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THE marked improvement in nearly all branches of business, consequent on the general good harvest and fair prices of all kinds of produce, should make a canvass easy. A push all along the line for renewals and new subscriptions is sure to result in large accessions to our list in every locality.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. MOODY, with his co-labourer, will hold meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow after a short season of work in Durham.

THE Mayor of Philadelphia, a Presbyterian, has stopped the running of street cars through that city on the Lord's day.

PROFESSOR MILLIGAN, of Aberdeen, will be the Moderator of the Established General Assembly of Scotland next year.

REV. DR. SOMERVILLE, of Glasgow, who for several years has conducted evangelistic services in various parts of the world, intends to visit Germany again, beginning his labours at Frankfurt.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has made an offer to the city of Pittsburg, Pa., of \$350,000 for a free public library, on condition that the city agrees to provide not less than \$15,000 a year for its maintenance.

A NUMBER of gentlemen connected with the Free Church were summoned by circular to meet in Edinburgh to consider Professor Bruce's book, "The Chief End of Revelation." The book was severely condemned.

A MR. J. S. STONE, of Chicago, announces a new work which "contains an explanation of all the incomprehensible passages of the Bible," and the "Sunday School Times" admiringly asks, "What is there that cannot be done in Chicago?"

THE Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has issued a circular condemning the Land League, and declaring that in the United Kingdom and the colonies there are thousands and thousands of Orangemen who are ready to fight for the constitution.

THE New York "Independent" says: "Guiteau decidedly objects to that part of Mr. Scoville's theory which assumes him to be a fool. He told the court last week that he would rather be 'hung as a man of sense than acquitted as a fool.' He stands a good chance of being hung as a murderer."

THE Methodist "Christian Advocate," mentioning the case of an Irish girl who said that she had joined the Methodist Church on suspicion for six months, says: "We don't know about the propriety of taking people into the Church on suspicion, but we think a considerable number might be let out on that ground."

THE Bible is having free course in Japan. Dr. Gulick, of the American Bible Society, calls attention to the facts that during his agency in Japan of five and a half years, 322,573 volumes of Scriptures were printed at Yokohama, and that the Society's publications now, in the main, pass directly from the agent into native hands, the mass of them being disposed of through Japanese booksellers.

A DESPATCH from Constantinople, dated Dec. 17th, says: "Assym Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has informed General Wallace, the American Minister, that Ali, who murdered Mr. Parsons, the American missionary, died over a year ago." "It seems altogether probable, says the "New York Observer," "that this statement is of a piece with Turkish promises, made only to deceive. The death of the murderer, if it had occurred, would have been mentioned before this in the correspondence between the two Governments."

THE calamity which has befallen the inhabitants of Vienna (Austria) by the burning of the Ring Theatre in that city appears by the latest accounts to have been much heavier than was at first supposed. The number of lives lost, first reported as 300, then 400, is now stated not to have been under 1,000. In the final disposal of the remains religious distinctions were for once lost sight of. A common grave in consecrated ground received the ashes and indistinguishable remnants of the bodies of hundreds of the victims, and Roman Catholic priests took part in the services along with ministers of other denominations.

ON the 13th inst. the Rev. Dr. Potts, the Rev. Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Arthur Farley, of this city, had an interview with Sir John Macdonald, at Ottawa, in regard to the Temperance Colonization Society, of which they are members. The object of the Society is to colonize a tract of land in the North-west Territories, furnishing lands to actual settlers at cheap rates, with the provision that such settlement be kept free from all intoxicating liquors. An application has been made to the Dominion Government for a compact, choice tract of land, comprising about 2,000,000 acres, for this purpose. Sir John gave the deputation a cordial reception, and promised to carefully consider their application.

JOHN DUNN is now supporting the demand for a resettlement of the condition of government in Zululand. He has proposed to the Government that the chiefs of the principalities, elected after the deposition of King Cetewayo, should be called upon to select a supreme chief, and the wily man, meanwhile, is canvassing for his own election. The princes, however, evidently favour the selection of their old sovereign, Cetewayo, and another deputation has arrived at Maritzburg, praying for the return of their king. Meanwhile, several unfortunate disturbances have taken place in Zululand. It is said that in a recent fight many women and children were massacred, in spite of the remonstrances of the British Resident.

