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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY, ever since his command of the Red River expedition, has entertained a good opinion of the skill, pluck and endurance of Canadians. In organizing the expedition to Khartoum, for the relief of General Gordon, he is desirous of obtaining a Canadian contingent of 500 voyageurs, together with several militia officers. Lord Lansdowne, who has been communicated with on the subject, has instituted inquiries as to the possibility of obtaining the number and kind of men required. It is found that there will be no difficulty in securing the full number of volunteers. In a short time it is likely that a body of Canadian raftsmen will take part in the expedition to free General Gordon from the confinement of Khartoum. They may be relied on to perform efficiently their part of the service.

OUTBREAKS of fanaticism are not confined to any age or race. Every now and again the wildest vagaries come to the surface. One of the latest instances recorded has occurred in Chicago. It transpires that there is an institution there bearing the pretentious name of the "Home for God's Orphans." Several of its managers are before the courts charged with gross and wanton cruelty to infants entrusted to their care. Many of them died through want of proper attention. There is a further charge of locking up the little ones separately in dark rooms, and subjecting them generally to severe discipline and starvation. If these charges against the managers of the "Home for God's Orphans" are sustained, it is to be hoped that those who have profaned the sacred names of God and charity will meet with such punishment as the inhuman treatment of helpless little children deserves.

THE world's convention of Young Men's Christian Associations, held in Berlin last week, devoted much time to the discussion of topics in relation to the practical work of the association in reaching and influencing young men. The subjects of immorality and intemperance were discussed. Nearly sixty American and Canadian delegates were present. The fourth day of the convention was devoted to various religious exercises and a conference on religious work. The farewell meeting was held in the evening and the convention closed. Addresses were delivered by Count Bernstorff, Baron Rothkirch, of Berlin; Mr. George Williams, of London; Mrs. Dr. Dalton, of St. Petersburg; Dr. Schaff, of New York; Dr. Welch, of Auburn; Captain Legarantz, of Sweden; Baron Schlembach, and others. The result of the meeting, it is confidently hoped, will be to greatly strengthen the association in European countries and give a fresh impetus to its labours on this continent.

ONE of those wretched tragedies, accountable only on the score of insanity, last week startled a quiet Canadian village. Had it occurred where sensations of the kind are common, it would not have been quite so surprising. Crime and insanity, however, have no particular habit. A young man who had borne a good reputation, principal teacher in the Markdale school, where he discharged his duties with fidelity and success, became enamoured of a young lady fellow-teacher in the same school. His attentions were coldly received, but he was persevering, and one morning lately, during school hours, he entered the room under her charge and engaged in a lengthened conversation. At its close he pointedly asked the young lady if she would marry him, when she decidedly said "no." He then fired a shot in her face and followed it by two others. He then shot himself, inflicting fatal injuries from which he died. Strange to say, she survived the attack, and at last accounts it was hoped that she might yet recover. If this terrible occurrence does not indicate a disordered brain it reveals a wild, unregulated, passionate nature.

THOUGH the ravages of cholera both at Toulon and Marseilles are less virulent than they were a few weeks ago, the disease still continues to linger in these cities, where it made its first appearance in Europe

this season. It is still spreading in Italy, where at many points it is daily cutting down its victims. For a short time the deaths in Italian towns have been averaging about forty a day. As yet the scourge has been kept out of Great Britain, and no authentic cases are reported to have occurred on this continent, though there have been repeated scares lest vessels bearing the infection should reach our shores. As yet quarantine regulations and sanitary precautions have been sufficient to ward off the plague. Cooler weather and the advance of the season may warrant the hope that for the present, at least, we may escape the approach of the dread visitant. If, however, the danger is less imminent than it was a few weeks ago, there would be no justification in permitting the ordinary laws of health to be violated through carelessness or neglect. It is not only when cholera threatens that matters pertaining to domestic and personal cleanliness should be attended to. Sanitary reform is always in order.

SINCE the formation of the Industrial Exhibition Association of Toronto, the great fairs held under its auspices have been uniformly successful. Great energy, enterprise and tact have characterized its endeavours, not only to make the annual display as attractive as possible, but these immense gatherings have stimulated invention and improvement. Each year has been a decided advance on former exhibitions. From preparations already made it may be confidently expected that the Exhibition commencing on the 10th inst., will surpass all former attempts, not only in Toronto, but throughout the Dominion. It is generally admitted that the Toronto Industrial Fair has superseded all others in Canada. In addition to the extensive exhibits of an agricultural and industrial kind, and the usual artistic displays, a number of attractions are promised, well fitted to gratify and amuse the many thousand spectators coming from all parts to witness what promises to be the greatest Exhibition ever seen in the Dominion. Among the novelties of this year's display may be mentioned the running of a train by electricity, and a number of special entertainments. The grounds and buildings will be illuminated with a blaze of electric light.

