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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE distinguished Principal of McGill University, Dr. Dawson, C.M.G., has been elected one of the twenty honorary members of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, Scotland. It is pleasing to note that a Canadian scientist has been made the recipient of a high honour. It is all the more pleasing that though eminent in science he is also a representative man in Christian life and active beneficence.

THE Berlin "News" says: "One of the wealthiest men in this county, a man worth probably about \$150,000, the other day brought his mother-in-law to the Poor House. We always thought this institution was for the poor, but it seems we were mistaken. The circumstance reflects anything but credit upon the parties who sent the poor old woman to end her life with paupers after she ceased to be able to work for herself and children."

DR. FRANCIS states, in a paper read before the Harveian Society, London, that the habit of tea drinking at and between meals, now so common in England, renders people peculiarly liable to neuralgia. A lady in England wrote to her husband in India: "If you wish ever to see me again, come home at once; I am very ill." She asked her medical attendant to write also, which he did as follows: "Stay where you are; if your wife would only take less tea she would be quite well."

REV. MR. DUNCAN sent a copy of his book on "The Scottish Sanctuary" to Mr. Gladstone, and in acknowledgment, received this reply: "Dear Sir,—I thank you very much for your book on 'The Scottish Sanctuary,' which I found full of interest. By no means a Presbyterian myself, I can sympathize with the high motives which I believe led to that movement in Scotland. Yet I hope this tendency will not be indulged without reserve, for there was a solemn and stern simplicity in the old form of Presbyterian worship which was entitled to great respect, and which was a thing totally different from the mean nakedness and the cold worldliness and indifference so widely dominant in English services fifty years ago.—I remain, dear sir, your very faithful and obedient servant W. E. GLADSTONE."

THE idea of systematic instruction of women in the industrial arts has been one successfully developed in France, according to a writer to the London "Times." Not only in Paris, but throughout the country, schools that teach particular trades to women have been formed. In one nearly two thousand young women have received thorough training in millinery, needlework, wood engraving, painting on porcelain, or designing. Workshops affiliated to the school by a pecuniary arrangement furnish actual practice. So successful have been these schools, and superior the graduates in their work, that particular trades have established similar institutions for the express purpose of fitting their own workwomen in occupations not taught in the large ones, as in the brass and copper trade, and in the manufacture of clocks and watches.

THE old-fashioned system of memorizing from text-books is now attacked with great vigour in many quarters. Speaking on this subject, the "Philadelphia Times" says: "There should be a great deal more oral instruction and a great deal less of text-books. Especially should there be a less stringent and exacting rule in regard to memorizing from the text-books. A teacher who cannot teach history or geography without requiring a pupil to answer questions in the exact language of the text-books is not fit to be a teacher; is, in fact, utterly unfit. Some teachers exact from pupils a degree of accuracy and verbal memorizing in this regard which the teachers themselves could not attain to, and which not a single member of the school board could reach, even if they had to be 'kept in after school' every day in the year."

THE Mahdi, or False Prophet of the Soudan, is described as one Mohammed Ahmed, a Dongollan. He is illiterate, but has studied the Mohammedan religion, has been ordained a Sheik, and has gained a reputation for sanctity by playing the hermit. He has increased his influence by marrying numerous wives among the wealthy families, keeping within the prescribed number of four by a resort, when necessary, to divorce. In May, 1881, he openly proclaimed himself to be the Prophet foretold by Mohammed, preaching universal equality of laws and religion, with community of goods to all believers, and death to all who rejected him. Like most prophets, he was denounced by his own townsmen, who proclaimed him mad. In appearance he is tall and slim, and wears a black beard. He reads and writes with difficulty, is head of a local order of Dervishes, and has shown much tact in uniting the discordant tribes. The number of tribesmen who follow him is estimated at about 338,000 souls.

WE beg to refer our readers to the Annual Report of the Ontario Industrial Loan and Investment Company, published elsewhere in this issue. It is a very satisfactory statement, giving evidence of prudent management and substantial progress. The company is one of the youngest in the country, but already its position is assured; and if the plans outlined at the annual meeting are carried out, its future cannot fail to be bright and prosperous. The purchase of a large portion of Lombard street and the building of an arcade from Yonge to Victoria, midway between Richmond and Adelaide streets, are schemes of considerable magnitude; but they promise improvement to that portion of the city, as well as a remunerative return in the shape of large dividends to the shareholders. If the directors are only able to change the character of Lombard street—for many years one of the very worst in the city—they will have done a good work, earning for themselves the thanks of our citizens.

