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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE \$20,000 given to the Montreal Presbyterian College by Mrs. Redpath, of that city, is a noble gift, well applied.

THE assertion is made that at Harvard University, in the last fifty years, no smoking student has graduated at the head of his class.

A GREAT awakening is reported in several Spanish villages near Villafranca. In one, the entire population, consisting of about one hundred families, has become Protestant.

THE London "Standard" says that the Marquis of Lorne will remain in Canada three years, having made known his desire to complete the full term of the Governor-Generalship unless recalled to take up another appointment.

DR. JOHN HALL states the difference between the religious aspects of England and America thus: "In England the people are divided into Churchmen and Dissenters; but in America they are divided into Churchmen and Absenters."

THE average rent of land per acre in Ireland is three dollars per annum. This would make the rental of the island the round sum of \$57,576,960; while the whiskey bill of the nation amounts to \$69,115,510—the amount of rum over rent is \$11,538,550.

M. PAUL BERT, the French Minister of Public Instruction and of Worship, has written to all the prelates who attended the recent canonization ceremony in Rome, reminding them of the provisions of the Concordat requiring them to obtain permission of the Government before leaving their dioceses.

A RECENT despatch from Rome states that the bishops who attended the late canonization ceremony there have given a formal denial to the report that the Pope consulted them upon the advisability of his leaving Rome. On the contrary, they affirm that, to their great surprise, the Pope said nothing at all about the matter.

THE public coffee-houses of England, intended to check intemperance, have rapidly increased. The first house was established in 1873. There are now over 160. One of the largest is the Caxton, in London, patronized largely by persons employed on newspapers. The upper stories of the building are used by the Press Club, which has 150 members.

IN Mexico there are now 10,000 Protestant Christians. The Presbyterian Church began in 1872, and has 4,000 members; the Methodists in 1878, and have 337 in full connection and 378 on probation; and the Episcopal Church has 3,500 members. The first introduction of the Bible into the country was by the soldiers and chaplains of the U.S. army in 1847.

GREAT suffering still exists in Muskoka as the result of the bush fires in the fall. Many of the settlers in Draper, Ryde and McLean especially, are destitute, not only of stock and farm implements, but even of the necessaries of life. Application has been made to the Government in their behalf, and the Attorney-General has promised to give the matter immediate attention. Whatever relief is to be given, either from public funds or from the private purses of the charitable, would require to be given without any delay.

THE city public schools closed for the holidays on the 22nd inst. They will reopen on 9th January. Nothing has been done by the Board in the matter of the overwork so much complained of lately. The Committee on School Management say that the Inspector says that there is no overwork in the schools, and that there has not been any during the past two years. That, of course, settles the matter. It is probable, however, that the new Board will find it

necessary to investigate the alleged grievance somewhat more thoroughly.

AT Tientsin, on the 8th of November, in the presence of Li Hung Chung and other high Chinese officials, the Woman's Hospital was opened. Mr. Angell, United States Minister to Peking, delivered an address. Mrs. Dr. Howard, an American missionary lady who was instrumental in the cure of Lady Hi, wife of the Viceroy, when her life was despaired of by all of her Chinese medical attendants last year, is in charge. The hospital thus established in Tientsin, and another in Peking, are solely due to the influence of Mrs. Howard. Foreign medicines are, in consequence, in large demand in China.

REGARDING the custom of offering wine and other intoxicating liquors to visitors on New Year's Day, the "New York Observer" says: "A word in season may be spoken to the ladies. It is becoming less and less usual to offer intoxicating liquors to friends who call on New Year's Day. Let us hope that the custom will be abandoned altogether now. Thousands of young men, and some not very young, have lost their heads under the influence of wine offered by ladies, who would shrink from the thought of doing evil. It is better every way to dispense with it, and one of the very least of reasons for its disuse is, that it is no longer genteel."

SINCE the imprisonment or dispersion of the officers of the Irish Land League, its work has been to a large extent still carried on by female members. Mr. Gladstone's "resources of civilization" have not yet, however, been exhausted. The Lord Lieutenant has issued a circular to the police, informing them that the proclamation declaring the Land League a criminal association included females, and directed them to take measures against any woman participating in any illegal proceedings. It is stated that a prison designed for females is being prepared for the reception of members of the Ladies' Land League, and the arrest of several prominent members of the Dublin branch of that organization is expected.

