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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE display made by the Ontario Entomological Society at the International Fisheries Exhibition held at London has received a well-merited though unexpected recognition. The Prince of Mantua has bestowed the Mantuan gold medal on two eminent Canadian naturalists, Mr. William Saunders, President of the Ontario Society, and Dr. Honeyman, of Montreal.

THE new Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne, has arrived, taken the oath of office, and been cordially welcomed at Quebec and the capital. Having had considerable experience in affairs of State, he comes with an excellent reputation. He will doubtless render services to Canada no less important than those to which she is indebted to the two last incumbents of the high office he has come to fill.

MEN about as innocent and noble as the Kertch pirates have the insane idea that by blowing up ships and buildings in any part of the British possessions they can improve the condition of the people in Ireland. Perhaps that is not their idea at all. They are more likely the hireling assassins who do the work planned for them by the Hibernian patriots, who make a good thing out of the tender-hearted Irish exiles roaming in a foreign land. Two of these dynamite liberationists, with what Carlyle would have called their block and tackle, have been captured at Halifax. Canadians are not conscious of having inflicted any grievous wrong on Irishmen, and are at a loss to understand the fervour of these explosive attentions.

HIS Honour James R. Gowan, County Judge of Simcoe, recently retired from the position he has so creditably filled. He held the office for forty-one years. He has earned for himself a reputation for ability and integrity in the discharge of the important duties entrusted to him. Judge Gowan after so long service naturally desired to withdraw from active judicial work. Evidences of the high esteem in which he was held in the community were given in presentations and addresses by the Bar, the county officials and the Division Court clerks. He has left for a visit to the Old Country. The esteem for Judge Gowan extends far beyond official circles. He is well known in spheres of Christian philanthropy and his efforts in doing good have in many cases led to happy results.

THE desire for notoriety is irrepressible. In many cases it amounts to a disease. It will prompt individuals to attempt feats from which the average lunatic would shrink. Disastrous failures do not deter cranks from emulating the fool-hardy adventurers who have lost their lives in reckless and uncalculated exploits. To cross the ocean in a cockle-shell is no evidence of courage, but it is a strong proof of silliness. It can demonstrate nothing more than that the adventurous navigator is a singularly foolish individual. A Captain Derver has added his name to the list of impracticable cranks by an attempt to cross the English channel in a skiff that might be permitted to navigate a moderately-sized mill-pond in calm weather. The captain ingloriously failed, and would have lost his life had he not been rescued by fishermen.

THE adjudicators, having examined the thirty-six essays submitted in competition for the prize of one hundred guineas offered for the best essay on Christian Missions, find that the MS. marked, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and the barbarians," fulfils the conditions under which the competition was invited more fully than any other, and therefore award the prize to the essay so marked. Signed—Wm. Caven, John H. Castle, Septimus Jones, Hy. D. Powis, W. H. Withrow, Adjudicators. The envelope accompanying the essay being opened, the writer was found to be the Rev. George Paterson, D.D., Presbyterian minister at New Glasgow, N.S. The sealed envelopes accompanying the other essays have not been opened. If the writers will communicate to the Rev. W. H.

Withrow, Secretary of the Board of Adjudicators, the address to which they wish those to be sent, they will be returned on receipt of stamps for prepayment of postage.

IT might be imagined that pirates were selected for dime-novel heroes, on the supposition that good men are scarce. A real pirate gang has been discovered whose sphere of enterprise is the Black Sea. They are not the pirates of romance. They have nothing heroic or noble about them. The generous hearted gentlemanly pirate of fiction has made way for his modern successor, who is about as base a dastard as ever deserved to walk the plank or dangle from a yard-arm. Greek merchants, Russian officials, including pilots, have been in league to wreck and plunder vessels engaged in the Black Sea trade. It seems almost incredible the number of ships said to have been purposely stranded by the pilots, lives lost, cargoes plundered, and the ill-gotten gains divided among the vultures that live by rascality. The discovery of the Black Sea wreckers is not likely to popularize piracy.

A SAD affair occurred last week in Toronto. While returning from work at the Mercer Asylum to the Central Prison two prisoners attempted to escape. One got off, while the other was shot by one of the guards. This unfortunate occurrence is to be deeply regretted. At the same time it must be remembered that the prisoner, in making the dash for liberty, could not be ignorant of the risk he ran. Guards are armed for the express purpose of intimidating prisoners from making attempts to escape. In taking the course he did the prisoner Scott risked his life and he lost it. A criminal should take into account the possible accidents of his crime as well as its results. He has to make up his mind to be prepared for contingencies that may occur. To be shot down while trying to escape is one of these. Whether a less dangerous mode of guarding prisoners may be introduced it is difficult to say; in the meantime the guards of all prisons and penitentiaries are armed to prevent convicts from making their escape.

