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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

FATHER MACNAMARA, of the Independent Irish Catholic Church, New York city, has excommunicated the Pope.

THOSE Probationers whose names are on the roll for the Committee on Distribution are requested to forward their P. O. address at once to the Rev. R. Torrance, Convener, Guelph. The Committee met and made their distribution for the ensuing quarter on the 22nd inst.

KNOX College, Toronto, and the Presbyterian College, Montreal, re-open Wednesday next, 1st October. The opening lecture in the former will be delivered by the Rev. Prof. Gregg, D.D., subject, "Justin Martyr;" and in the latter by the Rev. Principal MacVicar, LL.D., subject, "Hindrances and helps to the spread of Presbyterianism."

REV. PROFESSOR MACLAREN requests us to state that the Foreign Mission Committee, Western Section, which usually meets on the first week of October, will not be called until about the end of October or the beginning of November. The reasons for this delay, it is believed, will commend themselves fully to the judgment of the Committee.

THE Presbytery of Edinburgh (Church of Scotland) has received a complaint from 479 members and adherents of the North Leith Parish Church against certain steps alleged to have been taken to introduce an organ in the public worship of the church. The complaint states that the petitioners "strongly object to the use of such an instrument in public worship, as being at variance with the practice and traditions of the Church of Scotland, as offensive to the tastes and feelings of many Scotch Presbyterians, and as not conducive to the service of praise being taken part in by the whole congregation." The minister and session of the church have been cited to appear before the Presbytery and defend their interests.

LAST Sabbath, in Charles street Presbyterian Church, the pastor, Rev. J. Hogg, in preaching from the words, "Bear ye one another's burdens," etc., made happy allusion to the manner in which Her Royal Highness, the Princess Louise, exemplifies this principle in her visits to hospitals, infants' homes, etc., and the practical sympathy she ever manifests in the happiness and well-being of the unfortunate inmates. Not merely taking a glance at the misery in general; but going carefully into the particulars of individual cases, thus proving that she is her mother's

daughter in the warmth of her affections and her willingness to honour the Divine injunction which was the theme of the minister's remarks. May many others be influenced by her worthy example.

THERE is a very restless feeling among the Mormons at Salt Lake City, owing to the legal net that is being drawn around the polygamists. The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Reynolds did not seem a decisive blow, as a part of every jury were necessarily Mormons; but there has been a change in the territorial law relating to jurors that promises to prove serious. The Mormon Legislature enacted the code of criminal procedure of California, not knowing that it contained a provision for the appointment of triers to determine the competence of a juror in a given case. It is now in the power of the prosecuting attorney to remove all Mormons from a jury about to try an indictment for polygamy. The law cannot be repealed by the Mormon Legislature, because the governor has an absolute veto power.

ON the afternoon of Friday, the 19th inst., His Excellency the Governor-General visited Knox College in this city. He was welcomed by Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. Prof. McLaren, and Rev. Dr. Gregg. He was first shown into Convocation Hall, where a number of ladies and gentlemen had collected. Among the latter were Rev. Drs. Topp and Reid, Rev. Messrs. King, Cameron, and Mitchell, Hon. John McMurrich, Ald. McMurrich, Messrs. W. Mortimer Clark, and A. McMurry, M.A. To an address read by Principal Caven His Excellency replied, expressing his thanks for the kindness shown him, said he had much pleasure in visiting the institution, and was surprised to find that the Presbyterians of Canada had such a very fine college. He alluded to the fact that he had attended theological lectures in St. Andrew's College, Scotland, expressed a hope that at some future time he would have an opportunity to visit Knox College at greater length, and concluded by wishing it all success in its future career. His Excellency was then conducted through the library, students' and professors' rooms, and dining room, paying great attention to all that was told him of the institution, and asking a number of questions, evincing his interest in its history.

RUSSIAN merchants, recently returned from the interior of China to St. Petersburg, have furnished terrible details respecting the famine which has for some time past prevailed throughout certain provinces of the Celestial Empire. They depose to having seen people die in the streets of many towns and villages from sheer starvation, and state not only that anthropophagy (eating) is practised on the bodies of the dead, but that famished men attack the living, and prey upon them with ferocity. One of them alleges that he was present at the examination of a mendicant who had been arrested for some petty theft, and in whose professional wallet the mangled remains of an infant were discovered. This man confessed to the magistrate that for some time previous to his seizure he had lived exclusively on the fresh flesh of human beings, as he could not surmount his antipathy to that of dead bodies. Another appalling case which came under the notice of a Russian merchant, was that of a young man who had persuaded his father to assist him in murdering and subsequently eating a girl to whom he was betrothed. Men have been executed for killing and eating their own children, and sons have slain

their fathers in order to appease the pangs of hunger. In some of the northern districts whole villages stand empty, their inhabitants having one and all perished for want of food.

THE corner stone of the building for the "Home for Incurables," at Parkdale in the immediate vicinity of this city, was, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 18th inst., happily laid, under the auspices of the Governor-General and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. On their arrival, the party were received by the trustees of the Home and the Reeve and Council of Parkdale, and conducted to their places. Rev. Dr. Topp then welcomed them in a few words, and called upon Rev. Mr. Broughall, of St. Stephen's Church, for prayer. The Hon. John McMurrich then read a statement of the origin, progress and prospects of the institution, to which his Excellency replied, expressing his best wishes for its successful completion. Hon. Mr. McMurrich called upon Her Royal Highness to lay the corner stone of the new building, presenting her at the same time with the trowel prepared for the occasion, which bears the following inscription: "Presented to H.R.H. the Princess Louise, September 18th, 1879, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Toronto Home for Incurables." Her Royal Highness then went through the usual ceremony, tapping the stone with the gavel and saying in clear, distinct tones, "I declare this stone well and truly laid."

AMONG our ordinary Book Notices we recently had the pleasure of making favourable mention of two Arithmetic Books by Principal McVicar of the Presbyterian College, Montreal—A Primary Arithmetic, including oral, slate and written exercises, and a Complete Arithmetic, oral and written, designed for the use of Common and High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. The following extract from the "Halifax Witness" of August 23rd agrees with our estimate of the value of these works, and is an indication of the position that they are likely to take in the Maritime Provinces: "We have examined both with due care, and we are more than satisfied with them. They are the result of sound judgment and extensive experience. The principles of Arithmetic are explained with a clearness that leaves nothing to be desired, and the examples and exercises are very numerous and admirably arranged. It is something new to have Arithmetic illustrated; but here we have suitable illustrations (wood cuts) most appropriately and helpfully introduced. We are particularly struck with the careful preparation which is made for every fresh step the pupil is required to take. Due prominence is given to the great primary Rules. We respectfully call the attention of our Council of Public Instruction to these books. We know of none published in Canada that are so well adapted for use in our schools. Indeed we would not shrink from comparing these Arithmetics with the best English text-books on the subject. Our young people should have the benefit of the best. It is proper to mention that Principal Macvicar has had the benefit, in the preparation of these works, of the experience of his brother Dr. Malcom Macvicar, Principal of the State Normal School, Potsdam, New York—an eminent Educationist who has rendered distinguished service in the improvement of text-books and of school apparatus." In our opinion these books are also suitable for use in the Province of Ontario, and we trust they will not escape the notice of our Minister of Education.