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Notes of the Week.

FROM a Blue-book issued to members of the Free Church General Assembly, it would appear that for the year to 31st March, 1885, the membership of the Church stood at 324,920, as compared with 322,265 for the previous year, giving an increase of 2,655. Some eight congregations, however, had made no return.

PRINCETON Theological Seminary carries off the honour of contributing the largest number of missionaries to the Foreign field. The year has been exceptional with all the United States Church schools save this eldest of the number. Thus of eleven graduates who offer themselves for the Foreign field, ten are from Princeton, where weekly meetings in the interest of this cause have been held.

A VERY interesting and impressive ordination service was held in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on Friday evening last. The Rev. Robert Campbell Murray, B.A., was solemnly ordained as a missionary to Central India, for which he departs in about two months. Rev. R. H. Warden, Moderator of Montreal Presbytery, presided, Rev. James Barclay preached an able and appropriate sermon. The newly-ordained missionary was addressed by Professor McLaren, and the congregation by Principal Forrest, Halifax. Mr. Murray is supported by St. Paul's congregation, Montreal.

AN old recipe for grumbling, or to cure it, says the *Pittsburgh United Presbyterian*, reads: "Go to work." It is a good one and ought to be used in the churches as much as any place else. The growler is never busy. The fault-finder has empty hands. The scolder gives little money. But if one be hearty in his doing he lives above the low level of carping and criticism. He is in the region of gratitude and hope, and dwells in the sympathy of his Master. All reasons combine, indeed, to teach us that our salvation is in our devoutly obeying the Saviour's call to sow His seed and reap His harvests.

THERE were ominous fears and confident predictions that influences at work, strengthened by the Dominion Senate's action, would check the advance of the Scott Act in constituencies where it was still to be voted upon. The fears have been dissipated and the predictions remain unfulfilled. The county of Perth it is true has given an adverse verdict, but by a small majority. Lincoln has given an unmistakable majority in favour of the Act, and the populous and progressive county of Middlesex in all its three ridings has rolled up a majority that evidences the strength of the popular feeling in relation to Temperance legislation.

THE "minister's bad boy," says the *Interior*, is coming to the head of the class. In a recent French work on science and scientists, the author calls attention to the fact which he shows to be true, that the sons of ministers furnish eminent names in all departments of learning, very largely in excess of those of other classes. Not only as historians, philosophers and poets, but as scientists, do the sprigs of theology excel. In fact, the son of a minister is more likely to become a scientist than is the son of a scientist. They

have done more for the progress of civilization than the sons of any other professional class. Query: Is this because their mothers are farmer's daughters?

UNIVERSITY-PLACE Church, New York, has for two Sabbath evenings been occupied for the delivery of discourses to classes of students about to graduate. On June 7th Dr. John Hall, Chancellor of the University of that city, preached the baccalaureate sermon for that institution before a crowded assembly. His text was Psalm xxvii. 1; "The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice." It was, says the *New York Evangelist*, a clear, strong presentation of the great facts of God's personal, righteous, and glorious dominion in nature, providence, and grace, and an appeal to the young men starting in life to choose God for their Lord, and accept His service and His sway.

THE proposal made in the Established Church Assembly that all ordained Presbyterian ministers in the United Kingdom should be eligible to be called and settled as parish ministers, was agreed to by 108 to 40, and sent down to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act. It was strongly supported by Dr. Cunningham and others; but Professor Milligan held that the opening of such a back door would only excite prejudice, and take out of the hands of the Church the control of the training of ministers. Principal Tulloch and Dr. Phin desired to refer the overture to a committee for revision, but Dr. Cunningham declined to give way, preferring to have the decision of the full house to that of a few members on one of the closing days of the Assembly.

THREE years ago the Belgian authorities decided to open their universities to women. At one of the Belgian schools there are nineteen women, at another five; and of those who attended lectures at Brussels three passed the examinations, *cum laude*. The medical faculty of Paris numbers twenty five women among its students. The "higher course for women" at St. Petersburg, is now pursued by 302 women, and since its establishment has had 905 names enrolled, of whom 580 were in the departments of mathematics and natural philosophy. Similar courses have been established at Kazan and Kiev. In Germany a number of universities, though not all, admit women to various departments. Not long ago a Russian lady attended theological lectures in Leipzig.

