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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Soitau, an evangelist from England, recommended by Mr. Moody, has held a series of meetings in Shaftesbury Hall, Central, and Jarvis Street Baptist churches, Toronto, and in the Presbyterian church, Orangeville. He preaches the Gospel in a plain, direct and simple way. His work has been attended with marked success.

THE perilous rumour that General Gordon is in danger at Khartoum is again started on its travels. This time it is asserted that a large force under the Mahdi himself is threatening the place, and the surrender of the garrison may take place at any moment. This rumour in various forms has been heard before. Perhaps in a few days it will meet with a direct contradiction. Still old stories, like the cry of wolf, turn out to be true occasionally. It is the impossible, they say, that happens, and the fall of Khartoum is by no means impossible.

THE Pittsburg *Presbyterian Banner* puts into the following shape what not a few Presbyterians are thinking:—The ways of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church are past finding out. It demands representation at the meeting of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches at Belfast, and is at the same time engaged in negotiations for union with the Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Protestant Church is a good denomination of earnest Christians, but it is not Calvinistic, or rather Reformed. Is the Cumberland Presbyterian church Calvinistic or Arminian? We believe that heretofore it has claimed to be neither; now it seems to profess to be both.

THE organ question in the United Presbyterian Church of North America has occasioned keen and prolonged controversy. As in the Irish Presbyterian Church, parties for and against the use of instrumental music in the services of the Church are pretty evenly balanced, and this has added intensity to the feeling. Last year the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church agreed to confer on congregations the liberty of deciding the matter for themselves. The agitation, however, was kept up during the year, and again the matter emerged. Once more at the late meeting in St. Louis the Assembly refuses to declare the use of instrumental music in churches unlawful. Still the agitation does not subside. It is proposed to hold a convention of those opposed to the organ: what will they do with it?

THE New York *Independent* is sanguine of the unification of the American Presbyterian Church, North and South. In an article on the General Assembly the following paragraph occurs:—The old distinction, formerly known as "Old School" and "New School," seemed to have passed away entirely. The re-union completed in 1870 has proved a perfect success; and those who doubted its expediency at the time are now fully satisfied that it was a measure of Christian wisdom. The annual correspondence between the Northern and Southern Assemblies indicates that the day is not far distant when these two Assemblies will become one, and when the misunderstandings and asperities generated by the war will be laid aside, and the great Presbyterian Church of the United States will be one Church and be represented in one General Assembly. Events are steadily drifting in this direction.

NOTWITHSTANDING the purely business character of the United States politics, not to mention other characteristics, it is wonderful what an intense degree of real excitement the presidential election occasions. It is simply amazing that shrewd, practical men like the Americans can become almost frenzied over the election of a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the people. The Republican convention now assembled in Chicago has awakened the greatest interest throughout the country. All through the Sabbath hours many politicians were busy, restless, scheming.

The election of temporary chairman is noteworthy only from the circumstance that the successful nominee was a coloured man. The convention was densely packed. Many persons paid high premiums for the privilege of getting inside the building. It takes time to agree on a candidate for the presidency and it will take nearly as much to formulate a presentable platform. The Democratic convention has not yet assembled. Among politicians of that stripe Tilden is still the favourite.

DEFAULTING bank presidents have started on their summer travels. They are not, however, the masters of their own movements. They are not very decided either as to their destinations, or the ways and means of reaching them. There are so many unexpected or dreaded things that may happen to alter their programme. John C. Eno, of New York, has had warrants out for his arrest for over two weeks. His residence has been closely watched by detectives and other officers. Meanwhile the culprit managed to reach Quebec and get on board a transatlantic steamer. And when visions of fresh sea breezes and freedom from swindled and indignant victims were almost realized, an unfeeling Canadian detective placed him under arrest. The prisoner Eno, will have all the advantage that legal technicalities can give him. Whether he will be sent back to the scene of his defaultations remains to be seen. These intricate complications of modern jurisprudence are as great a protection to the *chevalier d'industrie*—if he can command money—as chain armour was to the mediæval crusader.

OPINIONS concerning the Salvation Army are fast changing. There was a general disposition even on the part of those who had but little sympathy with their methods, and who regarded many of their childish and grotesque displays as a travesty of religion, to look on in silence so long as it was possible that good might be done by these senseless scenes of street parading. The tide, however, is fast turning. In their aggressiveness the salvationists have not been sufficiently careful of the rights of their neighbours. Complaints come from various places where the army has been conducting operations. They have been accused of trying to annoy funeral processions and to interfere needlessly with other gatherings. Their all-night meetings are, not without reason, looked upon by many with distrust. The London city council lately passed a by-law "to prevent the beating of drums, blowing of horns, pipes, or other instruments, or making any noise calculated to disturb the peace of the citizens." Any one violating the by-law is liable to a fine not exceeding \$50. It is within the power of municipal authorities to preserve public order.

