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NOW READY.

## *The International Scheme of S. S. Lessons*

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## Notes of the Week.

THE *Ottawa Free Press* says: There have been fifty-five contests held under the Scott Act, out of which the Act was victorious forty-six times. This is an unparalleled proportion of victories for any cause. The majorities given for the Act in these contests aggregate 28,142. This is by many thousands the largest majority ever given any contested cause in Canada.

PRESIDENT McCOSH, of Princeton, believes that the college which gives to the students a wide choice of studies during all the years of their course commits a radical error. He holds that there are branches rudimentary and fundamental, which have stood the test of time, fitted to call forth the deeper and higher faculties of the mind, and opening the way to further knowledge, which all should be required to study. Such are the classical tongues, with certain European ones, and, above all, our own tongue, with their literatures. Such are mathematics, physics, chemistry, and certain branches of natural history. Such are the study of the human mind, logic, ethics and political economy.

THE death of an eminent Scottish Congregational minister is recorded. Rev. William Lindsay Alexander, D.D., F.R.S.E., pastor of Augustine Church, Edinburgh, was born August 24, 1808, and was educated at the universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's. He became minister of a Congregational Church in Edinburgh in 1835, Professor of Theology to the Congregationalists of Scotland in 1854, Examiner in Philosophy at St. Andrew's University in 1861, and a member of the Old Testament Revision Company in 1870. Dr. Alexander was the author of a number of valuable contributions to theological literature. He was possessed of great and varied learning, keen critical insight into men and affairs. He was withal a modest man, and avoided all ostentatious parade. He enjoyed the respect and esteem of all sections of the Evangelical Church.

LAST week New York city was visited by several serious fires. Christ Church, Brooklyn, had a narrow escape. A badly constructed heating apparatus nearly caused the destruction of this very handsome edifice. On Sabbath the extensive oil works at Williamsburgh were laid in ruins after blazing for many hours. The loss was heavy. In more senses than one Sabbath labour does not pay. The saddest of all the fires, however, was that which destroyed the St. John's Home, in Brooklyn, where the inmates, many of them helpless children unable to escape, perished in the conflagration. Over twenty bodies have been recovered from the ruins, but numbers are still missing. The fire originated in a drying-room. A boy carrying a lighted candle in his hand went looking for a pair of stockings, and accidentally set fire to some clothes hanging on a screen. The flames spread with great rapidity, causing a mournful loss of life.

IN *Punch's* illustrations of Shakespeare, *apropos* of a former discussion regarding food adulteration, Romeo, was sketched not before the poor apothecary's door, but in front of the plate-glass window of a fash-

ionable grocery store, where he fancies he can easily procure the desired poison. Adulteration notwithstanding corrective Acts of Parliament has not diminished since those days. One of the most pitiable exhibitions of trade trickery has just been exposed in New York city. A doctor had several cases brought for treatment of children who were suffering from what seemed unaccountable diseases. He made inquiries and found that they were in the habit of eating candy. Experiments were made, and it was found that confectioners were in the habit of using poisonous pigments to produce the colours that are fascinating in childhood's eyes. As a result of the investigation about two tons of poisoned candy were confiscated and thrown into the river. The mammon of unrighteousness is becoming a veritable Moloch.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, Easton, Penn., lately inaugurated as its new President, Rev. J. H. Mason Knox, D.D. An account of the exercises is contained in a pamphlet before us. From it we learn that over one thousand students have graduated since the institution was organized, and that nearly three hundred are receiving instruction at the present time. Of the fine buildings that crown the hill at Easton, all but two were erected during the able administration of his predecessor, Dr. Wm. C. Cattell. Dr. Knox states, that in the colleges and universities of England there is one student for each 5,000 of population: in Germany, one for each 2,134; in New England, one for each 1,028; and in Scotland, one for each 616 persons, which is adduced to prove that an increased disposition for Scriptural training accompanies and begets zeal for education. The addresses made by Messrs. A. Pardee, Prof. Ballard, and the Hon. Robert E. James, indicate a hearty and earnest devotion to the interests of Lafayette College, of the bodies whom they represented.

TWO or three weeks ago the Salvation Army began operations in Montreal. The experiment required no little courage, as it was all but certain they would be molested. There is always a class who place more reliance on muscle than reason for the expression of their opinions. These took offence at the Salvation Army parade and created a disturbance. Members of the Army were arrested and have been tried before the Recorder. Much interest was taken in the progress of the trial, and the Salvationists have met with warm sympathy from unexpected quarters. At the conclusion of a somewhat lengthened trial the presiding magistrate discharged the defendants with costs. The good man's judgment and impulses appear to be better than his theological information. He was under the impression that Lord Cecil was at the head of the Salvation Army, and other of his ideas were no less vague. The decision will be regarded by most people as both just and satisfactory, however much they may differ in opinion as to the methods pursued by these demonstrative religionists.

