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Notes of the Week.

A few years ago, the autocratic Czar of all the Russias closed the Women's Institute of Medicine; but the young Czar has rescinded the order, and it is about to be reopened, and the women who had obtained their degrees previously, will now be allowed to practice.

In an address at Edinburgh, lately, Dr. Coulston said that medical students brought £150,000 annually to the city to pay their expenses, and that medical discoveries and labors had brought down the death-rate in the city seven per cent. during the last twenty-five years, so that for one he felt profoundly grateful to the medical fraternity.

The handling and transportation to the seaboard of such an immense volume of produce as Manitoba and the North-west have this year to dispose of, is a gigantic undertaking, especially considering the brief time in which the greater part of it must be accomplished, and the importance to the whole North-west of its being successfully performed. We learn from Montreal that the Canadian Pacific Railway company is making the most perfect arrangements for the transportation of the enormous North-west crop. Every available spare car has been called into assist in the work of transportation, and additional cars will be built to meet the demand.

The following statement made by the *Commonwealth*, London, England, is interesting and in many ways most significant: "Hebrew is rapidly becoming again a living language. This is one of the singular facts of the age. In Jerusalem and throughout Palestine there is a remarkable resurrection of the language of Moses. The only papers published in Palestine are two weeklies, both in Hebrew. In 1893 a Jewish monthly was started for juvenile readers, and this was also in Hebrew. There are households where only Hebrew is spoken. Here we have a sign of the times. The Jews cannot die out while they keep their old language alive. The Bible has a way of saving every language into which it is translated. It is the preaching of the gospel which is saving the Welsh language from rapid extinction."

England, Germany and China have each their Grand Old Man in Gladstone, Bismarck and Li Hung Chang. It is not so generally known that Japan has also its grand old man in the person of Yukichi Fukuzawa, twenty years the junior of the better known triumvirate. Thirty years ago he visited the United States and introduced to the knowledge of his countrymen Webster's dictionary, and English into the schools which have been very potent factors in the revolutionizing of Japan. He advocated against the anti-foreign party, the opening of the country to the new world. The *Jiji Shimpo* (the *Times* of Japan) is his organ and his sons are its editors. He has also founded a university second only to the Imperial institution at Tokio. He comes from the common people, and is known as the "great commoner." Like Gladstone he has modestly refused to accept decorations, honours, or even the peerage from the Mikado.

Both China and Turkey appear to have got on their high horse, and are disposed to be haughty, if not defiant and obstinate about allowing full investigation into the horrid cruelties in which both have been indulging and making and guaranteeing the reparation and reforms which the whole civilized world agrees must in the name of our common humanity be insisted on. Should these two powers, both so weak, even if willing to make reparation and reforms, persist in their present atti-

tude, measures, whose end no one can foresee, will almost certainly be taken by the great powers of Europe at least, possibly joined in also by the United States, to accomplish by force what it would appear like an almost judicial infatuation China and Turkey are determined not to do themselves by the use of any milder means. The next few years may see very great and far-reaching changes take place in the affairs and character of these two semi-civilized powers.

Few things illustrate more strikingly the progress being made by the coloured people of the South than the history of Fisk University, at Nashville, Tenn. It reads like a romance. Begun thirty years ago as a primary school among a people just out of bondage, it graduated its first college class in 1875, and has now on its list of college alumni one hundred and fifty, and in that of normal alumni one hundred and thirty-seven, in music six, and in theology five. Many of these graduates are occupying places of much responsibility as presidents and professors in colleges, principals and teachers in normal and high schools, ministers of the gospel, lawyers, doctors, editors, men of business and leaders among their people. The number reached by the university through these, directly and indirectly, must be very great. The theological work, is especially important as there is so great a lack of well prepared ministers of the gospel in the churches of all denominations among the increasing millions of the colored people in the South, and on account of the call for missionaries of their own race to go to those who sit in all the gloom of the Dark Continent.

