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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE announcement that war between France and China has been declared would take very few people by surprise. The actual line between peace and war has been reached. To all appearance there is now very little likelihood of a peaceful understanding being reached by the antagonists. So long as war has not been formally declared, there is still a possibility of retreat, though at present the hope of war being averted is very slim. Both nations seem bent on preparing for a struggle that may lead to serious complications far beyond the range of a Franco-Chinese conflict.

THE antagonism between the Vatican and the French Republic has been considerably modified of late. The almost truculent attitude of the Gambettist party has been abandoned, and a better understanding has been reached. The relations of Germany and the papacy have also improved, though the *kulturkampf* has not altogether ended yet. Von Schlotzer, the German envoy to the Vatican insists on the resignation of Cardinal Ledochowski of Posen and the no-less intractable Archbishop Melchers of Cologne. Whether the Pope will accede to this demand remains to be seen.

IN a Toronto contemporary a pithy and common-sense article contains comments on the effort of the Presbyterian Church to increase the salaries of ministers in weak congregations. The case of the Canadian ministry is stated in a very matter-of-fact manner. There is a slight inaccuracy in the statement that four or five years' study is required of candidates for the ministry. In the Presbyterian Church a complete university curriculum and three years' study of the theology are required. The "Telegram" makes a point when it says that even preachers cannot live by faith alone, nor can they pay their butcher's bills with the Ten Commandments.

THE Inter-seminary Missionary Alliance of American theological students has proved itself a most successful institution. The annual conventions held under its auspices have been very interesting, and fruitful of excellent results. Canadian delegates have attended these conventions, and so favourably were they impressed by what they saw and heard that they called their fellow-students from different institutions together to consider the propriety of forming a similar society in Canada. The proposal has been most favourably received. At a meeting last week in McMaster Hall, the formation of a Canadian Inter-Collegiate Alliance was resolved upon. Its influence on the work of missions, and on the young men themselves will be highly beneficial. It is hoped that their endeavour will be crowned with success.

THE Rev. Fergus Ferguson, Glasgow, has been lecturing on "Signs of the Times." These are, he says, the decline of ecclesiastical authority and the rise of democracy. The causes of the former are the abuse of the legitimate authority of the Church by the Church of Rome; the practical abandonment by the Protestant world of the absolute need of a visible unity; the serious disparagement of the old doctrine of the authority of the Bible; and the extent to which literary and scientific men propound theories shutting out all idea of the supernatural. The Church was the meeting-place of true conservatism and true liberalism, and it was there that all parties would ultimately be obliged to rally; but the fact that democracy was sundering itself from the Church pointed to absolutism and anarchy.

ONE of the most bare-faced and persistent of swindles is the lottery. In Canada its illegality has been sufficiently demonstrated. No person with any regard to personal reputation would now care to be identified with any scheme of the kind. What cannot be safely done by parties in Canada it seems can be attempted by foreigners. The Hamburg lottery peo-

ple are trying to find out whether Canada is a fitting field for their operations. They have been sending circulars to people in various parts of the country. There are the usual inducements held out such as the possibility of obtaining for a trading investment a few thousand dollars or a castle on the Rhine, or some such likely windfall. To every one tempted to invest in a Hamburg or any other lottery "Punch's" advice to people about to marry is appropriate—"Don't."

THOUGH details of the evangelistic work of Messrs. Moody and Sankey in the south of Ireland have been somewhat meagre, Mr. Moody stated in London that his three weeks' work in Ireland has been the most productive of his life. These devoted men have now begun their labours in Islington in a new iron building erected for the purpose of holding evangelistic meetings. Vast crowds assembled. The opening services were attended by audiences numbering from 4,000 to 6,000. The Gospel, preached with directness, earnestness and simplicity by Mr. Moody, is heard with sympathetic interest, and the singing of Mr. Sankey is recognized as a powerful influence. Great and lasting results may reasonably be anticipated from the six month's mission in Islington. The Rev. Dr. Cochran has forwarded an interesting letter relating to Messrs. Moody and Sankey's work in Ireland, which will be found on another page.

THE Dundee University College founded by Miss Baxter and the late Dr. Exeter at a cost of £140,000, was opened recently by Lord Dalhousie. His Lordship spoke highly of the munificence of the donors, and rejoiced that the college was available for all classes of both sexes, irrespective of religion's belief. The inaugural address was delivered by Professor Stuart, of Cambridge who referred to the success of the Scotch University system, and spoke of the satisfactory progress that was being made in providing technical instruction to all classes in the various large centres of industry. While, however, this branch of education would be one of the chief features of the Dundee College, he was glad to think that literature and the arts were not to be forgotten. Miss Baxter's portrait in oil was afterwards presented by the Earl of Camperdown on behalf of the subscribers, and acknowledged by W. E. Baxter, M.P., who handed it over to the college authorities.

