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Barric Gaultie.

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Notes of the Week.

LAST Thursday evening a very enjoyable sacred concert was given under the direction of Mr. F. H. Torrington, in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto. The leading soloists who sang selections from oratorios were from New York. Their renditions were favourably received by the large audience. A delightful feature of the entertainment was the organ solos by Dr. Davies, organist of St. James' Cathedral. The choruses rendered by the choir of the Metropolitan Church were very effective, giving evidence of faithful practice and careful training.

COLLISION between the British Houses of Lords and Commons is for the present averted. The Franchise Bill passed rapidly through all its stages in the popular assembly, having encountered no serious opposition, though the verbal duel between Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain occasioned great interest. The bill has received its second reading in the House of Lords and it is now understood that it will not be again rejected by the hereditary legislators. A compromise has been effected, the Government having agreed, on the passing of the Franchise Bill, to introduce the Re-distribution Bill.

THE Franco-Chinese war seems at present to be near an end. It is not so popular in Paris as it was a month ago. It is now certain that the French fleet and land forces cannot sweep everything before them as some seemed at one time to expect. The Chinese have shown a stubborn resistance of which they were thought incapable. Reinforcements are absolutely necessary before the French can assume the offensive. That means additional money grants, and the French taxpayer is not in a mood to add to fiscal burdens while there is such stagnation in business of all kinds at home. The rumour that Tamsui has been captured by the French is denied. It is understood that through English mediation, efforts are being made to secure a peaceful settlement of the Franco-Chinese difficulty.

A UNITED effort has been made to secure a visit to Toronto of the eminent evangelist, Mr. D. L. Moody. The Toronto Ministerial Association in harmony with a number of gentlemen who take an active and prominent part in evangelistic work resolved on sending a deputation to meet with Mr. Moody during his visit to Buffalo, and a large committee was appointed to complete arrangements for his expected visit to Toronto. There can be no question that the evangelist whose labours have been so eminently blessed elsewhere would be equally successful in the accomplishment of great good in Toronto. He will be cordially welcomed by all sections of the Christian community. Mr. Moody has responded to the invitation and has agreed to hold a conference, noon prayer meetings and evening meetings for men, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December.

EVERY proper effort to preach the Gospel to the large class in towns and cities who do not come within the range of its influence is worthy of cordial support. When this work is entered on in the right spirit and by men of large sympathetic natures the best results may be confidently expected. The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's, Toronto, has announced a

special service in his own church every Thursday evening at eight o'clock, especially for the poor and for those who are not attending any church. A short sermon is promised, seats free and no collection. It is to be hoped that the results will be encouraging to Mr. Macdonnell in this important move in the right direction and that others may be prompted to enter on like services for the spiritual benefit of the neglected.

A SCOTCHMAN writing on "Scottish Traits of Character" in the *Interior*, says: "The Scotch are a good deal like their national emblem—the thistle. (1) They bristle all over with self-protection. (2) They are scattered everywhere. (3) They exhibit a certain robustness of character that could not be symbolized by the lily or any other flower so well as by the thistle. And, (4) I might add (if this were not trespassing on our intention, as stated in the initial part of this paper, that their character is crowned with manly and enduring beauty. The thistle is no mean symbol, though, like the Jew, it is much looked down upon by the nations. One thing is certain, it cannot easily be suppressed." He goes on to arraign his countrymen of being over-critical, censorious, double-dealing and obstinate. This is the kind of thistle down he scatters.

THE season of perilous navigation on the Canadian lakes has again arrived. No serious disaster so far has been recorded, though several lives have been lost, and threatening dangers escaped. Last week it was stated that a steamer on the northern lakes ran a serious risk. In the cargo she carried was a large quantity of dynamite. During a gale an accident occurred to the machinery, the vessel pitching at the mercy of the waves until the repairs were effected. The shifting of the cargo might have been attended with terrible results. The passengers were in a state of the wildest apprehension. Damocles' sword was not a circumstance to the plight they were in. The lesson from this narrow escape, just as obvious as if it had been emphasized by a dreadful loss of life, is that passengers and large quantities of dynamite should not travel in the same boat.

