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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The meeting of the Montreal and Ottawa Synod, which will be held next May at Brockville, will be made the occasion of Synodical conferences on subjects of special importance to the church, and which are being prepared by a special committee. The conferences are expected to prove of exceptional interest to the fathers and brethren.

The feeling that a change should take place with respect to the Preparatory Course at Knox College seems to be taking definite shape, and it is considered probable that at an early date a definite arrangement will be arrived at. The Senate Special Committee met recently when the question was discussed and it is expected that at the next meeting, which will be held in April, a report will be presented in favour of the abolition of the preparatory course, and the University lectures made use of exclusively.

Bishop Sullivan, in his Lenten Addresses, which are delivered daily at noon, in St. James Cathedral, is ably upholding the authority of Scripture against agnostic and rationalistic views. The other day he had some admirable words to say on Theodore Parker's views on miracles, and on Goldwin Smith's "Guesses at the Riddle of Existence." Without detailing the Bishop's line of defence, his explanation is worth repeating: "But after all there is another way of looking at it. 'Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.' The connection between the two? Simply this: the purest pathway, the golden key which unlocks the mystery of

the miracles, is to be found not in the enlightened intellect so much as in the regenerated heart. He will understand the question of miracles best who has experienced the miracle of the divine workings of God's spirit within his own heart."

The Presbytery of Guelph nominate Rev John McNair, B.D., pastor of the Waterloo church, for the vacant Knox Collogeo chair in Knox College. . . The Presbytery of Lindsay recommend the Board to delay making any appointment until "they have time to look further afield and canvass more thoroughly the qualifications of the candidates proposed" and the Presbytery of Quebec has nominated Rev. Donald Tait, M.A., for the vacancy.

On Saturday last a letter was received from Rev. A. S. Grant stating that he had left Skaguay on foot for Dawson City, about 700 miles distant, and had crossed the pass to Lake Bennett, from which place the letter was written. He also states that the dangers of the the trip are great, and during his travel he met a number of sick people, to whom he rendered assistance. At Selkirk Mr. Grant arranged for a site for a church.

The activity of the Lord's Day Alliance during the past year has been fraught with good results and friends have been encouraged by the vigorous campaign which has been maintained in the interest of the Sabbath. But the Executive Committee feels the need of continued sympathy and support and it has issued a request that the first week in April—3rd to 10th—be observed throughout the Province as a week of prayer for the Lord's Day. This is in accordance with the custom prevailing in Great Britain and the United States. Besides special prayer, it is hoped that wherever possible a special sermon will be delivered and an offering made for the work of the Alliance.

The Congregational Council for the United States is to meet this year in Portland, Oregon, on July 7th, and the American Boston Congregationalist is already beginning to talk it up with a view to securing a full attendance and to making a good impression on the Pacific Coast. The complete delegation would number between 500 and 600. Some difficulty, however, is being met in obtaining favorable rates from the railways and it is doubtful if half that number will attend. These councils have no authority—and they miss the sense of responsibility arising from the knowledge that important business will be disposed of. Delegates go or stay only as it suits their fancy or their pocket. We trust, however, that they will have a good meeting and that they will make their influence felt in the far West where there is room for all the Christian civility they have to spare. All the Churches were too slow at first in following the population and