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Notes of the Week.

M. Muravieff, the Russian Minister of Justice, has, according to *Le Figaro*, determined to abolish transportation. He finds that the present method of peopling Siberia with convicts is attended with serious evils, particularly in preventing the progressive growth of free colonies. In future only privileged classes will be banished into Siberia.

The Rev. R. W. Stewart who with his wife and a large part of his family lately lost their lives at the hands of the Chinese at Ku Cheng was a Trinity College, Dublin, man. He graduated with honours, and was originally intended for the Bar, but under the influence of a sermon he heard in London, devoted himself to missionary work, going out to China when he was quite young, in 1876.

Mr. Stopford Brooke has finally resolved to retire from the ministry of Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury, with which he has been connected for a number of years. Although Mr. Brooke's health has been greatly improved by his stay in Italy, he fears the possibility of another break-down, which would result in the closing of Bedford Chapel again, and the consequent dislocation of the work.

It will pain all who know him by his writings, and they now include almost all readers of religious literature, to know that Professor Henry Drummond, the distinguished author of "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," has for several weeks been ill, and his friends all over the world have anxiously been hoping for some encouraging news. He has the most constant and assiduous attention from more than one physician, and everything that can mitigate his suffering is being done.

The action of the Freemasons of Mississippi will meet with hearty general endorsement, and should it become generally adopted, as it is well worthy of being, will be another long step toward that good day surely coming, when the liquor traffic as now conducted and the countless and indescribable evils which flow from it will be to a large extent a thing of the past. A general rule has been enacted that "no Mason, either as principal, agent, employee, or in any other capacity, shall sell intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage, and the penalty therefor shall be expulsion."

Not a little interest has already been enlisted in securing the meeting of the British Association for the advancement of Science in Toronto in 1897. This is one of the most distinguished and influential of the learned bodies in England, and the possibility of its holding an early meeting in this city is a matter of much interest in every way. While it would no doubt give an impetus to scientific studies in the Dominion, it would draw wide attention to it and interest in it a large body of men whom it is in every way desirable to interest in our rising country. Its meeting this year takes place on the eleventh of this month at Ipswich, and Mr. Coady, treasurer of the Toronto Association, who will support the invitation from Canada, has found, in discussing the matter with members of the association, that the selection of Toronto meets with almost unanimous approval.

It is not quite easy for us law-abiding Canadians, whose laws are made naturally with the expectation that they will as a matter of course be obeyed, to understand the surprise and jubilation of well-disposed New Yorkers and others, that the Sunday closing saloon law is actually being enforced. Such however is really the case, and the demonstration given by this instance that the thing can be done will be a great help and encouragement to the doing of the same thing in other cities. There will be hearty agreement

among all right-minded people with the sentiments expressed by Cardinal Gibbons respecting obedience to law generally as well as to this one in particular: "Every law should be enforced, and of all laws the excise law should receive the attention of the authorities. Saloons should be closed on Sunday—first, because it is in the interest of Christianity; secondly, because it is the law; and, thirdly, because it is good for the people."

Whatever view anyone might hold as to the propriety or impropriety of the course pursued by Mr. Dale in the troubles that arose in the University of Toronto last winter, everyone acknowledged his ability as a teacher in his department and regretted his loss to the teaching staff. Every friend of the University will be well-satisfied with the appointment of Professor Fletcher, of Queen's University, Kingston, to succeed Mr. Dale, and of Mr. Smale to the lectureship in chemistry. Their old fellow-students, and we can speak as one of Professor Fletcher's, will congratulate them and the University as well, on their appointment to such honorable posts in their Alma Mater, and wish for them abundant usefulness, honor and success in their work. We heartily concur with the *Globe* in saying that "the University of Toronto is to be congratulated on the addition to the staff of two gentlemen who have given such proofs of their fitness for their new positions."

No one who knew the deep interest which the late Mr. Warden King, of Montreal, took in every good work, and especially in that of the Church of which he was an honoured member, will be surprised at the nature and liberality of the bequests made by him at his death. These were but the last of a long list of generous benefactions made by him during his life. The sum devoted in aid of the schemes of our Church and of benevolent objects as published amounts to upwards of \$50,000. Those connected with our Church are: Manitoba College, \$5,000; Chalmer's Church Sunday school, Montreal, \$1,000; French Evangelization, Home and Foreign Mission, \$2,000 each; Widow's and Orphan's Fund, \$1,000; Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, \$3,000; Coligny College, Ottawa, \$2,000; Church Building Fund, \$10,000. It is a pleasant note of his character and kindly disposition that to several of his older employees the deceased has left an amount aggregating over \$6,000 to cheer them in their old days.

