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Notes of the Week.

THE appointment of Mr. Thomas Kirkland, M.A., as Principal of Toronto Normal School has given general satisfaction. In every way the appointment is an excellent one. His long connection with the institution has enabled him to acquire most valuable experience; his devotion to his profession, enthusiasm in educational work, and his estimable personal qualities mark his special fitness for the honourable position to which he has been appointed.

"LET truth and error grapple," said John Milton. In his days they did grapple and have been continuing to do so ever since. In these days they are getting to closer quarters than ever. On Sabbath, while all who preach the Gospel are busy sowing the good seed of the Word, the enemy of late has been especially busy sowing tares. Sabbath seems now the principal day on which Anarchists and Socialists seek to disseminate their destructive tenets. The other Sabbath, at a meeting in Chicago, men and women vied with each other in ferocity of expression. Subsequent inquiry brings to light that armed Socialists in that city are said to number 2,000. A prominent Socialist, in an interview, said they are divided into sections and drill in halls, the location of which is changed at each meeting. Within the past year the accessions to the society have been extraordinarily large. Each member owns his outfit, including a rifle, which is kept at home.

HINTS have been thrown out that an agitation favouring a restoration of the temporal power of the Papacy is about to be begun. Why there should be such reluctance to accept the inexorable logic of events is a mystery that Rome has failed to explain. Italy is in no mood to listen to proposals for handing over the former States of the Church to the control of the Vatican. The design rather is to act on Italy by pressure from without. In free America as well as in Spain, the agitation has begun. Those who engage in it can only hope against hope, since it is one that to all appearances is impossible of fulfilment. The founder of the Christian faith said, "My kingdom is not of this world," but the Papacy has always coveted earthly rule. Pius IX. sulked out the last years of his pontificate posing as a prisoner. His course was unimpressive. His successor may favour a popular agitation for the restoration of the temporal power, but the days of hierarchical rule are over.

It is not surprising that the death of Mr. William Johnston, formerly of the Agricultural College, Guelph, has called forth deep and wide-spread expressions of regret. Cut down in the midst of his years and increasing usefulness, the general sorrow is all the more keen since by many, a fatal termination to his illness was unexpected. Impeded as he was by ill-health, Mr. Johnston's indomitable perseverance and the results he achieved are remarkable. This is not the place to speak of Mr. Johnston's political services. In his convictions he was as sincere in this as in all other respects, and from his point of view he intelligently sought to promote the good of the country. He was a zealous Presbyterian and was at one time anxious to devote himself to the work of the ministry. Those who had the privilege of attending the Bible class taught by him will long remember his valuable instructions. Mr. Johnston was distinguished by high moral worth and an almost shrinking modesty.

LAST week the annual meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Evangelical Alliance was held in Sherbourne Street Methodist Church. The President of the Branch, Hon. Oliver Mowat, occupied the chair and delivered a thoughtful and comprehensive address on the origin, progress and work achieved by the Evangelical Alliance. Rev. Messrs S. P. Rose, and G. M. Milligan delivered appropriate and characteristic addresses. The following named gentlemen constitute the Council of the Alliance for the current year: President: Hon. Oliver Mowat; Vice-Presidents, Revs. William Reid, D.D., Principal Castle, H. D. Powis, H. Grasset Baldwin, H. M. Parsons, S. Rose and Principal Wilson, LL.D. Council. Mr. John Macdonald, Mr. John L. Blaikie, Mr. S. H. Blake, Mr. H. E. Clarke, M.P.P., Mr. A. McDonald, Mr. S. C. Duncan Clarke, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, Mr. W. Alexander, and Mr. D. McLean. Secretaries: Rev. Elmore Harris and Mr. J. J. Woodhouse. Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Woodhouse.

WITH commendable enterprise the *Toronto Globe* has arranged for the weekly publication of Mr. Spurgeon's sermons. Some good sermons look rather poorly in type, others appear to best advantage in printed form, but very few of even the most noted preachers of the day could stand the ordeal of *verbatim* reporting for a number of years without intermission. Mr. Spurgeon's sermons have stood this test for many years, and on all sides it is conceded that their freshness and vigour are undiminished. The famous preacher of the Metropolitan Tabernacle addresses the largest congregation in the world. The *Globe* will now enable many Canadians to form a part of his ever-widening circle of readers. The great appreciation of Spurgeon is a healthy sign of the times. He is no screaming sensationalist, but a sound common-sense evangelical preacher whose teaching is solely designed for the glory of God and the good of mankind.

