

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MANY over zealous believers have rushed into print, and have advanced the scepticism and rank infidelity of the age. These writers have lately found much comfort and expended a great deal of time over the alleged discovery of Noah's Ark. The *Levant Herald* is the authority for the story and has succeeded in palming off this elaborate hoax throughout the world. Would-be champions of Pentateuchal authenticity must not glory in the alleged discoveries of newspaper men. The after-thoughts and feelings are not comforting. This is a great advertising age and newspaper men know it.

THE opponents of the Suez Canal Scheme are determined to oust the company from their lucrative monopoly. It is almost admitted that the concession of the Khedive, as regards the waterway, should be respected; but it is also very plain that in every grant made by a ruler there is a reservation giving him a right to resume the concession on the ground of public policy. On that ground the concession to M. de Lesseps might be taken away, but the spirit of fairness and uprightness demands that the Frenchman should receive ample compensation.

THERE is a novel suggestion which will probably cut the legal knot and ease the not over-keen consciences of the speculators. It is the proposal to construct a ship-railway (not waterway) across the Isthmus, and thus at once solve the difficulty of monopoly and afford shipowners the relief incident upon competition.

THE transportation of vessels upon a railway is not an untried experiment. Canal boats are transported from the Potomac River to a canal in this fashion. An English firm has guaranteed the absolute safety of lifting fully loaded vessels to a height of forty-six feet in thirty minutes. It is also urged that the ship railway has many advantages over a canal. In the words of the proposer, "It is much cheaper to build; it can be more quickly constructed; the largest ships can be transported much more rapidly and with equal safety on it; it can be more easily enlarged to meet the future demands of commerce; and its maintenance is less costly." We have not yet heard the last of this scheme.

OSCAR WILDE, just before leaving London, delivered a lecture to his faithful aesthetes. But Oscar, a few evenings previous to the lecture, ventured the remark that "Music to be charming should be unexpected. The man who has the best idea of giving pleasure by music is the organ-grinder." Some one sent a commentary on the remark in the following way: As soon as the lecture began there arose from the streets the inspiring strains of an organ which kept the audience in a titter for a quarter of an hour. Oscar's vocabulary has been severely criticized. At this lecture he used "lovely" forty-three times; "beautiful" twenty-six times; and "charming" seventeen times. Concerning the frequent use of the capital *I*, the *World* says:—

"Like Argus, Oscar Wilde appears
To each who his oration hears;
For every sentence testifies
He has a multitude of *I's*."

RUSKIN has been again forging some thunder-bolt sentences. Here are three denunciatory ones true to life: "The common modern men about town, who are the parasites of their own cigars." Young

men wishing to appear and to be sensible should make a note of this. Another; "The affectionate analysis of vice in modern novels." Just the kind of novels we find scattered around the bed-room, while Scott and George Macdonald lie on the drawing room table. The third; "The chronic insanity of infidel thought which makes all things spectral." Those three sentences are worth thirty morals.

WHEN will hot brained fanatics and opponents of causes learn that force is seldom a certain remedy? It too often begets sympathy, and that, too, from unexpected quarters. The "*Pall Mall Gazette*," hitherto hostile to Mr. Machonochie has at last taken up the cudgels in his defence. Concerning Lord Penzance's recent judgment it says:—"Almost everyone will regret its inopportune interference with the ecclesiastical truce which was the short-lived legacy of the late Archbishop. It will not be surprising if the interruption to Mr. Machonochie's work in the parish where he went on a plain understanding with the late Archbishop, and with the universal consent of those interested, leads a good many people who have not hitherto sympathized with him to desire a relaxation of the law which makes such mischief possible."

It seems a pity that Lord Penzance, (or rather the Church Association,) had not been content to await the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission before proceeding with the case of Mr. Machonochie. Public opinion within and without the Church will deeply regret that the sentence of deprivation has been passed, and so frustrated the late Archbishop's dying wishes and most earnest hopes.

