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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE death of Cyrus H. McCormick, of Chicago, is announced. He had reached the age of seventy-five. He rose to eminence and wealth by the invention and perfecting of the reaping machine that is associated with his name. He was also known as a liberal Presbyterian. He freely contributed of his means for the advancement of Christian work. The Theological Seminary of the North-West owes its existence and much of its prosperity to his munificence.

THE benevolent enterprise of rescuing homeless and destitute children, in which Dr. Bernardo, of London, has been for several years engaged, has now secured a permanent branch in Canada. Through the active interest of Christian friends in Peterborough, a suitable home has been provided in that agreeable town. Mr. George A. Cox has generously placed at the disposal of Dr. Bernardo's enterprise, Hazel Brae, a comfortable residence he recently acquired.

THE diplomatic smoke and dust that obscured the dispute between France and China over the control of affairs in Tonquin and Annam have cleared away. The threatened war between the East and West has been averted. A treaty of peace has been amicably signed between the contending nations. France is to have an undisputed protectorate over the provinces concerning which there has been so much contention. Having obtained this substantial gain, France is content to drop the question of indemnity. A possible Franco-Chinese war disappears from public view.

REPORTS from the Sudan are still conflicting. It is now almost impossible to obtain an approximately clear conception of the actual state of affairs, as communication is interrupted, and what intelligence is received is too obviously coloured for political effect. The fall of Korosko is now represented as imminent, and it is rumoured that El Mahdi contemplates a march on Cairo. Nothing definite has been heard from General Gordon for sometime. It has been determined to send an expedition for his relief. The motion to censure the Gladstone ministry for its Egyptian policy, though supported by the Irish members, was defeated. The majority was small, but considering the present temper of the English people, it would have been no surprise had a majority voted the other way. Mr. Gladstone's defence is described as another magnificent oratorical effort.

THE annual convocation of Wycliffe College, last week, was both successful and encouraging. The establishment and maintenance of the institution are a protest against the ritualistic tendencies so sedulously fostered by certain zealots who turn their faces toward the past instead of the future. They may be sincere in their churchly theories, but this does not make the sectarian bigotry of their movement any more attractive on that account. The existence of Wycliffe Hall is therefore a healthy protest against the retrogressive party in the Anglican Church, and it has for its object the training of an evangelical ministry for all who prefer to worship in conformity with Church of England usages. The speaking at the convocation last week was exceptionally good. Col. Gzowski presided, the principal address was delivered by Dr. Sheraton, and effective and graceful short speeches were made by Hon. Edward Blake, Dr. Daniel Wilson, and others.

THE higher education of women movement is making rapid advances. We recently noticed the successful closing exercises in connection with the Woman's Medical Colleges at Toronto and Kingston. From an exchange we learn that three hundred and sixty candidates have sat for the St. Andrew's University L.L.A. (women) examinations, at various centres in England, Scotland and Ireland, recently, and been examined in Latin, mathematics, logic, moral philosophy, English literature, natural philosophy, education, comparative philology, history, political economy, French, German, Italian, chemistry, physiology, botany, zoology,

geology, Church history, and Hebrew. The University has granted the use of an academic badge of the colours of the Universities of St. Andrew's and Paris, with the St. Andrew's cross in silver, to be worn by its L.L.A.'s; and a register is now to be kept at the University of all who have acquired the title, and wish employment in the schools and colleges of the country.

THE discredited leader of the Fenian movement of 1866-7, James Stephens, has of late been making spasmodic efforts to bring himself into public notice. The ex-Head-Centre has been living for many years a quiet life in Paris. He has within the last few weeks been making bids for the leadership of the Nationalist party. He has been corresponding with American organizations and urging the formation of a new party with himself at the head of it. He deprecates the employment of dynamite and such like gentle political persuasives, but he wants to get hold of the dynamiters, and all others, however discordant their theories, and weld them into one united body, who will succeed in establishing an independent republic in Ireland. As the old-time Head Centre advances in years, his prophetic insight is becoming preternatural. He sees what other eyes fail to see. The moment has come when the union of all Irishmen is possible, and he is to see Ireland an independent republic before he dies. If so, he has a long life before him.

THE financial panic in New York last week though disastrous to many innocent investors and others by no means innocent, will teach a valuable lesson. All kinds of statements have been published with a view to restore confidence and avert further mischief. Gleams of lambent humour even play in the darkness, as when a Chicago banker is credited with the saying that his city is a financial Gibraltar which can be assailed but not injured. But making allowance for many such statements uttered for a purpose, it is now evident that the wreck and ruin will not be so great and far reaching as that following the black Friday of 1873. A leading New York paper thus explains the situation. The panic in Wall street was emphatically a panic among stock gamblers and nothing else. It began, culminated, and ended in stock speculations and went no further. The only serious mischief likely to follow the brief panic is distrust of all banks, arising from the failures of a few among them plainly traceable to dishonesty or, to use the mildest language, gross imprudence on the part of their officers.

