

## Notes of the Week.

SPEAKING of the first Sabbath after the meeting of the Dominion Parliament, the *Ottawa Citizen* says: The attendance at several city churches was increased by the addition of Senators and members of the House of Commons. Many honourable gentlemen did not seem devotionally inclined, however, as they spent the hours of service in the buildings attending to private correspondence, reading the newspapers and in the library.

THE first concert of the Toronto Tonic Sol-fa Society was held in Shaftesbury Hall last week, and the impression produced was decidedly favourable. The programme contained a varied and tasteful selection, and was admirably executed. The choral renditions, under the direction of Mr. Cringan, were pleasing and effective. Miss Anna Howden, J. M. Elwell, and Mr. E. W. Schuch contributed greatly to the evening's enjoyment.

IN connection with the Victorian jubilee the memorial schemes proposed are numerous and varied. So far as Canada is concerned, one of the most gratifying is that begun by two of Montreal's most worthy citizens. The donation by Sir George Stephen and Sir Donald Smith of \$1,000,000 for the erection and endowment of the Royal Victoria Hospital in the city of Montreal is an act that merits present appreciation, and which in years to come will excite kindly feelings for the memory of men whose names have during their lifetime been representative of enterprise and benevolence.

A PETITION signed by 590 parishioners has been presented to the Edinburgh Presbytery, asking the removal of the images from St. Giles. It is alleged that many of the names have been adhibited to the document without authority, and that direct misrepresentations were made by the canvassers regarding its nature. Rev. Robert Thompson, Ladywell, is to direct the attention of Glasgow Presbytery to the subject at next meeting. Rev. Jacob Primmer, Dunfermline, sent a circular to Cupar Presbytery asking them to support his overture to the Assembly protesting against the use of idols in St. Giles. It was allowed to lie on the table.

E. W. ALEXANDER, of the Presbyterian mission in Persia, notices a great change in Hamadan in a single year. Hostility to us and our work, he writes, seems to be a thing of the past. He says Armenians, Jews, Kurds and Persians, seldom less than twenty, attend evening service and follow one another in prayer. There are many cases for medical treatment. This dispensary at Tabriz is thronged with sick; sometimes a hundred cases are treated in a single day. Dr. Holmes has been appointed consulting physician to the heir apparent. A Mohammedan count was recently baptized openly in Tabriz, a significant innovation.

THE great historical library of Dr. Leopold Von Ranke is to come to America, it seems, the Government of Prussia having declined to buy it at the price the heirs set upon it. No contract has been drawn, but Professor Bennett, who was a pupil of the great historian, has verbally accepted the library for the Syracuse University, the money being provided by a rich man, who will not have his name published. The exact price is not stated, but it is somewhat less than \$25,000. Another remarkable American purchase of the sort is the library of Wilhelm Scherer, the philologist and historian, which comes to the Adelbert College at Cleveland. The Scherer library numbers 30,800 volumes, that of Von Ranke about 15,000, besides many old manuscripts.

Is the ballot box after all the true register of the people's will respecting legislation? When opinions

as to men and measures are pretty evenly divided, and a popular vote taken, it invariably happens that grave accusations are made that cunning and trickery have been employed to secure a triumph. The defeat of the Prohibitory Amendment in Michigan has given rise to the most extraordinary charges of corruption, bribery, intimidation and general crookedness in order to defeat the proposed measure. In constitutionally-governed counties the free and unfettered registration of the popular vote ought to be secured. If legislation is corrupt at the fountain, all else will be impure. It may be a characteristic of the unsuccessful party to soothe the soreness of their defeat, that they seek the most telling excuses for what must be distasteful to them. But charges should not be recklessly made, and when serious imputations are uttered, they ought to be probed so that they may as speedily as possible be refuted, or, if true, the parties guilty of corrupt acts punished as they deserve. A corrupt ballot is as dangerous as a corrupt judiciary.

A CONTEMPORARY says: A bill introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature by the Hon. Daniel McNeill, a member of the Government, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Nova Scotia Benefit Company," turns out to be a grand lottery scheme. It looks as if some enterprising Yankees were seeking to transfer the Louisiana lottery business to Nova Scotia. This act provides that the incorporation shall be given thirty years' monopoly of the lottery business in Nova Scotia, free from all taxation, in return for which the promoters promise to present the Province with \$60,000 a year—\$4,000 each to the charitable institutions, as follows: The Asylum for the Blind, Halifax, the Infants' Home, the Provincial Hospital, \$2,500 each; the Art School, \$2,000, and \$1,000 each to eighteen high schools and county academies, "to be devoted to the assistance of higher education and charitable purposes." The \$60,000 is to be divided between Dalhousie College, Acadia College, Mount Allison College, St. Francois Xavier College, King's College, St. Mary's College, the Protestant Orphans' Home and the Catholic Orphanage. The incorporators are Cornelius Beard, Frank B. Weir and Henry Banks. The proposed capital is \$1,000,000. The bill is being "lobbied" by Mr. Vanslooten, famous for his attempt to get a monopoly of Nova Scotia's iron mines. From the fact that the bill was introduced by a Cabinet Minister, it evidently has the support of Premier Fielding and his secession Government.