THE Egyptian difficulty, which the British Government has been trying for the past three years to solve, is apparently as great to-day as it was when Alexandria was bombarded. Up to the present no satisfactory solution has been reached. The object in view seems shrouded in mist. It is possible that the measures contemplated will disentangle the financial embarrassment after a time. The Mahdi is still in undisputed possession of the Soudan, and it does not appear to be the desire of the British Government that he should be dispossessed. Osman Digma commands a large force of rebels threatening various points. All that has been attempted is simply to keep him and his marauders in check. General Gordon went to Khartoum, which no doubt he has kept from falling into the hands of the enemy, but what else has he effected? The general impression seemed to be that his magical influence would be sufficient to disperse the hostile Arabs, and pacify the disturbed regions on the Upper Nile. Now it is found necessary to send a formidable expedition to rescue him. When the modern paladin has been delivered what will be the result? Will the disordered state of affairs in Egypt be in a more satisfactory or hopeful condition than they are now? Hitherto it has not been customary for Great Britain to dawdle over a foreign entanglement, as it has done in the Egyptian affair.

WAR between France and China has virtually begun. The French vessels lying menacingly off Foochow opened fire, played havoc with the Chinese flotilla opposing them, and did serious damage to the arsenal. The slaughter was great, though its full extent has not yet been accurately ascertained. The Chinese killed and wounded greatly outnumber the French casualties. Two French vessels were disabled. The capture of the city, however, was not such an easy affair as the first blow struck led the French to

anticipate. The Chinese made an obstinate defence, and succeeded in preventing the nearer approach of their antagonists. Resistance rouses the animosity and determination of the French. They threaten to seize the island of Formosa, and to hold it until peace is secured, and the claimed indemnity paid. There are indications that the war will not be prolonged. Should such anticipation prove correct, many dangers will be averted. A serious war in China would inevitably lead to dangerous complications among the European powers because of their large commercial interests in the east. Our readers will watch with interest the progress of events in China, and their bearing on the missionary operations in Formosa. In peaceful times the Chinese are jealous of foreigners, and when exasperated by what they consider an unjust aggressive war, they are not likely to discriminate carefully.

A FEW French Canadian journals view the meeting of the British Association in Montreal with anything but favour. They have been indulging lately in frequent tirades against Protestantism and Freemasonry. To the average *habitant* these are terrible evils. Charges of being a Protestant or Freemason do great service in election contests, and are consequently little thought of generally. Their reproduction in connection with the British Association have not the same immediate political purpose to serve as in ordinary cases. *Le Journal des Trois Rivières* in a recent number, referring to the arrival of large numbers of members of the Association, says of them that "it is well to know that they are for the most part Free-thinkers, Protestants and Freemasons, and that their efforts cannot fail to be most injurious to the interests of religion." In its fanaticism, however, the organ falls into a most ludicrous blunder. The Duke of Kent, when in Canada, lived in a house near Montmorency. It was afterwards named the Duke of Kent Lodge. The present owner of the house has extended a cordial invitation to members of the British Association who may visit the renowned falls in the neighbourhood. From this the zealous French Canadian scribe draws the inference that the residence is the headquarters of a Masonic Grand Lodge, and adds that the invitation is a proof "that these pretended savants are better versed in the affairs of Masonry than in those of true science."

NATIONAL, like other friendships, are liable to change. The general good feeling that existed between France and England since the time of the Crimean war, has of late been greatly weakened. In the Franco-German war English sympathy was largely with the Teutons. Then there has been very little English sympathy with the petty aggressions in which France has been engaged for the last five years. Matters were made worse by disagreements over Egyptian affairs, when the French sullenly withdrew. Then what most people, except Frenchmen, considered an unjustifiable interference with the affairs of Madagascar did not tend to remove the distrust of Gallic restlessness and petty ambition. At the same time similar tactics were pursued in the east, and Annam and Tonquin are now virtually under a French protectorate. Out of these last complications the present hostilities at Foochow have arisen. The strangest phase of national alienation is that of Germany. The German press has of late been more or less violent in its attacks on England, and more than usually complaisant to their late foe. The German Chancellor has no doubt his object to secure in all this, as it is taken for granted that denunciation of England in the official press has been inspired. Both France and Germany are anxious to colonize. Separately England is in the way of each, but unitedly they could more effectively brave England's opposition. Squabbling over remote settlements on the African coast is possibly a blind for more serious alterations of the European map. It is surmised that Germany has certain designs on Holland. Bismarck is ambitious to have a German navy, and for this seaports are needed. In the present uncertainties of the Dutch succession, and a ruptured friendship between England and France, the German Chancellor discerns his opportunity.