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Notes of the Week.

The new educational law of New York requires the compulsory education of all children between the ages of eight and sixteen years.

Dr. Parkhurst has the knack of putting things. As when he says that though "the wicked flee when no man pursueth," yet they make better time when they know they are being chased.

About the most conservative bodies in Britain are the old universities. They move slowly, but they do move. That very conservative institution, the Edinburgh University, has at last opened its doors to women and will grant them degrees in Medicine.

The *Catholic Register*, of the 7th inst., commenting on recent events, says: "What with the publication of the Pope's Encyclical to the United States, the judgment in the Manitoba case and the news of the election of Messrs. Harty and Conmee, Tuesday, January 29th, was a red letter day for Catholics."

The *Buddhist Magazine* of Japan says: "The greatest movement of the twentieth century will not be a commercial one, nor yet a military one; but the nations of the West will invade the East with great armies of Christian missionaries, backed up by the wealth of Christendom. We must arouse ourselves to meet them."

The American Humane Association at the closing session of its annual meeting, adopted a resolution condemning in strong terms, the practice in cases of sickness of Christian Scientists, and urging all societies to investigate any suspicious deaths, and prosecute, if they are found to result from the ministrations of this doctrine.

Henceforth the Turkish language must be taught in all schools in Turkey. An Iradeh of the government to that effect was communicated recently to the Greek and Armenian patriarchs and to the Jewish chief rabbi. The Jews are preparing to obey at once. In the Arabian provinces their instruction has in the past been largely in Arabic.

A very well known name in the Christian world some years ago, and one still and long to be fragrant, was that of Dr. Caesar Malan, of Geneva. All lovers of hymnology know his connection with the beautiful hymn "Just as I am," etc. The death is announced at Bournemouth, England, of his son, the Rev. Solomon Caesar Malan, one of the greatest linguists of the age. In the Bodleian Library at Oxford is a volume containing a Psalm written by him in more than eighty languages.

Great expectations were indulged in at the accession of the present emperor of Russia, Nicholas II., of a considerable extension of freedom in several directions. Among other things that were spoken of were the freedom of the press, and a measure of constitutional government. Of course such radical changes cannot take place, and should not be expected to take place, in a day. They require time; even an autocrat has often to wait. For the want of the former Russian newspapers can hardly exist, and foreign correspondents cannot make the truth respecting Russian affairs known to the outside world. That the Czar has made up his mind against the concession of the latter is proved by his declaration that he will maintain the autocracy. So far the persecution of the Jews and Stundists continues, and expectations of radical changes still remain expectations.

The name of M. de Giers is one which has been well known for many years as the Foreign Minister of Russia. He early began a diplomatic career, at eighteen, and after being for a considerable period assistant to Gortschakoff he became his successor. He was one of the three men who carried out the policy of Alexander III. The other two are Tolstoi and Pobydonostsev. He will hold high rank among Russian diplomats, and Europe owes much to him for the preservation of peace. He was born in 1820.

Speaking of the recent frightful explosion of giant powder in Butte City, Montana, the *Chicago Standard* says that after investigation the fatality was found to be directly due to violation of law on the part of certain responsible persons. "Sixty lives were lost and a good part of the city wrecked through one of those instances of outrageous lawlessness which are so frequent in this country and so seldom meet with the punishment due." If any act of lawlessness possible to man deserves condign punishment such a one as this surely must.

The question has for some time been under consideration, one of no little importance at the present time, especially to Manitoba, when the school question calls for such wise and deliberate handling, who will succeed the late Archbishop Tache? The Rev. Louis Philippe Adelaar Langevin, for some time the Superior of the Roman Catholic missions of the North-west has been appointed. In its last issue the *Catholic Register* says: "Coming though he does in times of great trial and difficulty, those who know Father Langevin best do not hesitate to say that his zeal and strength of character are such as to ensure to the see of St. Boniface a worthy successor to its first great Archbishop."

Referring to the visit of General Booth to San Francisco the Rev. Dr. Gilles says: "Gen Booth's visit here a few weeks ago proved a great blessing to hundreds of souls. Many who were hardened in sin and vice came forward, and with clear evidence of sorrow for their past sins, expressed their desire to live in future for Christ. Besides his services resulting in so many conversions, other Christian workers, many of whom may not have been as diligent in their labors as they ought, received inspiration for better work than in the past." In Toronto there is room for equally good results and every earnest Christian in the city will rejoice should the visit which the General has just made us be followed by like blessing.

