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NOW READY.

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Notes of the Week.

FOR a number of years people grumbled at the frequent and indiscriminate appeals made by children during the holiday season for Methodist missions. In Montreal, Methodists themselves have begun to speak out against the custom, and action has been taken to discountenance a method of good-doing which is open to obvious objections.

IN Montreal, as everywhere else, the Moody and Sankey meetings have created a deep interest and will no doubt be productive of great and lasting good. As in other places the meetings were crowded and large numbers were unable to gain an entrance. The ministers of the city cordially co-operated with the evangelists in their good work. Mr. Moody was as earnest, impassioned and powerful as ever. Many will have reason gratefully to remember his brief visit to Montreal.

IN Buenos Ayres, where vaccination is unpopular and not compulsory, there were last year 1,187 deaths from small-pox, or five per 1,000 of the population, and eighteen per cent. of the total deaths. The death rates in various armies are, however, the most instructive. Since the year 1875 not a single soldier in the Prussian army has died of small-pox—a fact which shows clearly that when vaccination is rigidly carried out, small-pox is absolutely innocuous. Could vaccination be carried out as strictly with the whole population of both hemispheres as it is in the Prussian army, in five years small-pox would have absolutely disappeared.

THOUGH the day on which municipal elections in Ontario were held was exceedingly disagreeable out of doors, women voters, who for the first time enjoyed the privilege of the franchise, went in considerable numbers to deposit their ballots in the fateful urn. All the free and independent fair ones certainly did not avail themselves of their civic rights, but throughout the Province a considerable number voted, thus destroying the impression that women would not care to avail themselves of the ballot. Another impression, however, has been confirmed. In most instances the women cast their votes in favour of moral and social reform; this was certainly the case in Toronto, where the majority of the recently-enfranchised voted for Mr. W. H. Howland, the mayor-elect by a handsome majority. Mr. Howland will, by the improved council elected, have a fine field and ample support for effecting the municipal reforms he has promised.

WHEN small-pox made its appearance in Charlottetown, P. E. I., grave apprehensions were felt that it would spread rapidly. There, however, the authorities did not have to fight obstructions caused by prejudice and anti-vaccination theorists. There was praiseworthy unanimity of aim and purpose. Effective measures to prevent the spread of the disease were at once adopted and energetically carried out. All combined to minister to the afflicted, and the result is that the epidemic has almost disappeared, no new cases being reported for some time. The *Charlottetown Patriot* says: Taking a retrospect of the epidemic, and the hold it had upon so many members of the community before its real nature was discovered,

Charlottetown and the Island generally have reason to thank Him who rules in earth and heaven that the scourge has so rapidly spent its force, and to pray that He may continue so to bless the efforts put forth that the dreaded disease shall soon finally disappear from our Province.

FRIENDS of constitutional government did not anticipate that the cause of freedom would gain much by the accession of Wilhelm I. to the throne of Prussia. It was known that he was very conservative, and that Bismarck was in thorough sympathy with him. From that line of policy neither the king nor the politician has swerved. There is friction enough in the home politics of the German Empire to tax the energies of its astute and influential Chancellor and the party on whose support he can reckon. Two things have contributed to the long and successful reign of Kaiser William: the successful termination of the Franco-Prussian war, the outcome of which fulfilled the national wish for a united Germany, and the pure and noble personal character of the venerable Emperor. At Berlin on the 3rd instant he celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne with great pomp and circumstance. The Emperor and Empress, with the imperial family, the ambassadors and courtiers, attended the royal chapel, where the court preacher, Dr. Koegel, preached an appropriate sermon.

WE have the pleasure of announcing, says the *English Presbyterian Messenger*, that at the meeting of the Board of Nomination, it was unanimously and most cordially resolved to recommend to the Synod that the Rev. Dr. Alexander MacLeod, of Cloughton, be appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. The nomination will commend itself, we are sure, to the entire Church. Dr. MacLeod has been for a score of years a minister in England, after having already had a distinguished career in the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland. The charge over which he presides as pastor forms one of our most important congregations. Dr. MacLeod has, moreover, shown his powers as an author in a number of volumes, including "The Judgment Books," "Christus Consolator," and the popular work containing addresses to the young under the title of "Talking with the Children." Dr. MacLeod took a leading part in promoting the Union negotiations, which were brought to a happy consummation in 1876, as well as in some other important public movements; and he will bring to the chair of the Synod large experience in ecclesiastical affairs, as well as distinguished personal qualifications. Dr. MacLeod, along with Prof. Blaikie, Rev. William Arnot and Dr. Edmond, was a delegate to our First General Assembly in Toronto several years ago.

