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THE marked improvement in nearly all branches of business, consequent on the general good harvest and fair prices of all kinds of produce, should make a canvass easy. A push all along the line for renewals and new subscriptions is sure to result in large accessions to our list in every locality.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A COMPANY of Gaelic scholars has been appointed in Scotland to revise the existing translation of the Bible in that language. To this the Halifax "Presbyterian Witness" adds a local rumour to the effect that the Rev. D. B. Blair, of Barney's River, N.S., is about to issue a new Gaelic metrical version of the Psalms.

THE sad news of the Rev. Dr. Robb's death has fallen with startling effect on this city, where he was so long and so favourably known, and which he left but two years ago in full health and vigour, with the prospect of spending many years of life and usefulness in his native land. The illness which resulted in his death on the 8th ult. is said to have arisen from a slight cold, which afterwards turned to jaundice and disease of the kidneys, to which he succumbed in a few weeks.

THE trial of the assassin Guiteau commenced on Monday, 14th ult., in Washington. Without the trouble and difficulty anticipated, a jury was obtained on the third day of trial, and the examination of witnesses has been going on regularly every day since, without any interruption. The longer it progresses, the more intense has public sentiment at Washington against the prisoner been growing. No demonstration against his life had been manifested during the trial until Saturday, the 19th, when, on his way to the gaol from the court-house, he was shot at, the ball slightly scratching his arm.

PREPARATIONS for rebuilding Solomon's Temple are said by newspaper correspondents in Jerusalem to be in progress. They report that the Turkish Sultan has issued imperative orders to the Turkish Governor at Jerusalem to commence at once the work of clearing the site of Solomon's Temple, desecrated for so many centuries by the Moslem religion. This is stated to be a direct result of the representations made by the reigning Imperial Austrian family. The aims of the pilgrims are in future to be applied to the clearing of the ground upon Mount Moriah, and this may be taken as an indication of the earnest intentions of the Sublime Porte in the matter.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Christian Weekly" writes from Mexico: "One thing impresses the traveller at all these ports, and that is the rapid improvement which is taking place in the surroundings and condition of these people. They are eager to learn and anxious to rise in all the advantages of modern civilization. It is given to other eyes than those of Christian faith to see that a brighter day is rapidly dawning for this most interesting republic. An old gentleman, who spends his Sabbaths scattering tracts and talking to the people in the Master's name, says that everywhere he meets with kindness and appreciation except from the priests."

A REQUEST made by the Rev. J. M. Cameron, of the East Presbyterian Church, Toronto, that the directors of the Kingston Road Tramway Company should attend a meeting, of which he is convener, for the purpose of considering the propriety of discontinuing the running of cars between Don Bridge and Ben Larn on the Sabbath, has met with a refusal, on the ground that the president of the Company is absent on a visit to England. When it is considered that these Sunday cars are (avowedly) run for the very purpose of carrying people to and from church, it certainly appears rather hard that the directors should be called upon to attend any such meeting,

especially one convened by the minister of one of the churches nearest the city terminus of the road. What ingratitude!

IT seems that editors can make mistakes. Yes, and so can professors of theology. The following is from the New York "Independent": "None of our readers could have been more surprised than we that, in a note last week on the finding of the mummy of Rameses II., we spoke of him as having ordered the 'first born' (.) of the Hebrews to be slain instead of the male children. Well, a theological professor, not a thousand miles from New York, two Sundays ago preached a sermon in which he declared that the representation of Hope by an anchor was first introduced by Spenser, who was followed by other poets, and that it is by no means the best emblem that could be selected. That was in cold blood, all written out and read from the pulpit, quite forgetful of Paul's saying, 'which hope we have as an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast.'"

THE Synod of the Waldensian Church was held this Fall in La Tour. Prof. Geymonat was chosen president. The state of each parish was reported upon, and a report on Evangelization was carefully considered. The number of new members admitted was 314; the losses of the year were 232. There are forty-one settled congregations, thirty-four stations, 150 places visited by evangelists, forty-six teachers, seven colporteurs, 3,225 communicants, and 537 catechumens. The receipts of the year for schools and missions were \$10,500. The new liturgy was submitted to the parishes last year for consideration. The reports shew that most of them condemn important features of it and demand a simpler service. The Synod authorized the congregations to use it the coming year on trial. The announcement that the scheme of raising a fund of \$600,000 to augment the stipends of ministers had been completed was received with demonstrations of rejoicing. The Waldensians have also raised among themselves nearly \$18,000 for a similar purpose.

