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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SOME time ago the announcement was made that Gilchrist scholarships at London University would no longer be offered for competition to Canadian students. It is now announced that Dr. Jack, President of New Brunswick University, has been notified that owing to the timely remonstrances of that institution, and Dalhousie College, Halifax, these scholarships will be open for competition once in three years to students in the Maritime Provinces. Have our western university authorities allowed the opportunity to go by default, or having made representations were they refused? Those made by the sea-side provincials are said to have been urgent, and they have gained their point. Is it too late yet for Toronto University to secure the continuance of the Gilchrist scholarship competition as an incentive to Canadian students?

AFTER much wrangling and uncertainty the British House of Lords have rejected the Franchise Bill. On the second reading the measure was defeated by Lord Cairns' amendment that an extension of the franchise be postponed till a scheme of re-distribution is introduced. On a division, 205 voted for the amendment and 146 against it. The crisis that Mr. Gladstone said he would regret, but was not afraid of has arrived. The Commons will simply send back the Franchise Bill to the House of Lords, and then there will be commotion. The Liberal and Radical members are raising an agitation already. Sir Charles Dilke has been speaking on the subject, and one of the members for Glasgow has given notice of a motion in the House of Commons that he would ask for an early discussion of a standing resolution that the continuance of an unreformed hereditary House of Lords is incompatible with wise legislation.

UNIVERSITY degrees are supposed to certify the scholastic or literary eminence of those who attach the cabalistic letters to their names. These honours are much sought after. They are obtained both by merit and by favour. Some who attach great importance to the much-coveted distinction set themselves with industry to excel in a particular branch of study, and by singleness of aim they succeed in attaining the object of their ambition. Others, have friends who exert themselves to secure the honour. Still there are others who have courage enough to solicit the distinction, and they can, for the encouragement of learning, present a title to the funds of the degree-conferring institution, and thus we have a great increase in the number of learned and distinguished men. There are men whose natural ability and literary acquirements are so obvious that university senates feel that the bestowment of a D.D. or an LL.D. is an honour to him who receives and to those by whom it is conferred. The *Globe* last week, commenting on the number of degrees granted by United States colleges, irreverently designates these institutions degree factories. This seems hard, but whose fault is it? Like the Scottish university spoken of by Samuel Johnson, they get rid of their debts by degrees.

SOMETIMES the argument is used that because a prohibitory law is evaded, therefore, it is useless to pass the Scott Act. The answer to this is obvious. Because people steal it would be futile to retain the law against theft on the statute book. The desperate shifts to which people resort in order to evade prohibitory liquor laws is in itself a strong reason why they should be imposed and strictly enforced in order to protect these victims of intemperance from their own folly, as well as the community at large. A rollicking correspondent of the *Regina Leader* writing from the end of the C.P.R. track says: There are about 5000 men working on the railroad and in a month longer 10000 men are expected. The blasting at the tunnels can be heard sixteen to twenty miles away. The pay is \$2 to \$2.50 per day. Pay day

comes on the 15th of the month and if we could only get about twenty barrels of old rye up here we would make a fortune. Some men have been known to pay \$5 for one drink. I heard of a fellow who paid \$80 for a gallon. We had lots of permits in here last night and a great many were pretty full. The police were out in full force but all had permits, which they were sorry for, for they could not make a cent for themselves. So they turned in and got drunk with the rest, or about halfway, we will say. If such doings are possible where the sale of liquor is forbidden, what would be the state of things were there no restrictions on the traffic.

CONVENTIONS for the nomination of candidates for the U. S. Presidency are uncertain. The date of assembly is fixed, but when, or with what result they will end, no weather prophet can foretell. The Republican convention, held five weeks since, did its work quickly, and on the whole quietly. The Democratic convention that met last week have not been so expeditious in getting through their work, and the excitement was greater, as was also the complication of personal and sectional interests. The many aspirants for the coveted honour of receiving the nomination, made the preliminary fighting and manoeuvring all the more tedious. That great fungus-growth of the American body politic, Tammany, was, as usual, a disturbing element. John Kelly and his camp followers did their best to defeat the nomination of Governor Cleveland, but without success. Thus the most available man the Democratic party could select has, after keen contention, been put in the field against James G. Blaine. From now till November our neighbours will be engaged in the congenial work of booming their candidates till the ballot ends the contest. The Democratic platform contains one plank that will greatly increase its chances. The enormous taxation levied, first to meet a great war expenditure, and ever since in the name of protection, they promise to reduce. This indicates a tardy return to sounder economic principles. The marvel is that the American people, who began their national career by a demonstration against taxed tea, should have submitted to war rates of taxation for twenty years after the war was finished. But then no nation is absolutely true to its ideal.

THE Council of the Evangelical Alliance have issued the programme for the Eighth General Conference of Christians of all nations which is to assemble in Copenhagen, from August 30 to September 7th next. Judging from the names of a large number of eminent men who are expected to be present from all parts of the world, the Conference promises to be one of the most important ever held. One of the most interesting features will be reports on the present state of religion in various countries. Christianity and the Masses, the Basis and Authority of the New Testament, Modern Unbelief, the Divinity and Atoning work of Our Lord, the Harmony of Science and Revelation, the Duty of the Christian Church in reference to Missions, Sunday-school Work, Intemperance, the Duty of Liberal Giving, Christian Responsibility in regard to Prevailing Immorality, the Lord's Day, Its Place and Power, are among the subjects upon which addresses will be given. There are also to be several addresses on the Evangelical Alliance, its influence in promoting Christian union and religious liberty. Among those expected to take part in the proceedings are many well-known Evangelical leaders. The following are announced to participate in the Conference: The Lord Mayor of London, the Revs. T. McCullagh, President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference; Dr. Marshall Lang, Professor Redford, Dr. Sinclair Paterson, Prebendary Anderson, W. Arthur, Dr. Conder, Dr. L. B. White, Dr. Gritton, Dr. Murray Mitchell, Dr. Clemance, Dr. Angus, Dr. Cairns, and R. S. Ashton; and Mr. F. Hartley, of the Sunday School Union. America will be represented by the Revs. Professor Schaff, Professor Day, Dr. John Hall, and Dr. W. M. Taylor; Canada by Principal MacVicar, Switzerland by Professor Godet; Ger-

many by Professor Christlieb; Sweden by Professor Rosenino; Italy by Professor Geymonat; Denmark by the Revs. Dr. Kalpar, Dean Vahl, and Professor Scharling, besides other representatives.

IT is easier to use all necessary precaution to prevent if possible the outbreak of cholera than to fight the scourge when once it has made its appearance. The impression that its ravages could be confined to Toulon and Marseilles can now be no longer entertained. It has broken out in Italy. The opinion of experts is that the fatal disease will spread. The French and English Governments seem reluctant to interfere with the ordinary course of affairs or to restrict freedom in any way. The former does not desire to postpone the national celebration during this week of the fall of the Bastille, while the latter profess unwillingness to take any steps that might wound the *amour propre* of the French people. It now becomes an imperative duty to do all that is possible for preventing the approach of cholera. In all great centres of population there are localities that from their unwholesome surroundings invite this dread plague. Canada has been visited by it before and may be again. Here as elsewhere there are places on which it is sure to fasten. Carelessness as to sanitary matters is at all times culpable; it would be criminal to neglect the ordinary laws of health when pestilence is at our gates. Public authority should be prompt in securing the removal of all nuisances and in providing an abundant supply of pure water. Domestic and personal cleanliness should be attended to with unfailing regularity and should cholera break out there ought to be proper organization to cope with the disease, that patients may have the benefit of all requisite appliances, and every effort made to stamp it out. While it is every one's duty to use all right means to avoid the disease, nothing could be more hurtful than unreasonable panic or cowardly fear. We ought simply to trust in God and do the right.

SENSATIONAL journalism happily does not find congenial soil in Canada. The people are slow to appreciate this kind of enterprise. There is a class who believe that there is money in it, and as they do seem to believe in money and nothing else, it is not surprising that they find themselves mistaken. In the United States there is a part of the population among whom papers saturated with vicious details find a ready circulation. Their corrupting influence is great. The attempts to introduce similar publications in Canada have so far been failures, and it is hoped they will continue to be. A case has recently occurred in Hamilton which gives people generally an idea of how disreputably these things are managed. A young journalist had been writing for this class of papers a series of articles with disgusting innuendoes which readers would readily fix on people in prominent circles. One of these, with probable modification in social colouring, was inserted in an obscure sheet printed in Hamilton. It was understood to refer to a family well and widely known. The gentleman and his wife were vilely slandered. He prosecuted and the young man through his counsel made an abject and humiliating apology. The counsel said, I am instructed by the defendant to express his deep regret that a desire to furnish sensational articles to papers in order to increase their circulation, and so make his contributions acceptable to the publishers, should have led him to the authorship of an article which is utterly untrue and without foundation in fact, and which he is sorry to learn has caused so much undeserved pain to estimable citizens. My client has been employed on newspapers in the Western States where there are contributed to some journals, so I am informed, articles of a similar nature, which, while attracting attention and increasing the circulation of the papers in which they appear, do not arouse the indignation caused by this production of my client's, but are there regarded by many as being within the province of ordinary newspaper enterprise. The day labour of the navvie is incomparably more honourable than such "enterprising journalism."