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Notes of the Week.

It is reported that Beirut, Syria, has now a self-sustaining Christian Church with a native pastor. An Association has been established in London to send colonies of poor Jews to Palestine. So many are going to Jerusalem that it is one of the most rapidly growing cities in the world.

GENERAL BOOTH, of the Salvation Army, has inaugurated the scheme of social regeneration set forth in his book, "In Darkest England and the Way Out." In connection with the exercises at a recent meeting in St. James Hall, London, he affixed his signature to the deed of trust drawn up in the interest of the subscribers to the fund for carrying on the work. He also commissioned the first band of Salvationist officers set apart for the new work.

THE Very Rev. Dr. Edward Hayes Plumptre, Dean of Bath and Wells, England, died recently. He became prebendary of St. Paul's in 1863, and in 1869 rector of Pluckley, Kent, which he exchanged with the Rev. E. J. Selwyn for the vicarage of Bickley. From 1869 to 1874 he was one of the committee appointed by the Convocation of the Church of England to revise the Bible, and from 1872 to 1874 he was Grinfield lecturer on the Septuagint at Oxford.

AN able defender of the doctrines of supernaturalism says the Churches and the Christian apologists are asleep as to the real point of contention between religion and the many forms of aggressive unbelief. The attack now is at the root of religion, not upon any of its branches of doctrine. It is not even the old Deistical attack upon divine revelation, but upon all ideas of any supernatural relation between God and man. That is the drift of everything we now see on that side of the controversy.

SERMON distribution, as a means of mission work in Germany, was begun on the first Sunday in Advent in 1881, with an edition of 600. The number rapidly increased until it reached 120,000 each week. Now the average is still more, a hundred thousand, of which about 17,000 are used in Berlin alone. The sermons are offered at one pfennig apiece by volunteer workers to those who are engaged on the Lord's Day, and cannot attend regular Church service. These sermons go literally to the ends of the earth, being used wherever Christian work is carried on among the scattered Germans.

THE usual meeting of the directors of the Toronto City Mission was held recently in the

Board room of the Young Men's Christian Association. The President, Rev. G. M. Milligan, occupied the chair, and Vice-President, Dr. W. B. Geikie, M. D., Messrs. N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., John Stark, James Dobson, E. M. Morphy, James Thomson and Missionary Hall were also present. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and adopted. Mr. Hall, missionary, read his 72nd monthly report, thus completing six years in Toronto city mission work, carrying the Gospel to the poor in their homes, and relieving distress and destitution. In home-visiting good work has been done during January and considerable distress has been relieved. This institution is doing a good work and is deserving of far more generous support than it has yet received.

THE Chicago *Interior* says: "It does not take very great timber to make the average Governor of one of our States." So said a leading politician to us lately. We have been led to think this over while reading in the *Independent* the replies of a "statesman" to the questions whether the National Exposition should be opened on Sunday. Of course among them there are flat-footed, square-toed men who have convictions and the courage of their opinions. But such a shuffling and a whipping of the devil round the stump as is exhibited by others is enough to make the heavens weep. A few of them positively border upon imbecility, in their eagerness to say nothing intelligible. Query: Why not in the Exposition itself have a department in which to exhibit our statesmen? Personally we would go a good way to see the men capable of writing some of the replies.

THE platform of the Dominion Alliance as again formulated at the Montreal meeting last week is as follows: 1. That it is desirable to unite all prohibitionist voters for the purpose of united political action. 2. That it is desirable in all constituencies where it is possible to put forward a prohibition candidate who has the confidence of all prohibition voters, irrespective of party, and who can be counted on actively to promote prohibition in Parliament in entire independence of party allegiance. 3. That failing this it is desirable so far as possible to unite the prohibition vote in favour of such trustworthy prohibitionists as may be otherwise in the field, as against those who cannot claim the prohibition support, or at least that prohibitionists be urged to withhold their votes from non-prohibitionists as against prohibitionists. 4. That the prohibitionist voters in every constituency should organize immediately so as to be prepared to take early and independent political action in connection with the coming elections. 5. That in view of the need of immediate action we urge all prohibition bodies in each electoral district to meet without delay on common ground to agree so far as possible in common action.