TWELVE months often pass without such fatality among familiar names as the first six weeks of this remarkable year have witnessed. Upon the threshold of the new year Gambetta met his mysterious end, and before that day's noon Mr. Allen, Hawaiian Minister to the United States, was fatally attacked by heart disease at President Arthur's reception. On January 4th died General Chanzy, the military man whom, it was said, France could worst spare, and Germany most feared. On the 11th, Senator Lot M. Morrill died, and next day Clark Mills, the sculptor. Gustave Doré, Dr. Beard, and the author of "Knight's Mechanical Dictionary" all died on the 23rd. On the 26th was announced the death of Flotow, whose name is so much less familiar than that of his most successful opera, "Martha." Sir Salar Jung's name is strange on the Western Hemisphere, but his personality is historical, and his spirit controlled nearly ten million men during some of the most frightful times the world has ever known; he died on February 8th. William E. Dodge and Marshall Jewell died on the 9th; Wagner on the 13th, and E. D. Morgan, the U. S. War Minister, on the following day.

THE whiskey bills incurred annually by our American cousins possess stupendous dimensions. The Treasury Department at Washington estimates that \$600,000,000 is spent every year in liquor, distributed as follows:—

Whiskey, 600,000 half barrels	\$360,000,000
Imported spirits, 2,500,000 gallons	25,000,000
Imported wines, 10,700,000 gallons	53,500,000
Ale, beer and porter, 6,500,000 barrels	130,000,000
Native brandies, wines and cordials	31,500,000

Total

As against this, it appears that the other manufacturing industries of the country are about:—

Flour and grist mill products	\$144,985,143
Molasses, sugars (raw and refined)	119,325,379
Cotton goods	177,489,739
Woollen goods	155,405,358
Boots and shoes	146,704,655

And the wages paid in all of the manufacturing establishments for a year foot up \$775,584,343, or

about 20 per cent. more than is spent for drink. Going further into statistics it is found that the amount spent in the country for schools is about \$95,402,726 per year; for printing, \$65,862,447; and libraries, \$91,057,876; all of which, by comparison, goes to illustrate the enormity of the liquor traffic, the profits from which—estimating them at 50 per cent. of the gross—inside of five years would wipe out the national debt.

LAST week a sad disaster took place in a New York school building. Near the time of dismissal an alarm of fire was raised, and a fatal panic immediately followed. As usual, it appears that the building was, in many respects, unsuitable. The doors leading from the class room were narrow and too few to admit of the speedy egress of the pupils; besides, several of them opened inwards. On the top of a narrow stairway there was a gate, to make, if possible, the trap more complete. The girls, from about seven to fourteen years of age, crowded on the stairs, and sixteen were suffocated or crushed to death. When it appears so plain that this and many similar casualties might easily be prevented no wonder that indignant feelings find expression. All public buildings should be so constructed that they can be emptied in a few minutes. To secure this would be no very difficult problem for architects and builders. But often greater destruction of life results from panic than other causes of alarm. It was so in this instance. The fire was trifling, but the loss of life from the wild excitement, caused by the cry of fire has filled a number of homes with anguish. The objection is always ready, "It is easy to talk, but in the moment of danger it is so difficult to keep cool." No doubt it is, but when it is plain that the safety of many lives is dependent on a clear head and self-command, it is a duty to cultivate these qualities. In calamities at sea, however ill-disciplined some members of the crew may be, as a general thing officers display remarkable coolness and courage, and are thereby able to save many lives. Above all, the best way to keep cool is to feel that He who watches the sparrow's fall is near to all that call on Him.

PROFESSOR WITHEROW, in connection with the Carey lectureship in Magee College, Belfast, delivered an excellent lecture on "A Century of Healing Measures," recounting the various legislative acts of a remedial nature during the past hundred years. The report in the Belfast "Witness" concludes as follows: "The grievances of which Irishmen complained a hundred or even sixty years ago are now entirely removed. Many others have been immensely lightened, and still the process of improvement goes on. The knowledge of this undeniable fact ought, in the judgment of every impartial man, to do much to soften hostility to England, and to allay a social and political discontent. No doubt, six hundred years of suffering are not blotted from the memory of a sensitive nation by a hundred years of relief and deliverance. But a century of healing measures, one following rapidly on the heels of another, may be admitted in evidence of regret for the past, and of the determination on the part of the stronger nation to deal kindly in time to come. Charity and wisdom both suggest that Ireland should frankly accept the hand held out to it in friendship. It is neither the duty nor interest of nations, any more than individuals, to brood over past wrongs, to nurture hate, and sigh for opportunities to 'wreak their wrongs in battle line.' In private life to cherish such a spirit would neither be dutiful nor pleasant. Christian people ought not to take so long a time to learn to practise the lesson that forgiveness is a duty. Faults and crimes have been committed on both sides, and both have much to forgive and to forget. Both have sinned and both have suffered. But why dwell on the unchangeable past? One side has at least given evidence of regret. Why should not the other respond? Why not cease to vex and to torment each other? Why should not Ireland and England join together as friends and brethren? Why not go forward, oblivious of the dismal past, hand in hand to a great and happy future?"