IT is stated that the twenty-one German universities are divided as to States in the following manner. Prussia has ten, situated at Berlin, Halle, Breslau, Bonn, Göttingen, Königsberg, Griefswald, Münster, Marburg and Kiel; the kingdom of Bavaria has three, at Munich, Würzburg and Erlangen; Baden has two, at Heidelberg and Freiburg; the kingdom of Saxony one, at Leipzig, the kingdom of Wurtemberg one, at Tübingen, the Imperial province of Elsass-Lorraine has one, at Strasburg; Sachsen-Weimar has one at Jena, Hessen one, at Giessen, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin one at Rostock. Of these Berlin, Halle, Göttingen, Griefswald, Marburg, Kiel, Erlangen, Heidelberg, Strasburg, Jena and Giessen have only evangelical theological faculties; Münster, Munich, Würzburg, Freiburg, only Catholic theological faculties; Breslau, Königsberg, Bonn, Tübingen, have both Evangelical and Catholic theological faculties. The latest statistics give these twenty-one universities 2,011 instructors and about 25,000 students.

THE centennial anniversary of the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church in Newburgh, N. Y., the church in which the Presbyterians of America divided in 1838, and again united in 1870, has been celebrated. A remarkable fact in connection with the church is that during the century of its existence it has had only three pastors—the Rev. Dr. John Johnston, who was widely known; the Rev. Dr. William T. Sprole, an ex-chaplain of the West Point Military Academy, and the present pastor, the Rev. Dr. William K. Hall. Exercises were held in the afternoon and evening of Sabbath week. The church was decorated and lighted with electric lights. In the afternoon a memorial tablet was unveiled. The tablet is of gray stone, of handsome design. The Rev. Dr. S. Irenæus Prime, editor of the New York *Observer*, delivered a memorial address on the Rev. Dr. John Johnston, and

the Hon. Enoch L. Fancher, LL.D., of New York, delivered a memorial address on the Rev. W. T. Sprole. In the evening the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York, preached the sermon.

A PROPOSAL was made in Toronto City Council to have street cars run on Sabbath. To the credit of several members, the proposal to form a committee to further the project was not entertained. The echo of Dr. Craft's eulogy on Toronto Sabbath keeping had scarcely died away when this insidious proposal was made. The specious fallacy was urged that cars might be run for the convenience of church-goers at certain hours of the day. Church-goers in general prefer to walk to their places of worship, as being more consistent with the Christian profession. It would be an injustice to employees of the Street Railway Company to force them to labour on the only day they can call their own. In the city of Glasgow the running of street cars on Sabbath was introduced under cover of carrying people to church, and at first trips were made at stated times. Now they run from morning to night on the sacred day. The same thing would happen in Toronto. Our civic dignitaries, according to some accounts, have enough to answer for without incurring the responsibility of encouraging the desecration of the Lord's day.

IN Manitoba the energies of the people are not confined exclusively to the promotion of their material interests. The same energy is perceptible in the advancement of Christian work. A very successful Sabbath school convention was held recently at Portage la Prairie, at which 125 delegates attended. The practical character of our western friends is apparent from the fact that about twenty-five boys were appointed to be present at the stations on the arrival of trains to aid the committee in conducting delegates to the several places for which they had been billeted. The little fellows, ornamented with their badges, felt fully the importance of their work, and acted accordingly. Interesting and instructive papers were read by Rev. J. Todd, Mrs. A. A. Cameron, Mr. J. F. A. Stull, Rev. Mr. Gibson, and Mr. W. D. Russell. The evening meetings were crowded. At the first an address of welcome was delivered by Rev. J. Woodsworth, followed by addresses from Revs. J. B. Silcox and J. Pringle. The second evening was devoted to the conducting of model classes, business and addresses by Rev. C. B. Pithlado and Mr. Houston. The convention is described as being an unqualified success.

THAT the Montreal roughs who raised disturbances at the churches where Mr. Chintiquy lectured had been incited by their spiritual guides might be an unwarrantable inference. It is pertinent, however, to ask whence do they receive their stimulus? It is rather a strange coincidence that two instances of lawlessness in connection with Roman Catholic Churches should be recorded in the same week. Is it at all wonderful that religious opponents should be made the victims of violence, when the same vengeful spirit is at work within their own fold? It is stated that trouble between the pastor of the Catholic parish of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Fall River, Mass., and certain members of the parish is likely to lead to a criminal prosecution of the ring-leaders of the opposition. The priest has been driven from the parsonage, the control of which is claimed by the lay society, and the collection of church contributions taken out of his hands. Missiles have been thrown through the windows of his residence at night. Nearer home a painful case has occurred in the village of Thornhill. An irate priest, offended with one of his parishioners, on Sabbath morning, walked down to the pew and seizing the offender by the collar, dragged him out, shoved him towards the door and threw him down the steps, breaking his right thigh. The injured man was removed to his home, where he lies in a low condition. The priest admits that he acted rashly, but denies throwing the man out of doors. The fall, he claims, was accidental. There has been too much of this kind of muscular religion of late.