THE *United Presbyterian*, Pittsburg, says: Mr. Joseph Cook has closed his Monday lectures for the season in Boston. Short reports of them have been given in many of the papers, so that the general public has been kept familiar with their drift, and all kinds of opinions have been published as to his success as compared with that of other years. It is said the lectures were "well attended," that there was a "great falling off in the audiences," that many "seats were empty," that "not a vacant seat was to be found," that his views "were as fresh as ever," that he had "grown somewhat stale," that the people were awed by the "dignity of his discussions," that his travesties greatly "shocked the audiences," that his references to Mr. Beecher "were a malicious attack," that what he said on the Plymouth preacher was "marked by a wise discrimination"—with very much more of the same sort. The money returns were certainly not large, which only shows that in Boston as in every other place, people are willing to get what they will not pay for if they can help it. As to the lecturer, he has lost some of his freshness and spontaneity. He is no longer looked upon as infallible. He has lost his temper sometimes, and has descended to the level of a critic instead of remaining upon the high plane of judicial dignity, and for these reasons, and because he has taken a violent part in the New England religious controversies, he has become less interesting to the public at large. With all this said, it is still true that he is a great moral force, the effect of which is

felt in all parts of the country. We need him as a speaker who gives time and great ability to the study of questions which require a wise discussion.

ADVICES from Sydney give the latest particulars regarding the attempted assassination of Premier Baker, of Tonga Island, by converted Wesleyan natives. The correspondent of the *Sydney Herald*, at Suva, Fiji Islands, writes, under date of February 17, that Baker believed that the attack on him was meant to be an organized conspiracy of the Wesleyans to overturn the Government. He sent for soldiers, and a large number of indiscriminate arrests were made. Baker put the prisoners through a form of trial, condemned them to death, and the sentences were executed. The same night, before the executions were carried out, the British Acting Vice-Consul, W. E. Giles, used the utmost exertions to stop them. Things were growing quiet when the newly appointed Vice-Consul, R. B. Keefe, arrived at Tonga, and after an inquiry, decided that he had no power to interfere. The storm again burst forth with redoubled fury. The Wesleyan Mission College was invaded by an armed mob, who brutally beat the Wesleyans and wrecked their houses. Mr. Keefe was again appealed to, but again refused to intercede. Among six of those earliest condemned to death was an ordained Wesleyan minister, David Finan, a man of the highest position and repute. Six executions were to take place the day after the departure of the steamer which brought the above news to Suva, and thirty more on the day following. The French and Germans have sent for men-of-war, and urgent representations have been made to the Fiji governor to interpose and depose either Mr. Baker or Mr. Moulton, the Wesleyan Missionary. A *Sydney Herald* special from Auckland, N. S. W., says further news from Tonga states that the Wesleyans are being mercilessly plundered and maltreated by the King's soldiers. The Premier does not anticipate any difficulty about French interference in Tonga, and is of the opinion that German jealousy would be aroused by the appearance of the French so close to Samoa.

A LETTER to the Providence *Telegram*, signed by E. J. Morgan, offered to give \$2,000 to Father Chiniquy if he would make good before any fair jury of men four statements which Mr. Morgan said were made in Father Chiniquy's lecture in one of the churches the day before. Father Chiniquy has accepted the challenge in the following letter: I accept with pleasure your offer to have a jury composed of intelligent and honest Americans, before whom I will prove (1) that the late American war was brought about by the instigation of Rome; (2) that the assassination of President Lincoln was ordered or suggested by the priests of the Pope of Rome; (3) that the church incendiaries of the Church of Kankakee County, Ill., for which Mr. Chiniquy or his admirers were about to be imprisoned, was ordered in the confessional by a priest or priests of that State. Here Mr. Morgan will allow me to correct him. I have not said that the church was ordered to be burned by the priests, but I have said that the perjured witnesses had been advised by their confessor to swear falsely that I was guilty of that crime, and I will prove it to the satisfaction of Mr. Morgan and his jury. (4) That the gathering of priests at Mrs. Surratt's was ordered by the Pope to decide upon the assassination of President Lincoln. Here Mr. Morgan will allow me to correct him again. What I said is That the house of Mr. Surratt was the rendezvous of the priests of Washington who were not only the intimate friends, but the father confessors of Mrs. Surratt and Booth; that those priests could not ignore the plot which was going on; that then they were not only accessory to, but their very position made them the advisers in, the plot. Not only I am ready to prove before a jury with my proofs in hand, but I have presented those facts with the irrefutable proofs before the whole American people in the pages from 668 to 736 of my book, "Fifty Years in the Church of Rome," which will be sent to every one who will order it.