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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE death of the great scientist, Wm. C. Siemens, is announced. He had reached his sixty third year. His name has come frequently of late before the public in connection with inventions for utilizing the electric light. Mr. Siemens was injured by a fall which aggravated an illness from which he was suffering, disease of the heart, resulting fatally. He lived long enough to see the triumph of his invention but not the grand results which his labours and that of others in the same field are destined to produce in the immediate future. Faithfulness to duty is required, the results of labour are not always visible to the labourer. No work for God and humanity fails in its effects. The doer may not see them, but his work abides.

THE Mayor of Dundas has taken a strong stand in opposition to street preaching. Two men, Plymouth Brethren, had taken up a position on a street crossing and were addressing a crowd that had gathered round them. The chief of police requested them to desist but they refused, whereupon they were arrested. When brought before the Mayor they were urged either to use a hall or some vacant lot where they could address the people. The inculpated preachers declined to give any promise that they would desist from the course they had been pursuing. Freedom to preach and civic order are not necessarily antagonistic. A little mutual forbearance and good nature would render these unseemly conflicts unnecessary.

WESTON, of pedestrian fame, appears in a somewhat novel role. He is at present in England. He has undertaken to demonstrate that temperance is conducive to bodily health and muscular development. Mr. Weston has started to walk fifty miles a day and deliver temperance lectures at various places on his route, resting on Sabbath days. This combination of business and morality with pleasure is not by any means reprehensible. Athletes in large numbers have not, except when in training, been eager to shun the cup that inebriates. The ambition of many of the sporting fraternity on retiring from professional life is to run a tavern. If Mr. Weston succeeds in his task he will not only confirm the belief that temperance is most conducive to physical vigour, but that even sportsmen can distinguish themselves on the blue ribbon principles.

OUR Methodist friends are devoting much attention to the subject of higher education. There is now no longer any disposition to disparage an educated ministry. They are losing none of their spiritual devotion, but they wisely recognize the value of intelligence and training for the work of the Christian ministry. Mr. William Gooderham of Toronto, is anxious to secure the establishment of a thoroughly equipped Methodist university in this city. Other places are contending for the honour of its location, Peterborough and Hamilton would be pleased to welcome such an institution, Cobourg and Belleville, as is natural, are desirous of retaining the advantages they have in the possession of Victoria and Albert Universities. What conclusion may be arrived at it would be difficult to anticipate, it is, however, not unlikely that the attractions of Toronto as an academic centre will be too powerful for resistance.

THE Presbyterians of Montreal have adopted an excellent plan for arousing public interest in the various schemes of the Church. For several years they have held anniversary missionary meetings. There is a contagious sympathy in large numbers. The meetings have been hitherto conducted in such a manner that their success is now assured. They were held last week in Erskine Church. Tuesday night was devoted to the interests of Home Missions. It was addressed by the Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston, and the Rev. J. Barclay, M.A., of St. Paul's Church. Wednesday evening French Evangelization was the topic. The Rev. Principal MacVicar presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Prof. Campbell, the Rev. W. D. Armstrong, M.A., of Ottawa,

and the Rev. Prof. Coussirat. On Thursday evening the Rev. J. Edgar Hill, and the Rev. H. A. Robertson, missionary from Eromanga, spoke on foreign mission work. The plan pursued in Montreal might with advantage be followed elsewhere.

THE Ottawa "Free Press" says. It is now stated that there will be strong opposition to the bill, which will come before Parliament next session, uniting the various Methodist denominations in the Dominion into one body, designated the Methodist Church in Canada. Although the majority of the district conferences as well as the General Conference at Belleville decided in favour of accepting the Basis of Union, not because of its perfection, but as it was the best which our different religious denominations could adopt under the circumstances, yet there was a strong opposition to the union being accomplished, not a few prominent ministers holding that the means employed were illegal. However, there is no reason to apprehend that union will be retarded, as whatever obstacles may be in the way Parliament can remove seeing that a substantial majority of those interested, have declared in favour of one Methodist Church. It was so with the Presbyterian Church, and in all likelihood it will be the same with Methodism.

EXTREME ritualism springs up in the most unlikely places occasionally. At Halifax the vagaries of "missioners" have caused great excitement. The active agents in this mission are described as Cowley and Paulist fathers. Their get-up is said to be a close imitation of the Roman Catholic priesthood. These men are not meeting with great encouragement. The rectors and people generally do not appreciate the doctrines or methods of these extremists. The bishop, however, pronounces in their favour, much to the astonishment and regret of many. One of these "fathers" preached to a crowded congregation on absolution and auricular confession, strongly asserting the necessity of each. He took the ground that the Almighty works through material means and had authorized the regularly ordained priests of Christ to remit by virtue of their office, the sins of all those who confessed to them. After the sermon he gave an address, on preparation for the confessional, and announced certain hours for the next day when he would be in the vestry of the church to receive confessions. The provocation to treat this and similar exhibitions of Anglican aberration seriously is very strong.

