

## Notes of the Week.

DURING his recent absence in Europe, the Rev. Phillips Brooks positively declined to receive his salary instalment, and ordered it to be put to the credit of the church funds. He also pays about \$500 each year for the privilege of securing free seats to poorer members of his congregation.

THE Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Montreal have established a reading room for working girls. It is handsomely fitted up and adorned with pictures and flowers. Here the girls can spend the noon hour, read and rest. Some of the ladies are always present to give the girls a warm welcome.

THE programme of the attractions promised by the directors of the Toronto Industrial Fair is a splendid one. In addition to the usual features of the fair, scenic displays and varied amusements are announced. Pain's magnificent pyrotechnic display of the Last Days of Pompeii is said by those who have witnessed it to surpass anything of the kind ever attempted hitherto.

THE handsome legacy of \$100,000, willed by the late Alexander McLeod, of Halifax, to Dalhousie College, may not after all come to that institution. An effort is being made to upset the will of the deceased. It is alleged that when the testamentary document was drawn up he was of unsound mind and that undue influence was used in procuring his signature. An only brother in Scotland is the plaintiff in the suit to set aside the will. Living men are the best dispensers of their own wealth. In addition to the satisfaction of being their own almoners, they can rely on their benefactions reaching their proper destination and do much to prevent family feuds after they are gone.

OUR estimable contemporary, the *Religious Intelligencer*, St. John, N. B., tenders the following good advice. One word of unfavourable criticism upon your minister or his preaching will be remembered by your children when all the good you have said is forgotten. If you speak disparagingly, why may not your children speak disrespectfully, and thus by your criticisms you turn the Gospel into very foolishness, and a stumbling-block and a savour of death to some very dear to your heart. If your minister is in his place at all, it is as an ambassador for Christ, and so far as he preaches the Word God will vindicate His servant and His message from every indignity and slight.

AN esteemed contemporary makes this revelation. An eminent dignitary of the Church of England lately published a volume of sermons in which he had coolly included one of the most characteristic discourses of Dr. Alexander Maclaren, of Manchester, *verbatim et literatim*. When called to account by the publishers of Dr. Maclaren's works for this appropriation, he wrote to explain that he was in the habit of preaching other men's sermons which he admired, those of the Baptist divine of Manchester being especial favourites with him, and that one of his curates, to whom the compilation of his volume was entrusted, had accidentally included one of Dr. Maclaren's, which was in the bundle of MS. given to the curate.

ANOTHER serious rent has been made in the Treaty of Berlin. Following close on the Russian Emperor's action in closing Batoum as a free port comes the Bulgarian *coup d'etat*. Prince Alexander has proved a popular ruler in harmony with the patriotic aspirations of his people. He stands in the way of Muscovite ambition, and was summarily removed by force and fraud from his palace. Ever since the union of Bulgaria and Roumelia, Russia has been industriously intriguing for Alexander's overthrow. The Czar has been too impatient. The march stolen upon them has roused the populace and the soldiery to enthusiasm in favour of their deposed prince. These events may bring the European Powers to the verge of war, if not to actual hostilities.

IN Scotland public opinion on the temperance question has made rapid advances of late. The *Christian Leader* tells us that of the Scottish members of the new Parliament thirty nine support the direct veto and twenty-two local option, while ten are opposed to both these sections. As the three candidates for Leith are all pledged in favour of the direct veto, it will have forty supporters when the roll is complete. If Scotland had home rule she would immediately secure a prohibitory law. How much longer is the northern kingdom, long since ripe for this great reform, to wait the pleasure of John Bull, who is so sluggish that he cannot make up his mind even to that Sunday closing which Scotland has enjoyed for upward of thirty years?

EFFORTS have for some time been made for the suppression of gambling in Montreal, but the proper authorities have shown much remissness of late. While several establishments have been closed, one in which a mechanical contrivance, moved by clock-work, indicates the fluctuations of "stocks," has been allowed to remain open, unmolested. Last week it was stated that a young lad sixteen years of age was left in charge of his father's establishment during the latter's absence in the country. The lad squandered away \$1,400 of his father's money at the now famous "clock" premises. When his father returned, he could not give any satisfactory account of the money. The lad fled to the States, where his father has gone in search of him. Why there can be any doubt about the character of this establishment it is difficult to imagine.

IT is the custom of French-Canadians to hold their political meetings on the Sabbath Day. This practice by no means tends to the hallowing of the day of rest. At the late Baltimore Convention several leading Roman Catholic dignitaries advocated the better observance of the Sabbath, and the opinions expressed were embodied in the deliverances of that convention. The demoralization caused by these great political Sun day gatherings has impelled *La Minerve* to say. At the meeting of Lanoraie, on Sunday last, the hotel-keepers of the locality freely sold liquor without being authorized to do so. Incredible disorders were the result. These Sunday political excursions are degenerating into real abuses, and all respectable people will rejoice if they are prohibited. In the face of such disorders it is our duty to raise our voice and call the attention of the authorities to them.

