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Notes of the Week.

THE Chinese Government has very promptly paid \$10,000 to the Canada Presbyterian Mission in Formosa for property destroyed in the Franco-Chinese war. The mission now has thirty-eight stations with 1,273 converts, all the result of fourteen years' labour.

THE success of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London has been remarkable. Much interest has been taken in the Canadian Department. The latest accounts show that for the week the aggregate attendance amounted to 262,927. The figures for the previous week were 241,933, so that it will be seen that there has again been an appreciable increase. It is needless to add that this fact has been indicated day by day—and especially on Saturday—by the crowded condition of all the courts, the Canadian Section not the least amongst them. The total attendance since the opening is 3,548,745.

RUSSIAN diplomacy, so far as Bulgaria is concerned, does not appear to display the qualities usually ascribed to intricate and delicate international negotiations. From the first effort to displace Prince Alexander to the present action of General Kaulbars the effort obviously is to keep up an irritating and exasperating attack on the Bulgarian regency and people. The overbearing Muscovite seeks to force a quarrel on Bulgaria as a pretext for its occupation. This game is likely to be kept up till the spring affords a favourable opportunity to Russia for warlike operations, if present actions lead up to so grave an issue.

THE *New York Independent* is of the opinion that the scheme of comity adopted by the Canada Methodist General Conference makes us suspect that Christianity in the Dominion of Canada is getting ahead of Christianity in the United States in brotherly love and catholicity of feeling. The Methodists propose that in places where a Methodist and a Presbyterian Church cannot be supported except by mission funds the congregations be consolidated in the name of the stronger party. What a waste might be saved, what unseemly rivalry might be avoided, what weak and inefficient organizations might be got rid of in hundreds of our towns, if we had such a system of interdenominational comity?

DETECTIVES, under instructions from the Ontario Government, apparently have been successful in unearthing the conspiracy to wreak vengeance on the earnest upholders of the Scott Act in the town of Sarnia. It appears as if the perpetrators of the attempts to wreck the residences of Messrs. McCae and Huston would remain undiscovered. Seeming immunity emboldened them, and further startling efforts in a similar line were planned. A hotel-keeper who had fallen into the toils of the detectives was caught with dynamite in his possession. Preliminary inquiry convinced the magistrate that the accused should be held for trial. Dynamite is no doubt very powerful, but as an instrument of logic against the Scott Act it is a decided failure.

THE Peterboro' District Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations has just been held in that town. The meetings have been helpful and interesting. Among the delegates were Messrs. T. W. Wilkie, Toronto, representing the International Committee; Wm. McCulloch, Secretary, Toronto; W. Craig, Port Hope; Rev. Dr. McTavish, W. J. King, R. M. Anderson and S. Smith, Lindsay. The evening session was opened by devotional exercises, Rev. Dr. McTavish in the chair. A short service of song then followed. "Personal Work" was the subject of an excellent paper by Mr. McCulloch, exhorting the young men to personal work, and showing the grand results of a single man's work. Mr. W. Emerson, Toronto, read a paper, "Duties and Responsibilities of Committees," going over the ground fully, suggesting many

ways of counteracting the efforts of the enemies of the cause. A discussion of this subject followed.

At the British Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations, recently held at Bristol, Mr. Black, secretary of the Bristol Association, thought that having had three dozen living Irishmen in their homes for two or three days, they would know them a little better, and possibly feel a little more kindly to them and their country. He really thought a very great deal of the misunderstanding which had existed, or might exist, in the minds of their friends in England and Scotland, arose from the fact that they did not know them. He felt convinced that they, whose blood had been shed on the same battlefields with the blood of Englishmen and Scotchmen, and who shed it in the same cause and for the same Queen and the same Constitution, were not going to be separated as brethren in Jesus Christ. From the bottom of his heart he asked them to pray for Ireland. They meant to try first to do what they could to win Ireland for Christ, and then hold her for England.

A SUCCESSFUL Temperance Convention was recently held at Seaforth. A resolution was passed urging the appointment of a police magistrate in each riding in Huron County. The Rev. Coim Fletcher moved, Mr. M. Y. McLean seconded, and the convention heartily adopted, the following resolution:—This convention, always so deeply interested in the enforcement of the Scott Act, would express its sincere pleasure at the tone and matter of the circular recently issued by the Provincial Secretary to officials under the Act, for its proper enforcement. This convention would impress on Temperance men the desirability of giving all due help to these officials in the prosecution of their work, and would urge upon the Government the necessity of fully upholding and protecting its officials in discharging the functions of their offices, so that they may not be hindered in their duties by the terrorism of outrages. A resolution was also passed re-affirming the decision of the Alliance Convention of 1885, as to the formation of electoral unions and the support of Temperance candidates for municipal and parliamentary honours.

