

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE American Company of Old Testament Revisers met in New York, last week, and completed the third revision of the Minor Prophets, and the notes were sent to England on Friday night. Dr. Schaaf says that the English company will doubtless complete its work in January, and that the American company will not be far behind. He expects that the revised Old Testament will be issued in the spring.

THE Franco-Chinese difficulty over the Tonquin affair appears no nearer settlement than it was weeks ago. The diplomatic situation has in no wise changed. There is no indication of an understanding being reached. Meanwhile the French Chamber of Deputies having met, a keen discussion over the Tonquin question took place, resulting in the action of the ministry being sustained by a large majority.

THE Fisheries Exhibition, which has been successful beyond the most sanguine expectations of its promoters, has just been formally closed. Canada has taken a most creditable place in the competition and has carried off a large share of the honours. The Prince of Wales took part in the closing ceremonies, and expressed the hope that in the South Kensington buildings a hygienic exhibition might be held in 1884, one of the progress of inventions in 1885, and a colonial exhibition in 1886.

THE false prophet, of whom so much was said during the Egyptian campaign, has joined the motely company of failures. It was given out that he was coming from the desert strong in spiritual power and with a large following. The ominous cloud rolled away. Arabi Bey is now a quiet exile in Ceylon, and El Mehdî's forces have been defeated at El Obeid. His personal fate is at present uncertain. Accounts vary. One rumour gives him a chance for his life, while another numbers him with the slain.

A CONTEMPORARY states that a Connecticut manufacturing firm announces to their workmen, that, having lost considerably by their employes who were under the influence of liquor, they have decided to employ no more men who drink, and discharge all drinking men now in their shops. What influence this method would have if it were generally adopted, as a temperance movement, it is hard to tell. Doubtless there would be a marked decrease in the consumption of intoxicants by workmen, for they would hardly allow such a cause to lose them work.

THE turbulent feeling within the ranks of the Irish Nationalist party has evoked the determined opposition of the Orangemen of the north. It is clear that the Nationalist movement exists in name, but not in reality. The temper of Irishmen, north and south, is thoroughly aroused, and lawless acts may lead to serious consequences unless effectively and firmly checked. Last week the Mayor of Dublin proceeded to Londonderry to lecture on the franchise. Orangemen in large numbers assembled and took possession of the city hall. During the procession some shots were fired, a man and a boy having received serious if not fatal injuries. The Mayor of Dublin delivered his lecture in the National Institute.

THE question of woman suffrage, on which there is as yet far from unanimity of opinion, is rapidly emerging from the region of abstract speculation to that of practical politics. Those who favour the movement have no reason to be discouraged. No great reform has ever been achieved without opposition. Important changes are all the better that they are not hastily adopted. It is well that the enfranchisement of women should be carefully considered. When all opinions adverse to its enactment have been successfully refuted so much the better and so much the surer will be its triumph. Meanwhile the movement in Canada has scored a victory in an advance skirmish. On approaching the Toronto city council a deputation of ladies was favourably received and a

large majority of the city fathers voted for the presentation of a petition by the council in favour of an extension of the franchise to women to the Ontario Legislature.

PHILOSOPHERS trace the gradual development of the implements by which man carries out his purposes. There was the flint and bronze and iron ages. The nineteenth century runs the risk of being denominated the age of dynamite. The progress of discovery has been marvellous. Applied science has altered the conditions of modern society, and it might be supposed that we are advancing with quickening pace on the high road to perfection. But here in the midst of modern civilization is the humiliating fact that the wild force of barbarism is busy at its destructive work. The wrecking of an underground railway train in London last week was another of those dastardly occurrences that shock humanity. It is another example of the illogical and cowardly nature of Fenianism. Fortunately though a number of people were injured by the explosion at Praed street station, no lives have been lost—no thanks to the miscreants who placed the explosives. These reprehensible acts are death-dealing. If persisted in they will be fatal to Ireland.

THE Senate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, have arranged for a series of lectures on "Questions of the Day." These are delivered on Sabbath afternoons. In a large centre like Montreal this is of more than academic importance. Many of our more thoughtful and intelligent youth will have an opportunity of deriving great benefit from attending such a course of lectures. The first of the series was given on the 28th ult., by Rev. Dr. Stevenson, on "The Creed of the Agnostic." No one who has heard Dr. Stevenson would think of questioning his eminent fitness for dealing with such a subject. Last Sabbath the Rev. J. S. Black, of Erskine Church, lectured on "Evolution in Morals." The following lectures have been arranged for: "Atheism or Theism," by Dr. Jenkins; "The Descent of Man," by Professor Campbell; "The Moral Influence Theory of the Atonement," by Principal Caven; "The Future State," by Rev. J. Edgar Hill, B.D.; "Science and Prayer," by Principal MacVicar; and "Morality of the Old Testament," by Rev. G. H. Wells.

