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## Notes of the Week.

THE prospects of peace between France and China are brightening. The rumours that efforts were being made to bring the war to an end have been confirmed from various sources. The new Premier, M. De Freycinet, announced in the Senate last week that the preliminaries of a treaty of peace had been concluded. It is hinted that France is prepared to forego her indemnity claims, and it is also apparent that there is no strong desire on the part of the Chinese to prolong the war. It is to be regretted that the French seem still disposed to retain Formosa as a material guarantee till Tonquin is evacuated by the Chinese forces. This must for a time seriously interfere with the work of Dr. McKay and his co-labourers in the mission field.

THE *Christian Leader* states that the Rev. Alex. Urquhart, D.D., Newburn, Fifeshire, died recently. He was the father of St. Andrew's Presbytery. After taking license he spent a few years in France and Germany, meeting in the latter country the lady who became his wife. Shortly after their marriage he emigrated to America, and for ten years conducted a school in Boston. In 1843, on the death of Dr. Lawrie, who had for fifty years been minister of Newburn, Dr. Urquhart was presented to the parish by Mr. Craigie Halkett, of Lahill, an old schoolfellow, in fulfilment of a promise made in the playground of Inverness Academy when they were boys. He was born in the Manse of Rosskeen, Ross-shire, toward the end of the last century, and was a descendant of several generations of ministers of the Church of Scotland.

INTEREST in the effort to unite the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland is becoming general. The *Christian Leader* says that in connection with the Inverness Burghs Liberal Association resolution, Mr. John Macdonnell, a well-known barrister and publicist in London, in an address said he looked forward to the time when, placed on an equal footing in the eye of the law, all the Presbyterian Churches would move forward on a common footing, conscious of their common ends, and growing more united as time goes on. Mr. Walter Bright McLaren, son of the late member for Edinburgh, was still more explicit: He looked forward at no distant date to a union of the Presbyterian Churches; he saw no reason why there should not be a body which could go forth and show that Scotland was united on the old Presbyterian form of religion.

MANY were the hints thrown out that should the Prince of Wales carry out his intention of visiting Ireland dire consequences might follow. It has been evident for some time that the people of Dublin were prepared to give a hearty Irish welcome to the Prince and Princess of Wales when they made their promised visit. The enthusiastic reception accorded the Royal visitors was, no doubt, greatly owing to the ungracious things said by prominent nationalists. It is no less certain that the Irish people are a generous race. They seem bent on giving their Royal guests such a welcome that no stain shall rest on their reputation for hospitality. The Parnellite party have been industriously keeping up the impression that hatred of the Saxon was well-nigh universal in Ireland. Nothing has done so much to remove the misconception as the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor.

A NEW society, professedly in the interests of social reform, has been started in Toronto under the imposing title of the Liberal Temperance Association. It will, no doubt, receive a certain amount of dual support. Whatever impression may be formed of certain opinions advocated by Professor Goldwin Smith, no one can doubt the sincerity of his convictions or the untrammelled freedom of their expression. He has identified himself with this new movement, and others as honourable and straightforward as the learned professor are giving it their support. They, however, have chosen a strange time for beginning such a movement. The general belief is that it is intended to block the advance of the Scott Act, particularly in Toronto. Those interested in the liquor trade take this view of the matter, and are quite enthusiastic in their encouragement. Much may be said and written philosophically about the merits of the new movement, but beer drinking and wine-bibbing form a poor stop-gap for the ravages of intemperance.

THE excitement caused by Riel's second rising in the North-West has, to a great extent, subsided for the present. An adequate number of men have now been sent forward to suppress the rebellion, and establish legitimate authority. The pluck and endurance of Canadian volunteers have been severely tested in the toilsome journey along the north shore of Lake Superior. Not only had rapid marches to be made over the gaps of the uncompleted railroad, but exceptionally severe weather was encountered and the suffering from extreme cold was intense. The hardships and fatigues of the advance have been endured with soldier-like fortitude by many whose first real experience of roughing it, the expedition to the North-West has been. The relief of Battleford and the dispersion of Riel's following are what require immediate attention. If these are accomplished the principal objects of the undertaking will be attained. It had been hoped that victory would be achieved without bloodshed or serious mishap, but, unfortunately, tidings have come that a massacre has occurred at Frog Lake, not far from Fort Pitt, in which ten persons are reported to have been killed by Indians.

