

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is understood that Postmaster-General Carling will submit to Parliament at the coming session such an amendment to the postal laws as will prevent the circulation of lottery circulars and tickets through the mails. We hope that the law will likewise be extended to the demoralising Roman Catholic lotteries which are a disgrace to Canada. We do not see how Parliament can consistently attack the evil on the one side unless it includes the other side which is worse because carried on under the name of religion.

AN exhibition of some importance to Canada will be held in Edinburgh during the coming year. The timber wealth of the countries of the world will there be exhibited and advertized. We trust that Canadians will endeavour to make our exhibit there as prominent as was our creditable exhibit at the fisheries exhibition. Entries will close on the first of March.

Is not the University craze being over done in this country? Canada has many more establishments, called Universities, than England has. Montreal has about four Universities, and two-degree granting theological schools. Ontario has about a half-dozen Universities. Nova Scotia claims about five, and so on *ad infinitum*. If instead of scattering their forces these Universities could agree to consolidate, the gain to education in Canada would be immense. Great and noble structures, unparalleled libraries, and costly apparatus are necessary; but above all, great men are absolutely necessary in order to tempt aspiring students. All these mean money and consolidation. Thus we applaud the magnificent donation of Mr. Gooderham, of Toronto, who has just given *one million dollars!* for the foundation of a Methodist University in Toronto, and yet feel sorry that the money was not given to strengthen some existing institution rather than for starting a new one. What is wanted in Canada is one or two Universities to be in efficiency and prestige, the Oxford and Cambridge of the Dominion.

THE adoption of the proposed new time regulations is likely to give rise to many legal quibbles. The Dominion Government will be asked early in the forthcoming session, to pass a law to prevent any difficulties, commercial or judicial, which might arise through unauthorized change of time, and to make the changes proposed legal all over the Dominion.

WHILE Englishmen of note are being lionized in America, and are carrying away American spoil, the old country honours the new by an unexampled tribute of favor. St. Andrew's University has elected, as Rector, James Russel Lowell, the U. S. Minister to England. The Right Hon. Edward Gibson, the Conservative M. P. for Dublin University, was Mr. Lowell's opponent, and lost the election by eighteen votes.

IN the forty-eighth Congress of the United States, which meets next week, the House will be composed of 325 members and eight territorial delegates; of the former, 195 are Democrats, giving that party a majority of sixty. Only 73 of the Democrats were members of the last House, and about one hundred enter Congress for the first time. The Democrat majority is drawn in about equal proportions from the Northern and Western, and from the Southern States.

GENERAL SHERMAN has aroused some excitement by his recent utterances. The General puts forward a scheme to increase the standing army to 100,000 men. In his address he predicted that the younger officers would soon see active service, and that "the army would be the nucleus around which this great nationality will gather." The danger that General Sherman foresees is a civil war in the relations between capital and labour. Sherman's foresight at the beginning of the late rebellion gained for his opinions a respectful hearing, and perhaps the General is not far wrong in his prediction of the coming struggle.

By careful forbearance such a conflict can be avoided. There should really be no conflict, because the interests of capitalists and workmen are identical. Grasping monopolists and covetous workmen must look the matter fairly in the face and leave their troublesome questions to be decided by independent arbitrators. Recent strikes have shown that there are elements of danger and give premonitions of future struggles. The difficult question will tax all the resources of the practical statesman, since a large standing army for the purpose of keeping peace between capital and labour must soon result in some legislative interference whereby those relations may be put on a firmer basis.

THE Methodists in the States have been counting up their numbers, and one of their organs breathes forth a woful tune and says that "a cloud is hanging over our Zion." They have found out that nearly 300,000 souls annually drift away from Methodism, and most of them find a home in the fold of our Mother Church.

THE meek-eyed, incurious cow having contributed matter for the protection of the community against small-pox, it is now proposed to put the fiery-steed under a similar contribution as a protection against scarlet fever. A celebrated American physician states that scarlet fever originated with the horse, and that it will be possible to reduce the equine virus by cultivation so that healthy children may be inoculated against that disease.

TROUBLE still looms over the Pope and the King of Italy. It is proposed to place a monument in the Pantheon to the late King, whereupon the Pope grows indignant, and the official organ of the Vatican tells us that it has good authority for stating that a Papal Bull has been prepared for placing the Pantheon under an interdict, and that it will be promulgated should the projected monument to the late King Victor Emmanuel be placed in the centre of the church, or should Protestant or Evangelical associations enter the edifice to attend the commemorative funeral ceremony. But Papal Bulls in these days have lost their terror; still there is no harm done in their preparation.

THE German Press is growing furious against France, and will do much to stir up bitter feeling between the two countries. The *Kölnische Zeitung* says, as a bloody struggle is inevitable, the sooner it takes place the better. Another newspaper declares that any insults to the German Crown Prince at French instigation would popularize a war. Other leading German papers advocate immediate war with France as the only solution of the present situation. It is believed they are inspired by Bismarck. France must walk

warily in this crisis, for at present she has her hands filled with the Tonquin affair.

THIS bitter hatred of feeling between Germany and France strengthens the idea that the differences between the two great countries cannot be settled in any other way than by another mighty struggle. But we believe the purpose of the present agitation is to arouse Germany to a sense of the importance of making her army more perfect than it is. Contrary to the general impression, it is stated that the French army is numerically stronger than that of Germany. The former is composed in all, including reserve and territorial troops, of 1,487,300 men and 3,416 field pieces. The Germans return 1,287,000 men and 2,802 field pieces. The French war budget now amounts to \$120,000,000 a year, and the numerical force of the army augments continually. Germany has now a complete network of strategic railways leading down to the French frontier, and several other great improvements have been made. Lately there has been some little irritation over undue military expenditure, and the present excitement is evidently for the purpose of making the Germans bear their military financial burdens lightly.

IT is absurdly amusing to notice the sensitiveness of both France and Germany to the raillery of each other. The press in both countries is using its genius on millinery and the rival qualities of French and German Women. We are told on one side that the French Women are like the bubble of Champagne, and enliven and change dress into a poem. Berlin ladies are like lager-beer frothy, thick and heavy, and find refuge from their drowsy-dressing in the man-milliner of Paris. The German press retort that to make the fate of a nation depend on elegant figure and choice dresses is absurd. We think so to, and suggest that what is required is a tightening up of the pachydermatous crowd in both countries.

AN important discovery of asphalt has been made in the Isle of Trinidad, on the South American Coast. It is asserted that the asphalt makes the streets as hard as stone and does not soften or crack under the rays of the sun. The substance is obtained from a remarkable, and apparently inexhaustible lake, which when dug-out immediately fills up again. Thousands of tons have been taken away, and the new asphalt will probably become the chief element in the paving of the towns of the world.

A DECISIVE blow has been struck against the Egyptian power by the success of the false prophet El Mahdi. If reports are true the Egyptian army under Hicks Pasha has been annihilated to a man, and 10,000 men cut to pieces. All Soudan is in a blaze. The unfortunate affair may compel England to take the field once more, in order to firmly establish what she has already secured. The proposal to withdraw the British troops from Egypt would seem almost idiotic in the face of present events.

As the peaceful tide of Christmas draws near, it seems more than painful to have to chronicle wars and rumours of war. Owing to the proceedings of the French Government, Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Ambassador, has declared that there is little hope that war between China and France can any longer be averted. Three large Army Corps of celestial warriors have been ordered to the Tonquin Frontier, and the Chinese trumpet has sounded no uncertain battle alarm.