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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PARISIAN litterateurs and artists are an amiable and discriminating people. They seem willing to recognize merit wherever they find it. Nowhere than in Paris has young Canadian genius been more readily and cordially appreciated. Miss Jones, of Halifax, has had two paintings accepted by the Paris Salon, an occurrence that vouches for the meritorious character of her work.

A GREAT many petitions against Sabbath desecration, in which railway companies are notable offenders, have been presented during the present session of the Dominion Parliament. Are these petitions waste paper merely? When interrogated last week on the subject the Minister of Finance said it was not the intention of the Government to take any action on the petitions presented.

THE combination of licensed vintners felt the need of a more presentable title, so they re-named their institution the Trades' Benevolent Association. That this is a misnomer is pretty evident, as the following will show: A carpenter asked a gentleman to sign a petition for a license to sell drink. "Why not stick to your plane and saw?" "The tavern pays better, sir." "But you will help men to become drunkards, perhaps five every year, if you get this license." "Well, I never thought of that, but it is likely." "If you sell drink for ten years, fifty men may become drunkards through you." The carpenter tore up his petition, and went back to his useful and honest work.

HONESTY of purpose does not seem in all cases to keep pace with chemical science and the arts of humbug. Here is an alluring list of the substances found in a sample of cheap coffee by the Director of the Paris Municipal Laboratory: red earth, flour, coffee grounds, caramel, tato, plumbago, vermicelli, and semolina powder, bean dust, ground peas and lupines, bread crusts, acorns, grilled figs, beetroot, carrots, red ochre, sawdust, brickdust, ashes, mahogany shavings, vegetable earth, sand. Some more expensive specimens differed from this only in containing in addition to this appetizing admixture a proportion of adulterated chicory.

THE deaths of Mr. David MacLagan and Mr. Neil Colquhoun Campbell, the Sheriff of Ayrshire, have been announced. Both were able and prominent Scottish Free Churchmen. The latter was in his seventieth year. He possessed many fine qualities. Professional ability and wide literary culture, denominational fidelity and catholic sympathies, religious earnestness, and a most genial disposition were all exemplified in his life and character. After his appointment to a sheriffship he withdrew from active practice at the bar and devoted his leisure to Christian work, often addressing evangelistic meetings in Ayrshire as well as in Edinburgh and other parts of the country. He was honoured to lead not a few to the knowledge of the Saviour. Among his last words were those he addressed to an old friend: "You and I have been too long Christians to be afraid of death."

THERE are few sadder instances of the blighting effect of a single mistake upon a man's life than that of Capt. Carey, the young officer of the ninety-eighth (British) Regiment. Carey was an officer of great promise. He had won distinction in Yucatan and in the Franco-Prussian war. While in the Staff College he carried off the highest honours. In the Zulu war he happened to be with the Prince Imperial when the latter was attacked by the savages, and, following his first impulses, he put spurs to his horse and escaped. The Prince tried to follow, but his saddle slipped, and he was struck down by the Zulu assegais. If Carey had stayed, he would have simply died with his comrade, but his death would have been accounted glorious. He lived a few years under a cloud of obloquy, only to die in India a few weeks ago utterly broken in spirit. The unhappy notoriety

of being "the man who ran away and left the Prince in the lurch," fairly crushed the poor fellow's life out of him.

THE Canadian Conference of the Evangelical Association met last week at Zurich, Huron county. On the present aspect of the temperance question its members passed the following resolution. Whereas the present license law known as "The Crooks Act," is giving better satisfaction than any previous temperance Act in our Province has done, and has wrought a visibly improvement in sobriety and the keeping holy of the Lord's Day; and whereas it has been rumoured that the Dominion Government purposes to change said Act, therefore resolved.—(1) That we as a Conference hereby give a unanimous expression of our disapprobation of such a change. (2) That we believe that to give the licensing power back to the municipalities would be a retrograding step. (3) That we hope that our Government will take no steps which would undermine the morality of the people and lead to general desecration of the Lord's Day.

THE tendency at present in Canadian and American churches is toward short and ever shorter pastorates. There is a popular superstition that there are great advantages and great merits in a brief pastoral relationship. Change is charming. Now in the old world they are dreadfully slow. What can be thought of a congregation where this state of things is permitted to exist. Dr. Peddie, of Edinburgh, mentioned to his congregation on a recent Sabbath that his father was ordained on 3rd April, 1783, and that he was associated with him during the last seventeen years of his life. Father and son had ministered to the same congregation for one hundred years continuously; neither of them had any other charge. His father was sixty-two years pastor, and he has completed his fifty-fourth. Dr. Peddie added, "It is a comfort to think that the congregation is as strong, at least numerically, as it was when on the first Sabbath of April a century ago my father preached his first sermon to your fathers and grandfathers."

