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Notes of the Week.

A NUMBER of British newspapers have done a good work by compelling public sentiment, speaking through Parliament, to suppress the provisions for the ostentatiously made for the British regiments in India. The regulations for these military attachments were incredibly shameless and the Government shilly-shallied, but finally was compelled to confess and remove the abomination.

AMONG the various conventions, conferences and general gatherings in Toronto last week the Ontario Medical Association is to be numbered. The profession of the healing art had a most interesting time. Learned papers were read and afterward learnedly discussed by the medical men. Much benefit to the profession itself, and through its members to the public derivable from these meetings. These are effected because there is much intelligent preparation beforehand for the work of the association.

At the recent meeting of the Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church a memorial was received, signed by 2,492 ministers and members, asking for relief from the action of the Assembly in former years allowing instrumental music in public worship. The Assembly found it to be impossible to furnish the desired relief, and referred the memorialists to the action of former Assemblies, "enjoining Sessions to abstain from divisive courses and uncharitable conduct in the matter."

The Sherwood piano recital and lecture under the auspices of the Toronto Conservatory of music, in the evening last week, was well attended and much appreciated. Mr. Sherwood's introductions to the principal numbers of the excellent programme were clear and effective, giving the audience a clear understanding of the spirit and purpose of the respective compositions. The vocal selections contributed much to the variety and enjoyment of what proved a most pleasant entertainment.

WILLIAM STANLEY of Preston, the representative of a historic family, is now Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada. From his Parliamentary and general public experience he is well-fitted to discharge official and other duties incident to his exalted position. He has visited the Capital, Montreal and Quebec, and has gone on a fishing excursion on the St. Lawrence. He will meet the same cordial recognition from Canadians everywhere as was accorded to his illustrious predecessors.

A NUMBER of Church of Scotland students, assembled recently, informed Edinburgh Presbytery that they could only assent to the question as to believe in "the whole doctrine of the Confession" on the understanding that they were not bound to its literal interpretation. The Presbytery replied that they were not there to interpret the Confession but only to answer the questions; and after the students had taken their departure, they were told that it was the spirit of the Confession to which they were to adhere.

LAST year 315 grants, amounting to \$40,785, were distributed to 315 parishes by the association for augmenting smaller livings in the Church of Scotland. At the annual meeting lately, Lord Hopetoun, presiding, it was resolved to ask the concurrence of the General Assembly to the freeing of Mr. Barty, of Perth, the Convener, from his parish duties for a year, to enable him to devote the most of his time to the furtherance of the scheme for which he has laboured with so much quiet and persistent enthusiasm. Will not the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell be liberated for his crusade in Canada?

The National Division of the Sons of Temperance is in convention in the Convocation Hall of the

Educational Department on July 11, 12 and 13. The members will discuss the prospects of the cause from various standpoints, and the deliberations will be taken part in by men prominent in both Canada and the United States. Among those expected to be present are: Sir Leonard Tilley, St. John, N. B.; Hon. George E. Foster, Ottawa; Eugene H. Clapp, Boston; General Wagner, Philadelphia; Hon. Neil Dow, Portland, Maine; General Carey, Okla; S. L. Carlton, Portland; F. B. Denison, Philadelphia.

The opposition in Britain to the licensing clauses of the Local Government Bill, by which compensation is given to those whose licenses have been withdrawn, has proved too strong to be resisted, and the Government have determined to drop them. It is difficult to see what else they could do. To persevere with the clauses in their present form would have been to court certain defeat, and the Government were admittedly afraid to face the country by dissolving Parliament. Member after member declared his intention of voting against the Government, including quite a respectable minority even of the Unionist coalition. Lately the Conservative members for London met and agreed to ask the Government to withdraw the clauses. This finally led to their abandonment.

OF late our daily journals have been giving special prominence to Mr. G. W. Smalley's correspondence appearing in the *New York Tribune*. The reason for this is not altogether apparent. For many years he has not ranked as high in the public estimation as he does in his own. Here is a contemporary's reference to his correspondence with Matthew Arnold: He [Arnold] has not left much, the personal estate being valued at only \$5,200. Of course he must really have left more, though the correspondence so indelicately published by Mr. Smalley, the Yankee journalist in London, with respect to his American lectures, shows that Mr. Arnold must have been greatly in need of money. The adventure did not prove lucrative. It takes men of a coarser fibre to extract the dollars from our American friends. Archdeacon Farrar was better fitted for the task, and more successful. It must have been a heavy trial to Mr. Arnold to endure the agony of his own eloquence—which was really painful to himself—and at the same time make nothing by it. A word as to Mr. Smalley and his publication of the private letters of Mr. Arnold. The representative in London of the *New York Tribune* has always affected a very high tone, and mingles much in what is supposed to be the best society; but there are poor men who never entered the select circles who would be incapable of making "copy" and cash out of such confidential communications. It is phenomena of this kind that contribute very largely to a distrust of Brother Jonathan that we could wish not to entertain.

