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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Cardinal Vicar has pronounced the congregation of St. Paul's Catholic American Church in Rome heretical. The founders of the Church are Sig. Campello, a former canon of the Roman Catholic Church, and Mgr. Javarrez. The Vicar's reasons for denouncing the Church are that it uses the Italian language in conducting its services, impugns the infallibility of the Pope, sympathizes with *Père Hyacinthe*, disbelieves in the real presence, refuses to invoke the virgin, etc. The decree threatens with major excommunication all persons who join or persuade others to join the Church.

THE *Chicago Inter-Ocean* says: It is estimated that we have some 15,000 French Canadians and 5,000 European French in Chicago. Among these the Rev. P. A. Seguin, born in Canada, for fourteen years a Roman Catholic priest in Montreal, for four years a Protestant minister, has lately commenced evangelistic work. Mr. J. W. Scoville, President of the Prairie State Loan and Trust Company, has afforded him the use of a part of Maskell Hall, corner Desplaines and Jackson streets. Mr. Seguin publishes a small religious paper, *La Trompette Evangelique*, setting the type with his own hands. He is strongly commended and has won the confidence of such as have become best acquainted with his work.

AMONG the subjects discussed at the recent Anglican Congress in Toronto, was that of religion in the public schools. So far as can be gathered from the report of the proceedings very little light was thrown upon the problem. Much that was true and valuable was said as to the supreme importance of Christian education, but a workable scheme was not propounded. Several speakers indicated their preference for denominational schools, though this is now regarded as impracticable. Neither was any means suggested for the removal of the conviction conscientiously entertained by many that it is not the province of the State to teach religion. The question is beset with practical difficulties, but surely a plan can be devised that will meet the requirements of the case. Meanwhile, the Church, the Sabbath school and the home, should be more than ever diligent in the religious and moral training of the young.

THE subject of theosophy has, according to the Calcutta correspondent of the *London Times*, occupied a large share of the attention of the Indian press and public recently. It has been brought prominently forward by the publication of the *Madras Christian College Magazine* of a correspondence alleged to have passed between Mme. Blavatsky and a Monsieur and Mme. Coulomb, who appear to have been followers of her, but who, having fallen out with the sect, have placed the letters in the hands of the editor of the magazine. These letters, if genuine, certainly prove Mme. Blavatsky to be a consummate impostor, who, with the help of Coulomb, imposed upon the credulous by ingenious trickery. The so-called astral body of the Tibetan Mahatma Koot

Humi is discovered as a crafty arrangement of bladders, muslin, and a mask, while the wonder-working shrine at Madras is said to be a mere conjurer's cabinet. The theosophists indignantly declare the letters to be impudent forgeries, and state that the Coulombs were expelled from the society, and have taken this means to revenge themselves.

WITH commendable enterprise the *Orillia Times* has issued a semi-centennial edition. It contains interesting historical sketches of the town, its pioneers, churches, etc. This, printed in orthodox blue, is what it says of the Presbyterian Church: Upwards of forty years ago, the Presbyterians of Orillia applied for a minister, through the Rev. W. S. Darling, late of Holy Trinity, Toronto, who was then a Presbyterian. But it was not till 1851 that the Rev. J. Gray was settled as a minister of that church in our town. The congregation met for some time in the room of an hotel, occupying the site of the Orillia House. This accommodation was kindly granted them by our present reeve. In 1852 their present church was opened for worship, being the first church erected in the town. After a ministry of upwards of thirty years, Mr. Gray was obliged, from ill-health, to retire from the work. He was succeeded two years ago by the Rev. R. N. Grant, the present popular and successful pastor of the congregation. This church has a comfortable and commodious place of worship, constructed by means of tasteful additions to the original building. It also possesses a large and convenient Sabbath school, as well as a snug and commodious manse. The grounds are tastefully laid out and the buildings embosomed amid trees, constitute one of the most pleasing sights in the town.

