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Notes of the Week.

THE Toronto Conservatory of Music is doing excellent work. Several lectures have recently been delivered under its auspices, and pupils' recitals have been given with excellent effect. Under able management, and with thoroughly competent instructors, it has a promising future before it.

THE message of President Cleveland has aroused widespread interest, and may lead to results of much importance. The chief topic discussed in it is the reduction of the war tariff. That the United States President means what he says is evident from the flutter it has caused. The protected interests, strongly consolidated by long years of immunity, do not view with equanimity any change in the direction of lighter taxation. They manifest their alarm by the passionate appeals they are making to all classes of the people. Monopoly and patriotism, it would appear, are synonymous terms.

THE Rev. Adolph Saphir, D.D., who is resigning the pastorate of Belgrave Presbyterian Church, London, began his ministerial life by labouring among the German Jews in Hamburg and Glasgow. He next became minister of the Presbyterian Church, South Shields, removing thence to Greenwich, where, during his pastorate, the church was twice enlarged. His next removal was to Notting Hill, and finally to Belgrave. Dr. Saphir, who is a Hungarian, is a remarkable preacher, and, like Paul, is described as being a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He never attended Presbytery or Synod, but is highly esteemed by his brethren in the ministry.

THE Rev. Mr. Jackson has been visiting several Canadian centres in order to interest the friends of missions in the World's Missionary Conference to be held in London next June. A meeting was held in Toronto last week, at which Rev. Dr. Kellogg presided. Revs. Dr. Castle, Professor MacLaren, Septimus Jones, Elmore Harris, A. F. McGregor, and Hon. John Macdonald and Mr. John L. Blaikie were present. Sub-committees were appointed to confer with the missionary boards of the different denominations in reference to the appointment of six delegates. A committee was also appointed to designate suitable persons to write papers on missionary topics, especially pertaining to this country, to be read before the Conference.

LAST week the European war cloud assumed a little more density than it has done for some time. The conference between the Emperor of Germany and the Czar of Russia as well as the rather stormy interview between the German Chancellor and the illustrious Romanoff have not been followed by the peaceful indications expected. It is said that troops in large numbers are being steadily massed in Russian Poland, near the Austrian frontier. Many are disposed to look upon this procedure as an evil omen. The recently-formed alliance of the Southern European Powers is supposed to be menaced by the unchecked march of Russian soldiers. It may be only a movement in the interests of diplomacy, or it may be in view of eventualities in the coming spring.

ONE of the most interesting items of the proceedings of the Free Church Commission which met recently in Edinburgh, was a statement by Mr. Cunningham regarding Dr. Somerville's labours in Bohemia and Moravia, with its many happy allusions to parallel points in those of Paul and Apollus. Dr. Somerville has had audiences of from 500 to 600, consisting of Jews, on whom he made in some cases a great and visible impression, has received an invitation to extend his tour to Servia, and is at present in Vienna. A Bible which had been procured from Germany by some villagers to get a verse from it to engrave on a monument to friends who had fallen in the Austro-German War, had been handed from house to house, and the reading of it had been the means of converting family after family in the village.

TRANQUILLITY has again settled down in France, and the fears of turmoil, if not revolutionary outbreaks, are for the time dispelled. President Grevy, yielding to the inevitable, sent in his resignation, and his successor was promptly and peaceably elected. The high but uncertain honour of the presidency has been conferred on M. Sadi-Carnot, a descendant of Republican sires, who is faithfully devoted to the doctrines of his father and grandfather. He is described as the incarnation of respectability. Lacking in the more perilous gifts of genius, he is credited with the possession of business habits and good common sense—qualities more likely to be serviceable to France at the present time than more brilliant endowments might be. For the moment the frenzied cry for *revanche* is silenced.

THE usual salaries given to competent teachers in the Province of Ontario are none too extravagant, but they are munificent compared with those paid to those engaged in the same profession in the Province of Quebec. Sir William Dawson, the Rev. J. B. Muir, of Huntingdon, and others have been zealously endeavouring to raise the educational standard in the Eastern Townships. There are no fewer than 700 teachers in Quebec, who have no professional certificates, in spite of the fact that the highest diploma required there does not need as stringent an examination as the lowest diploma granted in the Province of Ontario. This fault lies principally with the wretched salaries offered to teachers in the rural districts of Quebec. One hundred and fifty dollars a year is the usual inducement offered throughout the Eastern Townships. The consequence is that few men or women of ability care to enter the profession there, and the state of education is said to be very deplorable.

