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## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN,

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## Notes of the Week.

NOTWITHSTANDING a healthier state of public feeling in reference to Mr. Charlton's bill for the punishment of seduction, it is being pruned down and rendered less effective at every turn. Last week the measure was returned from the Senate so modified that Mr. Charlton described the amendments as very objectionable, and he reluctantly assented to them only on the principle that the mutilated bill was better than no bill at all.

THE *Sherbrooke Examiner* says: While walking along one of our streets the other day, we met a school boy, for he had school books under his arm, puffing away at a pipe. The lad was, from appearance, from ten to twelve years of age. Whatever may be said in favour of tobacco, and very little can be said for it, the effect is most pernicious in one so young. Massachusetts has a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors under sixteen years of age.

WITH the advent of warm weather the duty of attending carefully to the requirements of sanitary law, in other words to thorough cleanliness, physical, domestic, moral and municipal, becomes urgent. There ought to be in every dwelling plenty of pure air, and a plentiful supply of pure water. The calamities of last season, small-pox and cholera, are not at present menacing, but the former has given a hint of its existence in parts of Quebec Province, and the latter has intimated a possible descent upon Italy and France. Let us hope that these sad scourges will this season be held in check.

THE disestablishment movement has manifested itself in Sweden. The Lutheran Church, both in Sweden and Norway, is the Church by law established. Dissenting Churches have of late years, for various reasons, sprung into existence, and in some of the larger centres of population such churches have developed considerable strength. With the growth of dissent has grown the desire for equality, and the jealousy and dislike of a favoured class. A few earnest men at Stockholm have started the Religious Liberty Union, and have issued a prospectus. Several tracts also have been published setting forth their grievances.

AT the sixteenth anniversary of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, held lately in Brooklyn, the attendance was large, and the public interest unusual. There were present a Syrian lady and a Hindu *pundita*. The latter is a remarkable woman, still young, but old enough to have committed to memory the whole of the Rig Veda. She is a recent convert to the Gospel, and came to America to study medicine in order to be helpful to her countrywomen. She speaks English with accuracy and fluency. A Bible presented to her by a Presbyterian missionary was the instrument of her conversion.

THE Toronto Women's Christian Temperance Association is not exclusively occupied with matters of merely speculative interest; they are constantly devising means by which the weak, the helpless, the tempted and the criminal may be benefited; they are constantly engaged in the work of practical benevo-

lence. Last week they held their twelfth annual meeting, at which philanthropic ministers, laymen and ladies assisted. Encouraging work in the Boarding House, Prison Gate Mission, the Relief Society, and the Girls' Industrial Institute was reported. These departments of good doing are deserving of much more encouragement than they have yet received.

If ministers do not denounce the corruption so manifest in political life as at present urged to do, they at least pray for those to whom is entrusted the government of this Dominion. Readers of the daily journals cannot help wondering why these prayers remain seemingly unanswered. Certainly the dense political atmosphere of Ottawa has not become either purer or healthier of late. What with manifest lying, jobbery of all kinds, and discreditable compacts coming to light may there not be a misgiving that our august rulers, that is some of them at least, are past praying for? The Christian citizen can neither expect nor desire that every member of Parliament should pronounce the same political shibboleth as himself, but he ought to desire and pray and vote for such law-makers as fear God and hate covetousness.

A VERY pleasing and enjoyable entertainment was last week held in the Normal School in connection with the Toronto Chatauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. Mr. L. C. Peake, president, occupied the chair and briefly detailed the great progress made by the institution since its commencement. There were circles throughout the United States, in various parts of the Dominion, in European countries and in Japan, where much good was being done. The musical part of the entertainment was well sustained by amateur and professional artists. The Rev. H. M. Parsons delivered an earnest address showing the value of the Chatauqua movement in promoting Bible study. It is giving a most healthful impetus to intellectual, moral and spiritual culture. The success of this institution is a hopeful sign of the times.

THE American Congress of Churches, whose object is to promote Christian union and to advance the kingdom of God by a free discussion of the great religious, moral and social questions of the time, hold their second annual meeting at Cincinnati this week. It is composed of representative men of all the leading Christian denominations. Among Presbyterian members we notice the names of Dr. Ormiston and Anson D. F. Randolph. Topics arranged for discussion are, A True Church; its Essentials and Characteristics; The Present Necessity for a Restatement of Christian Beliefs; Readjustment in the Church to Meet Modern Needs—in City and Country, and in Foreign Mission Fields; Religion and our Public Schools; The Workmen's Distrust of the Church; its Causes and Remedies, and other subjects. Governor Foraker will preside, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cleveland, Hon. Everett P. Wheeler, Henry George and many others are expected to take part in the discussions.

