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THE marked improvement in nearly all branches of business, consequent on the general good harvest and fair prices of all kinds of produce, should make a canvass easy. A push all along the line for renewals and new subscriptions is sure to result in large accessions to our list in every locality.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Methodist Judicial Conference at Terre Haute Ind., by a vote of fifteen to four, decided not to entertain the appeal of the Rev. H. W. Thomas from the action of the Rock River Conference in excluding him.

PRINCE BISMARCK has declared in the Reichstag that he would not abandon his plans for domestic reform, though that body might reject them. He has declined to make a statement regarding the pending negotiations between the Government and the Vatican.

THE Archbishop of York having refused to present a petition, signed by 12,000 persons, asking the Queen to release the Rev. S. F. Green from imprisonment, His Grace of Canterbury has promised to perform that office. Archbishop Thompson refused to present the petition, because Mr. Green, in a published letter, had stated that he did not wish any of his help.

FROM an eastern contemporary we learn that on a recent Sabbath the priests read from the Roman Catholic pulpits of the Province of Quebec a letter from the Bishops "condemnatory of bribery, perjury and other abuses, and exhorting the electors to vote according to their consciences." This is the right sort of clerical interference in politics, and not only the right sort, but just about the proper quantity. Is any one sanguine enough to expect that it will go no further? What are the "other abuses?" Is the intimidation of voters by their spiritual guides one of them?

IN its notice of the new Hymn and Tune Book the Halifax "Presbyterian Witness" says: "The Committee adopted the 'fixed tune' system. Exception may be taken to this as inconvenient, but after all we are convinced that experience will show that the Committee acted wisely. The Free Church Hymnal, that of the United Presbyterian, the American books, Buteman's, Wilson's, Hymns Ancient and Modern—indeed, all the leading Hymnals are prepared on this system. Let every hymn be wedded to its appropriate tune. There is reason to believe that this was the system adopted by David himself."

ONE thousand cigar-makers held a meeting in New York last week, and denounced the employment of women in cigar factories as "degrading to morals and dangerous to posterity." A Boston paper observes with a touch of sarcasm, that these "are the same terms as are applied by certain reformers to the use of tobacco itself," and the Montreal "Witness" takes the measure of the philanthropic and far-seeing cigar-makers as follows: "It has often been asserted that tobacco is driving out of the men whatever chivalrous notions they may have had. Judging from the recent refusal of a hundred men to work alongside of a young girl able to compete with them in their work, the cigar-makers have none left. The anxiety displayed for the health and morals of the community and posterity is rich."

AT a recent meeting of the Kirk-session of the Free High Church, Edinburgh, Scotland, for the election of elders, the voting papers contained the names of twelve gentlemen, one of whom was the Rev. W. Robertson Smith. The number of elders required was eight, and, on examination of the voting papers, it was found that the highest number of votes (276, had been recorded for Mr. Robertson Smith, who has only been connected with the congregation since he removed from his Chair in the College of the Church at Aberdeen. It may be mentioned that Mr. James Sims, of Craigmount, and Mr. Blyth, draper, the former of

whom was one of the most active promoters of the election of Dr. Walter Smith to the High Church, has withdrawn from the eldership, in anticipation of the appointment of Mr. Robertson Smith.

IRISH papers recently received describe the funeral of the late Rev. J. G. Robb, D.D., as one of the largest and most respectable that had been seen in Galway for a long time. Many beautiful wreaths were laid upon the coffin—some from members of the congregation and other residents, and some from a distance. At half past ten o'clock on the morning of Thursday, the 10th November, the funeral cortege left the church, which was chastely draped in mourning, and proceeded to the railway station, the procession being in the following order. The deceased gentleman's brother, brother-in-law and sons; representative elder; representatives of the congregation; members of the Ashlone Presbytery, Galway ministers of all denominations, professors and students of the Queen's College, etc. The remains were accompanied to Belfast by several relatives and ministers, when, on Friday morning, another large procession followed them to the family burying ground at Comber. The same minister who had baptized Dr. Robb, the Rev. Dr. Bellis, now far advanced in years, conducted the funeral services.

ST. CUTHBERT'S is the largest church in Edinburgh, having a seating capacity of 3,000. It is decidedly quaint, both as to exterior and interior. It is situated in the midst of the beautifully kept cemetery which lies immediately below Castle Rock. The present building is said to be about 150 years old. It was in use in 1745, when the Pretender was in possession of the castle just above it. Neil McVicar was the Whiggish pastor at the time. Orders were given that in all the churches prayers should be offered up for the young Prince. The proximity of the castle guns suggested to the recalcitrant pastor that "discretion, and so on," and he cut the knot by the following prayer: "As for this callant that is come among us seeking an earthly crown, Lord, speedily send him a crown of glory." Good old Neil's portrait still hangs in the vestry. In the porch of the church is a memorial stone of Napier of Merchiston, the inventor of logarithms, and among the graves outside is that of Thomas de Quincey. We have said St. Cuthbert's is a large church—the congregation fills it. It has 2,700 communicants. Dr. McGregor, who has lately been travelling with the Marquis of Lorne in the North-West, is senior minister. Rev. James Barclay, who recently preached before the Queen at Balmoral, is his colleague, and there are besides two assistants.