LOTTERIES in every shape and form, and for whatever object are directly injurious to private and public morals. The principle is utterly wrong and the results are deplorable. For Christian people to countenance them is simply a disgrace. Be they Protestant or Catholic they are equally deserving of the severest censure. The lottery so unaccountably and culpably sanctioned by the Quebec Legislature last session is now in full blast. Its managers have an office in a prominent thoroughfare in the city of Montreal. At present two series of prizes are being widely advertised. By the first scheme prizes to the value of \$50,000 are offered and 100,000 tickets, at one dollar each, are to be issued. By the second \$10,000 worth of prizes are offered, and 100,000 tickets at twenty-five cents each, are to be sold. If all the tickets are sold, therefore the National Lottery will get \$65,000 for nothing. Already 25,000 tickets for the first scheme and 8,000 for the second have been sold. The difference between a church lottery and a gambling den is only one of degree.

THE Grand Jury at the recent Huron General Sessions, in the course of their presentment remark with Cromwellian vigour and almost Cromwellian involvement of expression: On one point this Grand Jury would approach your Honour to gain some information respecting the commutation of sentences in the Beamish-Mains murder case, tried at the recent assize court here. This jury, not one member of whom knows what steps were taken to obtain a commutation, are of opinion that unless good reason is shown to the county for the course of clemency exercised by the Executive, that there is but little use in convening juries, grand or petty, to waste time in doing their duty as jurors or for judges passing righteous judgment upon the perpetrators of atrocious crimes, if as in this case where the criminals are one of them let loose upon society and the sentences of the others commuted in such a degree as to render the best efforts of juries and the righteous sentences of judges little less than a mockery and a farce, public justice baffled, and no life safe in the community, but the convicted murderer: while here no aid has been extended or sympathy shown to the widow or the helpless orphans of the murdered man.

A MEETING in favour of the abolition of tax exemptions was held in Toronto last week. It is noticeable that all the speakers, representing various shades of opinion, spoke in favour of abolishing the unequal, therefore unjust, system of taxation now existing. The general impression, however, was that churches and the ground on which they were erected should not be taxed except for local improvements. Mr. John Hallam, who has given considerable attention to the subject, stated that under the present law the individual ratepayers of the city paid \$160,000 more than they had a right to pay. This was paid for the privilege of exempting judges, clergymen, church property and government property. This sum, placing the population of Toronto at 110,000, meant a payment of \$1 45½ per head for every man, woman and child in the city. The mechanic who had a family of five had to pay about \$10 extra every year on account of the exemption of customs officials, post-office employees, judges and clergymen. The following motion was adopted: That this meeting is of the opinion that all tax exemptions should be abolished, and that the power be left in the hands of municipal councils; and that the Government should be asked to pass a permissive bill enabling this to be done.

THE other Sabbath the Rev. J. Burton, of Toronto, delivered a very sensible and forcible sermon on the Paganism so apparent in many funeral ceremonies of the period. From the Pacific Coast comes one of the most powerful pleas for funeral reform, all the more effective because it is unintentional. The sixteen year old son of a California railway magnate died a short time since in Europe. Funeral services were held in Grace Church, San Francisco, which was profusely decorated as only opulent but vulgar idiocy could devise. A chapel complete in every detail, made wholly of flowers, was built over the chancel, and the walls of the church were almost hidden by floral anchors, crosses, crowns and Scriptural quotations wrought in violets. The cost of the decorations alone was \$20,000. The sermon—save the mark—was preached by Mr. Newman, of New York. A few sentences will show the reader its quality: "Although so young, he was tall and graceful as some Apollo Belvidere, with classic features some masters would have chosen to chisel in marble or cast in bronze; with eyes soft and gentle as an angel's, yet dreamy as the visions of a seer; with broad, white forehead, home of a radiant soul. Who could see that face and not love it, see it and ever forget it? He reminds us of the beautiful Joseph, 'a goodly person and well favoured.' That body was the abode of a marvellous mind, clear as crystal, clear"—etc., etc. And the clerical sycophant goes on at wearisome length in this vein of fulsome and disgusting exaggeration. He was paid \$10,000 for his sermon—a sum for which faithful ministers have preached the Gospel for a life-time.