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NOW READY.

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Notes of the Week.

THE Royal Canadian Academy has been holding a successful exhibition at Ottawa. Canadian art is showing a most gratifying progress. The Governor-General delivered a very appropriate and graceful speech at the opening of the seventh annual exhibition. He gave \$250 to the funds of the Academy and promised a like sum annually while he holds the viceregal office.

IN last week's issue there appeared the report presented at the annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance Company, of which the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie is president. It is a solid and safe institution. The best evidence of this is to be found in the reliable character of the directorate, careful and efficient management, and the promptitude with which all claims are met.

THOSE interested in the liquor traffic are still endeavouring to resist the advance of the Temperance movement. Influential representatives of the trade have met at Ottawa, and it is rumoured that efforts will be made during the approaching session to obtain the repeal of the Scott Act, and in the meantime the introduction of the wine and beer clause passed by the Senate, but rejected by the House of Commons.

AN amendment to the constitution of New York State has been introduced into the Legislature at Albany, which proposes that, in the trial of all civil cases by jury, three-fourths of the jury shall be competent to find a verdict. This is a sensible amendment, and a decided improvement, upon the rule requiring unanimity, under which a single obstinate juror may fail to convince his fellow jurors of anything but his own stupidity, and prevent a just verdict being agreed upon.

THE political crisis in Great Britain is past for the present. Mr. Gladstone has succeeded in constructing a cabinet. His new Ministry is a strong one, and the arrangement of portfolios appears judicious. The strength of the Cabinet, however, will not compensate for the smallness of the Liberal majority on which the restored Premier can count. The Conservatives and the Parnellites may fuse at any moment and, even on a matter of detail, either seriously embarrass or defeat the Government. Mr. Gladstone will at once direct his energies to a settlement of the Irish question, but with what results cannot now be anticipated.

PRESBYTERIANISM in Bermuda, says the New York *Evangelist*, has a very ancient history. It was first introduced into the islands in 1612 by the Rev. George Keith, a Scotsman, before they became an English colony, and when the country was ruled by a company of enterprising men from Virginia. Professor Briggs was the first historian of our Church to do justice to this able and devoted pioneer of Presbyterianism in Bermuda and America. He may also be said to have discovered the Rev. George Keith, and given him his true place in our early annals. At the present time there are two Presbyterian churches in Bermuda.

At the last meeting of the Toronto Presbyterian Ministerial Association the subject of city mission work received careful consideration. Most of the city congregations are engaged in such work. In addition to missions maintained by congregations there are seven where meetings are regularly held, conducted by students and others. Reference was made to extra congregational mission work carried on by active Christian workers. While it was admitted that much good was being done by these agencies, the effort to bring those who neglect the means of grace under Christian influences would be still more effective and satisfactory were such missions carried on by the respective congregations in the city.

SO many incredible rumours respecting the French treaty with Madagascar having obtained currency, it is difficult to say whether the last circulated is nearer the truth than those that preceded. It is summarized as follows: The text of the treaty between France and Madagascar has been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. Frenchmen are to have the right to freely trade, travel and reside in Madagascar, as well as to lease lands for an indefinite period. French property in Madagascar is to be inviolable without the sanction of the French Consul. Religious toleration is guaranteed. France is bound to assist the Queen of Madagascar in defending the country, and to supply military instructors, engineers, professors and artisans for civilizing purposes.

LAST week two different bodies discussed the question of the Bible in the public schools, and formulated their decisions. The conference held some time since, at which representatives of the various Churches were present, appointed a sub-committee to revise the Selections from Scripture recently issued by the Education Department. That sub-committee, composed of scholarly and judicious representatives of their respective Churches, met on Wednesday last, and as a result of their deliberation agreed to a carefully prepared memorandum in which the Scripture Selections are defended from misrepresentations and the principles on which they were prepared explained. The other body dealing with the same subject was the Toronto School Board. It is no violation of charity to say that in the discussion the zeal manifested was at least as strongly political as it was religious.