A CIRCULAR, bearing the signatures of Drs. Howard Crosby, C. F. Deems, J. M. Buckley, William Ormiston, William M. Taylor, Marvin R. Vincent and many other well-known names, states that the Hebrew-Christian Work, in New York city, under the care of the Rev. Jacob Freshman, has had now a proving of three years. The wisdom and faithfulness of its conduct are manifest in the increasing interest awakened among the Jews, and the numerous hopeful conversions in the face of domestic and social ostracism. Because Mr. Freshman pursues his work without any denominational connection, it is difficult for him to obtain any pecuniary support. The hiring of halls for worship and instruction, and his own frugal sustentation, do not present very formidable sums, and yet these sums are secured with painful effort. We earnestly call upon our fellow Christians to aid this important and hopeful department of Evangelization. Mr. Freshman has our entire confidence as a devoted minister of the Gospel, and an experienced missionary among the Hebrews.

A FEW days ago the death of the Rev. John Jackson, D.D., Bishop of London, was announced. The deceased prelate was born on the 22nd February, 1811, being a son of Henry Jackson, a merchant of London. He was educated at Reading School under Dr. Vaply, whence he proceeded to Pembroke College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1833, taking first-class honours, and gained the Denyer Theological Prize. From 1836 till 1840 he was Head Master of the Proprietary Grammar School at Islington, and during part of that time Incumbent of St. James', in the parish of Hornsey. He was appointed Rector of St. James', Piccadilly, in 1846, Chaplain to the Queen in 1847, and Canon of Bristol in 1852; was a select preacher before the University of Oxford in 1845, 1850, 1862 and 1866, delivered the Boyle Lectures in London in 1853, and on the death of Dr. Kaye, in that year, was made Bishop of Lincoln. On January 4th, 1869, he was translated to the See of London. Dr. Jackson's contributions to theological literature were few and unimportant.

THE Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, of St. John Church, St. John, N.B. has commenced to issue a congregational monthly, in small folio form, bearing the title of the *Parish Recorder*. In addition to useful congregational intelligence it contains a number of pithy paragraphs and judicious selections. The esteemed pastor of St. John Church is a loyal Presbyterian as the following testifies: The new Augmentation Scheme promises to become as complete a success in the Maritime Provinces, as it has been in the west. The Presbytery of St. John is rapidly coming to the front in its contributions to the fund. Had no special effort been made, that is, had no more been raised this year than last, we would have required \$3,400 to raise the salaries of our underpaid ministers to \$750 and manse. The result of the first appeal last summer, chiefly to those congregations whose ministers did not receive \$750, was that fifteen congregations promised \$1,863. Now we are asking the stronger charges to give \$1,000 more, and already eleven congregations have given \$650, and the deputations have not yet all done their work.

THE *Ottawa Free Press* in a recent article refers to a state of things, which if true, is simply disgraceful. It states that at Sussex, in the County of Kings, N. B., within the past week, three men and one woman were sold for one year by the overseers of the poor, and the crowd is said to have gathered and acted as if at the sale of a cow; but to the credit of the few it must be admitted they protested in strong language against the infamous proceedings. Bernard McCann was knocked down for \$90; Hannah Boles was privately bought in for \$72; and a third, John McLaughlin, was sold at \$64.50; a fourth, Martin Condon, was not offered as advertised. The practice is for the overseers of the poor to pay the sum named as the price of sale to the person whose bid is accepted. The money is supposed to represent the cost of board—the services of the pauper being the bidder's extra compensation. A natural result is to bid low, in order to get the pauper, and then by scrimping his or her food to make as much as possible during the year out of his or her services. The consequence is that insufficient food, and frequently overtaxed work, destroy the very usefulness of the pauper, and tend in a few years to so reduce him in physical strength that death is a mercy.

THE good old times were no better than they should have been. All wisdom did not perish with them. In these enlightened days we have not yet reached perfection. Some of the good things of former times should not be permitted to die out. There is much truth in what the *Boston Journal* says: "The Cotter's Saturday Night" would be an impossible poem in our day and generation. While the father "wales a portion with judicious care," the sons and daughters, sitting under him, would be receiving the pious words according to their own doctrine of private interpretation, or more probably would refuse altogether to listen, preferring to follow unrestrained wherever their own fancy led them. Love, reverence, and many another kindly quality leak out of human nature through the almost imperceptible crevices of selfishness and indifference, which have become such common weaknesses in these crack-brained days of ours. Take the expressions used in speaking of the absent father and mother, common among the larger number of even our carefully brought up young people, and see what lack of refined feeling, of that deep, respectful, almost awful love which the parent of old claimed and received from the child. The stiff formality of "most respected madam," and "ever to be revered sir," with which the Clarissa Harlowes of another time addressed their stubborn and heartless superiors, was stilted and affected like the time itself; but between them and the flippant, careless contempt-of-to-day no one could hesitate long. The respect which prompted the formal phrasing of the olden time was, at least, a respectable quality, while the frivolous indifference, which now makes light of even sacred ties, is a vice beneath contempt.