

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE friends of Toronto University are being aroused in the interest of their Alma Mater. Mr. Casey, M.P., a Methodist and a supporter of Victoria College, has come out in a strong but temperately expressed criticism of the action taken by the committee that met two weeks ago for the consolidation of Methodist educational institutions. Committees of senate and convocation had a joint meeting last week at which it was agreed to request the Ontario Government to submit to the Legislature a proposal for increased State aid to Toronto University.

THE Southern Presbyterian Church in the United States, by a vote of its Presbyteries, has stricken from its Confession of Faith the section which prohibits marriage with a deceased wife's sister. It is a somewhat curious fact, stated by Mr. Carruthers in his recent edition in England of the Westminster Confession of Faith, that "the clause in that document forbidding the marriages in question was struck out of the version accepted and enacted by Parliament. These marriages, therefore, were lawful under the Puritan regime." The Southern Presbyterian Church, says an American journal, is probably the branch whose orthodoxy stands highest in the whole Presbyterian family.

LAST week a general conference in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association of Eastern Ontario was held in the town of Perth. The brief report indicates that the discussion was mainly confined to practical topics, and many sensible suggestions were made. The work which the Y.M.C.A. does among railway employes is very important and much good has been accomplished. A commendable effort is to be made to introduce the work of the Association into villages and small towns. In connection with this the suggestion was thrown out that cumbersome machinery should be avoided and that efforts be concentrated on the special work for which the Association exists. Such spheres of Christian work are inviting and full of promise.

UNHAPPY Ireland is adding to her miseries by bitter and fanatical outbreaks of religious as well as political animosity. At Wexford, where evangelistic services have been carried on with much success since the recent visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the theatre in which a meeting was held presided over by Major Whittle, of Chicago, was wantonly attacked by an infuriated mob, people attending the meeting were huddled, their clothes torn and injured by stone-throwing. The Bibles and hymn-books having been hastily collected a bonfire was made of them. The Protestant church and the houses of Protestants were attacked, windows broken and general rowdiness was rampant. The battle hymn of the Wexford rioters was "God Save Ireland."

MONTREAL has had several unfortunate financial failures of late. Not that Montreal is any worse than other places of the same size. The eager haste to become rich and make a grand display upsets the judgment and the moral sense of many. The Exchange Bank President fearing the exposure of his methods of management and their disastrous results finds his position unbearable, and has sought refuge in flight. The directors are severely censured for permitting gross irregularities in the management of the institution to go on for so great a length of time unchecked. They pay themselves a poor compliment when they offer as an excuse that they were not aware irregularities were being allowed. An honest man in a responsible position may be trusted a merely "smart" man never can.

THE appointment of papal commissioners to Canada and the United States is announced. The American bishops are still at Rome, arranging for the council to be held either in New York or Baltimore next year. The conferences and councils of the Romish Church, unlike assemblies and conferences of other

churches, are not open to press representatives and the debates and proceedings are only matters of conjecture. It is however most likely that one of the first duties of Dom Smulders, the coming Canadian ablegate, will be the adjustment of the Laval University difficulties and to make inquiries regarding the extent to which Freemasonry has spread among the French Canadian Roman Catholics. Monsignor Seppiaccio is named as the apostolic commissioner to the United States, and it is expected he will preside at the coming American council.

DURING a keen and exciting election contest men's passions get inflamed. Quiet peaceable citizens in their ordinary moods would be alarmed at the violent expressions which in the heat of political debate they had permitted themselves to indulge. Plain speaking and plain dealing are just as requisite in politics as in other departments. To this there can be no reasonable objection. For over-stepping the bounds of truth and fairness there is no excuse. The leading journals on both sides of politics are occasionally great sinners in this particular. The efforts to corrupt whole constituencies show the degradation into which professional politicians have dragged Canadian politics. No wonder that resentment should provoke retaliatory measures of no gentle kind. It is, however, a dangerous thing to make covert appeals to what many people can only interpret as incentives to physical force.

SHARP practice in business is producing its legitimate fruit. Dishonesty on a large scale calls forth imitation in narrower spheres. There are people who really believe that dishonesty is the best policy and who openly avow their belief. Some seem to think that disguise is no longer necessary. A curious combination has just been discovered in New York. It is an organization of grocers' clerks and is named, "The A. B. C. Union," its object being to systematically rob employers. One of the rules of the association is that each member shall by fair means or foul possess himself of \$125 a month, and deposit with the treasurer. Members were to be given \$2,500 from the funds of the society at the end of a year if they wished to go into business, and if sick were to be paid two dollars a day. The Retail Grocers' Union has caused the arrest of Kross, the treasurer, and a number of clerks. It is said Kross, the treasurer, has received \$7,000 from members.

