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Notes of the Week.

THE Hon. Francis Ormond, whose death occurred recently, was the Australasian Peabody. His father, Capt. Ormond, a shrewd Scot, arrived in the harbour of Melbourne at the breaking-out of the gold fever, immediately abandoned seafaring, and at Ballarat by catering for the 100,000 diggers rapidly made a fortune which he judiciously invested in Victoria landed estate. The Presbyterian college founded by the son, and which bears his name, cost \$600,000; he gave \$50,000 to the building fund of the Anglican cathedral, and \$100,000 for the endowment of a chair of music in Melbourne University.

SAYS the *Interior*: The financial work of the Presbyterian Church, in proportion to the size of the denomination, is tremendous. The way things are starting for the year, it looks as if the gifts of the people for Christian work would go over fifteen millions. And it comes, its sources almost as unknown as the rain-drops which make the flood of the Mississippi River. It comes from the dimpled hands of babies; from the vein-marked hands of old men; from the tender hands of women, from the calloused hands of farmers and mechanics, from the massive safes of the rich and the scant leather purses of the poor. God is our Father and we are all brethren.

ONE way in which every voter might wisely emulate the character of the late John Bright, says the *Interior*, is in respect to his loyalty to conscience in all political affairs. One of the praises bestowed on him, in the parliamentary eulogies, was this: That whenever his conscience came into conflict with his party, he followed conscience and let party go. He believed in doing what was right in the sight of God, according to his ability to discern the right, rather than compromising with wrong to please political companions. Men are so terribly afraid of being called "turncoats," now-a-days, that they even hesitate to scratch a bad candidate's name from their ticket. Uninterrupted fellowship with a certain company of politicians ought not to be prized so highly, as to silence the call of conscience to fellowship with the Ruler of the universe.

WE observe with pleasure, says the *Belfast Witness*, that the conference held in Toronto with a view to bringing about a union between the Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Methodists of Canada has had a very pleasant meeting, and has discussed the subject of the proposed union in a very friendly and most hopeful spirit. We do not believe that it is likely that an incorporating union between the three Churches will readily take place, though some of those who were at the conference seem to think otherwise. We shall be delighted if events prove us to be wrong in our opinion; but it does not seem to us that the way is clear for a union of that kind either in Canada or at home, much as it is to be desired. All attempts at it, however, do good. They draw the Churches more closely together, and prove what is often forgotten—the great body of agreement which there is among the best members of all of them; notwithstanding their differences.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Lord Aberdeen is likely to secure a hearing for his protest against the circulation of pernicious literature which might be denied to men on the Puritan side who lack his catholicity and breadth of sympathy. It is by no means in the spirit of the narrow bigot, who would frown upon innocent gaiety, that his lordship seeks to suppress by law a class of periodicals and books which have at present an extensive circulation, and which are poisoning the life of the rising generation. Surely there is no father who will not cordially sympathise with an effort to put down by the strong arm of the law those insidious allurements to evil to which their own children and the children of others are being subjected by the moral assassins who are transforming the printing press, meant to be a source of enlightenment and blessing, into a curse. The suppression of immoral and pernicious literature is a plain duty resting on those in authority. Such literature should be discouraged by every right thinking person. More might be done to save the young

from the deadly influence of bad books by the encouragement of wholesome literature which is easily procurable everywhere.

THE coming International Eighth Annual Convention of Christian Endeavour Societies in Philadelphia, July 9, 10 and 11, promises to be a very important and inspiring gathering. The probability is from the number who have already indicated their intention of going that at least six or seven thousand young people will assemble from all parts of the United States and Canada. Such practical questions as "The Three Characteristics of the Society, Loyalty to Duty, Loyalty to the Church and Loyalty to Christ," "The New Prayer Meeting," "St. Paul's Advice to the Sisters," "The Society Interdenominational not Un denominational," "The Young People and Temperance," "The Missionary Uprising," "The World for Christ," and "Christ for the World," will be discussed by eminent ministers and laymen. The Convention sermon will be preached by Rev. C. H. Wells, D.D., of Montreal. Among the prominent speakers will be Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D., Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D.D., Rev. C. F. Deems, D.D., Rev. O. P. Gifford, D.D., Rev. J. W. Hamilton, D.D., Rev. S. V. Leech, D.D., Rev. C. B. Farrar, D.D., Rev. B. B. Loomis, Ph.D., Rev. L. T. Chamberlain, D.D., Rev. J. W. Chapman, Gen. O. O. Howard, Mr. R. P. Wilder, and, it is hoped, Governor Beaver, of Pennsylvania.

