

## Notes of the Week.

M. CHEVREUL, the centenarian chemist, is said to possess a remarkably keen sense of smell, which age has not in the least impaired. He tells his pupils that if they want to rival him in that respect they must do as he has always done, "drink water and rigidly abjure tobacco." He considers tobacco especially injurious to the olfactory nerves.

THERE has been issued from the Minister of Agriculture's Department at Ottawa a pamphlet which gives a most interesting view of Canadian progress and resources as displayed at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. It is compiled from the descriptions which appeared in British and colonial journals, and conveys an excellent idea of what the Exhibition was like.

DR. GEORGE MATHESON, of Edinburgh, has a clear inward sight. At the opening of a new church in a populous part of the city, he said: I make bold to extend this appeal to others besides our own people; for I think that when the Church of Scotland is trying to collect money by voluntary contribution, those who have for a long time breathed that atmosphere should help us in a method which we have for the most part yet to learn.

DR. SAUNDERS having resigned the chair of Practice in Medicine in the Women's Medical College, Kingston, Dr. F. M. Fenwick has been appointed his successor and Mrs. Smith-Short, one of the first graduates of the Women's College, was appointed lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Sanitary Science. The appointment of assistant demonstrator of Anatomy will be reserved for competitive examination at the opening of the session.

IN France the ministerial crisis has been tided over for the present. M. Rouvier, after repeated failures, has succeeded in getting a Cabinet together. On all hands it is regarded merely as a makeshift. General Boulanger has been replaced at the war office by M. Perron, but the popularity achieved by the representative of *revanche* is in itself not only a serious menace to the stability of the new Ministry, but to the continuance of peace.

It is perfectly plain now, the *New York Independent* says, that we were right in saying that union between the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches is for the present hopeless. The majority report on union in the Southern Assembly, which is the only hopeful one, lays down two conditions of union: the acknowledgment of the purely spiritual functions of the Church, which can be granted, and the exclusion of negroes, which can never be granted. We must wait ten years longer.

THE visit of Canon Wilberforce to Canada will long be remembered. It has given an impetus to the Temperance movement which will be of great practical value. At Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa crowded audiences were profoundly moved by his earnest and eloquent pleas in favour of total abstinence. Wherever he spoke on the subject large numbers signed the pledge. Legislative action is all right in its place, but personal conviction and practice are essential to the real success of the Temperance cause.

PROFOUND sorrow has been excited by the sad tidings that Hon. Ion Keith Falconer, who succeeded Dr. Robertson Smith as Professor of Arabic at Cambridge, and who a short time since founded a mission among the Arabs in connection with the Free Church of Scotland, has died of fever at his station in his thirty-first year. Great hopes were cherished of what he might be able to accomplish as a missionary. He was a son of the late Earl of Kintore. He leaves a widow, a daughter of Mr. R. C. L. Bevan, banker, who had joined with her husband in the re-

solve to devote life and fortune to the establishment of a mission to the Mohammedan Arabs of South Arabia.

IN the city of Quebec the Salvation Army have to encounter great and painful opposition in the prosecution of their work. Last week they announced a holiness meeting, and *L'Electeur* warned the police that it was in possession of information to the effect that a regular gang of bullies was being organized for the purpose of persistently attacking the Salvation Army, and making their lives miserable while they remain in Quebec, and it adds the hope that the authorities will not forget that all opinions are free, and that in this country everyone is at liberty to practise Christianity as he understands it.

THIS is from the last received number of the *Glasgow Christian Leader*: Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, of Toronto, the energetic publisher of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, one of the best conducted and most prosperous of all the journals in the Dominion, is at present on a visit to Scotland. His paper is now in its sixteenth year of publication, and must be thoroughly established in the affection and confidence of many thousands of families in Canada. It is honourably characterized by a spirit of independence and manly vigour which are never found where a paper is controlled by a committee; and the accomplished editor, a licentiate of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, has the true journalistic instinct.

IN an article entitled "Is Preaching Doomed?" the *British Weekly* remarks. No rule is without exception, but is it not almost universally true that effective preachers have been men of wide reading? We do not mean scholarship; we refer to English literature. A host of names rise up before us. Mr. Spurgeon is a man of omnivorous reading. Canon Liddon's plentitude of literary allusions almost recalls Macaulay. Edmond Luscombe Hull, "a lamp too early quenched"—who would have stood second to no preacher of the century—was a profound student of Shakespeare and others of our English classics. Many of our readers will not know the name of the late Dr. John Kennedy of Dingwall, the most famous Highland preacher of this generation. Though he generally preached in Gaelic—and was, to put it mildly, not a man of wide sympathies or culture—he was master of a singularly finished and impressive English style. Where he found it we never knew till his death, when it came out that he was an admirable Shakespearian scholar.

