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Notes of the Week.

A CONTEMPORARY informs us that at a recent meeting of the Southern Presbytery of Eastern Texas, two coloured elders were enrolled. Connected with this same Southern Presbytery are three coloured ministers, two coloured licentiate and six coloured churches. And yet the white Congregational Churches of Atlanta have not yet managed to get into the same association with their coloured brethren.

THE captain of the Cunarder *Aurania*, on being informed that two gamblers were at work on the steamer, at once told the passengers in the smoking room that while he did not object to a quiet game of whist, he would not allow poker and other gambling games. He warned them that two professional gamblers were in the room, and threatened if they played another gambling game on his ship he would put them in irons.

MR. CROSBY'S High License Bill was ordered to a third reading in the Assembly at Albany on March 15. The measure is so framed as to apply only to New York City and Brooklyn. It fixes the license at \$1,000. The motion to order the bill to a third reading was adopted by a vote of sixty-five to fifty-one. Every vote given in the affirmative was cast by a Republican, and forty-nine Democrats and two Republicans voted against it.

THE Congregational Churches held a conference in Toronto last week. A number of papers dealing with important present-day questions were read and freely and fully discussed. Some of them were of a practical and others of a more speculative character. In discussing the subject of religious education in public schools the general, though not entirely unanimous, opinion was expressed that religious teaching did not come within the province of the State.

THE Salvation Army in Quebec has been again subjected to a dastardly outrage. It might have resulted in terrible consequences, though happily the injuries inflicted were comparatively slight. Dynamite is no doubt a very destructive agency, but as a logical weapon it is a most decided failure. It takes some people a long time to learn the principle of toleration. Certain Quebec parties may disapprove of the Salvation Army, but they cannot blow its members out of existence by bombs, nor trample on their right to legal protection.

THE Tennessee Legislature has passed a bill, by an overwhelming majority, submitting to the people of the State a constitutional amendment which prohibits the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors anywhere within the commonwealth. The vote is to be taken on September 29 next. There is now a law which prevents the sale of intoxicating liquors within four miles of an incorporated institution of learning. To get the benefit of this law nearly every little country school has been organized under act of incorporation, and the sale of liquor has thereby been greatly reduced.

A REPORT, recently published, refutes the assertions that the Welsh Sunday Closing Act has been a failure. The number of convictions for Sunday drunkenness, for the year ending September 29, 1886, has been 513, or one for every 4,400 of the inhabitants. Excluding Glamorganshire, which contains Cardiff and Swansea, large seaport towns, the proportion of convictions is one in 16,000. Before the passing of the Act the proportion was double what it is at present. Were the Travellers Clause done away with, Sunday drunkenness, as far as Wales is concerned, would soon disappear altogether.

THE French authorities at Gaboon have notified the Missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of America that their school must be chosen within the bounds of their jurisdiction, or be placed under French

auspices. It is simply a political question. French power, French commerce, and therefore the French language and French influence throughout—these are the ends in view. The Government has no preference as between French Catholics and French Protestants, but they must be French. It is fully expected that the same demand will be made of the Presbyterian missions in the New Hebrides, where France is quietly settling down, in defiance of England's protests and in violation of its own promises.

THE venerable Emperor of Germany has entered on his ninety-first year. His birthday was marked by unusually enthusiastic demonstrations. Wherever Germans were found, and in these days they seem to be ubiquitous, the occasion was celebrated with great rejoicing. That William I. should belong to the old school is only what could be expected. Civil and religious liberty, like German nationality, has made marvellous advances during his protracted lifetime. Events will move still more rapidly after his long and honourable career is closed. The German nation has much respect for the aged Kaiser, and fear, mingled with respect, for the Imperial Chancellor, but with their retirement from the exalted and responsible positions they occupy, the great Teutonic Empire will sweep into the younger day.

THE *Epoch* says: The death of Mr. Beecher has served to recall the fact that a good deal of the world's work is being done by men over the age of seventy. Conspicuous examples, like the Emperor of Germany, who is ninety; Von Moltke, who is eighty-six; M. Grevy, who is seventy-six; Mr. Gladstone, who is seventy-seven, and Prince Bismarck, who is seventy-one, naturally strike the mind first; but were a careful investigation to be made of the conduct of great enterprises, even in our country, where youth comes early to the front, the number of men born before 1816, who are occupying positions of conspicuous influence, would be found to be surprisingly large. Connecticut possesses in a banker and railroad president, who has passed his ninety-seventh birthday, what we take to be the oldest specimen of an active business man in the world.