THE thirty-second annual meeting of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance was opened in the Temperance Hall in this city on the afternoon of the 6th inst. The Grand Worthy Patriarch, Mr. G. M. Rose, occupied the chair. In his opening address we find the following warning to temperance people: "Permit me to say that although, in Ontario at least, the traffickers in liquor are at this moment apparently unaggressive, this is far from being the case. The Secretary of the Licensed Victuallers' Association is now busy establishing in every district in our province 'Benevolent Societies' (save the mark!) which in time will endeavour to counteract the good influences of our divisions, and, if possible, bring those who have been for a time freed from the bondage of drink back again into its toils. We must carefully watch the operations of these organizations, and see that they are made powerless for mischief. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, and not a single member of our Order should be lulled into security by the apparent calm. There can be no peace for us so long as the liquor canker-worm is in our midst." It has since transpired that the Licensed Victuallers, under their new name of "The Ontario Trade Benevolent Association," have succeeded in imposing upon the Temperance Hall Board so far as to obtain the use of the hall for their approaching convention. The Board, having discovered the true

character of their proposed tenants, are anxious to have the agreement cancelled, and offer to return the rent, which was paid in advance, but the "victuallers" insist on the fulfilment of the contract.

THE following are the opening sentences of President Arthur's Message, sent to the United States Senate and House of Representatives on the 6th inst. "An appalling calamity has befallen the American people since their chosen representatives last met in the halls where you are now assembled. We might else recal with unalloyed content the rare prosperity with which throughout the year the nation has been blessed. Its harvests have been plentiful, its varied industries have thriven, the health of its people has been preserved, it has maintained with foreign Governments undisturbed relations of amity and peace. For these manifestations of His favour we owe to Him who holds our destiny in His hands the tribute of our grateful devotion. To that mysterious exercise of His will which has taken from us a loved and illustrious citizen, who was but lately head of the nation, we bow in sorrow and submission. The memory of his exalted character, of his noble achievements, and of his patriotic life will be treasured forever as the sacred possession of the whole people. The announcement of his death drew from foreign Governments and peoples tributes of sympathy and sorrow which history will record as signal tokens of the kinship of nations and the federation of mankind." The body of the document contains a recognition of the "pleasing fact" that "the feeling of goodwill" between the United States Government and that of Great Britain "was never more marked than at present." Further on, reference is made to the murder of American missionaries in Turkey, as follows: "The insecurity of life and property in many parts of Turkey has given rise to correspondence with the Porte, looking particularly to the better protection of American missionaries in the empire. The condemned murderer of the eminent missionary, Dr. Justin W. Parsons, has not yet been executed, although this Government has repeatedly demanded it."

THE appeal made by Principal Grant for the thorough equipment of Queen's College has been very liberally, but not yet quite fully responded to. The wants still unsupplied are serious, and we suspect that they are not present to the minds of many who are both able and willing to render assistance in placing the institution on the best possible footing. The "Queen's College Journal," in its last issue, gives the following corrected version of some remarks made by the Principal on this subject at the opening of the session, and misreported at the time: "Three years ago, at the instance of the University Council, I asked not only for new buildings with improved equipment of the Laboratories, Museum and Library, but also for two additional Professors and two assistants. We are occupying the new buildings. The two assistants have been appointed; but we have still to look for the two additional Professors. Until the state of the College finances warrants the appointment of two new members to the Senate, we are not in a position to do our work as it ought to be done. Doubtless, in due time the money will be forthcoming," etc. To this the "Journal" adds an appeal of its own, and we heartily render all the help we can towards having it widely circulated. It is as follows: "The two professorships imperatively required are, (1) one at least in Arts, and (2) one at least in Theology. In Arts it is simply impossible that one man can long continue to teach both Mathematics and Chemistry, as they have now to be taught in Queen's, without breaking down in health. In Theology the third chair was declared indispensable by the Synod thirteen years ago. In McGill there are several chairs, each of which bears a founder's name. We have not one so endowed in Queen's. Which of the friends of Queen's will be the first to immortalize himself, and earn the gratitude of a thousand generations? The time has surely come to respond to the Principal's appeal."