THE Bill making seduction a criminal offence has been thrown out by the committee of Senate, to which it was referred. The reason assigned for its rejection is that it contains a clause which places teachers in an invidious light. Granting that the clause specified is invidious and unfair to a most exemplary and honourable profession, it is obvious that it was seized on as the vulnerable point of a measure intended to deal with a crying social crime. Several objections urged against Mr. Charlton's Bill have been beside the mark. There has never yet been a serious attempt to discuss the question on its merits. The proposed legislation has always been attacked on side issues and irrelevant conjectures. It is not pretended that it is a party measure. Why then the hostility with which it has been assailed? The evil against which the seduction Bill is directed is indisputable. What is the use of legislation if it cannot devise some means to check its continuance and extension? The friends of morality and social order must see to it that a measure fitted to deal effectively with this destructive crime is speedily placed on the statute book of the Dominion.

A GANG of boy burglars has been discovered in Connecticut, with a cave full of booty and a small arsenal of revolvers and other weapons. The young criminals, who had been breaking into post offices, groceries, and barns, are from seventeen to nineteen years old, and the children of respectable parents. They were it seems, robbing on a small scale in the east, merely to get their hands in, by way of preparation for a career of wild villainy in the west. They were, in fact, going to start a "second James gang," and had been going through the usual course of reading for the purpose, including a large number of dime novels. They seem to have combined the New England commercial spirit with a passion for crime in a curious way, for when they have not been stealing or pursuing their biographical studies they have been going about the country as innocent peddlers, disposing of the proceeds of their robberies, thus dispensing

altogether with the expense of middlemen or "fence" resorted to by most adult burglars. They took their arrest very well, regarding it as a "necessary feature of their education," and sang "border songs" in their cells. They express the hope that if they are sent to the penitentiary they may be put at some trade in which they may learn incidentally to make burglars' tools. Altogether they seem to be very promising boys.

AN evidence of the growing influence of the temperance movement is to be found in the keen scrutiny to which applications for licenses are subjected. It is not so long since that people were comparatively indifferent whether a place for the sale of liquor was licensed in their neighbourhood or not. Now an application is vigorously opposed. This action is not confined to this continent, but is becoming general. Here is Spurgeon's protest against increased drinking facilities in the neighbourhood of the Tabernacle and the Elephant and Castle. "I understand that an application is to come before you to license another public-house near to the Elephant and Castle. I beg you to refuse the application. We are overdone already with drink-shops, and around the Elephant and Castle the nightly scenes in the streets show that we need no increase to provocatives of vice. In the interest of public morals, all who wish well to their fellow-men would like to see facilities for drinking decreased rather than multiplied. I may add that, apart from morality, there is no need of more public-houses in the neighbourhood. If drinking were a virtue the most exemplary person could not wish for larger opportunities for its cultivation. The greatest proficient in the art of tipping would hardly be able to exhaust the facilities already provided; when most advanced they may easily stagger from one door to another without the risk of being sobered by the open air."

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The rapid changes in the weather may in some degree explain the continued high degree of prevalence of Bronchitis. Another factor in the prevalence of this disease may be found in the great prevalence of Measles, since the exposure to cold of those who have suffered from this is potent in producing this too frequently serious *sequela*. Influenza appears to have somewhat increased since last week, as it has an area of prevalence equal to Bronchitis. Anæmia retains its previous position of third in degree of prevalence. Neuralgia has made a rapid advance, while its companion Rheumatism has likewise risen, though in less degree. Consumption, retaining almost its former degree of prevalence, has narrowed its area of prevalence. Concerning Fevers, nothing can be added to what was remarked in the last report. Fever Intermittent being still localized in Districts VII, VIII, and X., bordering on Lake Erie. Amongst Zymotic diseases there are several points worthy of notice. Measles, though slightly receding in degree of prevalence, seems to have extended itself in several directions since it is one of the six most prevalent diseases in five districts, whereas last week it appeared in only two. Mumps, remarked last week as having broken out afresh, has followed Measles in widening its area, while its degree of prevalence has also increased. Scarletina, which had lain quiescent for a considerable period, appears again this week amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. A correspondent in District VIII. reports that its epidemic prevalence in a virulent form has necessitated the temporary closing of the public schools. Had a system of isolation been adopted at the outbreak of the disease, it need hardly be remarked that such a closing would have been unnecessary, as has been proved by the measures adopted by the authorities of the Hamilton schools, in which city Measles was recently prevalent. Diarrhoea, from its steady advance in degree of prevalence, demands that the attention of the people and municipal authorities, be again urgently called to the necessity for the prompt removal of filth, which in its many forms plays the principal part in the causation of this so frequent and fatal malady. Erysipelas maintains its previous position, while Peritonitis has somewhat receded since the last report was issued.