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## Notes of the Week.

IF you want to interest your fellow Church members in Christian work tell them that THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN will be sent to them from now till 1st January for 15 cents.

ACCORDING to Commissioner Eaton, the school population of the United States is 17,000,000. There are 11,000,000 enrolled pupils and 7,000,000 who attend school. The balance, after all necessary reductions have been made, to the account of ignorance is frightful.

It is said that General Kaulbars, just now so prominent as the Russian attaché at the Viennese Court, recalled from his post and dispatched to Sofia by the Czar, is well known in Bulgaria. In May, 1883, while war minister there, he made a midnight attempt to kidnap Alexander and to carry him off to Russia. The conspiracy was frustrated by the Prince's orderly officer, who threatened to shoot the General if he attempted to enter the bedroom.

THE story is current that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's visit has given rise to a small tempest in the Congregational Church. The Rev. John Hunter, of Hull, one of his friends, airs the scandal, which is to the effect that the committee of the Congregational Union, which meets next week at Norwich, refused to invite Mr Beecher to speak before that body on the ground that his religious views were not orthodox. The Rev. Edward White, Chairman, declared himself ready to resign rather than to receive Mr. Beecher on the platform. This is the most marked rebuff the Plymouth Church pastor has received in England.

M. EMILE LAVELAYE, writing with great earnestness and urgency on the economic crisis in Belgium, adopts the line of argument with which Britain has been familiarized by the late William Hoyle and charges his countrymen with wasting by far too large a share of their means in the consumption of alcoholic liquors. There is a cabaret for every ten families in Belgium, and within the last fourteen years the consumption of drink has doubled. Whereas the drink bill of Britain is declining, that of Belgium is going up. M. de Lavelaye complains that the Government encourage drinking by not making "the trade" contribute sufficiently to the cost of government. The spirit-duty is only one-fourth of what it is in France and one-tenth of what it is in England.

THE officers of the Winnipeg Young Men's Christian Association have made provision for free instruction to be given during the coming autumn and winter to members of the organization in various branches of learning, and classes will be conducted weekly, in which the following subjects will be taught by competent instructors: Elocution, vocal music, stenography, book keeping, arithmetic, penmanship and business correspondence. If desirable and possible, arrangements will be made later in the season for classes in German and French; also a course of popular lectures by the following gentlemen and others: Ven. Archdeacon Pinkham, Revs. J. B. Silcox, Canon Matheson, Dr. Pryce, C. B. Pitblado; Drs. Good and Chown; Messrs. J. H. Ashdown and W. F. Luxton.

THE recent Bull of Pope Leo XIII., finally restoring to the Society of Jesus the privileges taken away by Clement XIV., seems, for some reason, to have provoked repressive measures on the part of Italy. Signor Tajani, the Minister of Justice, has grouped all the laws against the Jesuits ever made in Italy, and has put them into force. These include the Piedmontese Laws of 1848, and even the kind of ukase of Garibaldi in 1860, expelling the society from Italian territory. All this has fomented an anti-clerical agitation, and Monday, the 4th inst., being the anniversary of the occupation of Rome, the manifestations

were greater than usual. The Municipal Council went in state to place wreaths on the tomb of Victor Emmanuel at the Pantheon. There was a procession from the Capitol to the Porta Pia, and in the evening there were illuminations and an anti-Papal banquet.

THE National Conference of the United States Board of Health met in Toronto last week. The members of the Provincial and local Boards of Health also took an important part in the proceedings. Many questions of practical interest were considered, and the cause of sanitary reform has received a decided impetus from the visit of so many distinguished representatives of the healing art from the United States. On Tuesday evening a brilliant reception was accorded the delegates in the Normal School building. Dr. Henry P. Walcott, Chairman of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts and President of the American Public Health Association, delivered his annual address. It was a learned and exhaustive discourse on sanitary and medical science, the requirements of health authorities for carrying on their work, and the progress made by the Association.

THE *Christian Leader* says. Rev. C. B. Pitblado, of Winnipeg, describing a recent pilgrimage to Scotland, seems to have had his pleasure in revisiting once familiar scenes and meeting with old friends considerably dashed by the changes he saw, and especially by what he witnessed in Glasgow. "The crowd on Argyle Street, the Salt Market, and such like was largely made up of bareheaded, barefooted women, many of whom seemed to drink. My wife declared she never saw such a crowd of bad looking men and women in her life." But when the Canadian pilgrims went to the cathedral they witnessed an incident which tended to lighten somewhat the sombre impression. "I was pleased to see two of these rough-looking women with bare heads, the little shawl over the shoulders, and simply a petticoat for a skirt, in the cathedral reading the inscriptions on the stones and speaking of them with feeling and intelligence.

