

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

BEFORE another issue of our paper can be read the year 1883 will have passed away, and a new year will have taken its place. The close of a year at any time must lead to thoughts of the past. May our readers' thoughts be made up of pleasant memories of good deeds done, and of noble resolves, in a measure, if not completely fulfilled. We extend our warmest and heartiest wishes to our subscribers that the coming year may, in every way, prove to each and all of them A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THERE seems to be in the minds of many startling expectations of great events to come upon the world in 1884. We can know nothing, absolutely nothing, of what is in store for us in God's providence, as regards the Second Coming of the Master; but in the unsettled condition not only of Europe, but of Asia as well, we may be sure wars of momentous import are not likely to be delayed much longer. The march of events seems to be bringing us nearer to a great crisis in the world's history, but what will follow is altogether outside our knowledge.

WHEN war is spoken of all eyes turn towards Germany which, more than any other power, is best prepared for the coming conflict, and who has the peace of Europe in her keeping. France longs to recover her provinces and prestige which were lost in the last war, and the Muscovite hates the Teuton with a growing and deepening animosity. But the peace of Europe is not likely to be broken unless Germany takes the initiative, which she will not do unless goaded on by a reckless disregard of consequences by her foes.

ON Wednesday last Lord Lorne, our late Governor-General, delivered a lecture on Canada in Exeter Hall. Sir Alex. Galt, we are told, introduced the lecturer, and in doing so took occasion to repudiate on behalf of the Irishmen of Canada, any sympathy with the atrocious sentiments of the American Fenians. He declared that Irishmen in Canada were as happy and contented as Englishmen in England, and that their loyalty to the crown was undoubted. We sincerely trust that Sir Alexander has rightly gauged the feelings of the Canadian Irish. Certainly Irishmen in Canada have no cause to be anything but loyal. They occupy quite as good a position as the native Canadians, and every position of emolument and honor is as open and free to them as to any others.

THE English papers speaking of Lord Lorne's lecture, say that it was a splendid tribute to the greatness of Canada. Its marvellous growth and future prospects were dwelt upon in such a way as to create a most favorable impression in the minds of all present. The result of Lord Lorne's able advocacy will be to lead many to decide upon the Dominion as their future home. It is thought that the immigration next year will be in advance of any previous year.

FURTHER native accounts from the seat of the recent battle in Egypt state that 3,000 of Hicks Pasha's men were taken prisoners. Two Europeans and 12 Egyptians, who were trying to reach Khartoum via Darfour, have not yet arrived. They have probably lost their way. It is believed the Europeans are Edmund O'Donovan and Frank Vizetelly. England has decided to increase the number of her soldiers in Egypt. The *Post*

says the British regiments now in Egypt will be filled to their maximum strength, making the total number of British troops in Egypt 10,000 men, and that several regiments are to be ordered to Egypt. The Dublin fusiliers will start for that country on January 9th, and the 7th Dragoon Guards, who are now under orders for India will be sent to Egypt.

THE Fenians in New York and elsewhere during the past week, have been uttering the most terrible threats against England and everything English. What it may lead to, it is not easy to say, but it is very evident that the most atrocious schemes are being concocted which will have to be met by the utmost precautions in England to protect public property and the lives of leading public men.

MR. PARNELL'S speech at the presentation banquet in Dublin has aroused the indignation of the entire press of England, irrespective of party, and it is felt that in the presence of such determined hatred of England, all loyal men should sink party interests and unite to frustrate the designs of her enemies.

SOME little time ago it was rumored that Cardinal Hohenlohe had resigned his Bishopric and was soon to make common cause with the old Catholics. This has not yet been confirmed but a telegram says the Cardinal last week had an audience with the Emperor William, and it may be that soon he may announce himself in opposition to the Pope.

