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## Notes of the Week.

CANADIANS will probably have an opportunity of hearing the last evangelist who has achieved distinction. A conference of Toronto ministers has resolved to secure a visit from Rev. Sam Jones. His crisp sayings and direct, yet not unkindly, home thrusts awaken general interest and many who would not be influenced by the same truths spoken by others will listen with eagerness to the quaint utterances of the Southern revivalist.

THE movement against Sunday newspapers in the United States is acquiring strength and force. In Cleveland the ministers of Evangelical Churches have resolved that on Sabbath, 2nd May, the injurious influence of Sunday papers should be explained to the congregations. The Protestant clergyman of Rhode Island, to the number of 182, have signed and published a declaration that the publication of Sunday newspapers is a hindrance to the proper observance of the Sabbath, and calling the attention of all Christians to the detrimental tendencies of their publication and sale.

WELL-TIMED efforts are being made to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Toronto Island. As this is a pleasant and largely-frequented summer resort, easy of access to the citizens, it is generally felt that the sale of liquor would affect it injuriously. A number of families select the Island as their place of summer residence. Women and children visit it in large numbers; it is therefore very undesirable that the scenes customary at pleasure resorts where liquor is sold should be possible. Urgent representations have been made to the proper commissioners against granting licenses. It is hoped that they will have the courage to forbid the sale of liquor on the Island.

THE *Interior* says: A bill has passed the French Chambers, and will be, if it is not already, a law, expelling priests and nuns from the public schools. A halting provision of the bill is that five years is given in which to effect the change. A distinguished French prelate says that this is because a large majority of the French are atheists. In Paris not over one in ten ever goes to church. But why are the French so largely atheistic? It is because the dominant religion is so utterly corrupt. If moral and intellectual light should break in upon the people of Mexico and the Central and South American states, they, too, would become atheists—unless happily there were enough of enlightened Christians to show to them that Latin Romanism bears no relation to Christianity.

SO strong has been the influence of public opinion that Sir Charles Dilke has discovered that the advice tendered by his friends as to his bearing under recent grave accusations of immorality has had the contrary effect from what he and they expected. The prominent politician has found that serious imputations affecting personal character cannot be ignored. In the House of Commons and socially he has been painfully conscious of an ostracism he did not anticipate. Even yet he will get a fair hearing, and if he can successfully free his name from the vile aspersions with which it has been associated he will be dealt with fairly; but if the charges are proved his public career will come to an inglorious end. The new trial announced will bring this painful case to a close. An

enlightened public opinion is not prepared to tolerate glaring immorality in the high places of trust and influence.

MONTREAL has had to undergo another severe trial. Last summer small-pox spread its wave of desolation over the more densely peopled portions of the city and now the St. Lawrence has submerged a number of the low-lying districts, causing immense damage to property, though, happily no serious accident to life and limb has been reported. It is gratifying to notice that enterprising civic authorities and business men have promptly set about preventing the recurrence of a similar catastrophe. No less encouraging is the alacrity with which generous efforts are made to relieve the most clamant distress occasioned by these disastrous inundations. Human nature in Montreal, however, is the same as everywhere else. Enterprising boatmen and others, taking advantage of the necessities of their fellow-men, made exorbitant demands for their services.

SPEAKING of ethics and religion, President Potter, of Hobart College, in a recent discourse, said: In the faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit may we hope to learn and to preach and to practise a system of ethics which consists not in empty theory, but in the living nobility of a regenerated character. Sophists have wrangled, moralists have disputed over varying systems, but of the truth of one proposition we may feel confident; namely, that any, that every, system of morals, to be consistent, to be logical, to be practical, to be transforming, must be informed by true religion; it must be vitalized by that personal power which finds its source, its sum, its centre in Christ. In theory it will be harmonious with the truth as it is in Jesus. In practice it will conform more and more to the divine pattern of His most holy life. These are sound words, and present a great truth in concise terms, whose meaning is upon the surface.

It is not only becoming, but is also an imperative duty, for all who value the Sabbath as a precious boon to humanity and coming with the divine sanction to guard against attacks on its integrity. It is especially the duty of the Christian ministry to warn the community of the dangers that threaten our privileges. Their influence is moral and therefore most effective. The Toronto Ministerial Association did well to pause when their co-operation was asked in seeking the arrest of railway employes who were engaged in their ordinary employment on the sacred day. Many railway men would be thankful to the Christian Church if it would speak out clearly, emphatically and persistently, and in addition use all legitimate influence to bring about the cessation of all unnecessary labour on that day; but bringing a punitive law down upon the workmen would only aggravate matters and lead to worse evils. Faith worketh by love.