MR. ALEXANDER FRASER, Assistant-receiver general died at his home in Cobourg last week. Mr. Fraser was a native of Inverness, Scotland, where and at Aberdeen University he received his education. His father came to Canada in 1841, and soon after settled in London, where he took an active part in organizing St. Andrew's Church and congregation. The various members of the family were devoted Presbyterians. Donald Fraser, D.D., of Marylebone, London, being a brother of the deceased. Another was minister in Greenock, and a third, a missionary to Turkey, died in the East. Alexander Fraser was a devoted and zealous Christian. He took an active part in political life, having represented West Northumberland in the first Provincial Parliament. He was for many years an elder in the Cobourg congregation and was a zealous teacher in the Sabbath school. Mr. Fraser was endowed with many amiable qualities. His death is mourned by a sorrowing family and a wide circle of friends. The Sabbath School Convention, meeting in Cobourg at the time of his death, attended the funeral in a body. He will be held in affectionate remembrance by many.

"THE Rev. Jacob Freshman, who has just returned from a brief visit to England, is addressing himself again to his work among the Jews of New York with renewed zeal. While in London he observed the methods employed in similar work in that city, and was greatly encouraged by the large results there attained. He has brought back with him two young men—Hebrew Christians—to assist him in his efforts here. Services have been commenced in Room 24, Cooper Union, and a gentleman has stepped forward, offering to pay the rent of the hall for a year. Says Mr. Freshman, 'The Lord is leading us as he led Israel of old. As we step into the waters, the waters divide. I came back with strong faith that God would help us; as soon as the services were opened

the Lord sent help in that way.' Regarding the building-fund, he says. 'We are looking at a house valued at \$20,000. We can get it for \$18,000. The gentleman wants \$5,000 down, the rest at low interest. Toward the \$5,000 we have \$2,000 in hand, including \$1,000 contributed by the late William E. Dodge. We want \$3,000. We are holding prayer-meetings, and pleading with God to send us that amount.'

EX ALDERMAN Morris, of Toronto, has been writing vigorously on the question of exemption of Church property from taxation. He has found general and strong sympathy in the opinions he has expressed with such clearness and force. As a matter of equity all property should bear its share of municipal burdens. There was a time in the early settlement of this land when exemption was excusable, but that time has gone past. The people are prosperous and well-to-do. They can easily afford to bear the cost of erecting and maintaining their churches without leaning on municipal or governmental charity. It is not in the interest of Christianity that it should receive favours to which fellow-citizens can reasonably object. Taxation should be even-handed. All municipalities have not discovered this yet. It seems a strange inconsistency that there should be an outcry against ecclesiastical exemptions and at the same time a clamour for coddling trade enterprises by short-sighted civic bodies who urge special favours to induce business men to locate in certain neighbourhoods. A certain city council has agreed to grant to a manufacturing firm a lease for ninety nine years at an annual rental of one dollar per annum and exemption from taxation, in consideration of their establishing a boot and shoe factory to employ at least fifty hands at the outset, the number to be gradually increased to one hundred. Long before that lease expires churches and factories will have to pay their way, just as fair dealing and honest citizens have to do.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The meteoric conditions of the past week have been marked by frequent though not extreme changes. It cannot, however, be said that it has had characteristics which would tend to produce, as far as known, any distinctive effects on the prevalence of any special form of disease. Diseases of the respiratory organs do not show any noticeable change from their position of last week except in the case of Influenza, always subject to great fluctuations, which has markedly increased. Neuralgia and Rheumatism show no noticeable change. Amongst Fevers, Intermittent, evidently through the warm weather of the previous week, has made an advance, increasing from 47 to 7 per cent. of the total diseases. Enteric (Typhoid) still retains its previous high position, being 38 per cent. of the total reported diseases. Amongst Zymotics of a contagious nature, Whooping Cough still remains epidemically present in several localities, appearing amongst the six most prevalent diseases in three districts. Its prevalence has noticeably remained attached to the south-western districts of the Province, appearing this week in Districts VI, VIII, and X. Diphtheria, has somewhat decreased in degree of prevalence. The remarks of last week have called up several special reports from correspondents. Thus one from Districts X, some ten miles distant from the village where the disease was reported to have broken out so suddenly, writes as follows: "A mother with two children when to the village (which he rightly assumed as the one referred to last week), not knowing the disease was Diphtheria, to care for the sick. Nine days after being exposed the mother and one boy took it. Two others are now having it. All are doing pretty well. It has not spread to other families; strict isolation is exercised." The public will do well to mark the difference in results when isolation precautions are used. Another correspondent from District IV, north shore of Lake Ontario, writes. "The Diphtheria reported by me appears to be sporadic, but extremely virulent. In one family the patient got well; in another two died. I think it will not spread. The cases were seven miles apart, and there is no communication."