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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE French are a very susceptible people. They are easily raised to a pitch of great excitement over very little. King Alfonso of Spain paid a visit to Paris, and was received as a public guest. Large crowds surrounded the railway stations and lined the streets along which the royal party passed. Multitudes hooted and yelled and addressed insulting cries to the Spanish king. As a rule the French are very polite to their public visitors. They made, however, an exception in their treatment of Alfonso, who in the disagreeable circumstances conducted himself with dignity and forbearance. Spain is indignant over the insult offered their king. The feeling so hastily rising to fever heat will speedily recover its normal temperature. Much diplomatic and journalistic ink will be spilt over the excitement of the Parisian populace, but happily there is little probability of bloodshed arising from the rude reception of king Alfonso.

PUBLIC attention was called sometime since to the ownership of public-houses by the Church of England. A commission has reported on the subject. The report was far too meager to satisfy Canon Wilberforce, who calls attention to the omission in the report of all reference to the provinces. He says "every Churchman will hang his head" at the admission that in London and the suburbs there are twenty-four such houses. Commenting on the remark of the commissioners that "time will be required before any large change can be brought about," he adds. "If time be required before the great Anglican Church can amend her ways, atone for the past, and wash off her hands the blood contracted from complicity with England's greatest curse, it requires but scant insight to prophesy that when the 'great change' is brought about under the nation's rapidly-awaking conscience, it will be far greater and more sweeping than the committee issuing this report either anticipate or desire."

MEANNESS has many ways of expressing itself. It would be difficult to decide on some degrees of this painful human weakness. No one, however, will doubt that persons who resort to anonymous letter writing, and who embellish their epistles with pictorial representations of mortuary reminiscences are about the most despicable creatures to be found in social existence. A case has come to light in Lincoln county that reveals a depth of startling baseness and malignity. A respectable farmer has been subjected to distressing annoyances for many months. His property has been destroyed. A barn with its valuable contents was laid in ashes, and insulting and threatening missives were frequently sent. Through the efforts of a detective arrests have been made of persons suspected. If the charge is brought home to the guilty parties, it is hoped their punishment will be exemplary. An analysis of the mental and moral state a man must be reduced to before he can permit himself to be guilty of such a base and treacherous act would be a study of some interest.

ONE by one the men of sterling character and resolute will who helped greatly to advance the prosperity of Canada are passing away. The death-roll of such worthies grows longer every day. An eminent pioneer of Ontario commerce has been removed from the ranks of the living in the person of the Hon. Isaac Buchanan. He was a many-sided man of great intellectual versatility and integrity. Through the vicissitudes of an eventful business and public life he preserved an unblemished reputation. He took an active part in the movement to establish civil and religious liberty in Canada in days when such principles were less understood than they are now. Mr. Buchanan was an earnest advocate of popular education. He was connected with McNab Street Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, and took a warm interest in the promotion of Christian work. Old friends and representative men together with sorrowing relatives from many parts of the country gathered last week

around his grave to pay their last tribute of respect to all that was mortal of the Hon. Isaac Buchanan.

THE coldness of Professor Milligan, of Aberdeen, to the pan-Presbyterian Council does not, he says, spring from a desire for union between the Established Churches of Scotland and England. In any remarks he has ever made on the subject of union, he has never separated the Established Church of Scotland from the other Presbyterian branches of the Church of Christ, and he has never even alluded to the Church of England as a Church with which we need at present think of being united. It is the Episcopal Church in Scotland that he has always had in view. His difficulty with regard to the Presbyterian Council is, that its aim is too restricted. He regards it as a matter of the utmost consequence to bring the landed proprietors and their tenantry and cottars together in the same church. To this Dr. Blaikie, the editor of the "Catholic Presbyterian" replies that to unite all the Presbyterians of Scotland with the Scottish Episcopal Church is "a proposal about as feasible as to unite fire and water."

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association was held in Shaftesbury Hall, last week. From the reports presented, the following facts are taken: Daily noon meetings, 309; attendance, 3,650; young men's Bible class, 43; attendance, 1,095; evangelistic Bible class, 52; attendance, 3,350; teachers' Bible class, 30; attendance, 4,555; workers' meetings for prayer, 18; attendance, 337; workers' socials, 10; attendance, 541; Gospel song services, 52; attendance, 24,100; enquiry meetings, 36; attendance, 1,188; special prayer meetings, 3; attendance, 69; young men's meetings, 52; attendance, 3,332; special services for young men, 13; attendance, 698; boys' meetings, 34; attendance, 737; boys' lectures, 7; attendance, 300; signed pledge, 74; young men aided, 62; employment secured, 110; directed to boarding-houses, 205; tracts distributed, 75,000; bulletins issued, 125,000; boys' papers, 7,000; invitations distributed, 92,900; visits to sick, 77; letters of introduction given, 31; letters of introduction received, 93; visits to boarding-houses, 9,339; visits to hotels, etc., 1,368; young men personally spoken to, 1,710.