DOING evil that good may come is no safer a maxim now than it was in the days of the apostles. It is just as morally wrong to-day as it was then. It is no more legitimate in the sphere of business than it is in religion. In a case arising out of a recent bank failure, now before the court in Montreal, it comes out that there have been great discrepancies between the actual state of affairs and the returns made to government. This moral bankruptcy as is the case always in the long-run led to material collapse. We feel very much shocked when a subordinate bank official is discovered to be guilty of dishonesty. In the nature of things, however, it is to be wondered at that subordinates follow in the footsteps of their superiors, who ought to know that in financial matters honesty is the best policy, even if they are not intrinsically honest themselves. Men that give fraudulent returns to government need not be relied on to deal fairly by their stockholders when emergencies occur.

POLITICAL life is not altogether composed of patriotism as the election courts are making sufficiently plain. Bribery and corruption are very bad things. It is not pleasing to know that there are people in almost every constituency who are willing and ready to take a bribe and yield to corrupt influences. It is even less pleasing to learn that political leaders are ready to stoop to the degradation of utilizing the worst weaknesses of their fellow men to promote their patriotic ambitions. Surely one substantial benefit will result to the country from these election court exposures. Law-abiding and upright citizens will unite in demanding that politics be freed from the degrading and demoralizing arts that have been too frequently

resorted to in the past. The election law enjoins the closing of taverns and saloons on the day of polling. Recent trials reveal the fact that tavern keepers have continued their practice at the bar as on other days. Some of them had come to the conclusion that the law was a dead letter and they openly disregarded it. It may take some time before bribery and corrupt acts can be eliminated from Canadian politics, but the law against liquor selling on polling day can easily be enforced. If it is not, the people should know the reason why.

MEN who years ago occupied a prominent place in European affairs are gradually disappearing from the land of the living. Those who fought for freedom, and who from their heroic efforts and sufferings gained a place in the popular heart are now few in number. Garibaldi is gone, and now Louis Kossuth is no more. At one time a prominent figure in the European political drama, of late years he has lived in retirement in Turin. When Hungary rose against Austria in 1849, Kossuth guided the destinies of the Magyars. His personal influence was marvellous. The heroic contest promised victory, but Hungarian hopes were crushed by Russia acceding to the Austrian request for aid to suppress the rising. The Hungarian General directing the campaign was suspected of treachery. The aspirations of Kossuth were crushed with the defeat of the Hungarians. He found an asylum with the Sultan who refused to surrender him to Austria. He escaped from Turkey to America, where he was received with the utmost enthusiasm. He then took up his abode in England, and for several years busied himself with efforts to secure active interference in behalf of Hungary by England and France. Disappointed in his aims, and unlike his compatriots, refusing to be satisfied with the constitutional reforms granted the Hungarians, he retired into sullen silence and took no part in the political movements of late years. Louis Kossuth was a man of great ability, energy and enthusiasm. Though erratic, stubborn and vain, he was a disinterested and self-denying patriot.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The week has been characterized by a more than average warm temperature, much cloud, and with much unsteadiness in barometric pressure. We see in these conditions the existence of weather which has generally proved most favourable to health. The large amount of clouded sky has prevented great daily extremes; and the more than average warmth of temperature has, with a humidity below the average, been favourable to the repression of any tendency to great increase in diseases of the respiratory organs. Under such circumstances we expect to find that diseases in general have been comparatively few in number, and that relative positions of diseases remain much the same as during the previous week. Bronchitis has but slightly advanced and other diseases of the respiratory organs hold situations similar to those of last week. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent has more than maintained its position of last week, but Enteric (Typhoid) has fallen quite markedly, for whereas last week it stood as high as 36 per cent. of all diseases, it represents this week only 2.1 of the total diseases. Amongst the contagious zymotics, we notice that while all are present throughout the Province in small numbers, yet in several Districts some one of them is present to a considerable extent. Thus District III, Muskoka and Parry Sound, shows Mumps to be largely present, as also District IV., north shore of lake Ontario, though in less degree; District VIII., north shore of Lake Erie, has both Measles and Whooping Cough prevalent; and Districts IX. and X., east shore Lake Huron and the south-western peninsula, show that Diphtheria has retained a large degree of that prevalence noted several weeks ago. It is to be hoped that the fact of these diseases being each prevalent in one or more localities of the Province, may warn the community generally that should atmospheric conditions favouring their recrudescence follow, isolation and careful disinfection can only prevent one or all of them from becoming widespread epidemics. Diarrhoeal diseases are, as remarked last week, steadily decreasing.