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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THERE is a temperance movement in Russia. The Holy Synod has taken it up and distributes tracts, advocating sobriety, even upon saints' days. This is very radical teaching for Russian peasantry.

THE Sabbath Association of Philadelphia has issued a circular asking all churches to unite in memorializing Congress to enact laws forbidding the transaction of any business in any department of the Government on the Lord's day.

What is "moral insanity?" "Wickedness," says Dr. Gray. What is "kleptomania?" "Stealing," says Dr. Gray. What is "dipsomania?" "Drunkenness." What is "pyromania?" "Incendiarism," says Dr. Gray. These technical terms the doctor puts into plain English.

THE National Temperance Society of the United States has again memorialized Congress, and bills have been introduced, to provide for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report upon the whole subject of the alcoholic liquor traffic, and the results of legislative methods of dealing therewith.

ON one day, a couple of weeks ago, seven murderers were hanged in the United States. In Jersey City, Martin Kinkowski was hanged for the murder of Minna Muller; in Elmira, Joseph Abbott was hanged for killing George Reed; in St. Louis, Charles Ellis suffered the extreme penalty for the murder of Mack Sanders; and Joseph M. Katovsky for killing his sweetheart, Augusta Simon; in Marshall, Mo., John A. Phelps was hanged for the murder of Elijah Keyten; and in Franklin, La., Terence Achille and Sterling Ben were hanged for killing D. Lamand.

THE "National Baptist" hits every time in the following paragraph: "The man who does not give to Foreign Missions 'because there are heathen at our doors' is the man who never gives to the 'heathen at our doors.' The man who says that it takes a dollar to carry a cent to the heathen, is the man who never gives either the dollar or the cent. The man who is ready to give for the Gospel at home is the man who is ready to give for the Gospel abroad; the man who can feel for the need of his remote fellow-men is the man who can feel for those near at hand."

THOMAS PAINE recently informed a Philadelphia audience, through the politeness of a medium, that his "Age of Reason" was written between the hours of ten o'clock in the evening and two o'clock in the morning, and that the prison cell was lighted by an unseen power to enable Paine to do the work. After the lecture was over, a tall man of an inquisitive turn of mind rose in the back of the Hall, and asked if Thomas Paine was the author of the letters of "Junius." This question staggered the medium at first, but finally, "with an apparent effort," she answered "Yes, sir," and the gratified audience dispersed.

A CERTAIN Signor Gavazzi was recently imprisoned in Paris, France, for immoral behaviour. The identity of name having led many in Britain, and perhaps on this continent, to suppose that this person was the well-known "Father Gavazzi," Mr. Martin, honorary treasurer of the Italian Missionary Society, writes to the English papers to say that this is not the case. The veteran champion of freedom and truth is at his post—that is, he is in Rome—lecturing to theological students in the College, addressing crowds of his fellow-countrymen on evangelical and religious questions, interesting himself in the simple joys of school children, and at the same time president of the Assembly of the Free Italian Church."

APPREHENSIONS of a rising of the peasantry in certain parts of Russia are, according to the "Presse," causing serious uneasiness in Government circles in

St. Petersburg. The country population in some provinces is ready to break out in open revolution. The peasants declare that they have been robbed of their land, and they mean to take it back again. In many places the peasants are reported to have been using the churches as their places of meeting for revolutionary objects. Hence the police have been ordered to watch and guard religious edifices. Everywhere trade is bad in Russia, and there is a general feeling of dissatisfaction and uneasiness similar to that which prevailed last year before the attempt on the late Czar.

AN English tutor pays a tribute to the value of his own instruction by publishing the answers of some of his pupils at their annual examination: Newton shot the apple off his son's head. Achilles was killed by Hannibal, for which the eyes of the latter were put out by Queen Ophthalmia. An hypothesis is an instrument for drawing up water, or it is a thing which happens to people after death. The letters of the Alphabet are of two kinds, viz., positive, comparative, and superlative. One pupil "supposed" that Adam was the first person singular; another that the difference between singular and plural is that one is masculine, the other feminine. On the tutor's reading that "Holland is cut up into a network of canals, in which numerous windmills were continually pumping water," one pupil asked, "What is the use of pumping water into networks?"

ONE of our contemporaries publishes an article by the Rev. Dr. John Hall, called "A Thing to Cry Over," which touches in a pathetic manner the common habit of laughing at drunken men. Dr. Hall stood on a boat in New York harbour. Not far off was a well-dressed but tipsy young man. Beside the doctor was a plainly-dressed man. When Dr. Hall saw the people laughing at the drunkard, he saw in his neighbour's eyes such a sad, pitying look that he said to him, "They should hardly laugh at him." Said the man, "It is a thing to cry over." Then he told Mr. Hall of his own wife, who took to drink in Scotland, and who promised to reform if he would come to this country, but did not, and died of drunkenness; and when the doctor hoped that he had comfort in the children, he said: "One—the second—is; she is a good child. The oldest is not steady, I can do nothing with her; and the youngest—a boy—can't be kept from drink. I've sold my place, and am going to a town in Ohio—where, I am told, no liquor can be had—to try to save him." Dr. Hall closes as follows: "Who would not wish for abstinence societies, tracts, books, ministers' sermons, young people's pledges, humane laws? One almost cries out for anything that will stop this slow, cruel murder of home-love of men, of women, of little children, of hope, of peace, of immortal souls."