THE Allan-Witness libel suit has ended in a verdict for the defendant. It arose out of a letter which appeared in the "Witness," depicting the discomfort of a steerage passage in the magnificent floating palace, the "Sardinian." The evidence discloses the fact that one of these large ocean steamers is just a world in miniature. First class passengers have of course first-class accommodation, attendance and comfort. In the steerage it was, in the voyage described, quite otherwise. The discomfort and incivility to which the steerage passengers were subjected, were evidently due to want of proper oversight. It is not to be expected that a steamship company would have a first-class French cook, and appoint waiters in swallow-tails and white ties to wait on steerage passengers, but even "poor paupers that nobody owns" should be treated with decency and civility. The press in exposing such abuses is rendering a service to the community, and, though they may not acknowledge it, a benefit to the steamship companies. It is a poor excuse to offer that because some steerage passengers are assisted emigrants they are not worth attending to. These passengers are paid for and companies do not carry them at a loss.

A LITTLE over two months ago a young man bearing an honest reputation was shot down at a street corner in Toronto. The man who shot Marony was pursued and captured by a policeman, at whom also the criminal discharged his revolver. He has just been tried for his offence. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty of murder with a recommendation to mercy. This the judge did not accept. The jury afterwards returned with a verdict of manslaughter. The sentence pronounced was four years for the one offence and five in the other—the sentences to run

concurrently. The termination of the trial has awakened general astonishment. Five years imprisonment for taking the life of a fellow man and attempting the life of another, by a man who goes about the street carrying deadly weapons is a puzzling fact to the average mind. The judge may properly reply that he has nothing to do with consequences, that he has simply to apply the law, but the indiscriminating lay mind is perversely prone to class such decision with the vagaries of "crown's quest law." The judge who presided at the trial runs no risk of being ranked with Judge Jeffries. Criminals are to be pitied, but we are suffering at present with an over production of maudlin sentiment.

A NEW department—for aged women—has been added to the Magdalen Asylum and Industrial House of Refuge. Last week a meeting was held at the building in St. Paul's Ward, Toronto. The dedication service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Reid. Representative ministers of the various Evangelical churches were present. Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, at the request of the secretary, Mrs. Ewart, read the twenty-ninth annual report of the Magdalen Asylum, from which it appears that on the 30th September, 1882, there were thirty-two inmates in the Home; since then sixty-nine have been admitted. Of these only eleven have been recommended to situations, one returned to her husband, one to her sister, six sent to the hospital, where one died, forty-six left without completing their time, one was dismissed, and thirty-four remain. In the majority of cases they have done well for a few months, and then yielded to the tempter. And yet, even under these discouragements, we are cheered by many proofs of gratitude and earnest desire to reform (we never dismiss but for insubordination and vile language). The amount of remunerative work they do shows that they are not ungrateful for the kindness shown them. The sum realized by their labour this last year was \$1,615.18—about the same as last year. It is always to be remembered that all this is in excess of that required for the Home.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The unusually low temperature for the season, has not been associated with those other conditions of great daily range and moisture, which tend, as we have frequently seen, to increase certain classes of diseases. Thus, although Bronchitis has slightly increased, Influenza has decreased; Consumption has not relatively increased, and Pneumonia has slightly decreased. We do, however, notice that both Neuralgia and Rheumatism have made a rapid advance; and with this, as British statisticians have again and again pointed out, we associate the unusually great prevalence of easterly winds, along with a gradually diminishing barometric pressure. Regarding Fevers, we notice that two successive weeks of low temperature have reduced the degree of prevalence of Intermittent, and that Enteric (Typhoid) shows no tendency to decrease. Endemic in most districts, its epidemic prevalence is noted in several localities, noticeably one in District II., north-eastern part of the Province, where one correspondent alone reports ten cases in his practice. We again solicit from correspondents everywhere the fullest particulars regarding the origin and spread of this disease. Diphtheria diseases are decreasing, Cholera Morbus and Cholera Infantum having disappeared from the list of the twenty most prevalent diseases. Amongst contagious Zymotics, Whooping Cough has very notably decreased, appearing prominent only in District III., Muskoka and Parry Sound district, whence fatal effects from the disease are reported. Mumps and Measles have both once more appeared, but in small degree. Such facts are, however, sufficient to warn the public to take every precaution against exposure to them. Diphtheria, with that peculiarity which marks this most fatal and insidious disease, has again suddenly decreased in prevalence, and it is pleasing to know that the frequent reference to its fatal effects on the part of the public press must tend to put all on their guard against exposure to its contagion.