

NOW READY.

The International Scheme of S. S. Lessons

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Notes of the Week.

THE second meeting of the General Synod of the Prussian National Church was held recently in Berlin, the first having been convened in 1879. Of the members fifty-six were Lutherans, an equal number were of the Middle Party, and seventy-seven represented the party known as the Positive Union. The latter strongly uphold the union of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches which constitutes the National Church. Only about six of the members belonged to the Liberal or Rationalistic school.

EVERY now and again people are reminded of the dangerous nature of coal mining. Of late two most appalling calamities are reported. The entombment of a number of miners in a mine at Nanticoke, near Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, by the inundation of water and quicksand, is a terrible instance of the dangers to which miners are exposed. Many were able with difficulty to make their escape; but it is believed that between twenty and thirty have perished. Energetic but unsuccessful efforts were made to reach the imprisoned men; but they had to be abandoned, and thus their lives ended. Near Pont-y-pridd, Wales, last week, a disastrous explosion took place in a coal mine, and it is expected fifty men have been killed and several seriously injured. Like the sailor, the miner in prosecuting his ordinary toil runs terrible risks. These workers for the common good do not always receive the consideration and sympathy they deserve.

IT is stated that the Rev. Dr. Black, of Inverness, spoke strongly at a meeting of his Presbytery against raffling at bazaars, and maintained that the practice was a form of gambling condemned by the law of the land as well as by the law of God. He was backed by Mr. Mactavish, formerly of Woodstock, Ont., who said that the idea of gambling for the cause of God was enough to make any Christian man thrill from head to foot. Rev. A. C. Macdonald, late of Thamesford, Ont., while sympathizing with much that Dr. Black had said, argued that he had not proved that raffling was condemned by the law of the land, and also that its principle lay at the very foundation of commercial enterprise. He had himself bought some tickets at the raffling at a recent bazaar in aid of Inverness Northern Infirmary, and, though he got nothing, was not disappointed. On the matter being put to the vote, Dr. Black won the day by a vote of seven to two. The most peculiar feature of the discussion was the refusal of Dr. Mackay to vote.

SEVERAL Christian workers are doing good work for Italians and Chinese under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. The attendance at the Italian class last Sunday numbered sixty-two, nearly three times as many as on the previous Sunday. Each Italian is provided with a Bible in his own language, and, besides being instructed in Gospel truths, is taught to speak and read English. Very few of the Italians know a word of English, and consequently instruction has to be imparted through the aid of an interpreter. The Chinese are more apt students, and are anxious to study the Scriptures. On account of their utter ignorance of Christianity, upon joining the class, a lady teacher

is assigned to each pupil. Their individual progress is much more rapid than if they were taught in a class, and the teachers feel much encouraged to carry on with renewed vigour their important and self-denying work.

THE departed humourist, Josh Billings, said in his own peculiar orthography, which we do not venture to reproduce, that he observed that a poor man usually kept a dog; in fact, he had known some so poor that they kept three. A dog is an excellent animal in his place, but the canine supply is far beyond the legitimate demand. Attention to this fact is drawn by the outbreak of hydrophobia in several places in New Jersey. M. Pasteur, of Paris, has added lustre to his already brilliant name by successful experiments in inoculation for the cure of that terrible disease. In several of the cases entrusted to him the cure has been unmistakable, while in others there has been failure. Four boys from Newark, N. J., who were bitten by rabid dogs have been sent to Paris and are now under M. Pasteur's care, and, late advices assure us, are progressing favourably. Should the distinguished French physician's remedy prove successful, he will take a high rank among the benefactors of his kind.

THE mayoralty contest in Toronto has developed an unusual degree of bitterness and personality. Though party politics do not come to the surface, the usual machinery is in operation. It is equally obvious that the liquor interest is in full play to secure the re-election of Mr. Manning. Mr. Howland is sure of receiving a generous support from the friends of Temperance, though his avowed Protectionist proclivities will restrain the enthusiasm of not a few who would otherwise have been much more cordial in his favour than they appear to be. It is to be regretted deeply that one of his best supporters should have been the victim of a personal assault. Mr. McLaren, a former resident in Montreal, where he deservedly won the respect of the community, has since coming to Toronto taken a prominent part in the work of social reform, was brutally assaulted for some things imputed to him in an electioneering address. Municipal elections can surely be conducted without resorting to such disgraceful expedients.