It seems that the legislation adopted by the House of Representatives in the United States to check the Mormon evil has strangely miscarried, and by its failure proof has been given of the great power and strength of the organization. The first state election held in Utah since the passage of the Edmunds or anti-polygamy bill, took place during the beginning of last week, and although no polygamist was permitted to vote, or was eligible for office of any kind, in a very great majority of cases the candidates elected to office, from members of the Legislature to bailiffs, were those supported by the Mormon Church, press and vote. They may not one of them be a polygamist, within the meaning of the law that is, but they believe in polygamy as one of the tenets of the Mormon Church if they do not actually practice it, and will, as a matter of course, do all in their power to support it. It remains to be seen what measures will be adopted to meet the crisis which the result of this election has now forced upon the Government.

MOTTLEY, a witness against the dynamitards, has gone the way of Carey. The Invincibles have evidently passed sentence of assassination against all persons connected with the famous trials. Mottley was neither an informer nor approver, but simply gave evidence that he saw certain of the prisoners near the park on the ill-fated day. The sleuth-hand rapidity of Invincible vengeance is truly startling, and from an administrative point of view, a most difficult problem to deal with. Assassinations must be circumvented and English Justice must prove itself to be as ubiquitous as Irish Invincible spawn.

CETEWAYO, like the proverbial cat, seems to have nine lives. At one time he is dead, at ano-

ther alive and fighting. While would-be historians were writing him up as a noble heroic savage converted into a martyr by the civilization and Christianity of Europeans, lo! a telegram brings the news that the sable King is living at present in obscurity.

THE pernicious scheme of dividing Zululand into three separate princedoms with a kind of British surveillance was doomed to failure. The princes fall upon each other, and then are dragged away by British interference. Cetewayo says, "Mr. Fynn tells me that I must just keep quiet when I am being killed by Usibelu's men. He tells me that if I allow myself to act on my own account in this matter of being killed, I shall be in fault before the authorities." The recent slaughters show that the present state of affairs is discreditable to us. Either let these hordes be left to manage themselves, or else place them at once under direct British control. The present system is that of civilized extermination.

IN the report of the English Postmaster-General, we find that the business of the savings-banks, shews satisfactory progress since the introduction of the system which enabled depositors to secure small savings. There was an increase of about \$15,000,000 over the deposits of the previous year. We press this point on the notice of our own authorities, for surely the time has come when the labouring classes should have increased banking facilities extended to them. Either have a ten cent deposit, or introduce the "card" system as in England. The card should be small—about the size of the postal card—and contain spaces for ten stamps. Ten cent deposit stamps could be purchased at the post-offices, then affixed in the squares, and when the card received its full complement of stamps, the same would be handed in as representing a dollar deposit. We feel certain, that the system would be a great aid to thrift among the poorer members of the community, and we urge the secular press to force the matter upon the attention of our legislators.

LAND-OWNERS in Ireland are naturally enough desirous to get the Land Act amended, on the ground that property has become unsaleable and that there is a general loss of income. One owner complains that land for which he had been receiving \$6.00 an acre was thrown on his hands, and that he would be most willing to let it for \$2.00. It helps us to straighten our judgment when we read both sides of a story. Here is an incident on the other side. On an island off the coast of Ireland the rent, when the present proprietors bought the property, was \$4000.00 a year. By the labours of the tenants, unassisted by the proprietor, the rent was raised to \$15,000 a year. The wonder seems to be that anyone wondered when in such a case the industrious tenants had their rents reduced 58 and 75 per cent.

THE rapid development of centres of trade are quite phenomenal of the present age. Villages of a few years ago are to-day cities of large size. Notably among the most conspicuous is Chicago, which on Friday week celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation as a village. Its population is now over 500,000. Winnipeg bids fair to develop even more rapidly; certainly its growth already has been most striking. At the rate Montreal and Toronto are growing, it will not be many years before we are able to boast of a Canadian City of half a million inhabitants.