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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

DURING the meeting of the English Presbyterian Synod the Lord's Supper was celebrated. The services being conducted by five ministers—John Edmond, D.D., John Munro Gibson, D.D., Revs. John Smith, John Watson, and John Matheson.

THE General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church has been in session in Philadelphia. A warm discussion rose over the report on the theological seminary. The Rev. A. G. Wylie denounced the report, and Elder Houston denounced the conduct of the seminary and charged that it had received notorious characters. Mr. Blair charged that the seminary had licensed a man of intemperate habits, and named the man, whereupon there was great confusion. Some defended the accused and some supported Mr. Blair, whom the moderator censured.

THE "Hour" makes the following good point: "The tender sensibilities and exquisite refinement of the modern thief have added to the language various consoling euphemisms for the slight inaccuracies he sometimes falls into with regard to the ownership of his neighbour's property. 'Defalcation,' 'shortage,' 'temporary diversion of funds,' 'manipulation of accounts'—these are some of the pleasant paraphrases which lift the vulgar crime of stealing into the realm of the fine arts and makes the honest bank cashier or confidential clerk seem a person utterly devoid of culture."

THE Lutheran General Synod met in Springfield, Ohio, May 16th. Dr. J. G. Morris, of Baltimore, was elected president. The biennial report of the Board of Foreign Missions stated that the income was \$50,741, showing a large increase. The report of the delegate from the Lutheran General Synod of the South was favourably considered. It was resolved to send a delegate to the next meeting of that body. The Synod declared its readiness to unite with the Lutheran Synod South and the General Council to secure a common liturgical service for all English-speaking Lutherans.

THE centennial of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists at St. John, N.B., was most enthusiastically celebrated last week. The modes of demonstration were very varied: processions paraded the streets, and tugs woke the echoes by their ear-piercing steam whistles. Interesting and impressive religious services were also held. The St. John "Telegraph" has a special issue containing many appropriate centennial communications. Hunter Duvar contributes a stirring poem. There are also quite a number of historical reminiscences likely to be preserved as a memento of a most interesting celebration.

REV. DR. TANNER, a coloured minister, and editor of the "Christian Recorder," urges the Irish, in their struggle with the English for their rights, to adopt the methods so successfully pursued by the negroes of America to win their rights. The Irish have tried rebellion, insurrection, assassination, dynamite, massacre. The negro tried patient continuance in suffering injury. When smitten on one cheek the negro turned the other; and the result is glorious. The Irish never can win by present methods. They will reach the gallows—that is all. It is clear, however, that the Irish have the fullest possible liberty consistent with the safety of life and property. They have no real grievances.

THE American Tract Society reports receipts in all of \$394,066, and expenditures of \$386,280. The American Bible Society had an income for general purposes of \$598,642. Of this amount, \$283,999 was received for books and on purchase account; \$184,178, from legacies; \$60,367, in donations; \$32,294, from rentals, and the balance from interest and other

sources. Some \$53,000 was added to the trust fund, the interest of which alone is applicable for general purposes. The disbursements for manufacturing and other general purposes were \$599,206. For the foreign work of the society the coming year \$164,986.85 has been appropriated. During the year 1,273,657 copies of the Bible, or parts of it, were issued from the Bible House, and 402,575 copies abroad.

THE Royal Society of Canada held its second annual meeting at Ottawa last week. It owes its origin to fortuitous circumstances, yet, notwithstanding the sincere endeavours of several worthy scientific and literary men to coddle it into something like vitality, in this age and country it can never hope for a robust and vigorous manhood. These wise men have done an apparently foolish thing in approaching the Government of the country asking an aid to help in the printing of their transactions. If it was not wise to do this, it was at all events shrewd. Not every one could tell the "Methods of Distinguishing Lacustrine from Marine Deposits," nor would a great many Canadians read the paper with absorbing interest when printed. The governmental largess to the Royal Society will bring these scientific and literary treasures within the reach of palace and shanty alike.

THE following figures giving the contrast between the expenditure per head on war and education in the various European States, which have been compiled by M. Leon Donnât, a Belgian statistician, are very suggestive:

War.		Education.		War.		Education.			
s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
France	20	0	1	5	Russia	10	2	0	1½
England	18	6	3	1	Denmark	8	8	4	7
Holland	17	9	3	2	Italy	7	6	0	8
Saxony	11	9	3	4	Belgium	6	9	2	3
Württemberg	11	9	1	9	Austria	6	8	1	6
Bavaria	11	9	2	6	Switzerland	4	10	4	2
Prussia	10	11	2	5					

This comparison, of course, takes no account of the frightful waste entailed by the sacrifice of the labour of able-bodied men during the period of military service.