DARK and ominous as the war cloud still appears, a little streak of clear blue is momentarily discernible. The work of preparation for the worst goes on without pause both in England and Russia. The scenic splendours at Rawul Pindi have not begun to fade. It was stated that Lord Roseberry, Mr. Gladstone's attached friend, was to visit Berlin with a view to secure the good offices of Prince Bismarck as mediator, with what result may not be anticipated. The astute Chancellor of the German Empire will be mainly guided by one consideration. Dynastic interests are complicated; the venerable Emperor inclines to peace, but these, with the man of blood and iron, will be but secondary considerations. If an immediate war on a gigantic scale will be of advantage to Bismarck's projects for Germany he will incline in its favour; should a temporary delay of the inevitable for the same reason be desirable, then the sword, for the time being, will be thrust into its scabbard, so far as Bismarck may be able to shape events. The serious encounter, however, between the Russian and Afghan forces on the debatable territory renders the situation still more grave. It is to be feared that the march of events has left diplomacy behind.

THEODORE CUYLER is well and widely known as a faithful, diligent and successful minister. In addition to preaching every Sabbath to a large and influential congregation, he addresses a wide circle of readers through the press. He is a regular and constant contributor to religious journals. He writes generally on practical subjects in a graceful and attractive style. In the advocacy of temperance he has been earnest and unflinching. Last week he completed his twenty-fifth year as pastor of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn. The celebration was worthy of the man and the occasion. Congratulatory letters were sent by many representative men, such as John

G. Whittier, Drs. Roswell D. Hitchcock, Ray Palmer, Joseph Cook, Herrick Johnson, and others. Among the speakers were Dr. Storrs and Mayor Low, who said: "When I was first elected Mayor I received a letter in a handwriting which has since become familiar and cherished. It was from Dr. Cuyler. In it he asked if he might use the privilege of an old man with a young one, and offer a bit of advice. This was the advice: 'Never be afraid of offending an individual. No matter what you do you must offend somebody. But be very careful that you do not offend the common-sense of the community at large.' I never got better advice than that, even from the politicians."

THE Sunday newspaper, says Rev. Dr. Anson Smyth, of Cleveland, is proving a powerful agency in the work of Sabbath desecration. I do not think that the labour required in getting it up is the most serious objection to it, for it is doubtless true that far less work is done by editors and printers than upon the paper for Monday morning. The hawking of it through the streets is a gross disturbance to the quiet of the day. The first paper of the kind published in this city was named the *Sunday Morning Voice*. One of its editors told me, shortly after it was started, that it should not be cried through the streets except in very early morning hours, but after a few months the promise was forgotten, and the little Irish boys who sold it spent much of the day in yelling out "Here's yer *Sunday Mornin' Vicer*," in which they told more truth than they intended. At present we have half a dozen Sunday papers, and Christian people on their way to church have them thrust into their faces along the street, and at the very doors of the House of the Lord. But the mere crying of the newspaper would not hurt anybody, however it might annoy him who did not buy it and read it. But many professed Christians do buy it and read it, and thereby have their minds diverted from the proper duties of the day. How can a man who has been reading about politics and war, about fashions and parties, or the price of stocks, be "In the Spirit on the Lord's Day"?

AT the last regular meeting of the Canadian Institute, Mr. James Bain, junr., of the Free Library, read a most interesting paper on the Old French Fort of St. Marie, near Midland. It was of considerable size, but was destroyed before Charles I. was beheaded. Mr. Bain gave a brief historical sketch, describing the time when the fort was built. This was in 1615 when Champlain was in Quebec, James I. in the middle of his reign, and Shakespeare still alive. At this time Jamestown, Virginia, was the only English settlement on this Continent. The Spaniards had a small settlement in Florida, and, only six years before, Hudson had discovered the Hudson River. The Pilgrim Fathers landed five years after. In 1615 Champlain resolved to visit the Hurons. Ascending the Ottawa, he was the first white man to look upon the waters of Lake Huron. Passing down through Lake Huron, he landed at a small harbour called Thunder Bay, lying beyond Penetanguishene in the north-west corner of the county of Simcoe. He found the north-west portion of the country inhabited by the Hurons, who then numbered about 30,000. Their bitter foes were the Iroquois of New York State, and constant warfare waged between them. He remained there all winter and returned in the spring by the Trent Valley. On his report the Jesuits resolved to establish a mission in the Huron country. The first missionaries moved about from Indian town to Indian town, and finally resolved to build at the mouth of a little river now known as the Wye, and laid the foundation of the village of St. Marie. This became the ecclesiastical centre of the Huron people. Fortifications were erected around the church and dwellings, consisting of palisaded work with bastions. The wall around the dwellings was 175 feet by 80 feet, and was about 50 feet from the edge of the river. The Iroquois subsequently drove out the Hurons, and the village fell into decay. The ruins of the Fort were traced by Mr. Bain last summer.