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Notes of the Week.

A memorial pulpit and railing has been put up this summer, at Cacouna to the Rev. Dr. Cook by the members of his family. It makes a very handsome addition to the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, at Cacouna, and all who are wont to worship in it are gratified to see a suitable recognition of Dr. Cook's services to the congregation that has worshipped there for so many years. On a recent Sunday morning Dr. Barclay, of Montreal, at the conclusion of his sermon made a very feeling allusion to Dr. Cook.

A copy of this year's Prize List of the Toronto Industrial Fair is an instance of coming events casting their shadows before. This Exhibition which will be held from the 3rd to the 15th of September next has now become one of the great events of the year in Canadian history and is looked forward to by the people in all parts of the Dominion. The amount of prizes offered is as large as ever and there is every prospect of this year's show excelling all others, as there is no other great Fair to conflict with it, and the directors have voted a large amount for novelties and special features which are bound to attract the people. The grounds are also being vastly improved this year.

The *Spectator* is disposed to think that the general feeling of the people towards the present English Government has been one of disappointment, and contends that the Prime Minister has lost his ground, even on his own questions. It thinks the proposed attack on the House of Lords will prevent any difficulties on the part of the extremists, and will determine the dreamers of dreams to give in a temporary adhesion to Lord Rosebery's Administration. But it will also deter a good many of the moderates and the Whigs from taking any active part in the next electoral campaign, and it will do as much, we believe, to animate the Unionists in their attack on the Government as it will to animate the extremists in its defence.

The Polyglot petition, prepared by the World's Women's Temperance Union against the traffic in alcohol, opium, and against legalized vice, now numbers nearly three million signatures. A steamer is to be chartered, and Lady H. Somerset and Miss Willard, accompanied by a hundred ladies, are to take charge of the petition in its voyage round the world. A start will be made at the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union Convention to be held in the United States in October next. Thence the delegation will proceed to Washington and from there to London. From London its course, it is expected, will be to Rome, Athens, Jerusalem, Cairo, India, Ceylon, the Australian Colonies, China, Japan. At later dates the petition is to be presented to the Northern and Central Governments of Europe.

The new Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. makes sad reading. Its aim is to bring about Christian union everywhere, but by the very effort it only shows the more how the Church of Christ is "By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed." But the sadness of the vision deepens when musing follows sight. Here is a man, wondrously enlightened and progressive for the position he holds and the claims which he makes by virtue of the traditions of his office—one, too, who is presumably devout according to his light, and in sympathy with the needs of the nations, so far as he understands them—seeking to gather together all scattered flocks, yet with no better inducement to hold out than that his shadow would then be the outer margin of them all. He has no misgivings; that anyone should question his very right to speak with any authority, let alone question the power of his church to give validity to his great promises, never seems to have ruffled or clouded his thoughts for a moment.

The writer of a very interesting survey of the religious life of Germany, published in the *Sunday at Home*, prints an interesting map, showing the comparative density of the Roman Catholics in various parts of the German Empire. Germany has been called, and justly so, the bulwark of Continental Protestantism. This does not appear very manifest, however, if we place the number of Protestants over against that of Roman Catholics. The figures, as last reported, stand thus—29,369,847 and 16,785,734 respectively; or, in other words, 62.68 Protestants to 35.82 Roman Catholics, the remaining 1.50 being mainly composed of Jews. These were the figures in 1885. Since then considerable changes have occurred, and if we judged by the complaints raised in some parts of the Protestant camp, we should conclude that the alteration was wholly in favour of Rome.

At the evening service at St. Andrew's, Ottawa, lately Principal Grant reviewed the proceedings of the recent General Assembly at St. John, N.B.; he explained also the difference in the laws governing the Methodist, Anglican and Presbyterian churches. Referring to the kind greetings extended them from other churches, he said, perhaps the most practical of these greetings was from the Methodist Church in Canada, in which it was pointed out how important it would be, if in this country they had, not to say an organic union, but a union along the line of non-interference in church work in sparsely populated places, such as towns and villages where there were now different Protestant churches while there should only be one. This, he hoped, would be brought about. It always seemed to him ungrateful that they spent so much of their time and money in not fighting the common enemy, evil, but in fighting their own friends and brethren.

