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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. JAMES HOLDEN, manager of the W. P. P. & L. Railway, has been elected Mayor of Whitby by acclamation. The compliment was well deserved, as Mr. Holden has long put forth intelligent efforts for the advancement of the best interests of the town.

CARDINAL MANNING has submitted to the College of Cardinals a proposal that, on the death of Pope Pius IX., the Conclave assemble at Malta. The Sacred College is divided in opinion on the matter. The Italian Cardinals are indisposed to approve the proposal. The Pope's health is visibly declining.

MR. ELIHU BURRITT, of New Britain, Conn., "the learned blacksmith," has had several hemorrhages of the lungs lately, and is considered by his physicians to be in a very critical condition. He has been in feeble health for some months, and as he is sixty-seven years old it is not probable that he will again be restored to health.

It is said that Lord Shaftesbury has intimated his intention of withdrawing from the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, for having given its sanction to two little books—one on Geology and one on Prophecy—which he considers heretical, and calculated to shake the faith of readers in the book of Genesis and in prophecy.

MR. STANLEY'S discoveries on the Congo are to be improved immediately. The Baptists of England are organizing a mission to enter and occupy the territory, and have put Revs. C. Grenfell and W. Comber, who have been laboring for some time in the Cameroons, at the head of the expedition. They are to proceed into the interior by the way of San Salvador, by which route, Mr. Stanley says, they will reach a larger population than by any other.

In the discussion in regard to future punishment Professor Swing, of Chicago, has emerged, and, of course, on the wrong side. He comforts himself with the thought that the old theology is dying peacefully, and will evidently soon cease to exist, and he wonders at the "solemn oaths" of Mr. Beecher, hurled at a thing "so hopelessly empty of practical power" as the old definitions of God and hell. Professor Swing formulates the new faith by giving as its most "general truth," "that God will punish sin and reward virtue."

THE "Contemporary Review" for January contains an article of special interest to Scotch readers. It is by the Duke of Argyll, and is entitled "Disestablish-

ment." His Grace, in reply to the recent speeches of Lord Hartington and other English statesmen, argues keenly that it is an utter mistake to say that the passing of the Act abolishing patronage in Scotland is necessarily a step in the direction of disestablishment. Exactly to the contrary, he urges, it did away with what in the first was the cause of all the secessions from the Church, and so may rather be said to smooth the way towards reunion.

MR. JAMES SMITH, Knox College, informs us that he has just received intelligence of the safe arrival in India of Mrs. Douglas and children, Miss Forrester, and Miss McGregor, all in good health and quite strong except Mrs. Douglas who was much reduced by sea-sickness. They left Liverpool on October 27th and reached Bombay on November 29th. For the present, Misses Fairweather and McGregor reside with Mr. and Mrs. Douglas at Indore, while Misses Forrester and Rodger go to Mhow with Rev. J. F. Campbell. It was feared that a large force of missionaries in a native State might, for a time, produce distrust on the part of the officials; and it was on this account that the division already mentioned, was made. Seventy or eighty high-caste Zenanas are open to our missionaries already at Indore.

In a recent number of the Ritualistic "Church Times" there was a sketch of the low state of theological literature on the part of the Evangelical body in the English Church. The writer ended as follows: "What makes this result all the more remarkable is that it is not in the least true of the High and Broad schools, nor even of the Nonconformist pastors, nor of the ministers of the Presbyterian bodies in Scotland. Dr. Eadie, who died just the other day, a minister of a small and unconsidered Presbyterian society, did singly more for Bible learning than the whole Evangelical body; and such works as those of Professor Murphy, Dr. Paton Gloag, Principal Fairbairn, Dr. Bruce, Principal Rainy, and Professor Caird, would do credit to any communion, and contrast most forcibly with the scantiness and poverty of results that the wealthy English Church, with its great universities, has produced in the school which is doctrinally most nearly allied to the system embraced by those distinguished students and authors.

MANY and grievous have been the complaints which we have heard and read during the last year or two, of the depredations committed amongst our unprotected rural population by that numerous and rapidly increasing class commonly called "tramps." Now, it seems there is a remedy for this evil, and we hasten to give it all the publicity we can. We take the following from the recently published report of Mr. J. W. Langmuir, Inspector of Prisons, etc.:—"The unprecedented increase in the commitment of the vicious, depraved, and vagabond classes, generally known as vagrants and tramps, calls for prompt action. So far as able-bodied men of this class are concerned, it is clear that enforced labor and tasks of the hardest and most menial kind, carried on within the jail walls or on the public streets and highways are the only way of stamping out this evil, and as the Dominion Act of last session provides for the application of the remedy, the sooner municipal authorities take the matter in hand the better."

FROM carefully prepared statistics it appears that there are over 600,000 drunkards in the United States,

and that although 70,000 of those go down annually to a drunkard's grave, the number does not diminish but rather increases, because fresh recruits keep continually pouring in from among the young or from the ranks of the moderate drinkers. Every year 100,000 men and women are sent to prison under the influence of intoxication, while 300 murders and 400 suicides occur from the same cause. This curse of intemperance is, in the United States alone, the immediate cause of 200,000 orphans being annually thrown upon the charity of the world. From the universal testimony of those who are in possession of the necessary data, it is ascertained that strong drink must be held accountable for nine-tenths of the crime and seven-eighths of the pauperism which exist in that country, and which annually cost the Government \$60,000,000. What are the corresponding figures for Canada? Certainly they are not smaller in proportion to the population.

THE following from one of our American exchanges is quite to the point:—"The Christian home that is without a religious newspaper is not likely to be one that will contribute much to Church work. It will, indeed, know but little about the work, for preach as pastors may, they cannot so fix details and statistics in the minds of people that they will not forget them before they get home. And in addition to this, there is a stimulus needed by most Christians to push them forward to the work they know to be right and necessary. This is what the family paper gives them, as week by week it forces upon their attention the objects claiming their thought and benevolence." If all this is true (and who doubts it?) every minister should urge the claims of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN on his people, that its influence for good may be more and more increased. The time for getting up clubs is extended to the 1st February next. All subscribers in arrears paying up and remitting by that date for 1878 will be entitled to the PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK, containing a large quantity of valuable information respecting Presbyterianism at home and abroad. It is sold at 25 cents, and no office-bearer or member should be without a copy.

AFTER a careful consideration of the various propositions that have been referred to the Executive of the Dominion Alliance, that body has decided upon asking Parliament for certain amendments to the Dunks Act which, if passed into law, will make the Act much more useful than at present. The principal points referred to are (1) the manner of voting. It has been decided to ask that the provisions of the General Election Law should be made to apply to voting on the Prohibitory By-law. (2) The five-gallon clause, which we desire to see expunged, and arrangements made by which properly qualified officers should sell liquor for what is considered legitimate use under Government authority, and without deriving personal profit from such sale. (3) Efficient machinery should be provided for enforcement of the Act without depending upon other laws for that purpose. Parliament will also be asked to extend the Act to the entire Dominion, and to make the amended Act to apply to localities where the By-law is now in force without re-submission. The preparation of the above amendments so as to meet fully the necessities of the case, and satisfy the reasonable demands of temperance reformers, will receive the close attention of the Alliance Executive, and the services of a competent lawyer will be secured.