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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A LARGE and influential meeting of the Middlesex Branch Temperance Alliance was held last week in London. Much enthusiasm in favour of the Scott Act was displayed. Many ministers of various denominations were present. More than the requisite number of names were signed to the petition praying for the submission of the Act. There is every reason to expect that it will carry in the important and populous county of Middlesex.

THERE is to be another Berlin Conference. This time the question is not the adjustment of grave European complications, but the settlement of difficulties that have arisen in the Congo country. It is stated that delegates from England, America, France, Portugal, Spain, Holland and Belgium will attend the international conference at Berlin in the latter part of November, at which the West African question will be considered. It is reported that France and Germany have agreed to submit proposals securing the freedom of commerce to all nations in the Congo country and upon the river Niger. The necessity of determining the right of any power to occupy any of the un-annexed territory of Africa is expected to result in the creation of an international commission of the Congo similar to the Danubian commission.

THE Provincial Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association meets this year at Peterboro on the 23rd inst., at three o'clock in the afternoon. In the evening a welcome meeting will be held, at which addresses will be delivered by Rev. E. F. Torrance, M.A., Messrs. Geo. A. Cox and J. F. Jeffers, on behalf of the churches, the business men, and the local Association, respectively. Topics relating to the special work of the Association will be considered, several well-known friends are announced to introduce the subjects, on which there will be conference and discussion. The proceedings will terminate on Saturday evening. On Sabbath morning a consecration meeting is to be held, in the afternoon a young men's meeting, and in the evening a farewell meeting. The convention promises to be interesting and helpful to this important department of practical Christian work.

THE French have been bombarding Tamsui. The attack began on the 6th inst., when they claim to have silenced the Chinese forts. That the resistance is a spirited one is evidenced by the length of time required to take the town. The Chinese are said to be strongly entrenched, and are doing all they can to repel the attack. There seems no disposition to injure foreign residents indiscriminately as has too often been the case with Chinese. Their houses have been riddled with shells, but the inhabitants were uninjured. At various ports commerce is paralyzed. Our missionaries at Tamsui are exposed to great danger, but they are not the men to flinch. They are under the protection of Him to whose service they have consecrated themselves. They should have mention in the prayers presented in Canadian churches and Canadian homes.

IN the interests of morality a more satisfactory extradition treaty between Canada and the United

States is urgently required. Weak men, who cannot resist the temptation to steal moneys entrusted to them, and wicked men who resolve to turn positions of trust to their own supposed advantage, find it an easy matter to cross the line that separates the two countries. The dishonest rascal who has stolen thousands of other people's money, when he escapes to "the other side," can laugh defiantly at his immunity from deserved punishment, and retain his ill-gotten gains. Canada cannot longer afford to continue to be the elysium of United States defaulters, nor do our neighbours require this class of immigrants, seeing that the native supply is superabundant. This is not a desirable kind of reciprocity. The Montreal Board of Trade has applied to the Dominion authorities for a more stringent extradition treaty. It does seem absurd that the danger of inflicting injustice on political offenders, at rare intervals, should afford immunity to swindlers and thieves who are to be met with every day. Common sense may be relied on to cut the voluminous folds of diplomatic red tape, and render the flight from justice of dishonest men a more difficult matter than is unfortunately the case at present.

IN the Anglican Church the cause of temperance finds many active and able supporters. That Church has directly allied itself with the movement, and the Church of England Temperance Society is doing good and earnest work. At a union meeting last week in Toronto, effective and telling addresses were delivered by clerical and lay temperance workers. Dr. Snelling, who had made a recent visit to England, spoke of the importance of teaching temperance principles in the public schools. He also said that a striking feature of the temperance movement was its rapid growth among railway men. On railways in England there were employed 350,000 men. Of these 10,000 were total abstainers and active workers, and 125,000 were active members of temperance organizations. On one line every employe was a total abstainer and now none but total abstainers were employed. These facts were not only cheering in view of the employes themselves, but were extremely reassuring to the travelling public. Mr. M. W. Hoyles urged on temperance societies not to allow their meetings to become mere entertainments, but at each meeting some useful information on temperance questions should be imparted. He impressed upon the audience the great good that would result from a more earnest and frequent use of prayer.