Hong-Kong papers which arrived by the steamer *Victoria*, chronicle a serious attack upon two ladies of the American Presbyterian Mission at Canton, on June 11th, as a result of which it is stated, one of the ladies may die. Miss Bemler and Miss Halverstone are the names of the unfortunate missionaries. While out walking they came upon a Chinaman lying by the roadside. They tenderly raised him up, procured him a cup of tea and applied smelling salts, and revived him so that he was able to walk a few yards. They were on their way with him to the hospital, but he died among their hands. Just then some Chinese gathered round and asked if anything had been given him, and on their learning that there had, an excited mob attacked the ladies who, almost naked, wounded and terrified, were rescued from them. Chinese superstitions connect the missionaries with the appearance of the plague and their priests are preaching extermination of "white crusaders."

The mutterings of the strike, like those of a thunder storm which has passed over, are still to be heard, and sporadic outbreaks of violence and wreckage are still taking place, accompanied more or less with damage to property, and at times, as at Battle Creek, with loss of life. President Debs and several of his right hand men have been arrested, and refusing to furnish bail are in prison. While the President's firm and prompt conduct is blamed by some, and state rights is again being heard of, others, including, we believe, the great bulk of the nation, cordially approve of his conduct and will heartily support him in the measures he has taken. It is most unfortunate for the business of the country, which was just beginning to revive somewhat, that these unhappy events should have taken place just now. The effect of them is, by causing general want of confidence, to retard indefinitely the return of that condition of business activity which of itself would bring about the better wages and better times which the acts of the strikers, as we have seen them, will never bring about, but make, on the contrary, a simple impossibility.

The "touch of nature" has again been beautifully illustrated in the letter sent by Her Majesty the Queen to Madame Carnot on the occasion of the assassination of her husband President Carnot. It is as follows:

"Windsor Castle, June 27th, 1894.

"MADAME,—Although I have not the pleasure of personally knowing you, I cannot refrain from writing to you, and attempting to express the deep and sincere sympathy that I feel for you in this terrible moment. I cannot find words to tell you how my widow's heart bleeds, and what dismay and what sorrow I feel at the crime that has robbed you of a beloved husband, and the whole of France of its most worthy and respected President. If universal sympathy can in any measure assuage your intense grief, be assured it is yours. May God give you the strength and courage and also the resignation so necessary to enable you to bear such a misfortune. —I am, madame, yours very sincerely, "VICTORIA"

M. Decrais, French Ambassador, went to Windsor and had an audience of Her Majesty, and expressed on behalf of his Government the gratitude of the French nation for the messages of sympathy forwarded on the occasion of the assassination of President Carnot. Her Majesty again expressed her grief at the dreadful event, and forwarded by special messenger a beautiful wreath of flowers to be placed on the coffin of the deceased President.

An interesting experiment has just been completed in Salford Iron Works, England. The owners, whose men had been working nine hours a day determined one year ago to make a trial of the eight-hour day, with the same wages as before, promising a permanent adoption of the custom if the results were satisfactory. The results have been satisfactory. The employees have worked with such good will during the year that, notwithstanding the shorter hours of work, the net product has been increased. It is such an experiment as this, tried everywhere, that alone can decide the vexed question of the eight-hour day. The adoption of it will depend partly on the workmen, and partly on the nature of the work. If the work is of such a nature that it cannot be hurried by increased zeal and better health and spirits on the part of the laborer, then an eight-hour day can be won only by a surrender of one hour's wages a day, if the workman has been working nine hours. The same thing will be true if the workmen prove incapable of utilizing the extra hour in such ways as to gain further power and skill and quickness for work. An eight-hour day would produce a wiser and better set of workmen, but it requires workmen of some considerable wisdom and energy to make the eight-hour day possible.

The new President of France, M. Casimir-Perier, like M. Carnot, is the bearer of a name which is famous in French history. His grandfather was one of the most distinguished of Louis Philippe's Ministers, whilst his father, who was a follower of Thiers, held a Ministerial portfolio under the Republic. The new President—whose strength is supposed to lie in his moderation—is forty-seven years old. He conveys to an observer an impression of great energy and resolution, and he speaks in clear, authoritative tones which neither permit of dispute nor disobedience. In his bearing, resolute and firm, he has been in his life a faultless correct man. The austerity of his morals is, indeed, almost Saxon. He seldom indulges in luxuries, and while he never smokes, is singularly sparing with champagne. Frenchmen remember him as one of the heroes of the war. So bravely did he fight that he was decorated on the field of battle of Bagneux, where he commanded the Garde Mobile of Aube. The war over, he turned to politics, and though he was but 26, Thiers and Jules Favre received him with open arms on the proclamation of the Third Republic. A seat was speedily found for him in the Chamber of Deputies, and he soon signalized the fact in an excellent speech. He was a moderate Republican in those days, and though he has strengthened his programme a bit, he is a moderate Republican to-day.