IN another column will be found a full report of the annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance Company. This solid and progressive institution has long since secured the confidence of the Canadian people. The report shows a most satisfactory fact—that the interest income of the year showed an increase of forty-three per cent. and was more than sufficient to pay the death losses of the year. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie has been re-elected President, John L. Blaikie and the Hon. G. W. Allan, Vice-presidents. The Hon. President gave a full and comprehensive resumé of the position, standing and prospects of the Company, and commented on the very favourable report presented by Mr. W. T. Standen, an eminent New York actuary, who had made a careful examination of the books and methods of the Company and a valuation of its policy and other liabilities of which he spoke in highest terms. Mr. John L. Blaikie, in seconding the adoption of the report, gave an admirable summary of the year's business, and paid a fitting tribute to the valued services of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. Mr. Blaikie also referred to the encouraging and satisfactory nature of the reports presented, and stated that from Mr. Standen's reputation, capability and experience, as an expert in insurance affairs, his endorsement of the Company's plans, financial position, and general man-

agement was of great value and importance. In Mr. McCabe the Company has an efficient and energetic manager.

THE Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association met at Kingston last week. There was a large attendance of delegates who were cordially welcomed by their brethren and people of Kingston. The brief written reports furnish much encouragement and stimulus for renewed effort. During the year Kingston reported an increase of 311 members. Woodstock had added sixty members within the last three months, and London, with its 230 members, felt the need of a new building. Brockville was especially proud of its young men's Gospel meeting, with an average attendance of seventy. Sherbrooke and Quebec city reported great and encouraging success for 1890, and the chairman asked for special prayer for those outlying points. McGill College, Montreal, has 223 members, and has already raised over \$3,000 for a new building, the site for which has been donated by the corporation. Toronto University has 300 members, including seventy freshmen, and gladdened the chairman's heart by reporting subscriptions to the International and Provincial work. Albert College, Belleville, is conducting special services at a little church within three miles of the college. Brantford, Carleton Place, Smith's Falls, Toronto College of Medicine and Guelph Agricultural College reported a good year's work, and the West End Toronto Association rejoiced over its new building and the fact that its "rescue brigade" had brought in 164 young men from off the street. Queen's College held services in the hospital and House of Industry, and the Toronto North-West End Railway Association reported progress. Ottawa received 125 new members at its New Year's reception, and has a snowshoe club. Hamilton is in its second year, and is gaining ground.

THE annual meeting of the Canadian McAll Association was held last week. It was presided over by Rev. Dr. Parsons. The reports of the secretary and treasurer, which were adopted, were listened to with interest. The latter report gave a full description of the workings of the mission in France, particularizing the progress of the La Rochelle and Rochefort stations, which are supported financially by the Canadian Association. Receipts for the year had been \$1,295 and before the meeting had adjourned \$105 more was added to the fund. Besides this Dr. Parsons reported that \$70 subscribed in his Church had been paid to Rev. Dr. Reid and would be handed over to the treasurer. This would bring the aggregate receipts for the year up to nearly \$1,500, which is very gratifying. A Toronto auxiliary was formed in affiliation with the Association, making five of these branches in Canada, including London, Woodstock, Hamilton, Toronto and Port Hope. The officers elected for this new auxiliary were as follows: President, Mrs. Edward Blake; Vice-presidents, Mrs. S. C. Duncan Clark and Mrs. W. S. Finch; Secretary, Miss Stark; Treasurer, Miss Inglis; Executive Committee, Mrs. W. B. McMurrich, Mrs. Sills, Mrs. James Gooderham, Mrs. Matthews, Miss Parsons, Miss Copp, Miss MacCallum and Miss Berthon. Officers for the Canadian McAll Association for the present year were then chosen as follows: President, Mrs. Edward Blake; Vice-presidents, Mrs. Aikins, Mrs. Cowan and Mrs. Newman; these to act as presidents of auxiliaries also. Secretary, Miss M. Carty; Treasurer, Miss Caven; Board of Management, Mrs. John Kerr, Miss Lister, Mrs. James Campbell, Mrs. Howitt, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Joseph Henderson, Mrs. Sandwell, Mrs. W. J. Davis, Miss Wilkes and Miss Ogden. Before the meeting adjourned Miss MacCallum sang in beautiful voice, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Last year the receipts reached \$1,500, and the Association was able, aside from sustaining La Rochelle and Rochefort stations in France, to assume the responsibility of caring for a station at Port Hope, it is expected that the work this year will surpass that of any previous year, and for this reason the treasurer, Miss Caven, is ever ready to, thankfully, acknowledge new subscriptions.