What must it be in Manitoba and the North-west when we here in Ontario, and doubtless it is the same in the more eastern parts of the Dominion, are kept on the tenterhooks of anxiety about the presence or absence of frost night after night or one or two degrees more or less of it? The first thing we turn to in our morning papers, and we do it with fear and trembling, is the reports from Manitoba and the Northwest. We congratulate our fellow-countrymen in all the west upon their splendid prospects and hope they may be all realized. We fancy that we can see the far-stretching, waving fields of fast ripening grain, and we shall rejoice with them when they can go to bed and sleep o' nights in triumphant defiance of Jack Frost. As we write harvesting throughout Manitoba and the North-west is general, and before this can reach our readers the fate of the crops and of a great many other things besides for another season will have been decided for better or worse and to all appearance for better and not for worse. If for better, as we according to our poor judgment think of it, what an outburst of thanksgiving should go up not from our great West only, but from the whole Dominion!

Speaking of the late elections in Great Britain the *Philadelphia Presbyterian* says of the reasons of the great defeat of the Liberal party, and the effect it is likely to have on the temperance cause: "There is one thing to be regretted in the present 'overturning and overturning' in British politics. It is the probable disappearance, at least for a time, of the movement for 'Local Option,' as it is termed on our side of the ocean; or 'Local Veto,' as the English call it. A bill which proposed to limit the sale of intoxicating liquors, or to put it under the control of local authorities, was introduced into the House of Commons by Sir William Harcourt, in the early part of the last session, but was not very earnestly pushed, and suffered a crushing defeat in the downfall of the Rosebery Ministry. Lord Salisbury will not give any aid in the revival of this scheme, and efforts of the kind will be confined to members of the House of Commons, who heartily believe in the advance of temperance.

The late elections have also revealed the tremendous power which has been gained by the drinking shops and the immense breweries of Great Britain. They are in close alliance with each other, many of the large brewers owning the houses where the beer and other intoxicants are sold, and holding the renters at their mercy. The real estate investments of the brewers are very large, and they have become a distinct and a powerful factor in political changes.

The cathedral city of Canterbury is the metropolitan see of all England; its archbishop is primate of all England, metropolitan, first peer of the realm, and ranks next to royalty. The transference accordingly of Arch-deacon Farrar from being Dean of Westminster Abbey to be Dean of Canterbury is a promotion though at the cost of about \$5,000 salary, to this well-known, hard-working and honored divine. His removal from London, where he will be greatly missed, has naturally called forth some references to him of an interesting kind. He was born in Bombay and is 64 years old. At Cambridge in 1852 he wrote a prize poem, a distinction won before him by such men as Macaulay, Wordsworth and Tennyson. In his earlier life he was one of the most successful public school tutors ever known in Britain. The head of Marlborough College wrote of his one-time assistant: "I never knew of any one who had greater power of stimulating intellectual exertion and literary tastes among the boys with whom he came in contact; his character is most lovable, he wins to himself all who approach him. He would be, I am sure, the magnet of all that is noble and generous in the hearts of those whom he rules." Prof. Max Muller has said of him that "Farrar's name would add luster to any school in England." His fame as a preacher, writer and philanthropist has reached to the remotest corner of the British empire and to every part of the civilized world.

The published report of the commission appointed by the Minister of Education to examine into the condition of the Ottawa Separate Schools is an interesting document and most valuable as well as interesting. This commission was appointed at the request of the Ottawa Separate School Board. It was composed of competent men and they have done their work patiently and thoroughly. We can only say without going into particulars, that the report as regards the boys' schools taught by the Christian Brothers is about as damaging as it could well be to the character of the teaching given in these schools, and to the results which may fairly be expected from anything approaching to efficient teaching. A noticeable feature of the report is the complaints made in it of the most complete failure in those subjects in which the exercise of the reasoning powers is required. Another is the superiority of the teaching and naturally of the results in the schools taught by the Sisters. It is not to be wondered at that complaints and dissatisfaction have long existed on this subject in Ottawa. The wonder is that thorough inspection and public exposure have so long been delayed. Satisfactory upon the whole as the work done in the girls' schools has been found to be, the result of this investigation cannot but be most unfavorable to the cause of separate school instruction. If this is the state of things in Ottawa, it is impossible not to conclude that it must be much worse in Manitoba. The results of similar investigation there are, we understand, about to be published, and the revelations which will be made are unique in the history of education, and damaging in the extreme to the character of the teaching given in the separate schools. The questions cannot but suggest themselves. How far would an equally searching public investigation into the separate schools over the whole province reveal a similar state of things? What should be done with them?