SOON after the publication of the Revised Version of the New Testament, the pastor of a Congregational church in Connecticut preached a sermon for the enlightenment of his people, comparing the Revised with the King James version, which he several times called *Saint James' version*, to the amusement of some of his hearers. Subsequently the officers of his church sent to him in writing an expressed wish that he would not use in the public services of the Church the Revised version, to the exclusion of the St. James version. For this the pastor seems to have been indignant, and is reported to have said: "The ignorance thus shewn by a people to whose enlightenment I have devoted myself, so disgusts me that I will no longer read any Scripture for their benefit. I have resigned."

A MEETING for the organizing of the work of establishing temperance coffee-houses in the city of Montreal was held at the Exchange Bank there on the 16th inst. Several ministers and a large number of influential laymen were present. After full discussion it was moved by Mr. D. Morrice, seconded by Mr. C. Garth, and carried unanimously, "That it is expedient to form a joint stock company to be named The Montreal Coffee-House Association, or any other name that may be decided on hereafter." A committee was appointed to take the initiative in forming the company. It was afterwards decided that the shares should be \$10 each, and those present at once subscribed for 250 shares. The total amount of capital to be raised has apparently not yet been determined, but sums as low as \$20,000 were mentioned, and as high as \$50,000. One of the speakers described the clean and neat coffee taverns now so commonly to be found in the most prominent positions in London, Liverpool and Glasgow, at which a breakfast can be had for threepence, a dinner for fourpence halfpenny, and a cup of coffee for a penny.

THE Mormon issue is fairly before Congress. On the afternoon of the 12th inst., there was laid on the desk of each Congressman, ready for the meeting of the House on the next day, a handsomely engraved card, bearing on one fold the President's message on polygamy, printed in letters of gold, and on the other fold, in crimson, the admission filed by one of the parties in the pending Utah contest. "I, George Q. Cannon, contestant, protesting that the matter in this paper contained is not relevant to this issue, do admit that I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, commonly called Mormons; that, in accordance with the tenets of the said Church, I have taken plural wives, who now live with me, and have so lived with me for a number of years, and borne me children. I also admit that in my public addresses, as a teacher of my religion in Utah Territory, I have defended said tenet of said Church as being, in my belief, a revelation from God." Each card is inscribed "Respectfully dedicated to the Forty-seventh Congress by the Women's Anti-Polygamy Society of Salt Lake City, Utah."

AT the ordinary meeting of the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Established Church of Scotland, on the 30th ult., the Rev. Dr. McGregor, of St. Cuthbert's, in the course of an explanatory statement regarding his recent four months' absence from his charge, on a visit to the Canadian North-West in company with the Marquis of Lorne, gave his impressions of the condition and prospects of Presbyterianism in this country, and of the work now opening up before us in the North-West, promising details on a future occasion. He is reported as follows: "With regard to his impressions on the religious affairs of Canada, he said they were very decided. It would not be fair to inflict these upon the Presbytery without due notice, but he would make one observation—that while all the Churches of God were happily pulling together in Canada, and while all the Churches of God were giving evidence of great prosperity and success, he might be pardoned for saying there were none which gave that evidence in a higher degree than the Presbyterian Church in Canada; there was none blessed with more able, more accomplished, and more devoted men—none that had a firmer hold on the intellect of the community—none that was labouring with more arduous and self-sacrificing diligence to meet the spiritual wants of what they knew was a very rapidly increasing population. There were no names in Canada higher than names like Principal Dawson, McGill College, and his equally able son; Principal Grant, Kingston; Principal Bryce, Winnipeg; and Mr. Gordon, Ottawa. There were Presbyterian churches in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg, which was on the borders of what was at one time considered an unknown desert, which would serve as a model in their internal arrangements, and in point of stone and lime, to any of our churches in Scotland. He never saw such provision made for Sabbath schools. He called it then and now ludicrously sumptuous. They had sufficient evidence that, owing to many causes, but specially, he thought, to the expedition of Lord Lorne, there would be a rush of emigrants to the North-West Territory such as was never known before, and among those the majority would be Scotchmen. Scotchmen were the backbone of Canada, and the universal cry was 'Send us more Scotchmen!' So much was that the case, that the universal experience was crystallised into a proverb—'Of all the trades in Canada there is none like being a Scotchman.' He knew the Canadian Church would strain every nerve to follow this mighty wave of emigration. It would tax their utmost effort, and they would fail, because it was not within their resources to meet the spiritual destitution in the North-West Territory. No duty lay nearer the Scottish Churches than that of seeing that their brethren leaving these shores and going there did not become heathens. He hoped the scheme over which Dr. Gray so worthily presided would get much countenance within and without the bounds of the Presbytery."