LAST week a successful congress of the Anglican Church was held in Toronto. A year ago the first attempt was made to hold such a convention as had been for long very useful in England and the United States. In both countries the congress and convention is not an institution confined to any one denomination. It has many obvious advantages to recommend it. At first sight it might seem as if Presbyterianism had no special need of such a method for the interchange of opinion and consideration of important practical questions. The respective courts of the Church it might be argued afford sufficient opportunity for all that could be arrived at by an extra presbyterial gathering. It might also be objected that so many are the calls on the ministry so much time is required for a conscientious attendance on the courts of the Church that an occasional congress would only be an additional burden. It has to be remembered that Presbyterian ministers take an active and useful part in conventions for special purposes, such as temperance, Sabbath schools, etc., but would it not be a good and a profitable thing to have an occasional congress whose functions would be simply deliberative, where carefully prepared papers could be read and a free and full interchange of opinion on the important practical questions of the day? The subject is one worthy of consideration.

SIMCOE County has piled up a handsome majority in favour of the Scott Act. It was generally expected that it would be successful at the polls, but it was hardly thought that so large a number of votes would be recorded in its favour. This is an additional testimony that the evils of the drinking habit are being better understood, and that a strong desire exists to provide a remedy. An opinion is entertained by some that the popular favour with which the Scott Act is regarded is only a temporary phase of excited feeling that will soon subside. The temperance movement is not a popular delusion. It did not originate in sentimental fanaticism. Its present proportions have not been attained by spasmodic effort, and baseless enthusiasm. It has been the slow but steady growth of half a century. Earnest men took hold of it. They advocated its principles and practised its precepts, conviction deepened it. Christian ministers and people helped it forward. Philanthropists and stu-

dents of social science saw that facts told with tremendous force against the use of intoxicating drink. The highest and most trustworthy authorities in physiological science add their testimony to the value of temperance. No wonder that county after county adopts the most effective measure at present on the statute book for the repression of intemperance. Huron and Peel will without doubt fall into line on the 30th inst.

AN interesting subject of discussion at the recent Congress was the relation of the Church to modern thought. It was refreshing to hear both the readers of able papers take pains to define the Church as embracing others besides those who adhere to the Anglican communion. If there was breadth in the definition of the Church, there was an assumed narrowness as to what might be considered modern thought. The two papers read were able and interesting, indicating that their authors were thoroughly conversant with the subjects on which they wrote. They, however, unconsciously illustrated a weakness characteristic of the current thought of the time. They magnified materialistic philosophy, as if it only was worthy of the name. Professor Clark saw the weakness and included literature. One paper in particular was devoted to a criticism of the evolution hypothesis. It concluded by recommending that theological students should make a special study of physical science,—of biology in particular. Let the theological neophyte, if he has special aptitude, study physical science by all means; but physical science is not the only branch in the wide range of philosophy that is worth studying. It bulks largely at the present time, but it is doubtful if it will hold the same prominence a decade hence. Other and more practical questions of economic science are looming up. Besides, though the exponent of religious truth should have an intelligent knowledge of the currents of modern thought, his life work is not dialectic force, but the preaching of the Gospel.

THE Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union held its annual meeting in Toronto last week. Representatives from all parts of the province. This is not a debating club, but a body, earnestly devoting themselves to practical work, furthering the cause of temperance. From the Secretary's report it is learned that early in the year petitions for circulation by the local unions asking that scientific temperance instruction be introduced into the public schools. To these petitions 4,433 names were attached. The report also narrated the incident which took place in the House of Commons last season, when floral baskets were presented to Professor Foster, the mover, and Mr. Fisher, the seconder of the prohibition resolution. Later in the year the medical profession were approached, but the result was not all that was desired. The work of the Union was brought before the ministers of the different denominations. Replies were received from the Presbyterian Synods of Montreal and Ottawa; from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, from the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, from the Anglican Diocese of Niagara and the Diocese of Ontario, from the London and Guelph Conferences of the Methodist Church. These replies expressed appreciation of the work in which the Union was engaged and promised hearty sympathy and co-operation. The work of the local Unions was then related. The year began with thirty-six Unions, and in the last quarter there were ninety-five. The membership at the beginning of the year was 700, at the close over 2,000. Meetings to the number of 1,720 have been held, 116 101 pages of literature were distributed. The Bands of Hope numbered twenty nine at the beginning of the year and thirty at the close, and the report regrets the slowness of the increase. There are 2,425 children in the bands. A highly successful public meeting was held at which addresses were delivered by Mr. J. J. McLaren, Q.C., Hon. G. W. Ross, and Mr. S. H. Blake, Q.C.,