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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A JEWISH society, the Supreme Lodge of the Hebrew Order of Keshet-shelbarseel, holding its quinquennial session at Cleveland last week, endowed a home for aged and infirm Israelites located in that city in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir Moses Montefiore and a tribute to his worth. The value of the endowment is \$70,000. This is the first memorial founded in honour of the Jewish philanthropist, and was adopted with great enthusiasm.

A FEW weeks ago the Jewish playwright, Salmi Morse, who struggled so persistently to have the Passion Play produced on the New York stage, was supposed to have committed suicide by drowning in the Hudson River. Subsequent disclosures did not tend to brighten his character. And now Solomon Shapira, whose name was associated with an attempt to sell to the British Museum a forged manuscript of the Decalogue said to have been obtained from an Arab sheikh, is reported to have committed suicide by shooting in a hotel at Rotterdam. He was suffering from mental aberration.

IN deference to numerous expressions of marked disapproval by the better class journals in the United States, voicing the opinion of the American people, action for the repression of dynamite plots has at length been taken by the authorities. All alleged sympathy with Fenianism in the States is confined to malcontent Irishmen and professional politicians who have a personal interest in the Irish vote. It is announced that the Attorney-General has sent to all United States attorneys and marshals a circular setting forth a report that certain persons are aiding in the prosecution of heinous crimes by shipping to foreign ports explosives dangerous to life and property, and directing the officers named to use the utmost diligence to prevent offences against the statutes regulating the shipment of explosives, and to detect and prosecute those who may commit them.

LAST Thursday another decisive victory over Osman Digma was gained between Suakim and Sinkat. General Graham with British troops has been successful in restoring British prestige dimmed by the disasters of Hicks and Baker Pashas. While the fight lasted the Arabs made a desperate though unavailing defence. The numbers reported lost by them showed the determination with which they strove for victory. Four thousand was a terrible loss. The proportionate loss in the British army, seventy killed and one hundred wounded, testifies to the severity of the contest. The victory of Thursday marks an important stage in the affairs of the Soudan. Osman Digma's power is broken. In this campaign he will be unable to rally his shattered forces or to retrieve his damaged reputation. The subjugation of the Mahdi will now be a less difficult matter than it seemed a short time since.

WHILE General Graham and his gallant forces were preparing to encounter Osman Digma, the French were making their successful attack on Bacninh. The impression that the Chinese would make an obstinate defence has been dissipated. The strategy of the French commander took his opponents by surprise and they seem never to have been able to recover either coolness or courage. Their loss, undefined, is reported as heavy while the French claim to have had only seventy wounded. In the citadel at Bacninh a Krupp battery and a large quantity of ammunition fell a prey to the captors. An attack on Bacninh we were assured by the Chinese was to be regarded as equivalent to a declaration of war. The easy capture of that strong hold by the French renders it likely that Chinese resistance will not be by any means so determined as earlier declarations might have led people to expect. The Tonquin dispute may be settled sooner than seemed likely a few weeks ago.

IN discussing the subject of Christian Unity the Berlin News argues that there are insuperable difficulties in the way of Presbyterians and Episcopalians becoming organically one, and that Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians are not likely soon to unite. Our contemporary makes the following remarks: But while this fact remains there are a number of other churches that could without the slightest sacrifice of principle cast in their lots with one or other of these denominations. For instance, there is no reason whatever why all the Congregationalists and Lutherans in Canada should not form a union with the Presbyterian Church. The differences between them are so trifling that they would only need to come together and compare notes to see how easy it would be to become one. Then there are the Evangelical Association, the United Brethren, the New Mennonites and perhaps a few smaller bodies, which could without any difficulties join the Methodist Union which in a few months will be an accomplished fact.

