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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PROFESSOR WOODROW'S paper on Evolution, which caused so much heated discussion in the South, has led to action on the part of Columbia Seminary Board of Trustees. They debated the subject for two whole days. A paper was introduced strongly commending Dr. Woodrow, and endorsing nearly all the positions taken by him in the paper on evolution. A substitute was offered which enjoined upon Dr. Woodrow to cease teaching in the seminary the doctrine that evolution is God's plan of creation, and that the body of Adam was probably evolved from the lower animals. This substitute was voted down. A motion almost entirely endorsing Dr. Woodrow's position was then carried by a vote of eight to three. Against this decision the minority protested, and appealed to the Synods that control the institution, viz.: Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

FROM the *Pall Mall Gazette* we learn that an interesting map is now being prepared for the Duke of Sutherland, on which is shown in great elaboration the configuration of the country through which it is proposed to form a ship canal from Mount Carmel to the Red Sea. This map is mainly based on the surveys by Prof. Hull, and Col. Colville, and will exhibit lines of equal altitude at intervals of 200 feet of absolute height. From the map when completed it is proposed to construct a model in relief, which will be enclosed in sides of plate glass up to the level of the highest mountain peak, and made watertight. Water will then be introduced, and, being drawn off by taps till the level of the Mediterranean is reached, it will be at once apparent what will be the magnitude of the great inland sea, extending from the waters of Merom to the desert of Arabia Petraea, which would be formed by letting the Mediterranean flow into the valley of the Jordan.

THE Toronto Free Library now supplies a long felt want. Citizens generally avail themselves of the privileges it affords. The Board of Management and the librarian have successfully endeavoured to make the library as serviceable as it could be made. The issue of a catalogue adds greatly to the convenience and comfort of readers. Its arrangement is simple and complete, so that books may be selected at a glance. There is every indication that the Toronto Free Library will be more largely patronized this season than it was last. Its establishment has produced a good effect in other places. Montreal is without a free public library, and this has induced patriotic citizens to move for the establishment of such an institution. It is said that members of the British Association will contribute largely in aid of a free library. Mr. Graham, of the *Montreal Star*, has offered \$5,000, in the hope that other citizens will be induced to contribute. There is every prospect that Montreal will soon possess an efficient public library.

THERE has been a lull in the Franco-Chinese hostilities for two weeks. Various causes are assigned for this inactivity. Disease is said to have disabled hundreds of French soldiers in Tonquin. It is also hinted that German pressure has been brought to bear on the contestants in the strife. It is certain that commercial interests are seriously injured by the

uncertainty prevailing. A third power has entered the arena. Russian vessels in immense numbers have made their appearance in Chinese waters. By some this is considered ominous. People at Shanghai are disturbed by their appearance, and wild surmises are indulged as to what it portends. A Russo-French alliance is not an impossibility, but at present is extremely improbable. It would certainly not be in keeping with the pacific declarations following the recent imperial council at Skierniewice, and it is doubtful, though a temporary attack of Anglophobia distresses the French, if a cordial alliance between republican France and autocratic Russia can be among the possibilities.

POLITICAL excitement in the United States is now rising in intensity as the campaign proceeds. Though each of the great parties is confident of success, it is scarcely possible to forecast which will be the victor in November. Neither of the nominees of the respective conventions has an unblemished record. Cleveland's personal character is deeply stained. Many who voted for him for the office he now holds avow their intention of voting for his rival. Blaine's public record has been sadly smirched by the revelations contained in the Mulligan letters, and in addition his domestic life dragged into publicity as an offset to the Cleveland scandal, makes it plain, on his own admission, that his marriage, subsequently repeated, was illegal and clandestine. There may be the enthusiasm that the spirit of party inspires, there can be but little genuine fervour for either of the standard bearers. As a result an unusually large vote will be polled for St. John, the nominee of the prohibition convention, against whose personal record the virulence of heated partisanship has been unable to say a disparaging word.

IT is worthy of remark that several members of the British Association gave emphatic expression to their belief in revelation. There is nothing wonderful in this. But in some quarters there is a vague impression that there is antagonism between the results of recent scientific investigations and the truths of revealed religion. The visit of the British scientists has done much to remove this misapprehension. Dr. Sexton is not only a man of vast and varied scientific attainments, but a devout believer in the truths of revelation, and an able exponent of evangelical religion. He has been giving a series of lectures on religion in relation to science, in Toronto and other Canadian cities. He has a thorough grasp of his subject, which he places lucidly and impressively before the minds of his hearers. So thoroughly logical is his treatment that his conclusions have the irresistible force of actual demonstration. His lectures are relieved by the playful sallies of a chastened humour. Such a course of lectures is admirably fitted to dispel the doubt and uncertainties of a mind in search of the highest truth.

