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Notes of the Week.

STIMULATED by the example of their brethren in Toronto, the students of McGill College, Montreal, have set about the erection of a Young Men's Christian Association building for their use. These energetic young men are showing their faith by their works; before appealing to the generosity of friends they have themselves subscribed \$1,000 for the erection of the building. They deserve encouragement, and they will receive it. The Board of Governors have granted a suitable site for the McGill University Young Men's Christian Association.

A SPECIAL feature of the Jubilee Exhibition at Manchester is to be a collection of the best portraits of all the British Prime Ministers who have held office during the Queen's reign. Lord Mount-Temple has promised to lend his full-length paintings of Lord Palmerston and Lord Melbourne, which are at Broadlands, and Lord Aberdeen will kindly lend the Haddo portrait of his grandfather. The Queen is to be asked to lend the portrait of Lord Beaconsfield, by Angeli, which hangs in the grand corridor of Windsor Castle; and the committee hope to obtain the portrait of Mr. Gladstone, by Sir John Millais.

DR. JOSEPH PARKER, of the City Temple, London, has intimated his intention to accept the invitation tendered him by Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, to deliver the Oration on Henry Ward Beecher. He expects to pay this tribute to the memory of his friend about the end of June. A feeling in favour of Dr. Parker as Mr. Beecher's successor is assuming shape, and if the oration moves the people they will certainly call the popular London preacher, whose acceptance of the invitation already addressed to him may be reasonably interpreted to mean that he is not averse to a place in the City of Churches.

IN accordance with the maxim, "to the victors belong the spoils," Alsace-Lorraine was transferred from France to Germany, but it is not easy for a people to transfer their nationality. The popular sentiment in the Rhine Provinces is not modified by the years that have intervened. The German Chancellor is impatient at the slow progress made in Germanizing the Alsations. He is taking vigorous means to hasten the process. Public worship, public business and education are all to be conducted in High Dutch, and stringent means are to be employed for the repression of all sentiment at variance with Bismarck's wish. Even the good offices of the Vatican have been invoked to aid in transforming the Gauls of Alsace-Lorraine into Teutons.

NEW YORK City is not the most congenial soil for the growth of temperance. Its vast population is of so mixed a character that people of foreign birth, and especially those of recent importation, are not in favour of restriction in the use and sale of intoxicating drinks. The High License Bill, which if not acceptable to some Prohibitionists, would at least have been a practical step in the right direction, passed the Legislature, but the Governor of the State has vetoed the measure, and the friends of temperance will just have to begin their work over again. Governor Hill has friends who are anxious that he should receive the Democratic nomination for Presidential candidate, and they think—it is hoped mistakenly—his chances are improved by the support of the liquor party.

WILL CARLETON is not one of the poets that lose themselves among the clouds. He is no mellifluous mystic whose poetic conceptions float languidly through the regions of the mane. His verses voice the experiences of the popular heart, and appeal to all that is pure and true in the varied spheres of everyday life. The lecture delivered by him in Toronto last week was made up of a finely varied series of his poems under the title of the "Science of Home." It abounded in pathos and humour, vivid description,

kindly satire fitted to correct, not to wound, and a fine, healthy moral tone pervading it all. He got the ear and sympathy of his large audience at the beginning, and kept attention undiminished to the close. The Toronto Press Club have justly earned the gratitude of all who were fortunate to hear Will Carleton.

At the April meeting of the managers of the New York Bible Society last week, a letter was presented from the Rev. Vincent Pisek, pastor of the Bohemian Presbyterian Church of that city, asking in behalf of the 500,000 Bohemians and Hungarians in the United States, for the publication by the American Bible Society of a Bohemian Bible in the Latin type, and of the New Testament in English and Bohemian. The matter met with a favourable reception, and the Board voted, in view of the past history of this interesting people, their present condition, and their increasing numbers in America, to publish the books named in the letter of Mr. Pisek, and also a smaller edition of the New Testament for Sabbath school use. Pastor Pisek and those who stand with him may well be encouraged to labour for the uplifting of his people here and elsewhere in America.

A PECULIARLY sad occurrence has recently taken place at Montreal. A young man had finished his studies in McGill College. He had passed his examinations with much credit to himself, and was about to receive his professional degree. This graduate was well spoken of by all who knew him. He had joined others in a trip to the country, where they indulged in drinking. The effect produced on the young medico was serious. Under excitement he escaped from his companions, and was traced for a short distance, when he disappeared, and not till after a long interval his lifeless remains were found where he had sunk down exhausted. The habit of going on a foolish spree after the hard work of a college session is over is not yet altogether obsolete, but an event like that which this season happened at Montreal will tend to hasten its discontinuance.