MR. J. J. COLMAN, M.P., presided at the ninety-third annual meeting of the London Missionary Society, held in Exeter Hall lately. The report stated that seventeen missionaries had joined the society's ranks during the year, of these three were ladies. A heavy deficiency, \$74,740, again marked the close of the year, but the annual income from ordinary resources, \$482,300, was steadily rising, and was larger this year than it had ever been before. The total income was \$526,905, the amounts received from legacies showing a considerable falling off. The expenditure amounted to \$505,550. More than 1,150 ordained native workers are at the present time employed in connection with the society's various missions, in addition to about 6,000 catechists and preachers; and while many of these are supported from the funds of the society, or by the special contribution of Sabbath schools or individuals in Britain, the native Churches annually give no less than \$45,000 directly for the support of those who act as their pastors. The meeting was addressed by Dr. E. Conder, Dr. J. Munro Gibson, the Rev. Jonathan Lees, Teintsin, the Rev. J. Chalmers, New Guinea, and others.

IN an interview with a representative of the *British Weekly*, Dr. Parker said of Mr. Gladstone: Now that I look at some of the sentences which excited the liveliest interest of the hearers, they seem to be

cold and flat in type. How much we miss in not hearing our speakers! What wonderful colour there is in Mr. Gladstone's tone, what magic in his smile what persuasiveness in every attitude, what a fascination in his whole method of description and delivery! Viewing the discourse from a purely critical point of view, it was indeed quite an education to have listened sympathetically to it. I saw what could be done by a master of the English tongue; and I saw what a different thing it is merely to read a man's proposals, and to come in contact with a man of ineffably charming manner. Mr. Gladstone might be resisted at a distance, but is surely difficult to resist him when the spell of his necromancy is working upon you. I learned something, too, of the method of the political mind as distinguished from the mind theological and poetical. The political mind cares next to nothing for mere abstraction, or for such intellectual conception as does not admit of immediate embodiment; Mr. Gladstone's discourse was full of facts, incidents, details. It abounded in comparisons of speeches made at one time and at another, and from end to end there was hardly a sentence that could be described as abstract or sentimental.

At the Montreal District Conference of the Methodist Church, held at Kingston last week, the following resolutions were adopted: Whereas the disastrous influence of the liquor traffic is by statistical and well-tabulated evidence becoming more manifest throughout this land, involving the destruction of life to the extent of several thousands annually, the direct victims of liquor, and entailing poverty and crime, as authenticated by the records of courts, prisons and benevolent institutions, and whereas the attitude of the Dominion Legislature toward the prohibition movement has given rise to the greatest fear on the part of the lovers of temperance and moral reform that a reactionary policy is about to be inaugurated, looking toward the impairment, if not the abolition of the Scott Act; therefore, be it resolved, That we, the ministers and laity of this Conference, having observed the beneficial effects of prohibitory legislation in diminishing crime, lessening drunkenness, promoting the temporal comfort of the people, in those counties where it is enforced, would memorialize the Legislature of the Dominion against any action that would impair the beneficial effects of said legislation, by sanctioning the sale of intoxicating liquors in said counties; Resolved, That we, the ministers and laity of this Conference, pledge ourselves to oppose by all constitutional methods, any Government, political party or individual member of Parliament who shall directly or indirectly oppose the existing prohibitory legislation; Resolved, That as the ultimate power of the people to influence the Legislature is found in the ballot box, we declare our purpose by the pulpit, by the press and by every legitimate means to inculcate the responsibility of all Christian men and good citizens to subordinate political party alliances to the great work of securing the abolition of the accursed liquor traffic. Resolved, That while we recognize in the Senate some noble representative men who have stood faithful to their responsibilities, and have sought to advance prohibitory reform, we affirm our utter want of confidence in the majority of the members of that body in this question, and lament the deliberate action of the Government in filling the vacancies which occur by men who are, with but few exceptions, the declared and determined opponents of the Temperance Reform; Resolved, That we declare our desire to co-operate with the various Conferences of the Methodist Church of Canada, from Halifax to British Columbia, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, the Anglican Synods, the Congregational Union, the Baptist Association, and also Cardinal Taschereau, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in this Dominion, in a combined effort, and martial public sentiment which shall demand of the Parliament of this Dominion a Prohibitory Legislature, which shall abolish that greatest of evils under which the people of this Dominion mourn.