THE agitation aroused by Jesuit aggression in Quebec has shown no sign of weakening. It is apparently stronger to-day than at any time since the movement began. From all parts of Ontario as well as from other provinces delegates have come to Toronto to take part in the deliberations of the convention now assembled. The movement has had serious difficulties to contend with. It is plain that the people most deeply interested have only one desire, the employment of the most direct means to secure perfect religious equality. This they seek not for the promotion of the interests of this or that political party but solely for the good of the country. There is a suspicion that "practical politicians" are anxious to make what capital they can out of the agitation, but it is evident that the temper of the public mind has little sympathy with such endeavours. A series of public meetings has been held in Montreal at which the speaking has been manly and direct. The meeting in Chalmers' Church last week was addressed, among others, by the Rev. Messrs. Heine and Fleck, and their distinct and unambiguous utterances found a ready response from their auditors. They spoke against the acceptance of the \$60,000 by the Protestant education committee, and, as the following resolution, unanimously passed, shows their speeches were effective: That this meeting earnestly protests against the acceptance at the present time by the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction of this Province of any portion of the sum of \$60,000 mentioned in the Jesuits' Estates Act. That this meeting cannot but regard the offer of said sum as a mere bribe to secure the assent of the Protestant people of this province to an illegal and unwarrantable disposal of public money, and that until the said Jesuits' Estates Act shall have been declared constitutional and begot by competent authority this meeting calls upon the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction as representing the Protestant public to refrain from accepting such sum of \$60,000 or any other sum under said Act, calling upon it to demand the fulfilment of the arrangement existing at the time of confederation and to resist the Act.

THE recent visit of Prince Albert Victor to Belfast brought him into frequent contact with its loyal citizens, among them prominent Presbyterian representatives, who took part in the various ceremonials. One of these was the presentation of new colours to the famous Black Watch regiment. Let the *Belfast Witness* tell its own story: The rugged beauty of the old Scottish version of the Psalms has been often admired. Among all the hundred and fifty none could have been found more appropriate to the occasion than the twentieth, which was sung at the ceremony of the presentation of new colours to the Black Watch on Wednesday. As its solemn strains rose and fell upon the air under the glorious May

sunshine few could help being touched. The powerful bass and tenor supplied by the soldiers' lusty voices, blended with the flute-like treble of the boys of the band, and accompanied by the instruments, did ample and alas! unusual justice to the plaintive and familiar air to which the words were sung, while the words themselves fitted into the occasion as if they had specially been written for it. The lines—

Jehovah hear thee in the day
When trouble He doth send,
And let the name of Jacob's God
Thee from all ill defend.

O let Him help send from above,
Out of His sanctuary;
From Zion, His own holy hill,
Let Him give strength to thee!

carried the thoughts away into the scenes of danger amid which the gallant men ranged on the ground before us would rally amid charge and cannon's roar round the new colours now presented to them by the Prince, and breathed a fitting prayer for the help needed at such a time. And what words could have suited the consecration of the new colours better than the verses—

In Thy salvation we will joy,
In our God's name we will
Display our banners; and the Lord
Thy prayers all fulfil.

In chariots some put confidence,
Some horses trust upon;
But we remember will the name
Of our Lord God alone.

Verily these old Psalms are living still, and to our thinking, as no others do. No wonder we cling to them. The fine Presbyterian version used at the ceremony of Wednesday brings out their life and beauty.

THE *Christian Leader* has the following: An elder in the Free Church, formerly an officer in the Indian army, writes: "Those dreadful Contagious Diseases Acts! They make me tremble for my nation more than the armies of the European Powers." As well they may! We are glad to learn that the Free Church Committee on the State Regulation of Vice have sent a circular letter to 6000 ministers of the various Protestant denominations in Australia, the Cape, and Canada, accompanied by the excellent paper written by Principal Rainy on the subject. This circular, by the way, makes a statement, for advancing which we were lately taken to task by two esteemed Canadian contemporaries. Will THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN kindly note that, according to this circular, the wicked Acts had lapsed in Canada, but that "a bill has passed through Parliament at Ottawa, which really, though perhaps in a somewhat covert way, provides for the full establishment of the atrocious system." Is this a fact? If it is then we look for an acknowledgment of the same from two Presbyterian editors—one in Toronto, the other at Halifax. In reply THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN answers unhesitatingly, No! It is not a fact. We have seen the circular to which the *Leader* refers, and noted therein the repetition of a statement for which we can discern no foundation. The Contagious Diseases Bill was never enacted by the Canadian Parliament, and therefore could not lapse while it never existed. To verify this statement inquiries have been instituted. The Dominion Statutes for the last two sessions (the time indicated by these two transatlantic reports when this wicked legislation was said to have been effected), have been ransacked, and not anything remotely bearing on the subject has been found. Members of Parliament and those conversant with the work of legislation have been interrogated, and the answer is uniform, "No such legislation has been passed." We repeat what was said in a former reference to this subject: Had such legislation been attempted there was a sufficient number of Christian men present on both sides of the House who would have indignantly protested against it. But none of them know anything of any such tempt. To settle this matter we respectfully request our Glasgow contemporary or the reverend secretary of the Edinburgh Committee to quote the "surreptitious" Act, or inform diligent inquirers where it may be found. It appears to be so very "surreptitious" that nobody except parties in Edinburgh or Glasgow seem to know of its existence.