THE American section of the Pan-Presbyterian Council met in New York last week. Representatives from the various Churches composing the alliance were present. Those from the Canadian Church were Principal Caven, Principal MacVicar, Drs. Cochrane, Burns and Mathews. It was resolved, in accordance with the recommendation of the British section of the commission, that the next General Council should be held in London, on the 26th day of June, 1888. A motion was unanimously passed, and instructions given to forward it to the London Committee, recommending that at the next meeting fewer papers should be read, and a much longer time given for discussion than has hitherto been arranged. Further action on the rules of order was deferred until after conferences with the British section. The Executive then adjourned to meet again in New York, on the 29th day of September, 1886, and again on the third Wednesday of April, 1887.

THE Greek Government seems bent, at all hazards, on imperilling the peace of Europe. If, as has been steadily represented, the Powers who agreed to the Berlin Treaty are unanimous in their policy and

sincerely anxious for the prevention of hostilities between Greece and Turkey, the persistency of the Hellenes appears nothing short of infatuation. The impression exists that the agreement of the Powers is ostensible only, not real. Russia is believed in certain quarters to be giving secret encouragement to Greece in the defiant attitude it has for months assumed, and now it is hinted that France is only giving a formal assent to the action of the other signatory Powers. There has been a brush on the Thessalian frontier between Turkish and Greek troops. This exchange of shots may be the beginning of a far-reaching conflict, or events for the present may, under judicious guidance, take a more pacific turn. The present tension cannot continue.

PROFESSOR LEITCH, who occupies the chair of Biblical Criticism in Belfast Presbyterian College, in his address at the close of the session says: To lower the educational standard of the ministry in the present day, when examinations for every other profession are becoming more and more difficult, would be a greater calamity than at first sight appears. One result of it would be that men who are too indolent or too stupid to pass the examinations necessary for other professions would crowd into the ministry of the Church for an easy means of getting a livelihood. What greater calamity could fall on our Church than that its ministry should become a refuge for the indolent and the incapables of every other profession? Such a ministry could not long maintain the respect of an enlightened people; such a ministry could not prove itself efficient in any Church, and least of all in the Presbyterian Church, whose necessities and traditions demand not a half-educated, but a highly-educated ministry.

THE conflict between capital and labour, as exemplified in railway strikes, indicates as yet little approach to a more conciliatory spirit. The disposition on each side seems to be not so much to reach a just, harmonious and fair understanding, but each party seeks to gain a decisive victory. The President of the United States has been in no haste to intervene. He has, however, been reflectively observant of the events during the continuance of this industrial struggle. Last week he sent a message to Congress embodying calm and statesmanlike views as to what the situation requires. He suggests the appointment of a permanent Federal Labour Commission, consisting of three members who should arbitrate between employers and employed. If impartial and competent men could be appointed it would prove satisfactory; but so popular is belief in the corruption of Government officials that it is difficult to be assured of their integrity. The President favours a permissive rather than a compulsory arbitration in labour troubles.

MORE than once, says the *Christian Leader*, we have ventured to express the opinion that the Church in Britain has been neglectful of an incumbent duty in not making a systematic provision for meeting the insidious proselytizing machinery of the Mormons. It is all very well for us to sympathize with the resolute endeavour that is now being made by the American Government, as well as the American Churches, to uproot the vile system which has its headquarters in Salt Lake City; but we must not forget that Europe is the great recruiting ground of the abomination. "We wish very much," writes a minister of the Gospel at Omaha, "that some of the Churches would take up the work of systematic warning of the people in Wales the South of England, Sweden and Denmark. From these countries come nearly all the 'converts.' Lies are freely told to induce these people to come over, and as they are generally intelligent and well-to-do, a warning would save very many of them." Our Omaha friend might even have included the land of John Knox in his list, for it is a deplorable fact that Scotsmen have been, and are being, won over to Mormonism. One of the chief hymn-writers in Salt Lake City was actually a native of the land of Burns, who went forth with his wife and family many years ago from the town of Kilmarnock.