HOWEVER strenuously Roman Catholic dignitaries may assert the uniformity of their Church's teaching, facts out of harmony with that claim are frequently emerging. In the Pope's recent encyclical the faithful are exhorted to take part in politics, a counsel in many cases superfluous; but, for the moment, in the Province of Quebec Bishop Fabre has addressed a letter to the priests in his diocese forbidding them from meddling with politics in any shape or form, and directing them not to use the pulpit to disseminate their views when political questions are on the tapis, and not even to speak in private on political matters. Although the Riel question is not openly referred to in the letter it is alluded to in a manner which would seem to show that whatever the priests have said regarding the national movement has greatly displeased his Lordship. The letter concludes by a warning to the effect that any priest who makes known its contents to a member of the daily press will be immediately suspended from his ministerial duties.

WAITING for dead men's shoes is weary and profitless work, but waiting as an expectant heir of a mythical estate is a still greater infatuation. Next-of-kin business is very profitable to lawyers, and generally unprofitable to most other people. The "Lawrence-Townley estate," of which such great expectations have been formed, turns out to be a "castle in Spain" if recently published statements are to be credited: The alleged Canadian heirs to the vast Lawrence-Townley estate in England will be interested in knowing that United States Minister Phelps has been looking into the matter with the following result: 1. There is no money in the Bank of

England belonging to the "Lawrence-Townley" or "Townley" estate, or to any claimants under either. 2. That there is no such estate in England as the "Lawrence-Townley" estate, nor any known family of that designation. Mr. Phelps says he has had many letters about this alleged estate, and has made diligent inquiries into the matter, with the above result. Credulous people should stop spending money on lawyers and agents to find what a United States official of the highest character says does not exist.

THE annual meeting of the subscribers and shareholders of the Ladies' Medical College, Kingston, was held recently, Sir Richard Cartwright in the chair. There were present: Dr. Alice McGillivray, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Dickson, and Messrs. Wm. Harty, Joseph Bawden, A. P. Knight, B. W. Roberston, R. V. Rogers and Adam McArthur. The president read the financial statement for the year ending December 1, which showed that the receipts amounted to \$2,552.30, and the expenditure \$2,234.56, leaving a balance in hand of \$317.74. After the meeting adjourned, the Board of Trustees went into session. A communication, which was received from Miss Annie B. Dickson, was read by Mr. A. P. Knight. She stated that she was unable to attend to the duties of demonstrator of anatomy, and asked that her resignation be accepted. With regret the Board accepted the resignation, and appointed Miss Blaylock as her successor. Messrs. R. V. Rogers, W. Harty and A. P. Knight were appointed a committee to wait upon the governors of the General Hospital with a view to having Dr. McGillivray appointed one of the visiting physicians and thereby giving the lady medical students an opportunity of being in attendance at some of the operations which are performed, and also to enquire into diseases of women, which they intend to make a specialty. Dr. McGillivray enquired if it would be possible to make arrangements whereby the lady students could have an opportunity of visiting the Asylum for the Insane in the city. She was informed by those present that if it were possible arrangements will be made.

IN the last issue of the *Independent*, there is an exhaustive article by the Rev. W. A. McKay, of Woodstock, on Local Option. After explaining the Scott Act he says: It is pleasing to state that hitherto it has commended itself in a marvellous manner to the judgment of the people wherever it has been submitted. It was first passed in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick, on Oct. 31, 1878. Since then it has become law in the whole of Prince Edward Island; in thirteen out of the nineteen municipalities of Nova Scotia; in ten out of the sixteen of the municipalities of New Brunswick; in two out of the six municipalities of Manitoba; in twenty out of the forty-seven municipalities of Ontario, and in five out of sixty municipalities of Quebec. It ought to be stated that the municipalities in Quebec are small, and the population is very sparse as compared with Ontario. Besides, in many parts of the Province of Quebec, there are parish laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. This explains why the Scott Act has not been more generally adopted in that Province. As regards British Columbia, owing to a technical difficulty, it is impossible to submit the Act there at present. Thus far there have been in the Dominion eighty-five Scott Act contests, and the Act has come out triumphantly no less than sixty-nine times. The average majority has been about eight hundred, making a total aggregate majority for the Act of more than fifty-five thousand! Seven times the liquor men have tried to repeal the Scott Act after being in force for some time, and seven times they have been defeated. The law has never once been repealed. No municipality that has tried it has ever rejected it. Never, on any other question, has there been such an expression of public mind, or such an emphatic condemnation of a great evil. The axe is being laid at the root of this upas tree, and few there are outside the whiskey-ring to cry: "Woodman, spare that tree!"