ON the first day of the present month the Canada Temperance Act went into force in a number of counties and in two cities. We may be prepared to hear much conflicting testimony as to the amount of benefit conferred on the localities where it is now enforced. Much will be said of evasions of the law, and more of the improved condition of the people when drinking places are closed. Unbiased and impartial testimony thus far is decidedly favourable to the good results of adopting the Scott Act. In every place the police cells have had fewer occupants. Streets are more orderly on market days, and an air of improvement is visible in many quarters. It is also plain that where the Act is strictly enforced the law works well. Wherever authorities show indifference in its enforcement there is to be seen more or less open indulgence in drinking. In several places exemplary fines have been inflicted on violators of the law at the outset. Such strict measures are sure

to have a deterrent effect and thus enable this law to have a fair trial. This is all it needs.

LAST week two instances of dastardly outrage on supporters of the Scott Act were reported in Ontario. Rev. James Lawson, Methodist minister at Cobden, when about to leave on a train, was accused by a hotel-keeper, recently fined for violating the Act, of giving the information that lead to conviction. Mr. Lawson denied having informed on the offender, but stated that it was his determination to do all he could to assist in the enforcement of the law and to give information when he got a chance. In default of other argument the infuriated hotel-keeper struck, knocked down and jumped upon his antagonist, on whom he would have inflicted serious injury had not bystanders gone to the rescue. The dynamite outrage at Orangeville has been repeated. The magistrate there who faithfully carries out the Act, for no other reason evidently than his fidelity, has been singled out for the persistent attention of some desperadoes, who, it is to be hoped, will soon get the punishment their crime deserves. Such acts do not tend to make the prohibitory measure unpopular.

COMMENTING on the attitude of certain Scottish United Presbyterian ministers on the Irish Question, the *Christian Leader* says: A somewhat curious feature of the rupture caused by Mr. Gladstone's scheme in the Liberal Party is the prominent part taken in opposition to the Government measures by four at least of the most prominent ministers of the United Presbyterian Church. Both Professors Calderwood and Duff were speakers at the great demonstration in Edinburgh addressed by Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen, the latter professor indeed presiding at the overflow meeting. Dr. James Brown, of Paisley, whose eloquent appeal persuaded Mr. Goschen to visit that hotbed of Radicalism on Saturday evening, proposed the amendment against the bills at the conferences of Liberal delegates in Glasgow; but, though he expounded his view of the subject with signal force and ability, only nineteen in an assembly exceeding 200 voted in favour of his resolution. At Musselburgh Dr. John Taylor, formerly of Glasgow, took the same course at a meeting of the local Liberals with a similar result. Great as the influence of this quartette may be, we suspect they do not represent the feeling prevalent amongst their brethren.

A TRANSATLANTIC contemporary thus gives expression to an opinion that will be endorsed by many earnest and thoughtful Christians. How much truth, forgotten on both sides of the sea, there is in the recent remark of an American writer on the failure of the Church to put honour on the regular means of grace. "It is often said, when an evangelist comes into a town and secures the hearty co-operation of all the ministers and churches, that if the same rallying could be had around the pastor, or pastors, the result would be the same. It is true. What caused the rally? The evangelist's reputation. He has been so successful elsewhere, it is believed if the conditions are repeated the success will be repeated. And so, perhaps, on the reputation of a man, the Church as one person flies into the work. Suppose, now, the faith in the man were transferred to God and His Gospel." This last sentence is one that will bear pondering. Suppose a Church should conclude that, as God has promised His work should be efficacious, He would certainly keep His promise. Suppose, further, a recollection of the past should confirm that faith. Then, suppose on that noble faith and confidence in the truth of the Lord, the Church should look for blessings at every prayer meeting, and pray every sermon into the hearts of the people, and conduct every Sabbath school in the conviction that God's Word would not return unto Him void? What then? Would that God who blesses the expectations that gather around a special service withhold His blessing from those ordinary means that are baptized with the tears and lifted with the believing prayers of His own people? If the honour we sometimes thoughtlessly put on men were given to God, we would rejoice in unending streams of salvation.