OF the Third or Prohibition Party in the United States, the *New York Independent* says: We believe of course, that as a party the future has little but disappointment for them: but we cannot but admire their courage and pity their perplexity. Being a party of reform various reforms seek their championship and they are already deeply troubled with that of woman suffrage. As a party they need the help of the women of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union; they cannot have this help if they refuse to adopt the cause of woman suffrage, and they cannot adopt that cause without losing what they most need—votes—particularly in the South. The tariff is also a divisive question. The tariff plank as originally adopted simply proposed a tariff for revenue only. As amended at a subsequent session it incorporates the principle of protection. All this is embarrassing to an organization which expects to work its way into power as a Prohibition Party. We wonder the hopelessness of the task does not overwhelm them. But they start off bravely with a leader in General Fisk of strong, popular qualities, and with a determination

to inflict the greatest possible injury on the old parties especially the Republican. "We are here," said Chairman Dickie, of the National Committee, in calling the Convention to order, "to bury the Republican Party and the Democratic Party in the bloody chasm." The enthusiasm is beautiful, but the undertaking is great.

IN a striking speech in the General Assembly at Sydney, Dr. Marshall Lang, Dr. Norman McLeod's successor in the Barony Church, Glasgow, said it was well that the Church in New South Wales did not cling to the lines of separation which were still marked in the old country. A short time ago he had traversed the great Victorian dividing range, the watershed of the two colonies of Victoria and New South Wales. Well, Scotch Presbyterianism was their dividing range, and he hoped that pure streams would flow therefrom to the ocean of religious life, free from the yellow mud of sectarianism and jealousy. They would be glad to learn that the Old Kirk was strong and vigorous. During the past few years her parishes had increased from 1,000 to 1,400. They had been relieved from the incubus of lay patronage, and out of a population of 4,000,000 they had 600,000 communicants. He would not speak of the other branches of the Church, further than to say, with a measure of emphasis, that they blessed and were blessed of God. It might seem that dreary seas intervened between these Churches and the one he served, and they did seem dreary to those who gauged them by ecclesiastical rules, but there were fleets covering the seas in the form of social agencies and Gospel work, and those engaged in this navigation found the distance small and narrow. Why should there not be an incorporated union? This was a little question, and the best thing for him to do was to look it boldly in the face and pass on. The Lord reigned, and in His own good time He would bring about the fulfilment of His own prayer, "That they all may be one."

ON the Woodrow case the *Interior* has this to say: The Southern Assembly is deep in the trial of Dr. Woodrow for teaching evolution, and the controversy has assumed all the intensity usual in such cases—which is usually in inverse ratio to the smallness of the importance of the matter controverted. Dr. Woodrow's position in brief is this—that the evolution of Adam's body from a lower form is shown by scientific investigation to be the probable mode of creation. The ego, the man himself, was the work of immediate creative power, and with the body of Eve and of her real self, ranks among, and as the greatest of, miraculous interpositions. That position is not in the least antagonistic to any statement of Scripture or of our Standards, and the condemnation of Dr. Woodrow would do more to disintegrate the Southern Church than any thing that could come from the region of the colour line. If the Assembly chooses to say that it is not a well-founded speculation, no objection could reasonably be made—but it is not heresy, nor is it even in the limits of inferentially prescribed opinion. It is not, we think, a profitable speculation, nor even necessary as an apologetic outwork. But it should be remembered that the "four Synods" asked Dr. Woodrow to show the best method of dealing with scientific facts and theories, so far as they impinged upon theology—and he did the best to serve them that he knew how. They had no authorities to put into his hands on the subject. They had no methods of their own to propose. They gave him the banner and told him to lead on with the best lights and sign-boards he had of his own, or that he could find. He found the scientific world a unit on the subject of evolution. Instead of putting the Church across the path of scientific progress to resist it he showed how the supposed truth on the one side did not necessarily conflict with the established truth of revelation on the other. Dr. Woodrow may be wholly mistaken, but he was and is loyal to the Word of God and to the subordinate Standards.