunday school organization it so worthily represents. The *Chronicle* unites with its staunch adherence to evangelical truth a breadth of intellectual and spiritual sympathy, and a sweetness as well as manliness of tone, which cannot be too highly commended. We rejoice in the wholesome influence it must be exerting among the thousands of Sunday School teachers who accept it as a guide and helper. The *Free Church Monthly* so ably conducted by Mr. Norman L. Walker, has also made a step in advance this year. Happy is the Church to whom, in this reading age, God vouchsafes a minister possessed of the high qualities as a journal, 1st so conspicuous in the pastor of Dysart; still happier must it be if it has the grace to appreciate the gift. The most widely circulated and influential of the London religious weeklies, the *Christian World*, which easily maintains its supremacy as the organ of the Free Churches of England, has also introduced several improvements in its new year number while the *Freeman*, the old organ of the Baptists, which has Principal Angus and Mr. Williams, of Accrington, on its editorial staff, gives fresh tokens of growth. The English Presbyterians are the only denomination in the southern portion of the island destitute of efficient representation in the press; yet, oddly enough, they have spent more money in futile attempts to establish a newspaper than any other body. Mr. Carruthers, of the British Museum, has worked nobly in connection with these efforts, but they have always been naimed by clerical amateurs. Dr. Donald Fraser was one of them and the most conspicuous failure of all.

PRESIDENT FORREST, of Dalhousie University, lately delivered an able lecture on "Socialism," under the auspices of the Young People's Association, of St. Andrew's Church, St. John, N. B. The lecturer thought that the too great tendency to crowd into the cities was responsible for much of the existing destitution. It is from the idle, thriftless and useless, he said, that the poorer classes are generally recruited. The more moderate Socialists admit, said the lecturer, that the poor have had some share in the economic advance of the century; they assert, however, that they have not profited to the extent they should. Socialists claim that the wealth of the nation belongs to the hands that made it; that the tools belong to toilers, and the products to the producers; that every man is entitled to the full proceeds of his own labour, and to his proportionate share of all the natural advantages of the earth. Dr. Forrest instanced Sir Thomas More's Utopia, and quoted the works of Fourierists and Anarchists, as well as of Socialists, on these points. Socialists differ from Communists in that, while the latter would provide for every man according to his needs, the former would reward him on the basis of his deeds. He alleged that Henry George is a Socialist, and said the facts upon which he bases his indictment are the purest fiction, and the remedy he proposes is absurd. What is the principle that underlies all these schemes? that Socialism proposes the control of the community for individual enterprise and personal liberty. This must necessarily be brought about by legislation, the lecturer thought, and he instanced cases to show that efforts to interfere with labour have resulted in miserable failures. The lecturer condemned strikes as generally impolitic. He asserted that a general acceptance of the principles of trades unionism could only cause a limitation of production and a rise in prices. To abolish honest competition and accumulation would be, the lecturer said, to destroy the chief incentives to progress. He opposed the distribution of wealth by legal enactment—not naming any Socialist who ever advocated such distribution—saying that if the wealth of the community were equally distributed it would soon get back where it was before. Industry, enterprise and intelligence would, he thought, place nations, communities or individuals at the front.