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Woman's Christian Association was held last week. The chair was occupied by Mayor Boswell, and among those present were—Messrs. W. B. McMurrich, S. H. Blake, W. H. Howland, Clark Gamble, Ald. Harvie, Rev. B. D. Thomas, Rev. R. W. E. Greene, Rev. H. M. Parsons, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. The Woman's Christian Association of Toronto was established in June, 1873, and in August of that year a boarding house was opened for the purpose of providing a comfortable home at a low price of board, where young women working in Toronto, and others coming from the country or from foreign parts to obtain situations here, might be sure of a safe lodging. They also conduct a relief mission, by which many necessitous and deserving persons have been helped during the year. The Prison Gate Mission, likewise conducted by the association, has rendered valuable service in helping many who had swerved from the path of rectitude, to obtain the means of earning their living honestly. The work in which these Christian ladies are engaged deserves hearty sympathy and adequate support.

THE American evangelists, Messrs. Moody and Sankey, are about to terminate for the present their work in Great Britain. Their efforts there have been

productive of great and far-reaching results. The novelty with which their former visit was regarded had passed away, nor was there the same degree of excitement as on that occasion. There has also been less opposition. No man of any prominence in Church circles has felt called upon to express an unfavourable opinion of the evangelistic movement. Messrs. Moody and Sankey have been indefatigable in their labours. They have followed the methods to which they have been long accustomed. Mr. Moody preached the Gospel with the same fervour, earnestness and simplicity that has characterized him from the beginning, and Mr. Sankey sung his hymns with the same persuasive attractiveness. They have expressed their intention of returning to America and engaging in evangelistic work in various parts of the United States. Urgent invitations have been tendered them both from Ireland and India, but as yet they have given no indication of a change in their plans. It is stated that Mr. Sankey's voice has become impaired and that it is doubtful whether he will be able to continue his labours for any length of time.

AMONG the numerous deserving charitable institutions of Toronto must be ranked the Orphan's Home. The annual meeting of its manager and friends was held for the first time in the new building on Dovercourt Road. Many local philanthropists, clerical and lay, were present and took part in the meeting which was presided over by the Mayor. From the annual report moved by Mr. W. B. McMurrich, it appears that during the year seventy children had been admitted, forty-one boys and twenty-nine girls, while fifty-four had left, of whom twenty-five had been removed by parents or relatives, who were again in a position to support them; nineteen had been apprenticed, four adopted, and three absconded, and three died. The average number for the year had been 117, though for the past three months there had not been fewer than 129, an increase of twenty-four since the removal in October last to the new Home. On the eighth of November last the new Home was formally opened by the Mayor. Soon after a subscription book was opened towards reducing the debt upon the building, and within a few months \$700 had been subscribed. With legacies and other contributions the amount reached \$2,197, or \$1,269 in advance of last year's returns. Among other speakers present the Rev. R. Wallace presented the claims of the Home to the benevolence of the citizens.

A DISPATCH to a London, Eng., journal contains a brief account of the United Presbyterian Synod meeting at Edinburgh. Of the moderator, Dr. Hutton, of Paisley, who a few years since paid a brief visit to Canada, it says:—The moderator for this year is Dr. Hutton, who was elected by acclamation. He is a man of more than average intellectual ability, a terse, incisive speaker, democratic in his views both as to Church and State, and whose special hobby has been the disestablishment and disendowment of the State Church. He more than any other man has kept the disestablishment question alive in Scotland; and when disestablishment comes, as come it must, it will be due, not to speeches in Parliament, but to the unflinching attitude, the uncompromising speech and the vigorous, well-directed and untiring efforts of the minister of Canal Street, Paisley. From the statistical report it appears that the membership of the Church increased from 176,299 in 1882 to 178,195 in 1883—an increase of about 1,900—and that the total income, \$1,886,440, showed an increase over the previous year of \$97,850. It was mentioned as an encouraging fact that of the students who had just completed their course eight had offered themselves for the Foreign mission field and that six had been accepted. Among the subjects discussed was the disestablishment question, the result being, as usual, in favour of continued and vigorous action. The dispatch also states that the United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church occupy the same ground both as to doctrine and practice, although they have different histories. Rumours are afloat that they are again looking forward to fresh efforts in favour of incorporate union.