We regret to have to chronicle still continued and fresh disturbances and wrongs done to missionaries and mission property in China. It is nothing more than what might be expected, and we need not delude ourselves with the idea that the end of them has yet been reached. No one possessing even a very moderate amount of information as to the Chinese, the corrupt, vacillating and self-interested character of the officials and the weakness of the central authority, would expect anything different from what has happened. A first step has been taken by the hanging of a few of the ringleaders in the late massacres towards teaching the Chinese to understand that these outrages must be stopped, and that if they cannot do it themselves or will not, others will. Very loud complaints have been made of the slowness to move of British and United States authorities. It is unreasonable to expect that governments can act at a moment's notice in matters involving so many and grave consequences as may flow from their action, but when these governments do move, everybody knows that they will not stay their hand until what they consider such ample justice and reparation for the past and protection for the future shall have been secured as in the nature of the case is possible. Before all is done everything will have been done that the two most humane and Christian governments can do for the safety of the lives and property of their subjects in China.

Two ministers from Ontario whom all will admit are men representative of our Church in this province are now in Manitoba, and being both also of irrepressible activity, they are doing by way of holiday resting and change any amount of preaching and visiting. We need hardly inform our readers that these two men are Revs. Dr. Grant and Cochrane. They are also being interviewed, *volens volens*, we suspect, on the great Manitoba issues of the present moment, the enormous harvest and the school question, and notes are thrown in on the wonderful progress which our Church has made there during these last twenty or twenty-five years. As neither Dr. Grant nor Dr. Cochrane has ever concealed his opinions, all can form a tolerably correct idea of what they are saying to the Manitobans about these live issues. As the present is so critical a time not only for Manitoba, but in an important sense for the whole Dominion, it is well to have coming to us from Manitoba such an able, clear-headed, calm, dispassionate man as Attorney-General Sifton, and going to Manitoba from us men so well-informed and well-balanced as Drs. Cochrane and Grant.

The report of the commission appointed by the Ontario Government to enquire into the condition of the Separate Schools in Ottawa was looked for and has been read with interest, and by all right-thinking people with sorrow. It is not unnatural that the report being such as it is, the Rev. Brother Flamien, Superior of the Order of Christian Brothers, the teachers charged with such inefficiency, should be dissatisfied with the report. He charges that the investigation carried on by the three inspectors was not fair in any respect. They were English-speaking and altogether ignorant of French, he avers, and as the pupils were of that nationality the result of the examinations was necessarily unsatisfactory. By all means let there be fair play. If there has been any want of it, it will be possible to show it, and if it can be shown, there is no government that will be more ready to do justice than that of Ontario. Unfortunately for Brother Flamien, he finds but few even of those closely interested to agree with him, and his blaming "party spirit against the Order" will not be accepted without being substantiated. The most hopeful feature of the whole matter is the anxiety shown very generally by those most closely affected in spite of opposition to have the evil remedied without delay.

As we write the air is thick with rumours of settling the Manitoba school difficulty by a meeting of the Premiers of the Dominion and of the Province of Manitoba. It is not easy to make out just how much ground there is for such rumours, or whether there is any. A short time will tell. According to the old saw we may conclude that where there is so much smoke there is likely to be some fire, or these rumours may be traced to the general desire to have that difficult matter amicably settled without the Dominion Parliament interfering with all the serious consequences that may result from this course, should it really come to it. It cannot be questioned that from the mixed character of her population, special difficulties lie in the way of separate schools in the case of Manitoba, apart from the position she has been forced to assert—her right to settle those questions which lie within her jurisdiction in her own way. From the past history of separate schools, and the most recent developments, there are obviously some points that Manitoba cannot yield with any decent regard to her own welfare. Some at least of these points are: uniform and thorough inspection by government school superintendents, teachers certified to be qualified by examiners appointed by government, and that the text-books, if not uniform in all the schools, shall at least in all cases have government sanction.