THE venerable ex-professor of Greek in Edinburgh University has not seemingly lost any of his fervid interest in current questions with advancing years. John Stuart Blackie has been writing to the *Scotsman* his opinions on Ecclesiastical Union between England and Scotland. He says: I am morally certain, looking to what has taken place in the past, that the result of a union between Episcopacy and Presbytery would be, not to create a more perfect Church by the harmonious combination of the separate virtues of each, but to override Presbytery by Episcopacy, and in the end extinguish the Scotch type altogether. Would this be an advantage to the British Empire, to the Christian Church, or to the world at large? I trow not. Let the organic union of the English and Scotch National Church, therefore, remain a dream. But there is no reason why we should intensify our differences by exaggeration, or by quarrelling about trifles. We may, with great advantage, borrow from one another whatever beauties in the way of dress or ornament may be adopted without injury to the fundamental frame of the type. Again, the Churches, though remaining separate and retaining their well-marked distinctions, may have sense enough and Gospel enough in them to exhibit to the world a friendly confederation and a brotherly fellowship.

REPORTS are circulated that the young King of Uganda has put to death all the converts of the Protestant and Catholic missions, and that the missionaries are in great peril. The king is more cruel than his father even, who had intervals of friendliness, and who never proceeded to extremities in his worst moments. The mission of the Church Society had prospered greatly in the past two or three years, notwithstanding the great difficulties the missionaries

laboured under, and many converts had been won, among them members of the royal family. Quite a number of boys had been taught to read and in industrial arts, and a flourishing community might soon have been gathered in Rubaga, if the king had been tolerant. The last published letter from the missionaries of the Church Society bears date January 31 last. It was from the Rev. R. P. Ashe, and shows how the knowledge of Christianity was spreading among the people. A page of the king had brought about the conversion of his mother, grandmother and little sister, and they had been received into a company presided over by one Zacheria. A chief was in charge of another company. There were also several other teachers who were working very quietly. The missionaries dared not bring the converts together. On the 17th, however, a company of forty-two had communed. At that moment the king was inclined to be gracious, and had sent a handsome present to the missionary.

IN issuing the invitation for the observance of the Week of Prayer the committee say: This is the fortieth time that we have the privilege of inviting our fellow-Christians throughout the world to set apart a week for united prayer. In view of the past thirty-nine years we have abundant cause of thanksgiving for the large amount of blessing which the Lord has vouchsafed in connection with the annual concert of prayer. Year by year the number of these who have thus united in supplication has gone on increasing. Year by year testimonies have been multiplying, which prove how largely the season of common supplication has been blessed to the refreshment and enlargement of believing hearts, as well as to revivals of religion in many lands. To Him who heareth prayer be all the glory! Never was prayer more needed than at the present time. The state of the Church and the state of the world alike call for fervent and abundant supplication. We have come on "perilous times." We see "distress of nations." There is much of insubordination and lawlessness in various countries. In nearly all lands there is much suffering, on account of the stagnation of trade. In Europe there have been ominous threatenings of war. Most nations are called to solve political problems of great perplexity. As Christians, we must call to mind the promises given to prayer, and the special promises given to united prayer. "Call upon Me," says the Lord, "in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shall glorify Me."

DR. SOMERVILLE, the venerable Moderator of the Free Church, during the first series of his evangelistic meetings in the Hebrides addressed no fewer than thirty-five separate gatherings during twenty-eight days. This number, however, the *Christian Leader* says, does not give a true notion of the amount of labour expended. Many of the places were miles apart, so that in addition to perhaps preaching twice on one day, he had occasionally to drive for a considerable distance. He has been employing his now old but ever successful method of interpretation. On several occasions, Mr. Lamont, of Snizort, clerk of the Skye Presbytery, translated most efficiently into Gaelic during the doctor's visit to Skye. The Moderator is accompanied by his son, Rev. J. E. Somerville. Everywhere the people receive the Church's representative with much cordiality, and the ministers of the different towns are most hospitable and hearty in their co-operation, rendering Dr. Somerville all the help in their power and frequently accompanying him as he passes from place to place. Taking into consideration the sparseness of the population in the Hebrides, and the fact that many of the people are away fishing, or are engaged in agricultural work, the audiences have been large, numbering frequently 300 and more. Many people travel for miles, some even for forty miles, to hear the Moderator preach. Much good is being done. Apart from the healthy influence of a stranger's visit, the hearers are being roused to look on the bright side of Christianity. Dr. Somerville, before leaving any town, shakes hands with each person on retiring from the meeting.