A VIGOROUS article in the *Belfast Witness* concludes thus: There was a time no doubt when the Roman Catholics of this country had much to complain of, and so had the Presbyterians. But such a time has happily passed, not to return; and all men now, of whatever denomination, are free and equal before the law. Do not Roman Catholics at this very day fill a large snare of all the situations and official posts of the empire, from the highest to the lowest? The judicial bench, the civil service, the police, and all the public departments are flooded with members of the complaining and dissatisfied sect, and even the wool-sack itself has been occupied by that Church that never gets enough, and knows not to be comforted! The Land Acts, the Ballot Act, the Church Act, the Franchise Act, and the hundred and one other Acts that have placed Ireland in a better position than either England or Scotland, and that have been passed with the special desire of satisfying the endless exactions of Irish Roman Catholics, have all been accepted as matters of course, but without a spark of gratitude, either toward the British Parliament or toward the great political party that has heaped these favours upon them. Why, then, should British statesmen, who have now torn off the very last rag of their disabilities, proceed any further in the line of concession? !

they had a Parliament in College Green to-morrow, it would only be "another instalment," as they tell us, and they would soon ask for more! Why fill water any longer into a sieve? Why attempt longer to fill up a gulf that is practically bottomless?

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Evangelical Alliance, held last week in the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, was presided over by the Vice-President, Rev. Wm. Reid, D.D. The report of the Secretary, Mr. J. J. Woodhouse, reviewed the work done by the Alliance during the past year. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: President—Hon. Oliver Mowat. Vice-Presidents—Rev. Wm. Reid, D.D., Rev. Principal Castle, Rev. D. H. Powis, H. Grasett Baldwin, H. M. Parsons, Daniel Wilson, LL.D., Samuel Rose, D.D., B. D. Thomas, D.D., and S. H. Blake, Q.C. The Council—John Macdonald, J. L. Blaikie, H. E. Clarke, M.P.P., A. McDonald, T. C. Duncan-Clarke, W. B. McMurrich, D. McLean, Henry J. Clark. Secretaries—Rev. Elmore Harris and J. J. Woodhouse. Treasurer—J. J. Woodhouse. Rev. E. A. Stafford, in an able address, discussed the subject of Home and Foreign Missions. He made a strong plea for the revival and increase of a missionary spirit among all Christians, laying stress on the importance of Home Missions and evangelistic efforts. Mr. S. H. Blake was the next speaker. He advocated the study of the Bible in the public schools. He urged the necessity for widening the work of the Alliance to bring together Christians of all denominations for the free discussion of Christian work and the best means of carrying it on. He said he would like to see a liturgy or compendium of prayer (not after the form of the Church of England) introduced into the services of the various Protestant denominations.

AT a recent meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association, the President, the Rev. John Burton, B.D., delivered a vigorous, timely and thoughtful address, in which he said there is a Christianity broader than our divisions, and for that the world waits. This should be dearer to us all than our own little ism. This Association is supposed to make manifest this fact. It can manifest it yet more clearly if it: not by sudden revolution, but by quietly working with that faith to which all things are possible. By mutual understanding we can minimize that church competition, which is the bane of our brotherhood, as it is the curse of business life. It should not be esteemed gain what one church draws from another. We can do better, not by argument, but by co-operation. If unity of Christian life cannot be manifested in this Association, where are we to look for it? Toronto is the Queen City of the fairest Province of our Dominion—a centre of influence. Without arrogating to ourselves pre-eminence, let us accept the conditions and, boldly doing our duty in that state of life in which it has pleased God to place us, inaugurate the millennium of unity and peace. We inherit many divisions from the old land; they are anachronisms here. Let us discuss a platform, first, for united work, and thus show unity. Let me indicate a beginning. In about five years the street railway charter will have run out. Is it wise to perpetuate the monopoly? And shall the present charter be so amended as to allow the running of cars on the Lord's Day? These questions find, I am persuaded, solution in the Bible. To whom can the people look more safely for guidance thereon than to a body of Christian ministers of varied shades of belief? What of the confessed evils of funeral display? We ought to find substantial agreement, not on class, but on broad Gospel grounds, to abate this manifest and cruel evil. I make bold to say there are few associations so thoroughly representative of our Canadian Christianity as this. We ought in a more marked manner to make felt our possible influence for good upon the Province and Dominion. We shall find diversity of views; that diversity will be our safeguard if we meet to learn and co-operate instead of to air our own peculiar notions. Let timidity go; the fearful have their portion in a state I need not here proclaim.