DR. FRASER, at the last meeting of the Presbytery of London, England, proposed a resolution to the effect that it is desirable to hold occasional meetings of Presbytery for brotherly conference on questions affecting public worship and Church work. He said that the Presbyterian Church in England is trying to get together a Church of all sorts of origins, national and ecclesiastical. The members are falling into new moulds, hence all sorts of anomalies might grow up. He would like to have a full discussion of their views respecting adult baptism, and they should know more about the accesses to and leakages from their churches. The subject of leakage is a very serious matter. He would also like to know something about the posture at the Lord's Supper, for it was said that in some churches the people knelt. The motion was adopted.

THE "Queen's College Journal" says: "Evidently one of the best friends that Queen's has is Mr. Allan Gilmour, of Ottawa. A subscription of \$10,000 from himself and a friend was the signal three years ago for commencing the campaign for the \$150,000 fund; and instead of spreading their subscription over five years, they—like Mr. James Michie, of Toronto, and Mr. George Stephen, of Montreal—sent the whole sum in one cheque. And now learning the state of the library from the Principal, who announced at last convocation that \$2,000 a year for six years were required to put it in a moderately efficient condition, he has promptly forwarded a cheque for \$500. Who comes next? The Principal does not intend to solicit personally for this fund. There should be loyalty and sense sufficient among our graduates and friends to make them step forward and fill the gap. Does not the Chelsea seer declare that the best university is the best collection of books? And is he not right, or nearly so? Any subscriptions that may be sent for this much-needed fund we undertake to hand over to the treasurer of the library, and to acknowledge them in our columns."

THE "New York Observer" is among the best of our exchanges. It is now about entering on its sixtieth year of publication, without any diminution of its wonted vigour or relaxation in its firmness on the side of truth and righteousness. As a vehicle of religious and secular intelligence it is eminently serviceable, and in both departments the views of its contributors, as well as its editorial utterances, are always worthy of attention. The letters of Irenaeus attract much notice. That in last week's issue treats of "The Poor Old Man." From it we take the following sentences as containing a suggestion which may possibly some day be reduced to practice: "In every city and community there are some men whose lot is peculiarly hard—having failed to win more than their daily bread in the long life struggle, they have shared that bread with others. Now they are old and can earn no more, they are ready to perish. And there is not a more pitiful sight in the world. For a poor old woman there is abundant provision made. Every Christian denomination, and many unsectarian associations, have established homes for aged and respectable women, where, without the aid of friends, they may be tenderly cared for in the decline of life. It is natural that women should be more carefully cared for than men. As a general rule, they deserve more than men do. Women are better than men are, take them as a whole. There are more good women than good men in the world. I never preached where there were more men to hear than women, except in the State Prison. There a thousand men were shut up, but the number of women was less than two hundred. Our sympathies are more easily kindled by the sufferings of women than men. I wonder much that women do not found and support Homes for Aged Men. It would be beautiful to see a house filled with the venerable pensioners on female charity—men supported by women. It is not the order of nature, indeed, and yet the spirit of grace might inspire it."

THE Rev. W. J. McKenzie, missionary from Nova Scotia to the New Hebrides, recently visited Montreal on the invitation of the Committee in charge of the Anniversary Missionary Meetings, and by the simple and unostentatious way in which he told the story of his work, made a most favourable impression on the minds of many of those who heard his addresses. On Sabbath, the 27th Nov., he addressed the congregation of Erskine Church. At the close of the service the pastor intimated that Mr. Mackenzie wished, on his return to Efate, to take into his own house and educate as native preachers four or five young men of approved Christian character, and called for five men who would each pledge \$25 annually for four years for that purpose. After the benediction was pronounced, four gentlemen—Messrs. W. Angus, J. Walker, J. Rodger, and Rev. R. H. Warden—responded to this call; within the next two days three more—Messrs. J. R. Loudon, J. Davies, and J. Campbell gave similar pledges, and the Sabbath School another. On Monday, the 28th, the theological students of the Montreal College, after hearing Mr. Mackenzie, presented him with an address and \$45. On Wednesday, at a prayer-meeting in Stanley St. Church, he was presented with \$20 to help in the printing of a Primer for the Christian children of Efate. Mr. John Rankin, a member of St. Paul's, gave \$50 to procure a small printing press, and promised a like amount yearly during his life. Mr. J. W. Patterson, a member of St. Matthew's, handed Mr. Mackenzie \$25 as a personal gift, to be used as he deemed best. Mrs. Warden and Mrs. W. Angus called upon a few friends in the different churches of the city during the week and collected \$200, which they handed to the missionary on the morning of the day on which he left, as a personal gift for the use of himself and family. It is stated that in no case did Mr. Mackenzie solicit a contribution from any one, either in public or in private, and that the gifts received by him were all given as personal contributions, to be used as he deemed best in the furtherance of his work, and not for the general Foreign Mission Fund.