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Toronto, Nov. 18, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The 250th Anniversary of the completion of the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly will be celebrated in Toronto by meetings to be held in Knox Church on the 7th and 8th of next month. Addresses will be delivered by Revs. Drs. Caven, Carmichael, MacLaren, Gregg, Milligan, Parsons, and by Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., and Rev. W. J. McCaughan. The presiding officers will be Rev. Dr. Caven, Rev. Wm. Burns, Messrs. Mr. Mortimer Clark, M.A., Q.C., and J. K. Macdonald.

At an age when most men would seek only well-earned repose, Mr. Gladstone contemplates the publication of an important biographical work consisting of the lives of distinguished modern divines. There is no end to his great resources, and his mind seems to have retained its vigour and activity. His love for theological and ecclesiastical subjects and his intimate relations with dignitaries in the churches will lend special interest to his projected work which it is to be hoped the state of his health will permit of completion.

Present efforts by Temperance reformers are directed towards legislation that will empower the ratepayers in a locality to prevent the renewal of licenses to sell intoxicating liquor, within that locality; and that will place in the hands of the ratepayers by direct vote the right to limit the hours during which liquor can be sold. The Ontario legislature will be approached by petition and churches especially, and all public bodies are requested to forward petitions

in favour of what must be admitted to be a reasonable and moderate demand. Churches should not miss this opportunity of furthering laudable efforts in the cause of temperance and moral reform.

The London School Board Elections hinge very much on the question of religious teaching in the Schools. The London School contest lies between the Progressives, represented by such men as Rev. Dr. Clifford, and the moderates whose leanings are towards denominational teaching. The Progressives are accused of conniving at secularizing the schools entirely, but this they deny and hold that a common basis for all religious bodies is possible. Dr. Clifford objects to sectarian teaching but as would be expected favors religious, Biblical teaching to which Christians as a whole could well agree.

A work in which the church has ever shown a kindly interest is that so ably conducted at the Pointe Aux Trembles Schools. Since the Fall opening, last month, until now, the schools have had an attendance of one hundred and forty pupils, or within ten of the entire number for which accommodation exists, and the educational work is said to be most satisfactory. The influence of the institution has been of the highest importance to Quebec, making as it does for the spiritual and intellectual interests of the people. Rev. Principal MacVicar is chairman, and in connection with the Thanksgiving Collection, next week, he makes a strong appeal for increased liberality to meet increased expenditures in making necessary repairs and sanitary improvements this year.

The latest addition to the high class educational institutions of Toronto, of which there are a goodly number, is St. Margaret's College, conducted by Mrs. Geo. Dickson and an influential board of Management. The formal opening on Friday brought together a goodly company and the ceremony was performed by his excellency Earl Aberdeen who paid a high compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Dickson's ability and popularity. The valuable work such a college was fitted to perform among the young ladies of Canada was emphasized; and Lady Aberdeen, who also spoke, urged the students to imitate the virtues of the woman after whom their college was named. Rev. Dr. Milligan, Rev. Louis Jordan and Mr. W. MacDonald expressed much satisfaction with the appointments of the School and at the fact that sound religious instruction would be given to the students attending the college.

We are often told that only the low foreign class of people in the United States indulge in "tail-twisting" Britain, but as showing that the average stater loves to nag at everything British even with Sir Wilfred at Washington the following typical paragraph from the *New York Observer* will suffice: "The boasted British army is by no means all that it should be in point of physique. In