CAN those elected to fill important public positions in municipal and legislative affairs be strictly called representative men? If, for instance, certain New York aldermen now in pensive seclusion in Sing Sing, reflect the average morality of that great commercial emporium, then honesty there can hardly be called a common virtue. Whom do men of the Jaehne and Duffy stamp represent? Not the intelligent and reputable citizens, but really the most degraded part of the community find fitting exponents in boodle aldermen. Investigations now progressing in Chicago reveal the rascalities to which men who have got the votes of Christian citizens can stoop. Canadians cannot afford to revile their neighbours on the other side of the line. If what comes from the direction of Montreal is "not the vile slander of a partisan press," then Canadian cities can do something in the way of raising indigenous boodlers.

THE License Bill passed by the New Brunswick Legislature, says the *St. John Telegraph*, is more restrictive than previous license laws in New Brunswick, and in this feature follows the trend of public sentiment and the course of legislation in other quarters. The appointment of inspectors of licenses by the municipal and civic councils is made imperative. The restriction of the number of licenses in proportion to population, the power given to husbands, wives and parents to forbid sale to near relatives, under certain conditions, and the making of vendors liable for damages in case of suicide or death resulting from improper sale, are important new provisions. There is a question whether licensing should not have been made a matter wholly of Provincial control and concern, as in Ontario. While there are obvious objections to such a change as affecting the revenue of municipalities, the efficiency of inspection

in both Scott Act and licensing counties would be undoubtedly increased if inspectors were appointed and paid by the Provincial Government.

THE new university at Palo Alto, California, founded by the millionaire Leland Stanford, is to give a practical as well as a classical education. Governor Stanford thus states his purposes. I intend that the Stanford University shall not only give one a classical education, but that under its roof one may learn telegraphy, type-setting, type-writing, journalism, book-keeping, farming, civil engineering, etc. For a number of years prior to its inception, young men, graduates of Harvard, Yale and other Eastern colleges, used to call upon me bearing letters of introduction, and asking me to find employment for them. I would learn on examination that while their knowledge of Greek and Latin, logic and metaphysics might be thorough, they were actually helpless, so far as practical knowledge went. They were willing to learn, it is true, but the world is full of unskilled labour, and so I was forced to put them on the railroad as conductors, brakemen and firemen in order that they might become self-supporting. I then conceived the idea of a university from which young men could graduate fully equipped for the battle of life in whatever direction their taste might run.

AT the recent meeting of the Free Church Commission in Edinburgh Principal Rainy directed the attention of the commission to the work which the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Somerville, had been carrying on in the Highlands. The work from the beginning had been remarkable, having been discharged with an energy and power conveying a very impressive admonition to those of them who were younger men. During the last few weeks the meetings held by the Moderator had been followed up by others of an earnest and practical kind in the way of awakening and conversion. Dr. Somerville visited especially in Argyllshire and the Western Highlands, where in the course of fifteen days he held seventeen meetings. The next section of the work was taken up from 12th January to 27th February, and during that time Dr. Somerville was engaged in Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness, and during a period of about forty days he held seventy-three meetings. The meetings addressed since the November communion numbered ninety, and the number of meetings and services conducted by Dr. Somerville since 11th July was 212. He contemplated visiting several other districts.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *British Weekly*, writing from Rome, says. The Government of Italy permits the exercise of all forms of Christian worship, and amongst the many who gratefully enjoy this enlightened toleration, the Waldensian Church is the most successful and perhaps the most interesting. For eight centuries purity of faith and simplicity of worship held their own in the Waldensian valleys against wave after wave of persecution, against every vicissitude of these long troubled ages. So superb a vitality has worthily reached happier times, and now not only does the Waldensian worship, with its schools and colleges, and all the ennobling virtues of freedom and education, prevail in its native valleys, but its work of evangelization in Italy proceeds without let or hindrance. In Rome, Dr. Prochet owes much to the wisdom of King Humbert, who sees in such work a powerful aid against the pressure of the clerical party. All workers unite in respect and admiration for this King, whose heroism, enlightenment and ceaseless care for his people entitle him to the highest rank among kings. The mission field occupied by the Waldensians in Italy covers now the whole ground, including Sicily and islands on the coast. It is divided into five districts, from the Alps to Mount Etna. Within these districts there are in all forty-four churches, thirty-eight stations, and 128 places regularly visited by the missionary agents. Every year attracts new adherents, and during the last year, upward of 600 nominal Roman Catholics have voluntarily attached themselves to the Waldensian communion.