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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is noted by the *Christian World* that the three last Lord Chancellors of England, the eminent lawyers Earl Cairns, Lord Hatherly, and the Earl of Selbourne, have all been Sunday school teachers, and well known for their Christian character.

The latest news from the north-east coast of Newfoundland is sad. The codfish catch is short a half-million quintals, and famine is imminent. About eight hundred families are reported starving, and sustaining life at present on squids. The whole coast of Newfoundland and Labrador is studded with icebergs.

The editor of the *Boston Journal of Chemistry* has learned by observation that the ant is an active and efficient destroyer of the canker-worm. The little creatures would seize the worms which were feeding upon the leaves of an elm tree, and bear them in their powerful grip to their nest in the ground. They seemed more effective than the birds.

CONSUL SEYMOUR, of Canton, in a report to our Government states the creditable fact that on the failure of a Chinese firm with large indebtedness to foreign merchants, Hanqua, a distinguished merchant, called on a few wealthy merchants to join him in paying off their debts, heading the subscription with \$1,000,000, "that Chinese credit might remain untarnished."

It is said that the passengers of the steamer *Amsterdam*, wrecked off Sable Island some time since, had to face the combined peril of whiskey and water. Certain of the crew and passengers, and even the people on shore, obtained access to the liquor in the ship-stores, and confusion, misconduct, inhumanity, were the result, occasioning much suffering among the survivors who were landed on the island.

DR. JOHN HALL, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Church, New York, is a firm believer in the Divine right of the eldership, and insists that its duties shall be faithfully discharged. The church served by him has two thousand members, and one hundred are assigned to the watch and care of each of the twenty elders. The church of Dr. George P. Hays, in Denver, has gone a step farther and has twenty-four deaconesses.

The English Parliament has been convoked for the 23rd of October for the transaction of Government business, and for discussion of the Franchise Bill. The Ministerialists intend to curtail debates, and expect to finish the session in four weeks. The Parnellites will move an inquiry into the Maamtrasna confessions, and also demand the recall of Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland.

It is a mistaken idea that no fruit should be eaten at breakfast. It would be far better if people would eat less bacon and grease at breakfast, and more fruit. In the morning there is an acid state of the secretions, and nothing is so well calculated to correct this as cooling sub-acid fruits, such as strawberries, apples, peaches, etc. This brings to mind an old Spanish proverb: "Fruit is gold in the morning, silver at noon, and lead at night."

FRENCH irritation against Great Britain is hard to allay. Perhaps one reason is that the English press has for most part been simply amused at the petulant diatribes of French journalists, which seem as ridiculous as they are uncalled for. Criticism of the bombardment of the forts at Foochow has exasperated a people whose susceptibilities are of the most sensitive kind. The average Frenchman can stand any amount of praise, but he winces under the slightest censure. French vanity is easily tickled, and just as easily mortified, though the same weakness is not exclusively confined to people of that nationality. Abuse of England will add nothing to the glory of France.

ACCORDING to some of the reliable journals of Rome, the Jesuits are again making their way into that city, and acquiring property for their accommodation under an assumed name. The ancient and famous palace on the Pincian Hill, has just been purchased, it is believed by them, and transformed into an educational institution, which is said to be the seventh Jesuit establishment now revived in Rome, of course, under the wing of the Vatican. The holy pontiff seems to be working away with a vigour that indicates great hope for the future. In the present month a consistory is to be held, in which it is said that thirty bishops and twelve cardinals are to be appointed.

THE learned world of theology has been looking forward with interest and curiosity to know who would fill the place of the great and lamented Dorner, in the University of Berlin. But the places of such men as Dorner, Lepsius, and Lange are not to be filled. Their peculiar personality was their work, and with their decease it ceases. Therefore we are not surprised to learn that there has been no question with the authorities of the university as to this point. Some few lines of work in the regular order have been assigned to other men, and Dorner lives on in memory. Some other giant mind will soon appear to make its mark and pass on. This fact, that men do largely form the attraction of German universities, causes the attendance on these institutions to rise and fall with the rise and fall of the great teachers.

