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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE hero of the hour, Chinese Gordon, is the subject of many anecdotes. A clergyman lecturing at Bristol on "General Gordon's Secret," which was shown to be faith in God, recalled how at the time of the cotton famine in Lancashire, Gordon, having scratched out the inscription, anonymously sent a gold medal received from the Empress of China to Canon Miller to be sold for the benefit of the sufferers.

BRANTFORD has taken a step forward in dealing with liquor licenses. Formerly there were twenty-five hotel licenses issued at a fee of \$10 each. At a recent session of the city council the fee was raised to \$180, and the result is that only twenty-one licenses have been issued. In regard to shop licenses, it has passed the by-law requiring the sale of liquors to be conducted entirely apart from any other business, and raised the license fee from \$135 to \$200. The effect of this is that only five licenses have been issued as compared with twelve formerly.

THE bill has been favourably reported in the United States Senate prohibiting the sending by mail of newspapers and other publications containing lottery advertisements. It changes the penalty from that proposed in the original bill, making the fine for each offence not less than \$200, with costs of the prosecution, or imprisonment for not less than thirty days, nor more than a year, or both, at the discretion of the court. The bill was accompanied by two reports from the minority, contending that the General Government had no power to suppress gambling or lotteries in the States.

To the disquietude prevailing in the North-West the rumour of a mild Fenian scare is added. An adventurous reporter of a New York inflammatory sheet has been issuing a proclamation calling for recruits to serve on the international boundary. No doubt this amiable individual aspires to produce international complications, and under cover of what little excitement might arise, extract a comforting amount of hard-earned money for the "emergency," or other convenient fund which always exists for the cure of Ireland's woes and allaying the thirst of her patriotic "Liberators."

THE death is announced of Mrs. Harriet Miller Davidson, daughter of one whose memory Scotland holds in just esteem—the late Hugh Miller. Mrs. Davidson, who was the elder daughter of the gifted author of "The Testimony of the Rocks," was the wife of the Rev. John Davidson, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Adelaide, South Australia, who died in 1881. Now she has followed him, to the grave at the early age of forty-four, her death having occurred at Adelaide on the 23rd of December last. In the "Life and Letters" of her father a very pretty picture is given of "Little Ha Ha"—as Harriet Miller called herself when a child.

It is asserted that in voting on the by-law for the removal of liquor from the grocery stores, many spurious votes were cast. No complaints have been made that these practices were resorted to by those in favour of the by-law. The temperance cause, and for that matter, no cause that depends on the support of intelligent and honest men, needs such discreditable tactics. Absent and dead men were personated at many of the polling places on the day of voting. To such depths of infamy have political corruption and intrigue descended, that men are now found glorying in deeds of which the mythical New Zealander would be ashamed. True, the law professes to be severe on this species of fraud, but the law is a dead letter. A penalty of \$200 may be imposed, but it never is. No remedy can be hoped for till the personator and his abettors are on conviction summarily punished by imprisonment without the option of a fine. This species of political crime ought to be thoroughly stamped out.

IN a recent number the *Christian Leader* says:—Mr. Spurgeon has returned from Mentone and resumed his work on Sabbath at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. He has a little book in the press for doubters. He says he seldom enters into the field of argument with sceptics, but so many are being led aside at this time that it came upon him like an inspiration that he must prepare some sort of hold-fast for candid but unsettled minds. Mr. Spurgeon notifies that no one who is not sound in the faith need apply for admission to his college. "It will be little better than a fraud," he says, "for any man to attempt to enter who does not before God resolve to live and die preaching the old-fashioned Gospel." In reply to a New York gentleman who had suggested that he should substitute Florida for Mentone when in search of health, Mr. Spurgeon writes that he cannot run the risk, as America would kill him with kindness. "It would depress me greatly to be had in honour. Abuse I can bear, but kindness shows me my own unworthiness, and sends my heart into my shoes."

THE latest dynamite sensation is the explosion the other day at the Victoria station, London. Fortunately, no serious personal injury resulted, though damage was done to the extent of about \$20,000. Whenever an explosion of this kind occurs Fenianism is at once suspected, not without reason. Recent events at Birmingham and Glasgow, and other places, and the loudly expressed rant of the dynamite brigade in the United States render the suspicion of Fenian outrage presumably probable when a startling affair of this kind happens. It is stated that the Hibernian artists in dynamite have made their headquarters in Paris. This may be true or it may not, but they cannot for any length of time continue to make the French capital a base for their operations. The French government cannot afford to shelter such refugees. Hartmann and other Nihilists found Paris too hot for them. It is not likely that reckless Irish agitators engaging in covert acts of crime will find peaceful shelter under a government that has to be on the alert for the movements of a communistic proletariat.