THE projected union of the Waldensian and Free Italian Churches, says the *Christian Leader*, has lately been exposed to and has happily triumphed over serious risks. So commendable an object could not escape the special attention of the enemy. Persistent efforts were made to ruin the scheme by Christian people who were in no way concerned in it. We are thankful to learn the project is still safe. Signor Gavazzi arrived in London the other day to commence deputation work in Britain. The faithful veteran has recovered a goodly portion of his former vigour. He writes of the college work in Rome that there never were so many applications for admission by young men of excellent parts, of studious habits, and to all appearances truly converted, as there were last winter.

THE excise commission, it is stated, in Bengal some time ago made a proposition that liquor dealers should not be allowed to select prominent sites on the thoroughfares for their shops without obtaining the consent of the municipal board. They did so because they perceived that the life of the drink traffic lies in the ease with which a craving for the poison can be created and increased. But the other day a committee of suburban ratepayers having its headquarters at Bhowanipur, and composed of well-to-do natives, sent a memorial to the Bengal board of revenue in which they boldly propose that local opinion be taken, not through organized bodies, but by a plebiscite of the inhabitants of the village or the street in which the attempt to set up a liquor shop is being made. Thus these natives of India have reached independently the local option platform.

It is stated that an effort is being made to continue the New Orleans Exposition through another winter; and hereupon the *South-Western Presbyterian* endeavours to point out the mistake made by the management in keeping the great show open on the Sabbath. It argues that even from a business point of view it would have been a wise policy to close on that day, whereas special Sunday attractions were advertised and expenses incurred. The writer closes thus significantly: "We give the new management this fact to ponder. There were nearly as many people in one Presbyterian Church in the city, each Sabbath during the Exposition, as were upon the Exposition grounds." The First Presbyterian Church, Dr. B. M. Palmer's, is doubtless referred to. And it is to be said that no unusual attractions were advertised there, and the pastor persisted in his habit of preaching pretty long, old-fashioned sermons. But then he is a "workman."

IN the report on Sabbath observance presented at the Free Church Assembly, special reference was made to Sabbath work at the Forth Bridge, in trawling, railway excursions, the opening of museums, tram traffic in Glasgow, shopkeeping, delivery of letters, pleasure seeking of summer visitors, wandering, loitering, etc. Mr. Matthew, Haddington, having condemned the action of Mr. John Bright in regard to the delivery of letters on the Sabbath, Principal Douglas reminded the Assembly that Mr. Bright was a Quaker and not a Presbyterian, and should not be judged by their standards. They were sometimes caricatured, he said, as if their religion was Sabbath-keeping, and had torn the Fourth Commandment from the Decalogue and made it the sum and substance of their Christianity. They had only wished to give it an equal place with the other nine. Mr. John McLaren, elder, pleaded for a good example to be set in this matter by ministers themselves.

MUNICIPAL and public bodies in France and Spain seem anxious to conceal as much as possible the actual facts relating to the spread of cholera. That it exists and has been spreading in various places in Spain is undeniable, though it is evident that in order to prevent undue apprehension and panic the real truth is not divulged. Speculation has been indulged in whether the dread scourge will appear on this Western continent during the present season. Time alone will determine this. Meanwhile the duty of the hour is obvious. Sanitary organizations must be vigilant and give timely advice to the people. Municipal authorities will do well to direct constant effort to keep lanes and streets in a state of thorough cleanliness and use their power impartially for the removal of whatever is prejudicial to the public health, while private citizens must pay scrupulous attention to sanitary laws. Then, should the scourge come, while neglecting no proper precaution the people must place their trust in Him who said, "Thou shalt not be afraid for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

ANOTHER important Temperance victory has been achieved. Some of the minor amendments made on the Scott Act by the Senate have either been adopted or modified by the House of Commons. The main amendment, permitting the sale of wines and beer in counties that had adopted the Canada Temperance Act, was the chief issue in the debate, and though efforts were made to make its details less objectionable, they were all aimed at carrying out the mutilation of the Act. It is matter for profound thankfulness that all these efforts failed, and the Commons have succeeded in maintaining the integrity of the Scott Act. Messrs. Jamieson, Fisher, Foster, and others spoke earnestly and effectively against the Senate amendments and with a degree of success that will be highly appreciated by the majority of people throughout the Dominion, certainly in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces. The friends of Temperance will recognize their responsibility and duty in the opportunity now afforded them of working more energetically than ever in urging the adoption of the Canada Temperance Act in the constituencies that have not yet fallen into line.