CIRCUMSTANCES alter cases. A few years ago Dr. G. M. Grant, now Principal of Queen's College, was an ardent advocate of non-sectarian colleges, and deprecated the voting of public money to sustain the denominational Colleges of Nova Scotia. But then there was no Presbyterian College which might benefit by such grants. Now, however, when the friends of Toronto University, which belongs to the State, are asking for more money to place it on a better footing and increase its usefulness, Dr. Grant claims on behalf of his Presbyterian institution that it, with other denominational colleges, has equal claims, and is using the very same arguments which he so heartily condemned when put forward by the friends of King's, Acadia and Mount Allison years ago. Oh, Consistency!

DR. GRANT, of Kingston, Ont., is no better and no worse than those whom he left behind him in Nova Scotia. While it is to their interest to condemn the granting of public money for denominational colleges they will be loud in their opposition, and should it at some future time suit their purpose they will be equally strong in their advocacy of such a measure. Let none be deceived by such a selfish course of action which is so unworthy men of Christian character.

It is thought that Mr. Goschen has refused the speakership of the House of Commons of England in order to be eligible for the office of Governor General of India which will soon be vacant. Lord Ripon has nearly completed his term of office and has created so strong a feeling of prejudice between the Europeans and natives that his successor will require to be a man of large experience in public affairs and in dealing with public questions.

THE Montreal *Star* calls attention to a great inconvenience and annoyance to intercolonial travellers. It says a leading dry goods store in

Montreal refuses to recognize Maritime Province bank notes, said notes being the issue of banks quite as sound and quite as able to meet their promises as the bank of Montreal. Again, it is said that in the Maritime Provinces only the issue of the leading banks of Ontario and Quebec are accepted by the people generally. We endorse its conclusion. The note of a Canadian bank, authorized to issue notes at all, should be good everywhere from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

THE Chinese question is certainly a difficult one. The Victoria, British Columbia, legislature has been compelled to pass a resolution instructing the Government to introduce a bill restricting Chinese immigration. The statement is made by the Provincial Secretary that there were 3,000 destitute Chinese on the mainland who can only subsist by murdering and stealing, which the celestials are now taking to as naturally as they take to their rice and chop-sticks. At least so the politicians say.

THE new Dominion License Law comes into operation on the 1st January, but all existing licenses may continue until the 1st day of May, when the provisions of the new Act are to be enforced. There are some features about the new Law which we should like to see altered, but in very many particulars it is all that the temperance people can at present hope to obtain. In the cities particularly, if honestly carried out, the temptations to drink will be greatly lessened, as the number of places where liquor is sold is to be very much reduced. The success of the new Act, of course, depends on its strict enforcement, and temperance men should see that the officials appointed are not only to be relied on for their sobriety, but also are men of character and force.

ADDITIONAL sales of slaves are reported from Tangier. A negress about twenty years of age sold for thirty-two dollars; a girl of twelve years for twenty-one dollars; and one of eighteen years of age for twenty-seven dollars. This brings the number sold in the streets of Tangier since the first week in April last to 108. Surely the nations will put a stop to this traffic. They could make no better resolution in their cabinets this year than that of erasing this blot from the 19th century.

A rush towards the Transvaal gold fields may soon be expected. Baron Grant has purchased the Lisbon and Berlin farms which are reputed to be amongst the richest in gold deposits in South Africa. The Baron is an astute man and not accustomed to work on a small scale. He will probably fit out a small colony for the fields.

The London *Times* in a recent review of Dominion legislation says that the provision of the military schools and the formation of a permanent force are looked upon in Canada as the nucleus of a future standing army, and are undoubtedly an important step in the organization of the means of self-defence, which appears to be attracting much attention in the various colonies at the present time."

THE Canada financial outlook is unexpectedly favourable. The balance due Canadian banks from abroad is nearly seven millions more than a month ago. Better still, we find that the Dominion Government deposits are larger by \$4,710,227 than they were last month. There is nothing like having plenty of faith in your country in order to encourage its progress.