One of the most appalling and pitiful disasters at sea that has occurred since the memorable loss of H. M. ship, *Victoria*, in June, 1893, was the sinking of the North German Lloyd steamer *Elbe* on the 29th of January, from collision with the steamer *Crathie*. One shudders with horror as one pictures the terrible blow to the ill-fated vessel, the cold, the gale, the sudden sinking of the ship, the futile attempts to lower the boats, the drowning of three hundred and thirty human beings before almost they could realize what had happened, and the sufferings of the survivors. There were only six passengers rescued including one woman. This has occasioned very sharp criticism, but has been explained by the order of the Captain, who went down with the ship, for the women and children to be provided for in boats on the starboard side, which, however, were suddenly rendered useless. There were 44 cabin passengers for New York, 6 for Southampton, 139 steerage passengers for New York, and 10 for Southampton; the crew comprised 146 men. There were also four postal clerks, three stewardesses and two pilots. There seems to have been almost no wreckage, the ship went down so suddenly.

We regret to learn authoritatively through the columns of the *Canadian Baptist* that the rumor which has been in circulation of the death of Rev. Dr. Gordon, of Boston, are indeed too true. We entirely agree with the *Baptist* when it says: "The announcement will bring sorrow to the hearts of many in Canada, especially in this city, where he was becoming well known. He was one of the men whom to know was to love. Few men, we believe, even among the most eminent preachers in America, would be more widely missed and mourned. He loved the old Gospel, and preached it with great simplicity, fervor, and power. No doubt hundreds, probably thousands, who looked up to him as their spiritual father, will feel a deep sense of personal bereavement in his departure."

A more humiliating exhibition of falsehoods and perjury in order to obtain a place in parliament could scarcely be found, we imagine, than that made last week in the South Perth protest trial, held in the town of Mitchell. The P.P.A. is a miserable concern enough without its condemning the whole organization on account of the perfidy and double-dyed scoundrelism of one man; but the history of this case shows how bold, persistent lying may succeed in winning an election; how blind subserviency to an irresponsible mandate, and crushing the voice of conscience, may carry a constituency in which are many good men, dishonor its name, and drive from power and the public service of his country a man who deserves its gratitude and praise, to put in his place one who on the first opportunity would sell himself, his party and country, and then attempt to hide his guilt by persistent and unblushing falsehood.

The finances in the neighbouring country have got into a state of such muddle as apparently to baffle the wisdom and skill of their best men to devise a satisfactory remedy. The following from Abram S. Hewitt is a rather humbling confession: "Let the people turn their eyes toward Washington if they want to consider finances. Was there ever seen such a spectacle of ignorance, idiocy and positive lunacy as is now being displayed there? When before did a President of a great Republic have to appeal to the Senate of that nation and beg them to do something to save the country from bankruptcy in the midst of fabulous wealth?" We do not wish to be thought impertinent, but we would respectfully suggest their handing over the whole business into the hands of a man who would undoubtedly suggest a way out of their accumulating difficulties and whom they greatly admire, namely the G.O.M., William E. Gladstone.

The *Montreal Gazette*, of the 4th inst., gives a startling account of the facilities for procuring drink in some parts at least of that city. There are no less than 59 saloons and hotels located on Notre Dame street, and if they were equally distributed from Maisonneuve to St. Cunegonde there would be one every seventy-five yards of the four miles and a half of the street within the city limits. If the eight drinking places that exist on Chaboillez square (simply a widening out of Notre Dame street) are added to the 59, the distance between each place would be reduced to about sixty-five yards. On Craig street there are 32 licensed places and equally distributed they would be a trifle more than one hundred yards apart. In the mile and seven-eighths of St. Catherine street, running between Bleury street and the Street Railway company's car houses at Hochelaga, thirty-nine of the forty saloons can be found. Evenly distributed these saloons would be about eighty-five yards apart. These statements represent a vast amount of drinking being done, and temptations to do it of the most formidable and dangerous kind.