A REFORMER within the Roman Catholic Church has a poor time of it. Independent thought and free speech are luxuries that no ecclesiastic can long afford. Men of intellectual force and vast learning have from time to time entered their caveats against dogmas they could not honestly accept. Drs. Dollinger and Strossmayer, not to mention names of lesser note, protested to the last against the dogma of papal infallibility. Dr. Dollinger declined to submit, and though he did not renounce Catholicism, was excommunicated, and commenced the Old Catholic movement. Strossmayer submitted to papal influence, and was scarcely ever heard of again. Father Curci, who lately published a book in which papal assumptions were freely criticised, unable to resist the pressure brought to bear upon him, has made a complete retraction of all he had written displeasing to the hierarchy. Father Curci has published a long letter in the Roman *Unita Cattolica*, making full submission, and condemning everything in his book to which the Vatican objects, and hoping to be restored to the paternal benevolence of the Holy Father. It had been supposed that Curci would stand out.

A REMARKABLE man died in New York a few days ago. He came of a criminal family. He himself entered on a career of crime. While serving a lengthened term in Sing Sing he came under the power of Christian truth. He resolved that on his liberation he should go to his old haunts and labour as a missionary. To this purpose he steadily adhered till his dying day. The Cremorne Mission, conducted by Jerry McAuley, was the means of doing unspeakable good to many. He could speak to the poor outcasts in New York slums as few could. He was discreet, earnest and large hearted. Imposing funeral services were held in the Broadway Tabernacle, and many of the most distinguished clergymen and Christian workers did honour to his worth and labours. Perhaps a more touching tribute was paid to the friend they had lost by the people who went in crowds to take a last look of all that was mortal of Jerry McAuley, as the coffin lay before the desk from which he was accustomed to address his motley hearers. The paraphernalia of stately mourning was absent, but the softened glance, the falling tears and stifled sobs of grateful converts, attested the genuine sorrow with which they mourned their loss.

IN Montreal the Roman Catholic Church owns a large amount of valuable real estate, from which handsome revenues are derived. Ownership is their own affair. It is, however, a different matter when the ecclesiastical owners insist on its exemption from taxation. The municipal authorities have justly concluded that property, though owned by ecclesiastical corporations, used for commercial and other purposes, ought to bear its fair share of taxation. To this decision, the clerical authorities do not take kindly. They strenuously oppose any encroachment on their immunities. An action has just been entered in the Superior Court by the Corporation of Montreal against the Sisters of the Grey Nunnery, for \$2,897 25 arrears of taxes for a number of years on property possessed by them at Point St. Charles. It is said that the Sisters will resist the claim on the ground of privileges granted them at the time of the cession of Canada by France to England, alleging that all their rights and privileges were maintained by the cession, and that one of these rights was exemption from all taxes. It is also stated that Bishop Fabre, assessed for \$4,000 on account of Dominion Square, has instructed his lawyers to protest against the charge in virtue of a statute passed in 1876, whereby archbishops, bishops, clericals, and presbyteries are exempted from all ordinary or special taxes. The exemption from taxes of property owned by ecclesiastics is neither just, wise, nor politic.

ARE the young men of the present worse than the young men of previous generations? We entertain a strong impression that the young men of to-day will compare favourably with those of former times. We live now under the blaze of electric light. Concealment of vicious inclination and conduct is now scarcely possible. This makes the frequent record of disgraceful doings all the more startling. Publicity has a restraining effect on some who are not amenable to higher motives. When, however, every allowance is made, there is far too much ruffianism among young men of a certain stamp. They bring disgrace upon themselves, their friends, and the community in which they live. In the city of Hamilton recently, Judge Armour, commenting on the subject of lawlessness, is reported to have said: Numbers of young men banded together for the purpose of assaulting and robbing people, committing burglaries and insulting young girls. In his opinion it was something unprecedented. Nobody was safe, and the moral welfare of the entire community was threatened. He was astonished at the number of young men that had been brought before him, and at the amount of crime which it was apparent was in the city. He was going to do all in his power to protect the people of Hamilton, and so would make examples of those who came before him, examples which he trusted would have a restraining effect on other abandoned and depraved young men in the city.