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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE *Christian Leader* states that the venerable evangelist of Glasgow, Dr. Somerville, has received a pressing invitation from Londonderry, signed by over 130 ministers and laymen connected with all denominations, asking him to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in that city, and promising him their hearty co-operation in the work. He accepted the invitation, and has commenced work, and has received an encouraging welcome.

THE *New York Evening Post*, suggests, as among the possible remedies for Mormon polygamy, that the Government might resort to its taxing power, and impose a heavy tax on wives when a man has more than one. This, the *Post* thinks, would make the Mormon polygamist "squeal," and give up the business. The *Post* no doubt perpetrates this as its little joke on the Mormon question. It is, however, neither more nor less sensible than the frantic proposals of several public men in the United States to compel the extinction of polygamy by an armed force.

THE members of the combined city charities at their last meeting have all but resolved on the establishment of a labour bureau in the city of Toronto. Various views were expressed as to how it should be controlled, some suggesting its management by Government, while others thought local supervision would be preferable. It is also suggested that a female department be added to the proposed labour exchange. It is hoped that both branches of this very necessary institution will be speedily established. That it should have been only now proposed is scarcely creditable to the sagacity of our Toronto philanthropists. The rascalities perpetrated on immigrants and others seeking employment last season were simply a disgrace to the city.

AT the recent meeting of the Congregational Union in London the "New Theology" has had an airing. The discussion was occasioned by the reading of a paper on the above subject by the Rev. Charles Pedley, who is a believer in the evolutionary theory, and an enthusiast in the cause of the new theology. The debate became animated, and Mr. Pedley responded in a manner not unusual with new theologians that those not prepared to accept their conclusion "had not only not studied the theology, but had not accustomed their minds to exact thinking." Those disposed to accept this description should, before finally making up their minds, take a peep into Hooge's "Systematic Theology." It may be taken as a fair specimen of exact thinking.

THE popular interest in "Chinese Gordon" is so great that Mr. Charles Allen's penny pamphlet on General Gordon is in its 300th thousand. Mr. Hake's "Story of Chinese Gordon" is in its ninth edition, and he has written a special supplement on General Gordon in the *Graphic*. The best biography of Gordon in the market is the one written by Dr. Birckbeck Hill. Another strongly characteristic book, "Colonel Gordon in Central Africa, 1874-79," does not seem to have sold one edition. This is the best book in which to get a glimpse of the personal character of this brave general and good soldier, as it is a reprint of his own African letters. Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald of Glasgow have a brief illustrated life of Gordon now in the press.

THE tendency in favour of united Christian effort is receiving a new illustration among Italian Protestants. There is a movement on foot for promoting the union and co-operation of the Italian evangelical churches. A recent letter from Florence contains the following: "Possibly, as suggested and desired by many, the two Methodist missions may unite before or after next autumn. The Waldensian and Free Italian churches may do the same, and the various Baptist missions may follow the example. There

would then be three large denominations in confederation, united as regards the common enemy, while conserving their individual inner ongoing, as at present. Whether an incorporating union may afterwards be reached in one Italian Evangelical Church, it is not possible to say. I am sure you will feel encouraged, by the above tidings, to continue in prayer for Italy."

THE good town of Paisley now possesses one of the finest Presbyterian church buildings in the west of Scotland. The congregation of St. James' have erected a splendid edifice. Under the care of the present pastor, Rev. James Brown, D.D., the congregation has prospered materially and spiritually. A week or two since the new church was opened with impressive services conducted on Saturday by Principal Cairns. On the following day the preachers were Drs. J. Cameron Leas, St. Giles; Walter C. Smith, Free High Church, Edinburgh; and Dr. Brown, pastor of the congregation. The cost of the building, exclusive of several handsome gifts, was about \$100,000. The collection at the opening services amounted to the handsome sum of \$24,000. Sir Peter Coats was the donor of a peal of bells. Between the first meeting-houses of the Seceders and the churches of their descendants there is an appreciable difference.

AT the annual meeting of the western association of the Congregational Union, the Salvation Army came in for lively criticism. It was generally conceded that in many places the army had succeeded in reclaiming many who had sunk to the lowest depths of degradation. So far it had done good. Several of the ministers who took part in the discussion were emphatic in denunciation of the methods pursued and practices indulged in by the members of the army. The chief objections urged were that it was drawing away the young people from the churches and Sabbath schools, that the flippant and grotesque manner in which sacred things were presented at the meetings was destructive of all reverent and right religious feeling, that late and all-night meetings were inflicting serious injury on the minds of the young, and the tendency of these things certainly did not make for righteousness. Beyond the discussion no action was taken. The result of the debate was not formulated in the shape of a resolution, but from the brief report in the daily papers it may be inferred that the prevalent opinion was strongly opposed to the methods on which the Salvation Army mainly relies.