THE popular course of lectures in connection with the Presbyterian College, Montreal, has led to unexpected results. The Rev. J. Edgar Hill, Rev. Gavin Lang's successor in St. Andrew's Church, while lecturing on Future Punishment indulged in speculative theories as to its duration. Principal MacVicar, in name of his colleagues felt it his duty to disavow the opinion expressed by the lecturer. Of course great admiration for the liberal divine and plentiful condemnation of the strait-laced Principal are very much in order. The fault, however, is not on the part of Dr. MacVicar. Many Broad Churchmen delight in airing their speculative opinions in season and out of season, especially out of season. If a gentleman chooses a debatable subject in the circumstances he cannot fairly object to the representatives of a theological institution disavowing what they deem objectionable teaching. Principal MacVicar's disclaimer cannot be called discourteous; it certainly was manly.

SEPARATE schools as at present existing do not satisfy those for whom they were established. A letter from Bishop Cleary, now in Rome, contains the following in reply to the Pope's inquiries: "With much regret I was obliged to give an unfavourable account of the intermediate institutions, and even of the separate school system, which despite its seeming fairness when regarded from a distance, is very inadequate, being limited to primary education and laden with obstructive and unjust conditions that render it practically inoperative in most of our rural missions, and tend necessarily to lower the standard of Catholic education in districts where it is availed of." In giving an account to His Holiness of the relation of the

Governor General's and the Government's relation to Roman Catholics, Bishop Cleary "hopes that should a favourable opportunity arise the Government would not be indisposed to consider our educational disabilities, and afford us relief without injury to the rights of others." There are indications that the separate school question may again come within the sphere of practical politics.

PRINCIPAL CAVEN has made a valuable contribution to the discussion of the Toronto University question, now going on in the daily press. In an excellent spirit and with his accustomed clearness he criticises the arguments adduced by the opponents of further governmental aid being granted to the University, and states several good reasons why it should receive adequate support. The closing characteristic sentences are well worth considering. He expresses the earnest desire that our churches would concentrate their resources and energies upon theological education, and thus make it possible to provide a training for the ministry such as the present state of theological learning demands. Divinity schools, with adequate staffs of teachers and adequate libraries, we cannot have for many years to come, if the churches shall deem it their duty to carry the excessive burden of university education. I enunciate no principle which forbids the Church to conduct Arts colleges when these are not otherwise supplied; but when these are provided, and the Church has good grounds for confidence in them, it is a question worthy of serious consideration, whether she is making the best use of her funds, and doing the most honour to her Lord, by charging herself with the maintenance of universities while her theological schools are so poorly furnished, and her missionary revenue so much in need of increase.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The general effect of the weather has on the whole been favourable to health, and while Bronchitis and several other diseases have shown an upward tendency, no great increase, judging from the number of cases of diseases reported, can be said to have taken place. Bronchitis has very markedly increased in comparative prevalence; but Influenza has considerably decreased. While Consumption has appeared prominently this week, Pneumonia has fallen out of the twenty prevailing diseases. Arterial, Neuralgia and Rheumatism, terms implying so frequently debility in some general or more or less marked form, retain with marked persistency almost their previous relative position amongst the other diseases. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent has somewhat decreased, but Enteric shows a very marked prevalence in some localities. Amongst the contagious Zymotics, almost no change has taken place in their relative or absolute prevalence, except in the case of Diphtheria, since the last weekly report. Whooping Cough, Measles, Mumps, and Scarlatina are all present amongst the twenty prevalent diseases; and some, as Whooping Cough, in considerable amounts. We find it stated by the committee appointed by the city council to examine into the high mortality of an infant home at Ottawa, that the mortality amongst the infants there amounts to at least 75 per cent. of all placed in the home. Can it be that such a rate of mortality is the chief cause of raising the death-rate of that city to a pitch, not only high comparatively as regards other cities in Ontario, but to a preeminence over almost any city in the world, whose accurate statistics are recorded. Last year the Register-General's statistics gave a mortality for the city of more than thirty in the 1,000, and this year again an enormous advance on the above figures is reported. How Diphtheria flourishes and slays its victims seems terribly illustrated by the following case reported by a medical correspondent of the Board, showing how abundance of decomposing organic matter, apparently determines its fatal effects. He says: "I noticed in the case of the family in which the father and three children have died, and all the others been attacked, that Mr. — was a market gardener, and that large piles of manure, called hot-beds, were in front of his house."