THE Synod of South Carolina has just disposed of the case of Professor Woodrow, finally, it is to be presumed. The committee on the theological seminary submitted majority and minority reports relative to the removal of Dr. Woodrow from the Perkins professorship. The majority report was as follows: Inasmuch as the Board's action in removing the Rev. James Woodrow, D.D., from the Perkins chair was in accordance with the order of the four controlling Synods of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, this Synod approves and confirms that action. The following was the minority report: 1. That this Synod disapproves of the manner in which the Board of Directors have removed the Rev. James Woodrow, D.D., from the Perkins professorship, as unconstitutional. 2. That the Board is hereby instructed, the other controlling Synods concurring, to proceed at once to determine the question as to Dr. Woodrow's alleged incompetence or unfaithfulness by a trial, as is provided in the constitution of the seminary. When the vote was taken the minority report was lost by a vote of six to eighty-five. The majority report was then adopted.

THE New Zealand Presbyterian bewails the personal extravagance that has begun to be displayed in that erstwhile thrifty and steady-going colony, and in rebuke uses rather pointed language. The evil against which our Antipodean contemporary inveighs is not confined to New Zealand. Even in Canada it is visible without the aid of a magnifying glass, but let our Dunedin contemporary speak. When an individual keeps up a considerable style, there is no harm if he can afford it, he is making money to circulate for the benefit of tradesmen, but when he lives up to his income, and even beyond it, to make it appear that he has wealth which he does not possess, the man is a living lie, a sham, and he is no better than a thief, for even if he does not run into debt, he sacrifices to this Moloch of appearances the proportion of his income which religion and charity claim from him. A man who is in this position has not a penny to spare for the cause of Christ, though he may call himself a Christian. It is very sad to think that the familiar fable of the frog which tried to blow itself out to the dimensions of the ox, and burst in the process,

is being perpetually realized all around us. Good taste condemns finery in clothing, and the wearing of expensive jewellery about the person.

THE *Christian Leader* says: If the minister of Loudoun, who became better known to the world as the minister of The Barony, were here to-day he would probably qualify a sentence he is reported to have uttered to Agnes Strickland, when that once popular but already little read compiler of rather tedious royal biographies visited Ayrshire, well on to fifty years ago. It was at Craufurdland Castle they met, where the Misses Strickland were the guests of the late Mr. Houston Craufurd; and Agnes was so delighted with Norman's conversation, especially when she discovered him to be "a great admirer and partisan of Mary Queen of Scots, and of her descendant Prince Charles Edward," that she agreed to condescend so far as to go for once to a Presbyterian kirk. Wonderful to tell, she "found the service beautiful and edifying, in spite of her exclusive affection for her own church"—a remark, by the way, which is made with a frankness that indicates a complete failure to realize the narrowness involved in the attitude. After the service, Norman showed the sisters the graves of the martyrs, with their memorial tablets, lining the low church wall. "Now," said he, "these though well meaning were troublesome men. Persecutors themselves, but ready to die for conscience' sake, they were barbarously used; but they would have done the same to others it was the evil spirit of the times." There are no facts to justify the unqualified terms we have italicized: but there are a thousand facts which prove these words to be untrue. That the Covenanters had not reached the theory of toleration which now happily prevails, goes without saying; but they had attained to a sufficient measure of true religion to be incapable of the murderous cruelty of which they were the victims. If the Covenanters have been idealized by their admirers, it is no less true that they have been traduced by many who professed to hold them in sympathetic respect.

THE Rev. Dr. Henry Gray, of Liberton, is proposed for the Moderatorship of next Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The *Christian Leader* has this to say of him. Those who studied at St. Andrew's forty-five years ago will experience no difficulty in recalling the form of a smart little fellow, with a round beaming countenance, who in all his classes stood alone and unrivalled. There were discussions as to the secret of his success, and as to wherein his strength lay, but all were forced to own that he succeeded everywhere, and that in competitions it was possible only to follow him. When Mr. William Henry Gray left college on the completion of his theological studies, no question was entertained that he would at once obtain a parish, and he did so in his native town of Perth immediately upon license. A few years afterward he was invited to succeed Dr. Caird in the charge of Lady Yester's, Edinburgh; and not long since as a relief to the high pressure of a city pastorate he accepted the suburban parish of Liberton, while now, as a crowning honour, he is designated to the chair of the Assembly. The last honour, indeed, has not come too soon, but neither is it too late, for Dr. Gray is yet in full and perfect vigour. As a Moderator, if he does not exhibit more than ordinary ability, he will negative the promise of his youth and the augury of his manhood. Like the President's message to congress, the Moderator's closing address is anticipated with interest, and perhaps is looked to as indicating whether the electors, have chosen wisely or the reverse. Possessed of a wide range of knowledge, and familiar with public affairs, Dr. Gray is likely to address his brethren less from an ecclesiastical view-point, than as a thoughtful and experienced fellow-citizen. His nomination is the just reward of a long, laborious and faithful ministry. Though not widely known as a poet, Dr. Gray has composed many graceful verses, and he is an ardent admirer of the genius of Robert Burns. He is a prominent promoter of total abstinence.