THAT most excellent of Toronto's charitable institutions, the Home for Sick Children, is in urgent need of a suitable building to shelter the little sufferers for whom it is designed. The present building has become so dilapidated that it must be abandoned. The trustees own ample ground on which to erect a new hospital, but it will take fully a year to complete it. The ladies engaged in this labour of love are determined to build at once, and they will put up a \$40,000 structure, which will be as ornamental to the locality as it is useful to the poor. They have just a trifle over \$3,000 to begin with, but they are determined to go on and trust to the good offices of faith, hope and charity to see it completed. The most serious aspect of the situation with the lady managers is the disposition of the patients for the next year. Temporary quarters must be obtained, and any citizen who can aid them in securing a suitable building will confer a boon upon all concerned.

THE Rev. Calvin E. Stowe, D.D., died last week. He had entered the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was a man of considerable scholastic attainments, having filled successively professorships at Andover, Dartmouth, Lane and Bowdoin. Dr. Stowe was greatly interested in educational work, having been sent by the State of Ohio, in 1836, to examine the public school system of Germany. The result of his inquiries was embodied in a work published on his return, "Elementary Education in Europe." In 1836 he married Harriet Beecher, who survives him. Of late years he was in feeble health, and spent his

winter in Florida, where he joined the Presbyterian Church, becoming a member of the Presbytery of Florida. He expressed the great gratification that it afforded him to be again in connection with a Church whose doctrines and form of government he valued more and more in proportion as he advanced in age.

THE interest in the Leys case in Scotland continues unabated. The elders and managers of the First Congregation at Strathaven have petitioned the Home Secretary for the release of their senior pastor, Rev. Peter Leys, and Mr. Hozier, M.P., for South Lanarkshire, in answer to a constituent who is interesting himself in the case, writes that he has seen both the Home Secretary and the Lord Advocate, and that he will spare no efforts to have the case put favourably and fully before the authorities. Mr. Leys' agents and his counsel say they propose taking steps for his liberation, but they do not think it advisable at present to petition the court on the subject. Rev. J. Stuart suggests that all the ministers and kirk sessions in Edinburgh should present a petition to the Queen, at Holyrood, asking Mr. Leys' freedom. Mr. Leys has received letters of sympathy from his congregation at Strathaven, and from the Scottish Protestant Alliance and other bodies.

THE Dominion Temperance Alliance, of which the Hon. A. Vidal is president, has issued a call for a convention in Toronto to meet on the 14th and 15th of September. Many distinguished advocates of the Temperance cause, among them the Hon. Neal Dow, of Maine, have signified their intention of being present. In the call for the convention it is said: The experience of the past year has demonstrated plainly the practicability of prohibition; the Scott Act votes of the past few years have shown that the electorate believes in such legislation; the terrible evils of the liquor traffic still disgrace our country. In view of these facts let there be such a rally of our forces as will ensure a complete discussion of the whole situation, and the adoption of the best methods for the furtherance of our work. It is expected that the proceedings will be eminently practical, and the desire of the promoters of this convention is that the gathering shall be made to tell on the future policy of this country.

REFERRING to the jubilee of the Rev. Adam Lind, D.D., Elgin, who paid a visit to this country a few years ago, the *Christian Leader* says: A ministerial jubilee, deserving wider attention than it is likely to receive, was celebrated last week at Elgin. While the reputation of certain lamps of the temple, on account of accidental circumstances, is perhaps slightly in excess of their real brilliancy, there are other occupants of the pulpit who cannot be thought of without suggesting the sentiment of Henry Taylor's now often-quoted line:

The world knows nothing of its greatest men. Dr. Adam Lind, who has just completed the fiftieth year of his ministry, is one of the most cultured and powerful preachers in Scotland—great as an expositor, with a marvellous skill, as one of the preachers at the jubilee remarked, in finding the natural cleavage of texts, so as to display in due proportion and inter-relation all their significance; most luminous as an illustrator; pointed and even thrilling in application; and having true evangelical unction as the most prominent feature of every discourse. The excellence of the volume he has published makes every one who has read it keenly wish for more. We are glad to learn that Dr. Lind's pulpit strength still remains firm, and, though he is so far advanced in years, he keeps abreast of the thought of the day, looking at difficulties which modern life and speculation present with young eyes. It is a striking fact that during the 123 years the Elgin and Inverness Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church has existed, only two of its many members have been permitted to see their jubilee. Of the 557 ministers on the Synod roll only fifteen are Dr. Lind's seniors in the ministry.