THE conjectures as to possible and impossible successors to the Marquis of Lorne, as Governor General of Canada, are set at rest by the reliable announcement that the Vice-royalty will be held by the Marquis of Lansdowne. The appointment will be quite satisfactory to most Canadians. For a public man, the coming Marquis is comparatively young, having been born in 1845. He belongs to a house that has furnished several distinguished politicians, and has considerable capabilities and ambition that way himself. He was Under Secretary of State for India in the present Gladstone administration, but resigned because of his opposition to the Irish Disturbances Bill, on which the Whig supporters of Mr. Gladstone weakened. The Marquis of Lansdowne is young, handsome, wealthy and able. There is no reason why he should not make a good Governor-General.

WITH the opening of navigation the sad record of disaster has begun. The heavy gales that prevailed on the upper lakes last week have been very destructive to life and property. Sailors on our inland waters are exposed to great perils; all the more reason that their lives should not be sacrificed to greed and incompetency. The frequency and magnitude of lake disasters during the last few years have rendered greater caution and carefulness necessary in the inspection of hulls and machinery. When, however, the general recollection of a dreadful calamity begins to fade, vigilance is relaxed, and great risks are run through carelessness. These sad occurrences on the upper lakes should enforce the strictest examination as to seaworthiness of vessels and their equipments, soundness of machinery and competency of the officers and sailors who man them. It would also be well not to disregard storm signal warnings.

SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS, the great pioneer of cheap literature, died last week. Though efforts in the

same direction had been made in London a short time before, the brothers, William and Robert Chambers, may justly be regarded as the founders of modern cheap popular literature. The personal history of these shrewd Scotchmen is interestingly told in an autobiographic form by the brother who has just died. From the humblest stage of Scottish village life the Chambers rose to eminence and affluence. Robert gained an honoured place among the scientific and literary men of his time, while William held the highest civic office in the gift of his fellow citizens, being Lord Provost of Edinburgh for several terms. The oldest of our popular magazines, "Chambers' Journal," was founded in 1832. By great business ability, upright and honourable dealing, Sir William, associated with his brother, built up a great publishing concern that has made its influence for good widely felt. Every publication emanating from that establishment has been for the promotion of intelligence and virtue. William Chambers did not long survive the knightly honour so recently bestowed upon him. He was a shrewd but, at the same time, a generous man. He shared a weakness in common with many of the so-called "self-made" men, he could not rise above the self-complacent shoddiness that taints the character of many worthy and useful people.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The temperature for the week has been very considerably below the normal. With such weather it is natural to find Bronchitis practically retaining its former position of prevalence, while diseases such as Neuralgia, and especially Rheumatism, have made a decided advance. A remarkable fact has several times appeared evident in these reports, viz. that Influenza does not seem to have necessarily close relations with Bronchitis as regards prevalence. In fact, as has been before observed, a high barometer seems to be very frequently attended with an increase in Influenza, but not necessarily of Bronchitis. Anæmia has again advanced in degree of prevalence. Amongst fevers, Intermittent, which alone appears amongst the twenty prevalent diseases, has noticeably receded during the week, both in area and degree of prevalence. Amongst Zymotic diseases, there are several the prevalence of which again require to be noticed. Measles, the most prevalent of these, has slightly advanced, being 4.7 per cent. of all diseases reported. Mumps likewise is very prevalent, while Whooping Cough and Diphtheria have both receded in a degree of prevalence. Diphtheria has remained in much the same position as last week, while Scarlatina has again appeared amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. In regard to these various contagious diseases, it is greatly to be regretted that the idea that it is better for children to have them, and so get them over, has taken so firm a hold of the minds of most people. Most must be aware that exposure to such of them as are commonly called the diseases of childhood by adults exposes such in very slight degree to the danger of becoming infected; while that by non-exposure to them, the child may pass safely to adult life without having them is likewise well known. Thus, Dr. J. B. Russell, B.A., Medical Health Officer of Glasgow, has recently stated that the death rate from Scarlatina during the decade, 1871-80, as compared with the previous decade has fallen from thirteen to ten in 10,000 of the population—due doubtless to the fact that regular house to house visitation has enabled cases of epidemic disease to be isolated, or, if necessary, carried to the hospital, and thus prevented from spreading the contagion. The same argument might formerly have been used concerning Typhus and other forms of fever, but here we have had such indubitable proofs of the benefits of hospital and household isolation and disinfection that all now recognize that prevention is much safer than cure. Thus, as Dr. Russell further states the mortality for all fevers during the same period fell from 16 per 10,000 to 4.34. Statisticians have here an admirable basis for calculation as to how much population, capital and productive labour are preserved to the State in one city alone with a population of over half a million.