WE hear, says a contemporary, many contradictory reports about the working of the Scott Act in Halton, but we have just been furnished with the truth as to its results, which even those who are unwilling to believe in its benefits will not dare to doubt. The Assizes for the county sat this week, when Mr. Justice Cameron was presented with a pair of white gloves, there being no criminal cases for trial. Even the civil suits entered were settled out of court. In the Grand Jury presentment it was stated that the only inmates of the gaol were a female lunatic, a person confined for breach of the Scott Act, an old man vagrant from Trafalgar, and a companion from Oakville. We freely admit that sometimes in counties where the Scott Act is not in force the criminal calendar at the Assizes is blank, but it is very rare indeed that when this happens there are also so few criminals confined in jail. We think that the Scott Act should get a large share of credit for this state of things in Halton, which must be particularly gratifying, not only to the friends of temperance but to those who advocated the enforcement of the Act.

IN suggesting the erection at Cumnock of a monument in honour of Alexander Peden, Professor Blackie says. If not the most prominent, he was certainly the most original and the most dramatic of all the band of heroic Scotsmen who from the signing of the Solemn League and Covenant in 1638 to the glorious Revolution of 1688 maintained an unequal but finally victorious struggle against the lawless despotism of the Stuarts." The professor publishes a sonnet which he wrote on visiting the Gallows Hill at Cumnock, where Peden was buried.

In the days when kings  
Claimed right divine to murder honest men,  
And venal bishops flapped their vulture wings  
O'er God's dear souls, hounded from glen to glen,  
Peden stood firm: and to his faith then shown  
We owe that now we call our souls our own.

He laments the fact that, "from the absence of the national element in the education of our upper-middle and sub-middle classes, there are not a few of our well-educated and well-dressed young gentlemen with Scottish blood in their veins to whom the name of Peden is unknown or known only to suggest a shallow smile or a contemptuous sneer." Yet it is to him and his fellow-witnesses, "after all, the true prophets and the profoundest theologians of the age," that Scotsmen owe "all that at the present moment plants them before Europe as men of mark and manhood above their fellows."

A STRONG testimony in favour of the Scott Act is found in the fact that crime has greatly diminished in the counties where it is in force. At the request of Judge Rose, the Grand Jury at the Barrie Assizes gave their opinion on the working of the Act in the county of Simcoe. This, along with the recommendations they make, is worthy of consideration. They say: The Canada Temperance Act came into force in this county on the first day of May, 1885, and during the first six months of its existence not one single committal to the county gaol took place through liquor. Since that time they have been numerous, traceable to the fact that little or no effort was made by those whose duty it was to enforce the Act, thereby encouraging the open sale of liquor in all parts of the county. We believe that the system of appointing inspectors who reside in the license district is wrong, and would present that suitable men be selected by the Government from different parts of the Province and placed under the direct control of a Provincial inspector. The presence of inspectors so appointed in counties where the Act is in force would not be known by those who are violating the law, consequently a greater number of convictions would be obtained and the sale of the liquor very much reduced. They also presented that the power vested in physicians to grant certificates indiscriminately is wrong, and enables dissipated persons to procure liquor as a beverage instead of for medicinal purposes, as was clearly intended by the Act.

THE Executive Commission of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system met in New York last week. There were present Rev. Dr. Chambers, Chairman; Rev. Dr. Mathews, Secretary; Drs. Crosby, Ormiston and Hamilton, of New York; Dr. Jenkins, of Charleston, S. C.; Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, and Dr. Waters, of Newark, N. J. Dr. Mathews laid upon the table certain correspondence with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of the United States. This branch of the Alliance had, at a former meeting, intimated that it would withdraw unless the Scripture Psalms were made the exclusive matter of praise at meetings of the Council. The reply sent by the committee at its last meeting was to the effect "that the Alliance had given no formal sanction to any special hymnology, and that as a matter of fact nothing but the Psalms had ever been officially employed in praise at the meetings of any of the Councils." This explanation was deemed satisfactory by the Reformed Church, which will thus continue its connection with the Alliance. A letter was read from the United Presbyterian Church of the United States, stating that the General Assembly at its last meeting had resolved to withdraw from the Alliance, inasmuch as hymns had to some extent been used, and certain Churches admitted, to which they were opposed. The Clerk was instructed to acknowledge receipt of communication, and express regret at the step taken. It was intimated that several of the Churches had already appointed their delegates to the Council, which meets in London in 1888, and that the remaining Churches would appoint in May or June of next year. A letter was read from Dr. Breed, Chairman of the Committee on European Churches, stating the steps that had been taken to obtain funds for work in Bohemia. The Commission adjourned to meet again in April, 1887, or if necessary at an earlier date, when called by the Chairman.