THE New York *Independent* says: Those who think that religion is perishing out of this generation will do well to ponder certain figures it gives in tabular form of the attendance of students at twenty colleges under Presbyterian control in the United States. The list opens with Princeton, which has an attendance of 435 students, of whom 204 are church members and fifty are studying for the ministry. The total number of students is 1,881, of whom 1,147 are members of the Church and over 300 are studying for the ministry. It is a very interesting fact that nearly two-thirds of the students in these colleges are members of the Church, and one-fifth of them are studying for the ministry. We hardly need to contrast this state of things with that seventy-five years ago. When Dr. Dwight became President of Yale College, infidels were plenty, and hardly a professing Christian could be found, while as late as 1813 only two or three students in Princeton were members of the Church.

THE following summary of statistics shows the present position of the Waldensian Evangelistic work in Italy outside of the Valleys: Forty-three organized churches, thirty-six stations or churches in course of formation, 171 places periodically visited by neighbouring ministers or evangelists—in all, 250 places where the Gospel is preached; thirty-five ordained ministers, five evangelists, twelve teacher evangelists, fifty-one teachers, three colporteur-evangelists, fourteen colporteurs (one with Bible van)—giving a total of 120 agents; 3,926 communicants, 6,770 average attendance of members and adherents, with about 40,000 occasional hearers; 2,380 scholars in the Sun-

day schools, 2,876 in the week-day schools; total amount contributed in Italy for all purposes, \$11,100. So far as mere numbers go, the year's net gain to the membership of the Church is not great; for while 544 new names have been put on the roll, 396 have been removed through deaths, emigrations, etc. The number of those whose names have been cancelled in consequence of church discipline does not amount to one per cent.

DR. KITTRIDGE, of Chicago, who cannot be accused of resorting to sensational methods for obtaining notoriety, in a recent sermon in his own church, the Third Presbyterian, brought a forcible indictment against the lawlessness and corruption existing in the great western city. It is not to be forgotten that if Chicago is a centre of wickedness, Christianity and the forces that make for righteousness are energetically supported in that city of great contrasts. This is part of Dr. Kittridge's testimony: Our wives, he said, are not safe from the hands of the thief on the principal streets in broad daylight. Garotting is an event of every night. Burglars ply their nefarious business with little fear of arrest. Our police courts are, with a few exceptions, a burning disgrace to any civilized community. Many of the justices are in open league with the criminals. Their decisions are bought and sold, and men who have been entrusted with the high duty of enforcing the law are hand-in-hand with the criminal classes. Their ermine robes are covered with the filth of corruption, and it is well nigh an impossibility for one to gain an honest judgment. The majority of our aldermen are on the market to the highest bidder, and legislation on any matter is controlled by the price which you can pay to these caricatures of rulers. Our county board is notoriously corrupt. Of the taxes with which the community is burdened one-third at least goes into the pockets of corrupt men. The speaker predicted for Chicago the fate of ancient Babylon.

IN the Ottawa correspondence of the *Globe* it is stated that the joint committee appointed by the supreme courts of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches met in Knox Church last week under the presidency of Rev. Mr. Hooker. The members present were: Rev. Messrs. Hooker, Williams, McRitchie, Hansford, Scott and Maviety, for the Methodist body, and Scrimger, Hastie, Jardine, Warden and Campbell, for the Presbyterian. The Rev. Dr. Jardine was appointed secretary. The object of the appointment of these committees had been fully discussed at meetings of the supreme courts of the respective bodies by which they were appointed. The resolution of the Methodist body by which they decided to take the initiative in the present movement, sets forth that whereas various Protestant bodies are each represented in towns where the Christian population can only provide for and maintain one church and minister, and whereas these churches are maintained in part by grants from the mission funds of various bodies and that it is desirable to husband men and money in order to more effectually extend the preaching of the Gospel, it is considered desirable that a committee be appointed to confer with similar committees appointed by other Christian bodies, and devise means by which this can be avoided. The Presbyterian committee was appointed soon after the Methodist, but so far no other body has imitated their example. The proceedings were marked throughout by the greatest harmony and unanimity. A series of resolutions, which together form a scheme for the attainment of the object of their appointment, were drawn up, and will be submitted to the supreme court of each body at its next assembly. It is gratifying that the spirit and action of the joint committees were so harmonious. There is no reason why they should not continue to manifest the same generous spirit. The carrying out of the work so auspiciously begun will be productive of great and good results. It is in the carrying out of the scheme that the large-heartedness and wisdom that prompted it are specially required.