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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Halifax "Witness" has the following very pointed and deserved criticism on a late exhibition on the Intercolonial Railway, which could only take place among a very ignorant and superstitious people, and could only be tolerated by religious teachers of a very different spirit from the Apostle Paul: "These be thy gods O Israel!" The other day a bishop of Lower Canada was travelling on the Intercolonial Railway. When he stepped out on the platform men, women and children with one accord knelt before him and crossed themselves, and looked as devout as possible. What is the harm? Well, we think this sort of reverence to men of any caste ought to have vanished out of civilized countries. But it is very clear that the revolution of 1789 has not yet reached the Province of Quebec."

THE overture that was last year sent down by the Assembly of the Scottish "Kirk" to Presbyteries with reference to the modification of the formula of subscription for elders has been rejected by sixty Presbyteries and supported by nineteen. It was consequently set aside, and though a motion was made in the Assembly to appoint a committee to inquire generally into the object of formularies, it was defeated and the matter was consequently allowed to rest. The report on temperance to the same Assembly stated that there was a growing interest felt in the question, and that it was ascertained by personal visitation that a large number of the students attending the different Theological Halls of the Church were total abstainers, while it was added the general state of feeling even among those who were not, was increasingly in that direction.

DR. CUYLER writes from Jerusalem to the New York "Evangelist": "New ideas are working into Palestine. A new city is going up on the west side of Jerusalem, outside of the gates. Along the turnpike to Jaffa runs the telegraph wire, and on the plain of Sharon stands the large 'Jewish Agricultural College,' surrounded by a model farm and thrifty nurseries. Bethlehem is a thriving town—largely it is nominally Christian—and it carries on extensive manufactures in mother-of-pearl. The Bethlehemites brought back from our Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia about \$70,000 as the net profit of the sale of their beautiful wares. If Palestine were only delivered from the tyranny of the Sultan, or were ruled by such a man as the Pasha Rouff (the Governor of Jerusalem), it would rise rapidly into a new era of economic progress. The Sultan's touch and tread are death."

THE following statement of the gifts of the Churches named below for Foreign Mission purposes, may be interesting and useful for reference. The figures are for the year 1880: Established Church of Scotland, £25,168, about \$125,000; Free Church of Scotland, £65,000, or \$320,000; United Presbyterian Church, £42,000, or \$210,000; Presbyterian Church of the United States (North), nearly \$600,000; Presbyterian Church of the United States (South), \$50,000; Presbyterian Church in Canada, about \$50,000. Of these Churches, the United Presbyterian stands first in liberality; the Free Church of Scotland, second; the Presbyterian Church of the United States (North) third; the Established Church in Scotland fourth, the Presbyterian Church in Canada fifth, and the Presbyterian Church of the United States (South) last. The aggregate of their contributions last year for carrying the Gospel to the heathen, Mohammedans, and Jews, was \$1,335,000.

If we may judge by statistics, the examinations for women, instituted in 1877 by the University of St. Andrews, have been remarkably successful. Nine candidates appeared for the first examination, and thirty-two for the second, while for the examinations which were recently held at four centres simultaneously, as many as 175 candidates came forward—a

number exceeding that of the matriculated art students of the University. English literature and French appear to be the favourite subjects, twenty-three candidates taking honours and twenty-five passing in the former, while seventeen take honours and thirty pass in the latter. There are nine passes and twenty honours in German. The traditional subjects of a university curriculum are feebly represented, there being only four passes in mathematics, four in Latin, apparently none in Greek. On the other hand, history, political economy, and education—whatever that may mean—are comparatively strong. Thirty three candidates received the crowning degree of LL.A. Next year Belfast will be added to the list of centres; the others are St. Andrews, London, Halifax, and Bristol.

THE Czar, we are afraid, is becoming absolutely infatuated. He seems determined on a policy of vigour, though it should end in his own death as it has already resulted in his virtual imprisonment. Everything is to be put under the official gag and such a thing even as a newspaper that has not passed under the official censorship and scissors is not to be allowed to exist. The latest despatches from St. Petersburg run in the following fashion (Could any one wonder at such a state of things coming any day to a very unpleasant termination?). "The present Government are endeavouring to shew that the mild policy of the late Government was eminently dangerous. The police are now bringing to light the danger which accumulated during Melkoff's rule. The Reactionists are making the most of the discovery of dynamite mines, etc., in order to frighten the court and secure their own position. Suspicion seems to have been excited by the visit of Melkoff to Geneva. It is reported that police and spies have been detailed to watch him. Newspapers are hated at court, because not a single independent organ favours the present Government's desires. Severe penalties have lately been imposed upon three or four journals. Several editors have received a circular, ordering them to submit the first proofs of their papers to the press censor before four o'clock in the morning."