THE Rev. George Dods has left Victoria for Scotland. In his parting words he describes the minority in the Scotch Church, which did not agree with his call, as conspicuous chiefly for hypocrisy, and as being in several instances guilty of deliberate falsification. As for Presbyterianism in Victoria, it is in Mr. Dods' opinion, a miserable farce, and is in the hands of dead men. The Presbyterian ministers are uneducated in the sense that they are unable to take a comprehensive grasp of human life. "There was none among them to whom he could look up as a mental, moral and spiritual guide." The *Southern Cross* says that if Mr. Dods really entertained such opinions about the Presbyterians and Presbyterianism of Victoria, why was he so anxious to be associated with such a Church and such men? Surely he ought to be glad to escape to a purer realm and to breathe diviner air.

FURTHER plebiscites taken in Scotland during the past week, says the *Christian Leader*, confirm the belief that as soon as the people are invested with the power they ought to have in such a matter they will make short work of the traffic in strong drink which is the fruitful parent of so much misery and crime, and the uprooting of which would be one of the most blessed revolutions the nation has ever witnessed. At Glasgow, the largest plebiscite ever recorded in that city shows 77,246 in favour of the people having the entire control of the traffic with only 8,535 against, and 4,124 neutral. For prohibition, there are 57,704 and 19,411 against, while 5,556 are neutral. Still greater majorities have voted in favour of a reduction of the present number of licenses, and nearly as many are opposed to all new licenses. At Kirkintilloch 626 voted for local option and only eighty-eight against; while at Irvine the numbers were 680 against 107.

IT is not only in America that newspaper critics are throwing brickbats at Lord Tennyson's Jubilee Ode.

This is from the *British Weekly*: Lord Tennyson has done it at last. His Jubilee Ode, if it were taken seriously, indeed would be a serious matter. All the slips the Laureate has made in his glorious career, "the little room so soft and bright," "the new year roaring and blowing," "the Infinite Ideality," are trifling compared to this broken-winded imitation of Hiawatha. We imagined Lord Rosslyn with his "Linnet liltin in a Grove," and "The little Word good Men call Love," had sounded the depths of the bathos, but

You, the Patriot Architect,
Shape a stately memorial,
Make it really gorgeous,
Some Imperial Institute,

must surely have been meant as an invocation to "the eminent architect, Mr. Pecksniff," and that good man is gone.

WHENEVER culture becomes separated from the deep problems and truths of religion, and moves wholly in the æsthetic circles of art and fashion, it becomes, says a contemporary, shallow, pretentious and insincere. Moral earnestness disappears from letters, and from every province affected by it. Those periods in the history of the Church, in which the theologian was converted into a littérateur, and the sermon into an elegant essay, and evangelical theology into pagan ethics, were periods of lukewarmness and moral indifference. And yet they were periods of vehement opposition to evangelical religion. For, when the lukewarm mind is brought into close contact with truth, and there is no way of escape from it, then the moral indifference is changed into moral animosity. The mild tolerance and gentle optimism that would accept all forms of religion now becomes an intense aversion to that particular form of religion which teaches human depravity and salvation by grace.

WHAT'S in a name? In some names there is much, and others in which there is not much. Some names have high value in the market, while others are powerless to conjure with. The Queen of Italy has found that London publishers are not only willing but anxious to pay for her manuscript. It may be remembered that, a short time ago, her Majesty informed the French Ambassador—who had inquired when her novel was to appear—that the book would never be seen by the public, the fact being, as she went on ingenuously to confess, that she had sent her first MS under an assumed name to one of the best Roman periodicals, by whose editor it had been returned with the Italian equivalent for the fatal "declined with thanks." But since this conversation took place, her Majesty has had three communications from well known London houses, each making her a liberal offer. It may therefore be anticipated that her novel will be published before the close of the publishing season.

AT a large and enthusiastic meeting held in the Music Hall, Halifax, to advance the temperance cause, and promote the enfranchisement of women, the following resolution was proposed, in a speech of thrilling eloquence, by the Rev. R. F. Burns, D.D.: Whereas intemperance is the source of sorrow to the wives and mothers of our land, entailing on them poverty and misery, desolating their homes, and training their children to lives of depravity, therefore resolved, That it is the bounden duty of all Christian women to organize themselves into a working band, in order that they be better able to wage effective warfare against a vice that is destroying the souls as well as the bodies of its unhappy victims. And further resolved, That the right of suffrage should be conferred on all women of Nova Scotia who are ratepayers, in order that by vote and petition they may make their voices heard, and their influence felt in favour of morality and virtue. A local journal says: The Doctor carried the house by storm during the delivery of his masterly speech in support of the resolution demanding municipal suffrage for Halifax women.