LAST week, while visiting the Collegiate Institute, Ottawa, the Lord Lansdowne, replying to an address presented to him, said:—"You have every reason to be proud of the provision which has been made for the education of the youth of the Province of Ontario. Your school system appears to me to have three strong points. It covers, with almost entire completeness, the whole of the ground which it is necessary to cover. It affords an education, which, owing to the extremely reasonable terms upon which it is given, is accessible to all, and it has this great merit, that from the public schools, at the bottom, to the university, at the top of the scale, the path which leads from the primary to the highest liberal education is continuous and uninterrupted. In that succession your Collegiate Institutes occupy a most important position. They are the bridge by which the gap which divides the elementary schools from the colleges and universities is spanned, and in that respect they supply a want which I am sorry to say, has been up to the present time but partially and ineffectually met in the old country."

ABLE speeches on prohibition were delivered in the Dominion Parliament by members of both political parties. Though nothing in a legislative way has come of them, they cannot be said to be without result. The tone of the debate shows the progress of the temperance sentiment in the public mind. Those members really opposed to prohibition do not come out square against it. There is now an entire absence of the attempt to belittle the cause of temperance, and

no disposition to rail at the "fanatics" who advocate it. That is left behind. The plausible plea that the use of less fiery stimulants would lessen drunkenness was duly aired. So also was the loss to the revenue. The argument drawn from this consideration was ably met by Mr. McCraney, member for Halton, who showed what is patent to all that the enormous expenditure caused by the crimes and poverty directly traceable to intemperance would be largely reduced by the adoption and enforcement of a prohibitory law. The resolutions of Mr. Foster were choked off by an adroit amendment. The division does not exactly represent the temperance sentiment in the House. Party considerations as usual had their effect, though the party lines in this instance were crossed by several members whose temperance record is unimpeachable. One thing is now plain enough that if the people of Canada desire a prohibitory law they can have it for the asking.

IN connection with the temperance movement the Dominion Alliance, presided over by the Hon. Alex. Vidal, has issued a circular stating that at the recent meeting at Ottawa it had been resolved to submit the Scott Act simultaneously in a number of Ontario counties. It also states that this course was decided upon for the purpose of (1) Securing in every part of the Dominion the thorough discussion of the temperance question that invariably proves a powerful means of developing and stimulating public sentiment in favour of sorely needed reform; (2) Securing a substantial expression of the strong feeling that undoubtedly exists against the whole liquor system—this would be practically a demand for total prohibition that Parliament would be obliged to recognize; (3) Securing immediately the extension, over as much territory as possible, of the operation of the Scott Act, which already in some places has produced incalculable good, greatly diminishing the evils of intemperance. At the same meeting a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Dominion Government and urge the desirability of providing for the simultaneous polling of the different counties that may petition for the submission of the Act. Another paragraph in the circular is worthy of attention. To succeed in this work it is specially desirable that there should be formed, at once, in every county and city, a strong central committee of active temperance workers, including representatives from the different local organizations, to plan and direct combined and energetic action. It is also desirable that there should be formed in every locality a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This society has proved an invaluable agency for the work in every part of the Dominion.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN—The weather of last week was above the normal with the attendant conditions of excessive humidity and great cloudiness. There has been during all the period a notable sense of the high winds which usually mark the season of the year. Regarding the influences of these conditions on disease it may be said that while there is a considerable increase in the number of reported cases of disease, still the absence of high cold winds would seem to have been promotive of health conditions unusual for March. The effects on special classes of diseases are well marked. Thus, diseases of the respiratory organs show a marked decrease in most regards. Bronchitis is 117 instead of 154 per cent. Influenza is 91 instead of 119 per cent., and Pneumonia is 45 instead of 60 per cent. of the total number of cases of reported disease. Amongst fevers, the temporary decline of Intermittent mentioned last week has not continued, the cases amounting to 6.4 per cent. of all cases of disease. The contagious symptoms still remain low in their prevalence. In some localities they are present in large amounts. They are, however, directly promoted by the disregard everywhere of precautions against communication of outside persons with infected families, and against the inmates of infected houses visiting amongst other persons. Whooping Cough appears again. Measles and Scarletina are both present, but Diphtheria is not included in the twenty most prevalent diseases.