THE busy brain of Mr. Bray appears to be taxed to the utmost. People can have no idea of the immense importance that attaches to his wonderful personality. He has been honoured with an interview by the courteous and gentlemanly reporter. He has gone into the colonization business on a colossal scale. As a captain of industry he is to be the chosen leader of an army that will settle and subdue the North-West. His motives are mainly benevolent, but it is hoped he will not be a losing philanthropist. Mr. Bray is an excellent judge of men and affairs. He professes not to know very much of Presbyterianism, and is sorely offended with THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, but he claims a somewhat intimate acquaintance with real Christianity and enlightened heathenism, and since he is extravagantly eulogistic of Sir Charles Tupper, Colonel Butler, and mildly so of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, we are curious to know under which category they are to be reckoned. The reverend and speculative divine has we believe been from his entrance into public life a very promising man; but somehow most of the promise has taken the direction of his latest adventure—towards the setting sun.

LAST week a very interesting meeting in connection with the opening of the session at McMaster Hall, took place in Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto. The Rev. Dr. Castle presided. Among those occupying seats on the platform were Principal Caven and Dr. Reid. Dr. Castle stated that efforts to centralize the Baptist theological institutions in Toronto by the discontinuance of theological training in Acadia College, Halifax, and in Prairie College in the North-West, had been successful beyond anticipation. Professor Clark, late of Montreal, who has been appointed to the chair of New Testament exegesis and Homiletics

delivered a very able and thoughtful lecture on the study of Scripture. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, speaking on behalf of the trustees of McMaster Hall, gave an account of the progress made by the denomination in theological education. Dr. Dickenson, of the Richmond "Religious Herald" gave a brief but racy speech. The doctor is a typical wide-awake and jolly Southerner. He impressed his hearers most favourably. By concentration of effort our Baptist brethren have been able to make a decided advance in the important work of training candidates for the Christian ministry. The splendid institution now so fully equipped is mainly the result of praiseworthy individual liberality.

ON the medical education of women the "Times" says: With regard to the fitness of women for medical practice in this country opinions differ. In the case of India, however, there need be no discussion about fitness; for the simple reason that we are told, by a great concurrence of testimony, that the question is not one between women and men, but between women and no doctors at all. The male natives of India resort in numbers to English surgeons and hospitals; but the women, who are secluded from strange men by Oriental customs, are not able to avail themselves of similar help. Their lives are passed under conditions which cannot be favourable to health, and they frequently undergo deplorable suffering from ailments which could either be cured or greatly alleviated by resources which are within the reach of the humblest Englishwoman, although they are practically denied to an Indian princess. The members of the Indian Medical Service, to whom these miseries entailed upon native women by preventable or curable diseases have long been known, were the first to suggest that the English experiment in the direction of female medical education would have its outlet in India; and many of the pioneers of the movement in this country have kept this special field of usefulness constantly in view.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather of the week has been variable, both in regard to temperature and barometric pressure. Some of the results of such changes may be seen in the very considerable increase in the total reported diseases of the week. With the very considerable decrease of temperature, taken as a whole, we find that diseases of the respiratory passages have increased in a marked degree, while diarrhoeal diseases, though appearing amongst the six most prevalent diseases, in every District have begun to decline. Of the various diseases affecting the respiratory passages Bronchitis appears most prominent; but its comparative increase is surpassed by that of Influenza, which has suddenly advanced from 2.1 in the last week's Report to 5.7 per cent. of the total diseases. Neuralgia and Rheumatism do not seem to have materially changed since last week. Amongst Fevers, while Intermittent has very considerably decreased in prevalence, both as regards area and degree, Enteric (Typhoid) has continued the upward tendency shown for several weeks past. Thus it appears in four instead of two Districts as last week, among the six most prevalent diseases; while its degree of prevalence has advanced from 3.1 to 3.6 per cent. When it is remembered that this is of over 2,000 reported diseases, the total prevalence of the disease in the Province can be readily imagined. Of the contagious Zymotics, Whooping Cough is the only one appearing in the twenty most prevalent diseases. Its prevalence is specially marked in District VIII., north of Lake Erie, where it appears as the most prevalent disease. Measles, Scarlatina and Diphtheria are all absent from the six most prevalent diseases in the various Districts. Diarrhoeal diseases amongst children, represented largely by Cholera Infantum, have been favourably affected by the decreasing temperature. The great prevalence of Typhoid Fever is of so serious a nature as to call strongly upon local health authorities everywhere to take extended action for improving sewerage and drainage, and the cleansing of wells in the various cities, towns and villages.