THE present tendency of legislation is in the direction of repressing intemperance and restraining the traffic in intoxicating liquors. The other day Judge Boyd, in addressing a grand jury in Toronto, referred to the temperance wave as advancing strongly in favour of prohibition. In the Quebec Legislative Assembly, however, a member has introduced a proposal to relax the restrictions imposed on Sunday selling, by granting permission to keep open the bars in the principal hotels on that day. The gentleman who proposes the amendment referred to takes somewhat singular grounds. He would not grant the privilege indiscriminately. Such wicked places as restaurants and dram shops he would rigidly close, but the great hotels of Montreal and Quebec should be subject to no such restrictions. This is proposing one law for the rich and another for the poor, a kind of legislation to which a free people decidedly object. What the immediate result of this attempt at retrograde legislation in Quebec may be, it must discourage this legislative member to learn that those interested in the Windsor House, Montreal, have indicated their preference for the law as it is.

ONE swallow does not make summer, neither does one blackleg among the British peers taint the whole body. At the same time it has been made manifest from recent revelations that too many in the higher ranks of English social life had been acting disgracefully. Outrages on morality and common decency have been far too frequent of late. When scandals like those in which Lord St. Leonards is involved come into the light of open day, they are painfully sugges-

tive of what is hidden from the public gaze. Inferior English magistrates have, since the days of Justice Shallow, been targets for ridicule; but those who conducted the preliminary proceedings in this St. Leonards' affair deserve well of their country in firmly refusing to release the accused from custody. Why should an offender who by the accident of birth belongs to a privileged class be exempt from the punishment that would certainly be meted out to a plebeian transgressor? Even-handed justice would at least be a safeguard against the unbridled libertinism that in too many cases pursues its unblushing and destructive career presuming on immunity because of feudal privilege. The immoralities of the French noblesse gave bitterness to the revolutionary fury that swept their order out of existence.

At the Hamilton District Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada held at Burlington last week, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—We believe the liquor traffic to be the cause of a large proportion of the crime in our land and fraught with untold misery to the bodies and souls of multitudes of our people that it possesses almost unlimited power to impair every interest of the home, the Church, and the State: that it is one of the greatest hindrances to the accomplishment of the Divine mission of the Church in the world; that it is the duty of the State to prohibit this traffic and not protect it; that prohibition is not an interference with the true liberty of the citizen; that the last session of the Dominion Parliament accepted the principle of prohibition, and declared its willingness to give prohibitory laws when the country was prepared to adopt and enforce them. Be it therefore resolved that we believe the country is ready for prohibition, and that this district meeting composed of ministers and laymen, representing a membership of upwards of 4,000, recommend the Conference to make arrangements for concerted action with all other churches and temperance organizations in their efforts to circulate petitions to be presented to the Senate and House of Commons of Canada at their next session, praying for the enactment of such prohibitory laws.

A NUMBER of ladies in the Province of Quebec have formed the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. They have issued a report of the Conference held at Montreal last October. A number of local unions have become affiliated with it, and the Montreal Union have issued their first annual report. Its records most gratifying and encouraging results. The following are the objects aimed at by the Provincial Union.—To unitedly array the Christian women of the Province of Quebec against the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage. To educate and influence society in favour of sobriety and virtue. To impress upon the youth of our Province the awful responsibility resting upon those, either supporting or engaged in the liquor traffic, and the folly as well as guilt of partaking of intoxicants of any kind or in any form. To gather statistics, facts and incidents relating to the traffic in intoxicating liquors and make use of them in such a way as will best promote the interests of temperance. To labour individually for the inebriate, the liquor seller, the fallen of our own sex, and for the neglected masses in our cities and towns, hitherto unreached and uncared for. To give active expression to our sympathy with the family of the inebriate and to endeavour to elevate his children from the debasing influences with which they are surrounded. To heartily co-operate with other temperance societies in combatting the evils of intemperance and to unite with any other society or association which is endeavouring justly, appropriately and guided by Christian principles to procure more advanced and stringent legislation on this subject. To strive by every means in our power to secure the thorough enforcement of the temperance laws we already possess. For the accomplishment of these objects, we shall faithfully and conscientiously employ all the means God has placed within our reach and we shall continually seek His direction and blessing upon our work.