WHAT will be the result of the suppression of the Soudanese revolt is as yet to most people a matter of conjecture. In England opinion is very much divided. The ministry has avowed on many occasions its preference for withdrawal from the scene of El Mehdî's adventures as soon as his ambition is quenched. The radical party strenuously support such a policy. Many on the other hand believe that the logic of events will lead to permanent occupancy of the Valley of the Nile by Great Britain. This is evidently "By-stander's" opinion who thus expresses himself in the last number of the Week. "Egypt is annexed, let Mr. Gladstone disclaim the intention as he will. This was destiny from the hour when the Suez Canal was opened. Reluctantly, not only on grounds of interest, but on grounds of morality, the nation accepts the new burden, and its reluctance has been shown in a hesitating and wavering policy which, though creditable in so far as it is a proof of moderation, has entailed on it disaster and some shame. Yes, under whatever guise or name—whether dominion, protectorate, or control—Egypt will henceforth be a part of the British Empire in the East. And this great and perilous addition to the sum of Imperial cares is made at the moment when, by the Irish revolt, Great Britain is in some danger of having a hostile republic carved out of her own side.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association, the Rev. J. Burton read a paper combining the qualities of raciness and common-sense, in which he advocated a complete reform of existing funeral customs. The subject is a large one, and there are so many things that ought to come under the pruning knife of reform that Mr. Burton had only time to specify a few instances. He dooms crapes, band and scarf to extinction. Floral displays are not to be encouraged, nor indeed display of any kind. It makes a cruel inroad in the resources of many families. There is another custom that comes in for Mr. Burton's disapproval with which many will agree. He says:—Personally, I avoid "funeral sermons." I am not sure but Christ crucified is a better theme even over a coffin, than man or woman glorified; and when the seal of eternity is on a man, be he saint or sinner, I forbear judging or drawing an invidious line by forbearing in one case what I yield in another. That the occasion may be improved, I believe. I also believe that oftentimes, most often, the dead do not recognize themselves in the orator's picture, of which, like the epitaph, and it may be said

"When all is done, upon the tomb is seen,
Not what he was, but what he should have been."

Briefly my position is this:—In the vast majority of cases the imperious demands of funeral customs impose unjust burdens. It is within Christian influence to lift those burdens by reforming custom. Ministers, as leaders of Christian thought, should first set the example.

SOME people imagine that the ministry is an easy life. The same kind of people believe that it is still more easy to conduct a newspaper, and to manage a

religious paper the easiest of all. It is with sincere regret we came across the following announcement in the last number of the Christian Leader. The demise of the Outlook, an ably conducted, a bright and readable paper, is a surprise: "From a statement made in last week's number of the Outlook, the weekly organ of the English Presbyterian Church, we regret to learn that its 116th number, which appears to-morrow, will be its last. Its list of subscribers contains, it is stated, nearly 5,000 names; but it had never reached a paying circulation, and besides the capital sunk in starting it there was a loss of several hundreds a year involved in its continuance. Several appeals, private as well as public, urged upon the members of the Church the duty of giving it an increased measure of support; but these were not responded to, and the last number would have appeared some weeks ago but for a movement initiated by an energetic office-bearer. At the start the editorial chair was occupied by Mr. A. Hay Japp, and afterwards by Dr. Donald Fraser until he was laid aside by illness. It is proposed to bring out immediately another weekly paper under the title of the Presbyterian, which will be edited by Dr. W. Kennedy Moore, who retires from his pastoral charge at Portsmouth in order to devote his whole time and strength to his new task.

FAMILIARITY with courts of justice usually impresses most competent observers with the repulsive and destructive effects of indulgence in strong drink. Judges are emphatic in their testimony in favour of temperance. In his address to the Grand Jury at Renfrew Assizes, his Hon. Justice Rose, is reported as saying: I was not a very strong temperance man until I assumed my official duties; and in consideration of the position in which I have been placed I feel it is my duty to endeavour to lessen the temptation which is thrown in the way of our weaker fellow-men. I would be glad to see all saloons done away with. I see no reason why they should exist. They are simply a temptation to drink, without any resulting benefit. If a man wishes to have liquor in his own house, I would not advocate restraining him of his personal private license; but why we should have temptation placed at every corner of the street to tempt the weaker ones into the dens of iniquity, to take away their reason and their property, to destroy their homes and their families, I have not yet been able to understand. I have passed up and down Church street, in Toronto, for fourteen or fifteen years, and it has been a painful thing to see young men on their way down to business stop and turn into a saloon, and the same thing on their way back at night. How much trouble and sorrow this brings to their families God only knows, and why this state of things should be allowed to continue in a community calling itself Christian I am unable to understand.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—A review of the weather of the week shows that the extreme change to cold which took place in the latter part of last week, extended into the first days of this. Along with this we notice that Bronchitis has advanced from 13.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent in degree of prevalence. The other diseases of the respiratory organs have slightly decreased, both in degree and area of prevalence, compared with their positions last week. Amongst zymotic diseases, Scarlatina and Measles show a very marked advance, especially in the case of the former, in degree of prevalence; from not appearing last week at all amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases, they show this week a percentage of 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively. In area of prevalence Measles appears in two out of ten Districts, Scarlatina in one, they not holding a place last week amongst the six highest diseases in any of the Districts. Whooping Cough has decreased in degree of prevalence, while Diphtheria has slightly increased. Amongst Fevers there is nothing worthy of mention. Intermittent still remains in Districts VII., VIII., X., lying along the north shore of Lake Erie. This week Typho-Malarial does not appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases.