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Notes of the Week.

Premier Crispi in closing a general debate in the Italian Senate, appealed to the members to grant a "truce of God," to enable the Government to reorganize its finances. In making this appeal the Premier spoke most earnestly, and called the attention of the Senate to his own act of self-abnegation in accepting office at a time of unparalleled trouble.

The Rev. R. W. Dobbie, of Hevchairn Free Church, Glasgow, has been calling attention to the facts of so many of the recently made Scottish D.D.'s having done little or nothing to deserve this title: from the Scottish universities. He puts in a plea for the American degree, cordially congratulating Dr. Denney, of Broughty Ferry, on his well-merited and much valued honor. Mr. Dobbie affirms that American degrees are not bestowed in Britain unless something has been done to merit them, and that the same cannot be said of the Scottish ones.

A Woman's Medical Institute is to be established in St. Petersburg. It will be in charge of the Ministry of Education, and the school will be opened in the fall. The number of women physicians is exceptionally large in Russia, but their work is confined entirely to practice among their own sex and the children. One reason for this is the fact that the Czar has twelve million Mohammedan subjects, and Mohammedan women will not permit male physicians to treat them, and only in exceptional cases to enter the nurseries, which are in connection with the women's department of the houses.

Affairs in Samoa are much disturbed, and the situation very critical; severe fighting between the rival parties is daily looked for. It is a pity that the poor Samoans cannot be left alone by the Great Powers. We have reliable evidence for saying that annexation or a protectorate by Great Britain would be most acceptable to the natives, and if that is impossible then the next most acceptable settlement would be annexation with New Zealand. The present "Triple Alliance" management is a pitiable affair for the poor natives, and if continued, will be one of the quickest ways of exterminating the race.

In reply to an inquiry as to surveys for a trans-Pacific Cable, in the House of Commons, the Secretary of the Admiralty recently stated that soundings had been taken by the *Egeria* in 1888, 1889 and 1890, between the North Cape of New Zealand and the Phoenix Islands, two hundred miles south of the Equator. The positions of several islands upon that line were fixed in order to determine their suitability as cable stations. The work was done in accordance with communications between the Admiralty and the Colonial Office. The distance between the extreme points examined was more than 2,000 miles.

The Hælegonians have been giving a right royal welcome to Lord and Lady Aberdeen, who has been accompanied on her return to Canada by her mother the Dowager Duchess of Tweedmouth. While all Canadians are, we might say, ultra-loyal, and have never failed to welcome heartily the representative of royalty because of his vice-royalty, yet the high personal and social qualities of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, and the breadth and manifest sincerity of their interest in all classes of the people, and in everything that can advance Canada's best interests, give a heartiness and universality to the manifestation of that interest which must to them be very gratifying.

The death is mentioned recently of Dr. Henry Carrington Alexander, until about two years ago a professor in Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, in which he served for more than twenty years. He was of the third generation in that illustrious line, being the son of Dr. James Alexander, and the grand-son of Dr. Archibald Alexander. He was

born in Princeton, while his father was a professor in the college there. He was a frequent and able contributor to church periodicals and reviews, and ever made manifest a fund of scholarship and a keen power with the pen. In his earlier days he wrote the life of his famous uncle, Dr. Addison Alexander, the great scholar of Princeton.

The General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, recently in session at Sydney, adopted resolutions in favor of union with the other branches of Methodism in Australasia. The resolution provides for a standing committee on Methodist union who shall have power to act in the matter during the interval between the present and the succeeding General Conference. The Conference directs each of its annual conferences to ask the other Methodist bodies to join in creating within its own bounds a federal council of Methodist Churches. There was a debate on the subject lasting three days. When the vote was taken it was found that a large majority were in favor of union, the vote being 101 to 14.

It may be in the memory of some of our readers that, on February 1st, 1891, a frightful explosion occurred in the Springhill mine, Nova Scotia, by which 125 lives were lost, 58 women were made widows, 169 children became fatherless, eight aged widows lost their sons, and 16 boys of 16 years old or under met their death. Liberal contributions in sympathy with the bereaved to the amount of about \$100,000 were made. A monument in memory of the terrible calamity is about to be erected in the neighbourhood. It has been designed by Mr. F. W. Gullet, a sculptor of this city. It will stand about 25 feet high, being surmounted by a figure in white Italian statuary marble of a model in life-size of a well-known miner. On the four faces of the base of the monument will be the names of the victims of the great disaster.

It is exceedingly desirable that the supply of the spiritual needs of all our destitute mission fields in Canada should be in the hands of men of a thoroughly godly, evangelical, earnest spirit and character. Such an one is the Anglican Bishop of Algoma, Rev. Dr. Sullivan. We regret to learn by the *Evangelical Churchman*, that the bishop has been so over-weighted by anxiety for his diocese, and has had to bear such a long-continued attack of ill-health, that he feels it his duty to send in his resignation to the Archbishop of Ontario, the chief officer of the Provincial Synod. Algoma will lose an able and faithful bishop, who has devoted all his great powers to the advancement of Christ's cause throughout that vast district. Responsibilities connected with the financial state and care of his diocese which ought to have been borne by the church generally, were unfairly thrown upon the Bishop. We cannot wonder the strain proved too great even for his robust strength.

The object of the Victoria Institute, whose headquarters are in London, England, is to investigate all philosophical and scientific questions, including any alleged to militate against the truths of revelation. At its annual meeting, lately held, Sir G. Gabriel Stokes, Bart., F.R.S., took the chair, as president. The honorary secretary, Captain F. Petrie, in reading the report, referred to the value of the work recently done. The institute's membership had slightly increased during the year, among those lately joined being Lord Kelvin. Among its members and contributors are such men as Sir W. Dawson, Dr. Prestwich's D.C.L., F.R.S., Dr. Woodward, president of the Geological Society, Major Conder and many eminent men. Among the subjects taken up were Dr. Prestwich's paper on "A Possible Cause for the Origin of the Tradition of the Flood;" Dr. Warren Upham's paper on the period of the Great Ice Age; Eastern Exploration; the Babylonian Records of a Primitive Monotheism. The annual address was given by Professor Duns, F.R.S.E., the subject being Archæology and Anthropology especially as connected with Folk-lore, and more particularly Stone Folk-lore.

In an official letter the Government of India congratulates Sir Mortimer Durand, who is now busily employed in preparing for his duties in Teheran, Persia, on the splendid work recently accomplished by him in Cabul, and observes of his career generally in our eastern Empire that it "cannot be closed without a feeling of regret on both sides." The Governor-General in Council rejoices, however, to think that in the high office to which Sir Mortimer is called in Persia he will still be in a position materially to serve the interests of India. The letter concludes as follows: "The Governor-General in Council bids you a cordial farewell. You have before you an opportunity of winning great fame and distinction in a career which offers a far wider scope than service in India can. You leave behind you a record which gives a brilliant promise of success in the future."

It is surely about time the election protest business of our politicians were coming to an end. If, in the opinion of honest and responsible men, there are really good and sufficient reasons for protesting so many of the late elections, then the electorate of Ontario is more corrupt and purchasable than we have been wont to give ourselves credit for, or our election laws must be very defective and it is time we ceased proclaiming our virtues in that regard. If there is no adequate ground for so many protests, surely the exercise of the franchise and the matter of elections are too serious things to be made sport of in this way. It is calculated to bring both into contempt if they are made the plaything of unreasoning faction fights. It ought to be borne in mind that Ontario has a character before the world to care for, and self-respecting politicians and men who prize Ontario's and Canada's good name, should set their face against trifling with what is so important to us among the nations wherever Canada or Ontario is known.

President Warfield, of Lafayette, discussed at the recent meeting of the National Educational Association, at Asbury Park, N. J., the question of student co-operation in college government. He said the parental relation in college administration had ceased to be real. It has become less and less possible, and more and more objectionable, to the students, and nothing has been adopted as a substitute for the decaying system. A new and definite system is demanded. "Amherst has tried student co-operation, Cornell and Princeton have tried committing special functions to students, Chicago and others have tried regulating the dormitories by the inmates. All report a general approbation. Indeed, on every side there is a growing feeling that college students are no longer boys, but men; that they are generally earnest and self-respecting; that loyalty to their own institution is an increasingly influential sentiment. In recognition of these facts it seems as though nothing could be more natural than to give these sentiments outlet and direction by enlisting them in the cause of college government."

A year ago in July last ground was broken at the corner of Notre Dame and Charlotte streets, Winnipeg, for the construction of a new church for Westminster congregation, Rev. C. B. Pitblado's. On Sabbath, August 5th, it was opened with appropriate public services at which the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, officiated. The church is of native white brick on Selkirk stone foundation, built in the form of a square, with added corners at the south-east and north-west sides. The basement is laid out for a Sunday school. "The floor slopes slightly down toward the pulpit from the north-west sides of the church. The gallery occupies the same sides and is of a design in thorough keeping with the building as a whole." From the pulpit platform the seats radiate in directions north and west to all the remaining corners of the building. "Great credit is due all the contractors for the thorough way in which they performed their work and the architect adds another to his already long list of successes as a designer of artistic and inexpensive buildings suited to the extremes of climate to which Winnipeg is subject."