A VERY handsome monument to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. Norman McLeod, D.D., has been erected in Cathedral Square, Glasgow, Scotland, whereof the following description is given: "The artist has chosen to represent Dr. McLeod in the act of expounding the Scriptures, with the right arm by his side, the left slightly raised and clasping in the hand a half-closed Bible; the flowing Geneva gown of the Presbyterian minister, with the hood of the Doctor of Divinity, forming suitable drapery. A closer examination shews that the eminent divine is represented in the Court dress he wore as Moderator of the General Assembly; while on his breast is seen the badge of Dean of the Chapel Royal, another honourable office which he filled. The pose of the figure is exceedingly good, and recalls vividly the fine presence and noble bearing of the widely-known minister of the Barony before the weight of years and growing infirmities began to tell upon him. The statue is nine feet in height, and stands on a pedestal of gray granite ten feet high. The pedestal is of Gothic design, in harmony with the surroundings, and bears on the front the simple words, 'Norman McLeod, 1812-1872.'"

THE question of the separation of the Church and State in Switzerland is a disturbing element in some of the cantons, especially the French. It is difficult under the present laws, which confer universal suffrage without imposing any religious conditions, to keep ultra-radicalism from approaching the pulpits, and the more faithful members of the National Protestant Church are organizing against the sweeping tide of Rationalism. Dr. De Pressensé gives an interesting account of the struggle in the Canton of Neuchâtel. Speaking of the National Reformed Church of the Canton, he says: "It has a cultivated, devout clergy, for the most part Evangelical, and it has so far resisted all attempts made to introduce

Rationalism. We cannot, indeed, speak of its constitution as at all worthy of admiration. It has no confession of faith, and practically it embraces every shade of faith or no faith. No personal adhesion to the fundamental truths of the Gospel is required of either its members or electors. The union of Church and State prevails, with all its ecclesiastical consequences. There is no real guarantee in its institutions against the intrusion of a non-Evangelical pastor. If, as a matter of fact, this is generally, though not altogether avoided, there is no legal provision against it, if the claim were passed by any section of the Church."

THE German Reichstag was opened by a speech from the throne on the 17th ult. The Emperor speaks hopefully as to the prospects of peace in Europe, especially between the empires of Russia, Austria and Germany. Concerning internal affairs, he states that the economic policy of the Government as to reforms in the system of taxation hitherto pursued will be strictly adhered to. Stress is laid on the necessity that provision be made by the State for invalid workmen. He states that the budget shews gratifying results of the economic policy. The speech emphatically points out that the social evils are not to be remedied by repression alone, but rather by a concurrent promotion of the welfare of the working classes. The Emperor says he will look back on all his successes with greater satisfaction if he can bequeath to Fatherland new and lasting guarantees for continuous peace at home, and to the necessitous more secure and generous measures for that assistance to which they have a claim. The aged and infirm, he says, are entitled to a greater degree of State provision than they now enjoy, at the moment when matters connected with the internal institutions present far-reaching and difficult problems, the solution of which is not to be mastered in a single session, but which the Emperor has felt it to be his duty before God and man to put forward.

PREACHING on the ten plagues of Egypt, Mr. Talmage found the modern representative of the plague of frogs in corrupt literature, which he said was as loathsome, frightful and gaseous as any of the ten plagues. A vast number of books and newspapers were printed which should never see the light, and which made the land swelter with corruption. Thousands of men were engaged in selling them to the young. One of their methods was to obtain a catalogue of seminaries and mail their circulars to the pupils. In one case, when one of these men obtained a catalogue, the president of the institution pursued him for two weeks and caused his arrest. The man had the catalogues of fourteen colleges, "in eight of which," says Mr. Talmage, "he had already done his damning work." In his possession were found 900,000 addresses. In 1873, 165 publishers of corrupt literature were arrested. Although twenty-four tons of their publications have been destroyed, there is enough left to corrupt and ruin the lives of many of the young. "Ah, friends," continued Mr. Talmage, "I have very serious facts to put before you to-day. In 1868, Congress passed a law to suppress this evil, but it was a failure. Another law was passed in 1873—a grand law, a potent law, a Christian law. Multitudes have been arrested under it. It is a law that no good man could object to. In 1878 a petition was presented to Congress asking for its repeal or modification, and the head name on the petition was that of Robert G. Ingersoll, the champion blasphemer of America." Mr. Talmage read the report of the Congressional Committee, recommending that the law be not changed. "That application for the repeal of a good law only demonstrates that the same infidelity which wipes its feet on the Bible and spits in the face of God is the worst foe of American society. Oh! I honour that Mayor of Toronto who said, when Robert G. Ingersoll applied for a license to lecture, 'You may have no God in the United States, but we have one in Canada, and you shall not blaspheme Him here!'"