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Notes of the Week.

THE Canadian Premier, now on his way home, has been the recipient of many personal honours. The public business, on which he went, is still a mystery to the political journals. If they are uninformed we must wait with patience till the proper time comes. Sir John has the assurance of a most eminent physician that the illness from which he suffered is not alarming. He has been the guest of illustrious entertainers, appearing at the sumptuous boards of the Lord Mayor and the Be. onsfield Club. He has accepted the hospitality of Windsor Castle and Sandringham. He comes back an illustrious G. C. B. to the demonstrations in Montreal and Toronto, celebrating his fortieth year of public service.

WHAT is termed an unknown disease is doing deadly work in Kentucky and parts of Virginia. Details are very meagre and inaccurate, but it seems that a number of deaths have occurred. The progress of the disease is swift; the victim yielding to it in four days. If he survives that time he generally recovers, but so emaciated and weak that he is helpless for weeks. By the people in the infected districts the disease is described as flux; and its cause is clearly traceable to the scarcity and bad quality of the water. Careful investigation will no doubt soon render the nature of this strange epidemic more intelligible. One thing seems beyond doubt, and that is the importance of possessing an adequate supply of pure water.

SMALL-POX, in virulent form, has broken out in Hastings County. In one township it has been prevalent for five or six weeks, and a number of deaths have resulted. The spread of the disease has caused great excitement and alarm. Dr. Bryce, secretary of the Ontario Board of Health, visited Hastings and found the local authorities most willing to co-operate in doing all that was requisite in providing attendance for the victims of the disease, in promoting cleanliness, and isolating the cases as far as possible. Prompt and intelligent effort will probably restrict the ravages of this loathsome disease to the district in which it has made its appearance, and even there tend to mitigate its severity and lessen the number of deaths.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH has resigned the See of Dublin. Advanced years and failing health have induced him to retire from the active duties of his office. As Dean of Westminster he became widely known as the author of a number of thoughtful works, including a volume on "The Parables," and another on the "Miracles of our Lord." He also wrote on philology, and published a volume of poems. Since his elevation to the Archbishopric of Dublin, beyond revised editions of his previously published works, he has not added anything noteworthy to sacred literature. He succeeded Archbishop Whately and rumour mentions the name of Lord Plunket, Bishop of Meath, who is related by marriage to Baron Ardilaun, the head of the Guinness family, as the likely occupant of the now vacant See.

LAST Tuesday the statue of George Brown was formally unveiled by the Hon. A. Mackenzie. In a few feeling words he paid a tribute to the memory and worth of one who has left his impress on Canadian history. The statue is life-like, giving an excellent

idea of Mr. Brown's appearance. It is at the same time a splendid specimen of the sculptor's art. The monument was designed by Mr. Burch, A.R.A., London. The inscription on the pedestal has been chosen with admirable good taste. It is simply "George Brown, thus perpetuating a name endeared to the Canadian people. The Hon. Oliver Mowat discharged ably the duty assigned him on the important occasion. His address presented a careful, just and loving estimate of George Brown's life, character and work. During the ceremony distinguished representatives of both political parties were present, and the Hon. G. W. Allan paid a graceful tribute to the memory of one who deserved well of his country."

THE Scientific and Literary Society of Toronto University are to be congratulated on the success so far achieved by their endeavour to provide a superior class of instructive entertainments. Professor Proctor's lectures were well attended, and listened to with intelligent interest. The first, on "The Birth of the Solar System," gave a clear view of the nebular hypothesis, a large number of details concerning the system to which our planet belongs, and various references to results obtained from recent astronomical observations. The lecture on "The Great Pyramid" was no less interesting. Professor Proctor detailed the theories advanced by the most prominent Egyptologists. From first to last he kept up a running fire on the fanciful analogies suggested by Professor Piazzi Smyth, showing clearly the slender basis on which they were reared. Many interesting facts relating to these gigantic monuments of antiquity were communicated in the course of the second lecture. The oxy-hydrogen light illustrations added greatly to the value of Professor Proctor's lectures.

ERSKINE Church, Montreal, has adopted an excellent method for the promotion of a practical missionary spirit among its members and adherents. In this respect it is setting before other congregations a good example which would be productive of striking results if largely followed. The congregation named holds a series of annual meetings at which the important schemes of the Church are ably and eloquently advocated by prominent ministers from a distance. The first meeting held, on Tuesday evening last week, was devoted to the claims of Home Missions. The Rev. A. B. Mackay presided, and there were also on the platform the Rev. Principal MacVicar, the Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, the Rev. Prof. Scrimger, and the Rev. Messrs. C. Chiniquy and the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. Wednesday evening was set apart for the consideration of French Evangelization, on which powerful addresses were delivered by Revs. Dr. Laing and Charles Chiniquy. Foreign Missions was the subject of the Thursday evening meeting, at which Professor McLaren, D.D., and Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, of Mhow, Central India, were the principal speakers.

