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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

CONSIDERABLE attention of late has been drawn to the doings of Montreal medical students. Some of their number have become expert body-snatchers, and it is said that they as good as defy the law. Engaging in such pursuits may be adventurous and romantic, but it is degrading to those who take part in them, and is an outrage on the feelings of the community, more particularly of relatives who are mourning their dead. It is stated that one hundred and fifty bodies were stolen from graveyards in the vicinity of Montreal during the winter, brought to that city, and one-half sent to the States for the medical schools there. Sufficient subjects can surely be obtained without resorting to deeds of barbarism.

THERE is a growing desire to dispense with fences in front of city residences. Their absence enhances the beauty of well kept streets. Ecclesiastical fences are not quite so high as they once were, still they reach a considerable altitude, as the following occurrence in Montreal will show. The Rev. Mr. Smithson, Anglican, who officiated in St. Jude's Church in place of Rev. Mr. Dickson, preached in St. Bartholomew's Reformed Episcopal Church recently, and was the recipient of a reprimand from the Bishop of the diocese. It is doubtful whether the rev. gentleman is to be consoled with or congratulated on being "the recipient of a reprimand," since it sounds rather like a compliment than otherwise. It does seem strange, however, that a man should be made the "recipient of a reprimand" for preaching the Gospel.

IN November next 400 years will have passed since the death of Martin Luther, and a new edition of the reformer's works is announced as one of the proposed modes of doing him honour which Germany will adopt. Hitherto the best edition of his Latin and German works have been that published at Erlangen, 1826-1857, and in a second edition, 1861. That edition will be superseded by the new one. The German Emperor has presented the necessary funds for the undertaking, and the Prussian Ministry of Worship has appointed a committee to superintend it. The editor will be Pastor Knaake, who has an unrivalled knowledge of Luther, and has for some years been exploring German and English libraries in search of books and manuscripts bearing on the subject. The edition will be published at Weimar, and the first two volumes of it will appear on the anniversary of Luther's death, November 10th.

THE human system is susceptible to atmospheric influence. It has been observed that this susceptibility is always keenest on Sabbath. The reason why the human organism is most tenderly delicate on the first day of the week has not yet been adequately explained. A slight disturbance in the weather keeps many people from church on that day. A newspaper correspondent writing from Ottawa says, concerning a recent Sabbath, that "the weather all day was the most boisterous of the season; the wind blew a strong gale, lifting the snow in clouds and driving it hither and thither. It was almost dangerous to go out, yet the churches are said to have been well attended, which does not speak badly for the ministers. The ministers, we hope, will appreciate the compliment such as it is. An attractive ministry is very desirable, but divine worship should be regarded as a duty no less attractive by those who frequent the churches.

AT the last meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association the Rev. P. McF. McLeod read a report on the house to house visitation made some few months ago by several hundred Christian workers in this city. Rev. Dr. King and others spoke appreciatively of the report, and urged the importance of greater diligence on the part of the churches in looking after those who are not identified with any congregation, yet claiming to belong to some one or other of the Christian denominations. Rev. Mr. Burton, B.D., also presented

a report on Sabbath observance, which was recommended by the Association to be given to the press for publication. Rev. G. M. Milligan spoke earnestly deploring the tendency of certain corporations and others toward Sabbath desecration. A hope was expressed at the close of the meeting that Rev. Mr. Parsons would favour the Association at its next session with his views of how public worship should be conducted on the Sabbath day.

It would not be amiss for congregations about to embark in a new church enterprise to consider well the following from "The Examiner": "Oh these debt-burdened churches! What shall we do with them? I for one am determined never again to preach a dedication sermon, when the people intend to dedicate a mortgage to the Lord. What can be more absurd than to consecrate to God what we do not own? One of the best things that Dr. J. G. Holland ever wrote was a ritual for such a service as this. 'We dedicate this edifice to Thee, our Lord and Master; we give it to Thee and Thy cause and kingdom, subject to a mortgage of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). We bequeath it to our children and our children's children, as the greatest boon we can confer on them (subject to the mortgage aforesaid), and we trust that they will have the grace and the money to pay the interest and lift the mortgage. Preserve it from fire and foreclosure, we pray Thee, and make it abundantly useful to Thyself—subject, of course, to the aforesaid mortgage.'

LONDON, Ont., has a number of churches and a large number of church-goers, the great majority of whom are most exemplary in their demeanour; but, somehow, if we hear of those unfortunates who are in these days described as "religious cranks," we are instinctively inclined to turn to the Forest City as the scene of their exploits. The quaint original old "Peggy," a thoroughly harmless and well-intentioned, though occasionally troublesome disturber, has passed away. But the demonstrative blacksmith every now and then mysteriously emerges obtrusively in some of the churches, and now the South Methodist Church of the same city is brought into undesirable prominence by the frantic behaviour of one Boulbee by name. It is said of some that they have a method in their madness; but that demonstrative individual seems to have a madness in his Methodism that he would be decidedly better without. In such cases the friends of these unhappy individuals should use more energetic efforts than they do to prevent unseemly interruptions of the sacred worship of the sanctuary.

