

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

GENERAL GORDAN has found the power of "the mighty dollar"—or rather "the mightier sovereign"—to have been irresistible, and, in one sense, he remains the most victorious general in the Soudan campaign. Plenty of money to bribe and to ransom is, after all, one of the most potent factors in the successful settlement of modern warfare.

CONSIDERABLE excitement has been occasioned by the news that Tokar has surrendered to the rebels, but the victorious march of El Mahdi will probably soon be stopped by the appearance of British red-coats on the scene of action. It is reported that Germany has three times insisted that England should proclaim a protectorate over Egypt, but that England appears afraid of irritating France.

THE Tribes of Merv have taken the oath of fealty to Russia. Five years ago England was thrown into consternation at the thought of Russian advances near Merv. Russia is in full possession, and England is quiet enough. Is it because England feels that India is safe enough while she can control Egypt and the Suez Canal, and that the bugbear of fear of Russian invasion by way of Afghanistan has been laughed away?

AND yet there is likely to be a slight ripple over the affair, for the opposition are not likely to lose the chance of worrying the government on the question, especially as the German press says the submission of the tribes of Merv to Russia is worse for England than the disasters of the Soudan, and comments upon the remarkable success of the Russian policy in Central Asia, and says it is always directed against England. Britishers can never stand taunts with equanimity, so we may expect a lively discussion on the subject.

A SUDDEN increase of activity is manifested by the Ministry of Marine. The commander of the French fleet in the Mediterranean has been summoned to Paris for consultation and two more iron-clads have been sent to reinforce his fleet. Although there is a great deal of optimistic writing concerning peace and general European disarmament, yet no sooner do we hear of French maritime activity than it is at once reported that the German Admiralty will ask the Reichstag for 9,000,000 marks for the maintenance of ironclads, construction of torpedoes, &c., instead of 7,000,000 marks as reported in previous despatches.

THE Swiss President has sent a circular letter to the various European governments, inviting them to participate in a conference at Berne for the purpose of establishing an international code of literary copyright. Earl Granville accepts the invitation, sending a representative, but unofficially, and not as authorized to bind England.

BRADLAUGH has been once more elected to represent Northampton, and once more debarred, by a parliamentary division from taking his seat in the House. If the law case now pending goes against him he will resign his seat and not seek re-election.

THERE is something almost ludicrous in the statement that the police are searching for the parliamentary robes of Lord Tennyson which are supposed to have been stolen while the poet peer was on his way to London to take his seat at the opening of parliament.

Advices from Hayti show that hundreds of

rebels and merchants who incited the rebellion have been barbarously slaughtered. Some of the victims were tied to fences and shot from the ankles to the knees; from the knees to the thighs and so on until some vital part was reached. It is about time that a stronger and more merciful power stepped in and took charge of the country.

SALMI MORSE has committed suicide at New York through despondency occasioned by the loss of many thousands of dollars which he spent on scenic effects and dresses for the Passion Play. Morse composed the play, and expected to make a large fortune from it. But even New York could not stand such a blasphemous travesty of sacred things, and, to its credit, the city was stirred to repel this Judaic-blasphemous invasion. The loss to Morse was terrible, and he committed suicide.

THE floods in the States continue as destructive as ever, and fresh tales of horror and suffering are daily reported in the papers. The Americans, with their characteristic full-heartedness and generosity, have subscribed handsomely for the relief of the sufferers, and the legislatures have voted large sums for the same purpose.

THE convention of municipal delegates held recently in Toronto have forwarded the following to the Dominion Government:—"That whereas it is unjust to other ratepayers that persons employed in the service of the Dominion Government should escape the payment of municipal taxes; resolved, that in the opinion of this convention the Dominion Government should make such arrangements by legislative subsidy to the municipalities concerned or otherwise that these municipalities receive the equivalent for such taxes." There is much of common sense in the resolution forwarded to the Government. The law-makers and those directly concerned are perhaps a little too anxious to shirk the burdens they impose on others. When taxpayers take a more intelligent activity in what concerns the interest of themselves and of the community, these anomalies will cease.