AMONG the educational agencies of the time, the dime novel cannot well be overlooked. It is recognized by no responsible board of instruction; there is no authorized series, but practically it is exercising a powerful influence. It is doing its deadly work all the time. Boys are boys whether north or south of the international boundary. Here in Canada much juvenile crime is directly traceable to that species of literature in which theft, robbery and murder are more or less glorified. The latest instance occurred in Montreal. A boy of fourteen perpetrated a dextrous forgery on his employers, obtained \$300 on the forged cheque, and with his accomplices was on the eve of departure for New York where he hoped to join the theatrical profession. This smart youth had been carrying on a system of pilfering and accounted for \$78 having been taken from his employers besides the cheque. A small library of dime novels was found in his possession. It may be that the discovery of this clever but perverted boy's evil ways may save him from a life of crime, but if his taste for dime novels continues to be gratified, his return to honest ways can scarcely be hoped for. Parents and guardians who tolerate the dime novel in their homes incur tremendous responsibilities.

THE Rev. Robert Campbell, M.A., of St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, delivered one of the course of lectures on "Questions of the Day," under the auspices of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. His subject was "Creeds a Help or a Hindrance." This is to many an important question of the time. The lecturer discussed the subject in a spirit of candour and with great clearness. The current objections were fairly met, and the important place a symbolic expression of doctrine ought to occupy in the Christian Church was ably vindicated. In this connection the lecturer said:—Creeds being human compositions they were always liable to challenge and change. Until her-

meneutics and criticism had uttered their last word, the question of creeds must logically lie open. Loyalty to truth is of greater consequence than loyalty to any formula of human composition, and every one must be left free to canvass creeds but *prima facie*, he who thinks freely and truly is likely to agree with the majority of those who before him thought freely and truly. While judging no man, he however considered the position of a minister within the Church disparaging the Church's creed to those that are without a questionable one. If he has anything to say against creeds, let him say it to the Church.

THE David Morrice Hall was crowded in every part on Sabbath week, by a most attentive audience, which had come to listen to the last of the second series of lectures in connection with the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The Rev. Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, lectured on "The Ground of Certitude in Christian Belief." The reverend lecturer said that the evidences of Christianity, external and internal, were in reality inseparable, though there was a distinction between the two. Internal evidence was like the light which the eyelids had only to open to perceive, while the external was like heat which could be felt. Christianity was the only system depending upon moral evidence, which undertook to lead its advocates to unqualified certainty of its truth. No topic of practical religion was involved in more obscurity than the grace of Christian assurance. Confusion arose chiefly from failure in recognizing the principles upon which it rested. There were times when a cloud settles upon the human mind in the same manner in which darkness clouds all nature in its mantle. We then wanted a light that would lead us up to spiritual life. In conclusion, he compared the attacks upon Christianity to the waves dashing harmlessly against the Eddystone lighthouse. The Rev. Principal MacVicar announced that the Senate were making arrangements for another course of lectures to be delivered next winter.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather of the week has been moist and disagreeable in the extreme, it has especially promoted diseases of the respiratory organs. The prevalence of Bronchitis, noted during the colder weeks of the winter, seems now, at least, comparatively less than then; while Influenza of an epidemic and apparently infectious character has greatly advanced. From the simultaneous advance of Pneumonia and its marked increase over that during the cold weeks of January, it would seem that the influences promotive of the one, favour the advance of the other; and further, that moist, chilly weather exercises more injurious effects than periods of extreme cold. The prominence of Influenza, great as it is, is exceeded in importance by that of Pneumonia due to the well-known fatal character of the latter. It is one of the six most prevalent diseases in six out of the ten Districts of the Province. A comparison with the same period last year reveals the fact that Pneumonia occurred amongst the six most prevalent diseases in only one out of the ten Districts; and that whereas its percentage of prevalence this week is 4.3, last year it was only 2.8 per cent. The contagious zymotics, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria, especially affecting the respiratory passages, do not show any corresponding percentage increase, the latter being as for several weeks past unusually small. Whooping Cough, however, shows in a very precise manner, its method of lateral dissemination; since last week it had appeared in District VI., in the central part of western Ontario, and this week in District VII., the Niagara Peninsula. Amongst the Fevers, Intermittent shows an increase even over its high prevalence as indicated last week. Typhoid does not appear prevalent in any District, nor amongst the twenty prevalent diseases. Measles is prevalent in one District, and Scarlatina is reported as epidemically present in certain localities. A correspondent writing to the Secretary for pamphlets on the restriction of contagious diseases, remarks "that the Local Board of Health in his village is not, in some cases, receiving that support which is necessary to make it a success."