THE European emperors, William of Germany, Francis Joseph of Austria, and Alexander III. of Russia, have met at Skierniowice, in Poland. They were attended by Prince Bismarck, Count Kelnoky, and M. De Giers, and their retainers. Magnificent festivities were held in their honour. Much stress was laid in the despatches on the demonstrations of love and affection made by the august sovereigns, while little as yet has transpired of the understandings reached by those who play so important a part in European politics. No doubt the doings and plans of Nihilists and Anarchists, and the best means of defeating their designs were fully discussed. There would be an interchange of opinions on the present aspect of affairs in Europe. The most important surmise is that a reduction of the enormous standing armies of Germany, Austria and Russia was agreed upon. So far as has yet transpired the result of the recent imperial conference is in the direction of continued peace.

SUCCESSING the mania in the United States of bank plundering by dishonest officials, there has been one of silly elopements. The most absurd, if not the most "romantic," has been that of a daughter of an ex-Garibaldian hero. General Morisini, in due time became a trusted official in Jay Gould's business. He prospered and became wealthy. In his palatial mansion on the Hudson dwelt the heroine of this frowsy romance. The coachman, her attendant groom, in dime novel style became the bridegroom. The father was relentless, and instead of returning to her luxurious home, the accomplished daughter took up her temporary abode over a German beer saloon, to which her devoted husband, who bears the suggestive name of Hullskamp, accompanied her. She professes consuming affection for the man of her choice. How long will that continue? Young ladies whose early

homes were far less well appointed than Miss Morisini's have found love in a cottage unendurable. There is every prospect of a tragic ending to such a miserable comedy. True love is delightful in its way, but there is no reason why it should fly in the face of common sense.

THE German ambassador to the Vatican seems well-nigh exhausted in his endeavour to bring the conflicting question between the two powers to an intelligent status. He is about convinced that in many instances the *curia* does not care to settle the conflict. The interests of the religion of the nine millions of German Catholics lie not so near to the heart of the great prelate as the hierarchical and political interests of Vaticanism. The ambassador has refused to make any other propositions, evidently by order of the emperor and Prince Bismarck, who seem to have gone as near to Canossa as they intend to proceed. It looks now as if the Prussian Government might soon resolve to suspend for a time, at least, all diplomatic negotiations, and the country will not be surprised to hear that the special ambassador to Rome had not returned to his post. It is hardly probable that the German Government will now be able to attain its end by negotiation, for it absolutely declines to do more than modify the May laws, and insists on the appointments of bishops who will not be in open and avowed antagonism to it, while the *curia* demand full liberty for the education of its clergy and full clerical jurisdiction.

THE liquor dealers of the State of New York met in convention at Syracuse last week, to devise means for the protection of their traffic. They passed a resolution declaring that a circular letter shall be sent to all candidates for office, inquiring as to their position on all questions that may come before them affecting the interests of liquor dealers. Where a candidate is opposed to their interests he will be opposed by the members of the association. It was resolved that all questions of national politics be excluded from the consideration of the convention. On the same day at Denver, Colorado, was held the State Prohibition Convention. Resolutions were adopted declaring in favour of the principle and policy of legal prohibition; pledging support to only pure men for positions of official trust; declaring unity with and allegiance to the National Prohibition party, and pledging cordial support to St. John and Daniel. Thus the question is coming to the front. It is everywhere becoming one of the live issues of the time. It has entered the sphere of practical politics. The struggle between these opposing interests is every year becoming more direct and intense. Time is on the side of temperance. Its ultimate triumph may with certainty be anticipated.

THE Federation of the Presbyterian Churches in Australia has been the subject of an Intercolonial Conference, held in Sydney on July 9th and subsequent days. There were present delegates from the Presbyterian Churches of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. These Churches have hitherto been apart from each other, though they have gathered into themselves for the most part the divided elements of Scottish Presbyterianism. It is now agreed upon to form a Presbyterian Church of Australia and Tasmania, with its supreme representative court to be called the Federal Assembly. Meantime the autonomy of each Colonial Church is to be preserved, but theological education, missions to the heathen, and trials for heresy, are to be placed directly under the Federal Assembly. A revised directory on the basis of the American revision has been submitted and sent to all the Presbyteries. Much unanimity of sentiment prevailed, and it is hoped that the basis of a large and influential Presbyterian Church for Australia has been laid. There are now 350 ministers in the different colonies, and 150 more in New Zealand. The last-mentioned colony is not yet embraced in the proposed union, as it is twelve hundred miles distant by sea from Australia.