WHILE the question of withdrawing grocers' licenses is being agitated in Toronto and elsewhere, it may not be without interest to reproduce what the London "Lancet" recently said on the subject: "Some three years ago, when we made an energetic, but, as it unhappily proved, a vain endeavour to influence public opinion in favour of the total abolition of grocers' licenses to sell spirits and wines in bottles, we pointed out how women obtained intoxicating beverages under cover of 'groceries,' and how grocers not uncommonly gave Christmas presents to their customers and their servants, in the shape of bottles of brandy, whiskey and wine. At a recent inquest on the body of an old woman who was found dead in her bed after a drinking bout, it was stated that a bottle of whiskey, which had been presented by the grocer, was found under her bed-clothes nearly empty, but still clutched by the victim of this false kindness although the hand with which she seemed to grasp it was dead. This is only an incident, but it serves to show how this most mischievous license tells against public and social prosperity."

THE kind and variety of training that a theological student should receive have been indicated in a lecture by President Eliot, of Harvard University, on "An Educated Ministry." "He should," says President Eliot, "obtain as a preliminary work to be done in the college course, an accurate knowledge of Greek and Hebrew for exegesis; of Latin and German for the

sake of the valuable works in those languages; and of political economy, to aid him in charitable and reformatory work, and counteract the natural tendency toward sentimental charity. He should scan an important period of history, English literature and some of the sciences studied in the field, to give him certain habits of thought that come only through their study, and also a delight in nature, sober love for which is akin to love to God and love to man. Having done all that the three years' training permits, and being admitted to the profession, his people must not require too much of him in the way of sermons, or pastoral calls, or extempore speaking, lest they exhaust his resources, and he become like those pumps seen at fairs, which draw all their water from a small box and discharge it into the same, only to be used over again."

LORD CAIRNS is taking more than a spectator's interest in the new Church Army, which, imitating some of the methods of the Salvation Army, but with more reverence, is striving to do under the bishops what the Salvationists are doing under General Booth. The clergymen were attacked by a riotous mob in the streets of Westminster. One of them, the Rev. Neville Sherbrooke, is Lord Cairn's son-in-law, the same whom, as Chancellor of the University of Dublin, the ex Lord Chancellor presented last year for a doctor's degree, which the University refused to confer. The Rev. Neville Sherbrooke is young, an enthusiastic Low Churchman, and a strong and consistent supporter of what is called Revivalism; and his father-in-law, who holds the same views, and follows his son-in-law's lead in religious matters, is on the side of the Church Armyists. So far the Church Army has caused rather a disturbance than anything more decidedly religious. The Salvation Army grew; it was a development; the General has been carried away by the enthusiasm of his own converts. He had always a nucleus to work with. The Church Army, on the other hand, is comparatively an artificial thing, and is conducted mainly by clergy. The difference is immense, and may prove to be fatal to the new organization. But the Bishop of London is in its favour, and that may be regarded as a good sign.

THE odious charges brought against the Rev. F. R. Beattie have been universally regarded as incredible. The person who was so ill-advised as to make the accusation, finding that a searching investigation of her antecedents was being made, revealing a most lamentable career, has fled from the scene. It did not need the flight of this wretched woman to show that her vile story was a fabrication, but it confirms the unanimous opinion of all who knew Mr. Beattie's unimpeachable character that such an attack on him was as groundless as it was malignant. The session and congregation of which Mr. Beattie is minister have had special meetings for the expression of their unabated respect and esteem, as well as their warmest sympathy, for him in the painful ordeal through which he has had to pass. These expressions have taken the commendable form of an addition to his salary. In this action the congregation is to be congratulated on doing a becoming thing most opportunely. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane has acted a chivalrous and brotherly part with his characteristic energy. The time, however, is not yet come for saying the last or the strongest words on this subject. It is much to be regretted that the unhappy girl, Leishman, has been permitted to escape. The wretch who causelessly seeks to blast the personal reputation of a public man, more particularly a minister of the Gospel, either from motives of greed or revenge is justly an object of loathing and scorn. The punishment of such social pests ought to be exemplary. If, as is pretty generally surmised, the young woman, who has become unenviably notorious in this case, is only the clumsy instrument of mere designing tricksters who sought to shield themselves behind her infamy, the sooner all disguise is removed the better. A social crime like this demands a most exhaustive investigation. Mr. Beattie has only done what every honourable man should do in like circumstances.