A RETURN to Parliament affords the information that the total value of the fisheries of Canada for the year 1883 may be approximatively reckoned as follows:—

Nova Scotia.....	\$7,621,500
New Brunswick.....	3,185,675
Quebec.....	2,350,000
Prince Edward Island.....	1,258,500
British Columbia.....	2,000,000
Ontario.....	800,000

Total.....\$17,215,675

THE Queen's College Missionary Association, Kingston, Ontario., has protested against the raising of money for Church purposes by such things as lotteries, political elections, tea meetings, picnics and bazaars. The members pledged themselves to revive the apostolic means of carrying on Christian work, viz., by direct voluntary contributions. This is certainly a move in the right direction and goes to prove the fact that the more Christians try to force their work along by means extraneous to spiritual methods, the more they become the laughing-stock of worldlings, and soon long to return to the old and more Christian paths.

THE Canadian post-office department has been busy enough during the past year. The report of the Postmaster General shows that the number of post offices in Canada on November 1st, 1883,

was 6,395, of which 2,617 were in Ontario, 1,210 in Quebec, 1,131 in Nova Scotia, 883 in New Brunswick, 252 in P. E. Island and 201 in Manitoba. Over 200 new post offices were established last year. The estimated number of letters, etc., sent by post in 1883 is estimated as follows;—Letters, 63,800,000; post-cards 12,940,000; registered letters, 2,640,000; free letters, 2,000,000; newspapers and periodicals posted otherwise than from office of publication, 7,402,000; books, circulars, samples, etc., 8,724,000; parcels, 462,200.

A NEW party and platform has been started in the States. The platform of the party sets forth, among other things, that this is a Christian, not a heathen nation; that the God of the Christian Scriptures is the author of civil government; that God requires and man needs a Sabbath; that the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage is the true policy on the temperance question; that the charters of all secret lodges should be withdrawn and their oaths prohibited by law; that arbitration in the differences with nations is the most direct and sure method of securing and perpetuating permanent peace; that land and other monopolies should be discouraged; that the government should furnish the people with ample and sound currency; that the maintenance of public credit, protection to all loyal citizens and justice to the Indians is essential to the honour and safety of the nation, and they demand for the American people the abolition of electoral colleges and a direct vote for the president and vice-president of the United States.

THE select committee of the House of Commons appointed to enquire into the best means of encouraging and developing our agricultural industries has framed a series of questions proposed to be sent to leading agriculturists and others throughout the Dominion. The questions call particular attention to the deficiencies in the cultivation of cereals and vegetables and other farm products, bird and insect pests, diseases of stock, fruit tree culture and forest preservation, fraud in fertilizers, the advisability of establishing an experimental farm or garden for the testing of new varieties of seeds, plants, breeds of animals, etc., and the establishment of a central bureau for the collection and dissemination of information upon all matters relating to agriculture. The chief object of the questions is to ascertain the wants of the farmers and how a bureau of agriculture here might be made useful to assist in remedying any deficiencies in the present system of agriculture. This is a move in the right direction.

THE Bishop of Sydney has met with a very heavy loss right at the beginning of his episcopal career. The Bishop's books had been forwarded by the unfortunate ship "Simla," which was sunk in collision a few hours after leaving port. Doubtless the value of most of the books will be covered by insurance, but nothing will be able to replace the valuable manuscripts which the Bishop had on board the vessel, and which were the personal results of a life of laborious and orderly study and active educational work. Nearly all the old sermons of the Bishop were lost, but fortunately his Lordship has a tongue of great fluency, a mind stored with deep and thorough knowledge, and consequently the loss of old sermons may be the gain of the hearers. The Dean of Westminster has made an appeal to the Bishop's many friends to replace some of the lost treasures.