PROFESSOR BRYCE'S appeal in behalf of Manitoba College appears in the December number of the "Church of Scotland Home and Foreign Missionary Record." After briefly, but clearly and pointedly, stating the urgency of the case, presenting his authority in the shape of an extract from the Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and asking for £15,000 to endow three chairs, he says: "I appeal to those who are historically connected with the Red River Settlement, Hudson's Bay Territories, and Rupert's Land. I appeal to those who have made investments in land, in loan and trading companies, or in other business in Manitoba. I appeal to those who take an interest in the progress of civilization in the vast territory brought before the Scottish people by the Governor-General in his visit. I appeal to those who have an honourable desire to be identified by their givings with the noble cause of education and religion, and who may thus leave a fragrant memory. I appeal to the Christian public, who have at heart the advancement of Christ's cause in one of the most hopeful and rapidly increasing portions of the British Empire. I appeal to you, above all, as stewards of the means God has given, and as

responsible to the Lord Jesus Christ for their wise disposal. Give us your aid! £100, or £1, or less! The beautiful Indian name of our new Province of Manitoba is said to mean 'The Voice of God.' May this appeal of our people be shewn to have been in very truth 'Vox Dei!'"

THE work of Messrs. Moody and Sankey in Great Britain has been, so far, very successful. It is said that their visit to Newcastle led to the conversion of thousands. The daily meetings in Edinburgh are said to be well attended, especially the Sabbath services. At one of the noon prayer-meetings, Mr. Moody mentioned the case of a Chicago drunkard who, broken in health and in spirit, had strayed into one of the Chicago meetings when the evangelists were in that city, and had there been led to the Saviour. On the evening of November 21st, Mr. Moody had found in a paper which had been forwarded to him from America, an account of this man's successful work as a missionary in the Sandwich Islands. The recital of this incident profoundly impressed the audience. On Sunday, November 27th, Mr. Moody began his second week's work by preaching in Free St. George's, one of the largest and wealthiest of the Edinburgh churches. His audience is described as consisting of the best society of the city—men and women of title, lords of session, professors from the University, and other representatives of literature and science. In the afternoon there was a meeting in the new Assembly Hall for women, and one in the evening for men. At both of these meetings thousands had to be turned away; but most of those who had failed to secure an entrance were accommodated in the several churches of the vicinity. Mr. Moody's subject in both meetings was "What Christ promises." Mr. Sankey sang several solos, and conducted the congregational singing.

THE Edmonton "Bulletin" is a fully developed newspaper, containing all the usual departments—telegraphic despatches, locals, editorials, reports of public meetings, meteorological report, neighbourhood news, correspondence, advertisements, etc.—and the marvel is that the whole occupies only four royal octavo pages. This wonderful economy in paper is attained by the use of agate type. The expedient was, no doubt, prompted by high rates of freight, but be the cause what it may, the result is not altogether an inconvenience. After the eye has been strained exploring the vast area of some of the broad-sheets now so common, it is a relief to take up a copy of this gem among journals between the finger and thumb and scan its full and varied contents without effort. In the issue of December 10th, now before us, we find reports of two public meetings—one to consider the question of inducing a doctor to enter upon the practice of his profession at Edmonton, the other to engage a public school teacher, or give the trustees power to do so. Both of these important matters were dealt with in a liberal spirit, and left in a fair way of being brought to a satisfactory issue. It is scarcely necessary to inform our readers that the "city" of Edmonton is situated in the North-West Territory, at the head of navigation on the North Saskatchewan River. From a still more remote district, the "Bulletin" gives an item of news which is of very melancholy interest, as it is scarcely possible that the afflicted person referred to can have escaped a lingering death on the snow-clad plain. The paragraph is as follows: "For some time past Rev. Father Petitot, of the Roman Catholic mission at Fort Pitt, has been more or less deranged. It was at last determined to bring him to St. Albert for medical treatment. While on the way here, last Monday night, the party camped near Vermillion Creek, about half way between Victoria and Edmonton. The two men who had the rev. father in charge lay down with him between them, that they might prevent him from getting away. During the night, however, he managed to slip away, taking a small blanket and a piece of bread, and although every endeavour has been made, up to the present not the slightest trace of him has been found."