

# The Manitoban.

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

IT seems that the practice of extemporaneous prayer by Chaplains, says the "Canadian Churchman," of the States Legislatures has reached a natural crisis in Texas—when the Chaplain prayed for the passage of some bill he was interested in,—the men who couldnt say "amen" being opposed to the bill, have "raised a breeze," and as a Texas breeze is very much like a cyclone, we would advise them to stick to the gospel, or they will be apt to drive their ship on the rocks.

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A BILL has been introduced into the Michigan Legislature, to tax churches. This is a step forward in the right direction, and such a measure should pass without any opposition. We see no reason why churches should escape taxation more than any other corporation. Hitherto such a law has been strenuously opposed by church members and others, but we hope to see the day when every church and all will be compelled to pay alike. "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's and unto God the things that are God's," was the Master's counsel, and it would be well for us to follow it.

In speaking of the above bill the Boston "Weekly Review," says Bishop Foley is circulating a protest for signatures in all the catholic churches in the State, and the protestant churches will doubtless supply additional signatures. The New York "Independent," says "we know no reason why any property which does not belong to the State, should not pay the State for its protection," no; there is no reason to be discovered for exemption of churches from taxation. It is a sad commentary on the churches that they strenuously, with one exception, oppose the imposition of their due share of taxation, while cheerfully acquiescing in arrangements which makes the burden of the workman heavier.

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THE latest scheme is the proposal to build an immense international canal from the Great Lakes to the Hudson River, thus affording a deep water way from New York City to Montreal and Hudson's Bay. As the territory through which the canal would run on the other side, would be all in New York State, the United States need not be asked for a charter. Speaking of such an enterprise the St. Paul "Globe" very seriously says, this looks like a deep-laid plan, to head off the move-