WE have never been able to get up any amount of enthusiasm for Dr. Talmage or any great interest in his utterances; but really the following extract from his late sermon on the "Curse of Bribery" may be very properly and profitably read and pondered as well on this side of the lines as among our neighbours. We are always trying to persuade ourselves that we are much better than these neighbours, and that our "moral tone" is "much higher," etc. It may be so. We hope it is. Still there is considerable room for improvement in the very direction here indicated: "Revolution is just ahead of us, and I pray God it may be a peaceful revolution. We must have emancipation of American labour from the curse of monopoly. You and I are paying the board and washing and cigars and whiskey bills of the legislatures of the State of New York, while they are hovering over the spoils of office. No one supposes that the fifteen or twenty candidates, over whom they are contending, are the only men fit for the Senate. Why not give us two great Christian philanthropists who would adorn the Senate of the United States more than the office would adorn them! I nominate William E. Dodge, of New York, and George I. Sevey, of Brooklyn. I do not know whether they are Conkling or anti-Conkling men. I only know that they are anti fraud, anti-rum, anti-ignorance, but no such nomination will be ratified; but the time will come for the elevation of such men. God did not make the Atlantic ocean for a few great whales to swallow up all her small fish; nor did He make this great continent to furnish a few fat magnates with blubber. The greatest blessing of this country is its railroads, made for us to ride over. But we must not lie down and let the railroads ride over us."

ARCHBISHOP HANNON, of Halifax, lately returned to his diocese from a visit to Rome. Of course there was the usual address full of all manner of abject flat-

tery, if not of what some might call by a harsher name. In his reply the Archbishop among many other things said: "No one can live in Rome for any time who must not see that the Head of the Church is a captive in his own palace, and that if he were to leave it, he would only subject himself to insults and indignities from a Government without honour or principle. Within a few feet of the stairs by which the Vatican is entered stand the soldiers of the traitor king. It was needless to tell them, as they were all familiar with it, of the thousands of religious of both sexes driven out into the world—their churches and homes confiscated." His Grace said that he would be able to refer to those things at some future time from the pulpit, also to the other scenes and places visited by him during his stay in England and Ireland. Any number of people quite as reliable as Archbishop Hannon, and who have lived longer than he has done in the eternal city and have had quite as good opportunities of knowing the feelings and bearing both of the Roman people and the Roman Government, can with equal confidence testify that if Pope Leo were to leave his palace and either walk or drive through that city he would be subjected to neither insult nor injury. He would not, of course, be received or treated as a temporal sovereign, and the great insult might be offered him of being let severely alone, that is by being allowed to pass on his way like any other citizen. But insult or injury he would have none—always of course on the understanding that he and his attendants bore themselves like quiet, peace-loving members of a community over which he can no longer lord it as an autocrat, and the members of which can no longer be expected to grovel in either mud or dust as he passes. It would be a great mercy if dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church, whether more or less recently from Rome, could be persuaded not to talk so foolishly and so far away from the fact as evidently His Grace of Halifax has been doing.

THE Woodstock "Sentinel" of the 24th ult. has the following statement in reference to Dr. McKay's "farewell meetings." We hope the rest of these meetings will be all that could be desired both in attendance and contributions. It surely can never be that the rich and liberal Presbyterians of the "garden county" of Ontario will allow it to be said that they could not raise \$4,000 for such a cause as that to which the proposed sum is to be devoted, and for such a man—"one of themselves" too—as the pioneer Presbyterian missionary to North Formosa. Why, there are individual Presbyterians in Oxford who could each give the whole sum and scarcely miss it: "We are more than pleased to hear that Dr. McKay's farewell meetings throughout the county, thus far, have been successful even beyond the anticipations of his best friends. The churches have been filled, sometimes crowded. The local clergymen of all denominations have attended, and several Presbyterian ministers from a distance have taken part in each of these meetings. The doctor's earnest and eloquent addresses make a profound impression; that at Thamesford on Wednesday was more than ordinarily solemn and impressive and drew tears from many eyes that seldom wept before. Under these circumstances raising money for his training school is a comparatively easy matter. Indeed the doctor himself never asks for money, but at the close of his address some one of the clergymen present states the case and the result is a most hearty response on the part of the people. Ingersoll gives \$360; Princeton and Drumbo, \$134; Thamesford, \$243. The Woodstock congregations have already contributed about \$800, and Embro over \$400. If the congregation yet to be visited contribute with equal liberality, and we have no doubt they will, the whole amount contemplated (\$4,000) can be raised without difficulty; and, let us say, never did the Presbyterians of Oxford county contribute to a better cause or to a worthier man." If the whole sum is not raised without difficulty onlookers will begin to think that the Oxford Presbyterians are not in earnest and not nearly so much interested in their distinguished countryman as they profess to be.