A NEW work of great interest to Canadians, "The Story of the Upper Canada Rebellion," on which Mr. John Charles Dent is at present engaged, is announced. Mr. Dent, the accomplished author of "The Last Forty Years," etc., possesses the characteristics of a true historian—keenness of insight, a comprehensive view of the relations of public events, a discriminating estimate of the principal actors in the stirring times of which he writes. No less keen is his sense of proportion in placing men and events in their proper light. He does not stint matters of importance or magistry trifles by prolix description. Then his style is clear, terse and chaste. The materials in his possession are of the utmost value. Many authentic documents, unpublished hitherto, have come into his hands since the appearance of Mr. Charles Lindsey's work, notably papers and correspondence of the late Hon. John Rolph, one being in his own handwriting, reviewing the facts and circumstances of the rising at Toronto and the defeat at Montgomery's tavern. The work, to comprise two volumes, will contain finely executed steel engraved portraits and vignettes. It will "speak mechanically," says the prospectus, "be the finest specimen of book-making ever issued from the Canadian press." The publisher is Mr. C. Blackett Robinson.

IN connection with the Scott Act petition of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, lying in the sheriff's office at Cobourg, a shameful piece of trickery has come to light. It was deposited to remain ten days for public inspection as the law requires be-

fore being sent to Ottawa. It bore the signatures of 4,712 bona fide electors of the united counties, 500 more than the number required. During the time it lay there it was examined by various parties, some of whom were favourable to the passing of the Act and some were opposed to it. As a barrister was going through the petition he discovered that a number of the sheets had been abstracted. He called the attention of the Deputy Sheriff to the fact, and on a closer examination the extent of the theft was soon ascertained. It was found that the petitions from the villages of Brighton and Colborne had been stolen in their entirety, while eight other municipalities suffered heavily, the total number of names missing being 1,007. This will have the effect of rendering null and void the present petition, and will so delay the submission of the Scott Act in these counties that it cannot take effect in case of adoption till the end of the next license year. A cause that requires such tactics is self-convicted. The deed has been brought to light, and it is to be hoped that the doer of it will obtain the public recognition he deserve.

THE growing interest in the cause of missions is a hopeful sign of the times. The duty of preaching the Gospel to all nations is being better realized in all branches of the Christian Church. The annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions was held in Cincinnati last week. The receipts for the year aggregate \$517,000, \$600 less than the last year. The report shows that more than 500 additions have been made to the churches in Turkey, and the outlook in European Turkey is hopeful. Eighty thousand copies of the Scriptures or portions of the Scriptures have been issued from the press in Constantinople. In India forty-three out of seventy native churches are self-supporting. Missionary work in China is not impeded through the invasion of the French, and the officials are more friendly in their attitude than formerly, and the work is rapidly advancing. A brief summary shows that the Board has twenty-one missions in all parts of the globe; twenty-five different languages are used by its missionaries in preaching the Gospel in more than 800 towns and cities; 400 young men and women are in colleges and high schools; 30,000 children in Christian common schools; fourteen new churches have been organized, and 2,400 converts received into fellowship. An overflow meeting was held in the First Presbyterian Church, when several returned missionaries gave addresses.

FROM a circular we learn that the annual Conference of the Presbytery of St. John on Sabbath Schools will be held in St. John, on the evening of Tuesday, October 28th, inst. The following subjects will be discussed:—Use and Abuse of the International Lessons, by Rev. K. McKay; Position of the Sabbath School in our Church System, Rev. T. F. Fotherington; Parental Influence and Responsibility in Relation to the Sabbath School, Rev. A. J. Mowatt. The Second Annual Convention of the Presbyterial Sabbath School Association will be held in the same place on Wednesday, the 29th October. The following are the topics of discussion with the names of those introducing them: How to Conduct a Session of the Sabbath School, J. A. Cahill, St. George; Systematic Benevolence in the Sabbath School, J. G. Forbes, St. John; Home Influences in Connection with the Sabbath School, R. McConnell, Moncton; Perils Peculiar to the Youth of the Present Day, and how they may be best fitted to overcome them; Pernicious Literature, Mrs. Mersereau, St. John; Evil Associations, Rev. George Bruce; Evil Habits, R. S. Cowan, Carleton; The Teacher in the Study, George Suffren, Sussex; The Teacher in the Class, L. W. Johnston, Fredericton; The Teacher in the Home of the Scholar, Rev. Joseph Hogg. Delegates attending the Presbyterial Convention are earnestly requested to remain. A Convention is also summoned to meet on Thursday, the 30th October, in the Centenary Methodist Church, St. John, for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Sabbath School Association.