THE arrangements for the Toronto Conference on Revivals, at which Mr. Moody is to take the leading part, have now been made. Great interest has been manifested in connection with Mr. Moody's visit and much good is expected from it. The first meeting was held yesterday morning beginning at ten o'clock. The Rev. Hugh Johnston and Professor Clark spoke on "How to Promote Spiritual Life in the Churches." Dr. Thomas and Mr. John Macdonald delivered addresses on "How to Promote Revivals." Mr. Moody conducted the noon prayer meeting. At this morning's Conference, Rev. T. C. DesBarres and Mr. Alfred Sandham are announced to speak on the "Use of the Bible" and the Rev. A. F. MacGregor and Mr. J. K. Macdonald on "How to Conduct Prayer Meetings." To-morrow, the closing day of the Conference, the Rev. P. McF. McLeod and Mr. H. J. Clark will speak on "How to Make the Service of Song More Helpful," and "What More Can be Done for Young Men?" will be discussed by the Rev. Dyson Hague and Hon. S. H. Blake. Mr. Moody conducts the noon prayer meeting each day and addresses the evening meetings for men only.

AN interesting conference on Sabbath school work was held in Shaftesbury Hall last week, at which Mr. H. J. Clark presided. Mr. McEwen, secretary of the Canada Sabbath School Association, explained that the principle was being emphasized that the intelligent consecration and equipment of the teachers of a school was the standard of hopefulness and efficiency in the school; and that the future of the child, so far as school was concerned, lay in the present character and efficiency of the teachers; and in view of this fact all convention work was assuming more of an educational character. He reported that his recent visits to Montreal, Cornwall, Aultsville, and Prescott, were the first fruits of the convention at Brockville. He had held twelve meetings with teachers and workers, who manifested a deep interest in institute form of instruction. After lengthened and free conference, it was unanimously resolved to hold institute services in Toronto as last year, and that four selected points, east, west and north of the city have these institute services of four nights each; and in addition that a central series of services be held, dealing with the more advanced principles and methods of Bible study and Sunday school work. The details of these meetings were left in the hands of the Executive Committee.

A JUDICIAL decision in England has caused an unwonted excitement. It arises out of the trial of a libel suit in which a Mr. Adams and a son of Chief Justice Coleridge figure. The former engaged to marry Miss Coleridge. The marriage was distasteful to her family. The lady's brother wrote a letter slandering Mr. Adams, which he claimed was privileged. Mr. Adams proceeded against young Coleridge. At the conclusion of the trial the jury gave a verdict condemning him to pay \$15,000 damages, Judge Manisty, before whom the case was tried, overruled the verdict of the jury and ordered the stay of its execution. On all sides this is regarded as a high-handed proceeding, utterly repugnant to the British sense of fair play. It has caused a general ebullition of journalistic indignation. Edmund Yates' paper ransacking the interior of the Coleridge household with malignant glee, the society journalist seizes with avidity what he considers his opportunity to avenge the recent scathing he got from the Chief Justice. A member of Parliament has intimated that he will call the attention of the House to the extraordinary ruling of Judge Manisty, whereby the functions of the jurymen were made a mock, a delusion and a snare. The bench's reputation can only be maintained by the impartial treatment of rich and poor alike.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Chicago *Tribune* writing from Tamsui, Formosa, on October 20th, says:—"Yesterday I called upon Dr. McKay, the well known Canadian missionary, who has been many years in Formosa, and in the opinion of every one did a great deal of good. He is a sincere man and a good Chinese scholar. He understands the island well. His residence is on the plateau, and in a row behind it are his boys' school, his girls' school, and mission chapel. I found him well fortified. He has a garrison of fifteen coolies on each side of the front door, armed with rifle and cutlass, while leaning against the pillars of the veranda were numerous spears with iron heads and ironwood handles, such as are used by the hillmen. At the foot of each column was a pile of small boulders. Unhappily there were no catapults to render these ancient projectiles useful. The doctor lamented the situation and hoped the French would not take the island. Six of his chapels up the river, at Bangka, Twatutia and the neighbouring villages, all of red brick with glass windows and well furnished, have been levelled to the ground. His converts had been turned out of doors, he said, and their houses had been destroyed. If trouble continued their lives were in the greatest danger. He was going on a little steamer trip for his health, and just at parting was telling Dr. Johannssen, the resident physician, to take the boys' school for a hospital in case the French again landed. He regards the island as one of the garden spots of creation, and says that beautified and productive as the country about Tamsui is, it bears no comparison with the interior."