VERY gratifying instances from time to time occur of generous hearted individuals establishing handsome charities for the public good. An effort has been made to establish a city hospital in Brantford. A liberal citizen has come forward with an offer to erect a building at a cost of \$12,000 and deed it to the city. He attaches however singular and inconsistent conditions to his benefaction. One of these and very properly is that the hospital shall be strictly non-sectarian. But he goes on to insist that no clergyman, priest, or member of a religious sect, secret or other society, shall hold religious or other services within its walls or grounds except a patient shall request the attendance of such, and then only for that patient's personal benefit. Eloquent things are said about religious bigotry, but it does not appear that irreligious bigotry is one whit less odious. Christian people would respect the conscientious objections of everyone who declines religious services. But it does seem both illiberal and unfeeling, peremptorily to exclude Christian ministers and people from a public institution where the consolations of the Gospel are highly valued and productive of great good. This wealthy Brantford citizen should not permit an illiberal crotchet to neutralize his beneficence.

THERE are reports in Rome that many private documents referring to the Papacy have disappeared from the Vatican. It is feared that the Italian Government may take under its protection those treasures of the Holy See which have been collected with the people's money. To these treasures belong libraries containing more than 180,000 codices and 100,000 manuscripts, among them fifty-six gospels in the

Oriental tongues written on scrolls. To meet the emergency the clergy are said to have been hiding, first, the archives of extraordinary ecclesiastical affairs, second, the archives of the Propaganda, third, the archives of the Inquisition, and fourth, the archives of the Congregation of the Index Expurgatorius. These documents were once kept in the Palace of the Quirinal, but were transferred to the Vatican by a papal emissary, who persuaded the commander of the Italian troops that the said documents were simply baptismal registers, without historical value. Some of them are now well guarded in the old tower near Anagni. The letters of Pope Alexander VI. are still in the Vatican, together with other papers which the Pope would never voluntarily place at the disposal of the public. Many of these volumes are hidden on secret shelves, in walls and behind other papers.

FROM an exchange we observe that the Rev. Chas. Chiniquy, of St. Anne, the noted lecturer addressed the people of Kankakee, on the 11th inst., at the Second Presbyterian (French) Church and in the evening at the First Presbyterian Church, in honour of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. He was greeted by large audiences at both churches, spoke in French in the forenoon and English in the evening. Every pew was filled early in the evening at the First Church. The Rev. C. Chiniquy's subject was "The Principles and Results of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century." It was a carefully prepared analysis of the difference in doctrine and practice between the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches including a sketch of the plan of salvation, growth of the Romish Church, the vast influence exerted by Martin Luther, and the position of the two churches to-day. There was a great curiosity among the greater number of persons present to hear the lecture having never heard him. Although his mastery of the English tongue is not complete, yet his language is choice, powerful and expressive. He gives a hearer much to think about; is original and at times brilliant in his word pictures.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather of the week has been marked by extremes, both of barometric pressure and of temperature. The results upon the public health from these conditions do not show any great change from that of the preceding week, the total number of cases being comparatively small, and their respective relations remaining much the same. In fact a very close similarity exists between the reports for several weeks past. We notice, however, that several diseases, but slightly present last week, show a marked advance, the chief amongst these being Scarlatina. Diseases of the respiratory organs are, as before, amongst the most prevalent; Bronchitis still being the highest of all recorded diseases. Fevers do not show any notable change from last week. Enteric or Typhoid has, however, receded somewhat from its position of a month or so ago, but Intermittent still remains prevalent. Amongst the Zymotic diseases, in addition to the advance of Scarlatina, already mentioned, the prevalence of Diphtheria in the western portion of the Province again claims our attention. There is probably no disease in the whole list which exhibits more evidences of a sporadic nature, and none which seems more arbitrary in its manner of appearance and disappearance, and less dependent upon some well-defined meteorological condition than Diphtheria. Almost all that can be said of it in this connection is that unsanitary conditions are those most commonly associated with its appearance, its fatal character showing itself most markedly when such conditions are actually present, or have previously debilitated and rendered persons anæmic from constant exposure to such. Knowing the wide-spread and fatal nature of Typhoid Fever, and recognizing the fact that last year Diphtheria claimed many more victims than it even, we obtain some idea of how potent are the influences tending to produce fatal results from this disease, and what wide spread municipal action is required to remove those unhygienic conditions, proved to be its very constant attendants.