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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Isle of Skye is in a state of semi-insurrection. Bands of crofters, armed with sticks and scythes, with a regiment of Amazons bringing up the rear, marching in order, with their aprons filled with stones, assemble at the blast of horns, which can be heard for six miles, to resist the landing of the constables. These constables are charged with the eviction of a few crofters—mostly widows, it is said—who cannot pay the arrears of rent agreed upon in the settlement with their laird. Beacon fires blaze on the hilltops; and the islanders threaten to resist to the last.

No class of people furnish more inmates to the insane asylums than domestics and farmers' wives. Such a woman, aged forty-four, the mother of eight children, was recently brought to a hospital for the insane, suffering from acute mania. The husband, when asked if he could suggest any cause for her illness, exclaimed with much animation that he could not conceive any reason. "She is a most domestic woman; is always doing something for her children, is always at work for us all; never goes out of the house, even to church on Sabbath; never goes gadding about at the neighbours' houses, nor talking from one to another; has been one of the best wives and mothers, and was always at home." The superintendent, in commenting on this case, says: "This appreciative husband could hardly have furnished a more graphic delineation of the causes of his wife's insanity, had he understood them never so thoroughly."

A STOREKEEPER'S assistant in Montreal was recently sentenced to two years in the penitentiary for theft. From the evidence, it appears that he has been systematically swindling his employers, and wonder was expressed that the sentence was so light. But the learned judge had an explanation. The judge told the young man that, as it appeared from the evidence, and as the prisoner had urged in extenuation, the morality of the storekeepers' assistants was low—the prisoner said "they all did it"—he would make the sentence light. We would be loath to conclude that the morality of the young men of Montreal is so low as the judge would make us believe; but it could not be worse than the judge's logic. If pilfering by shopmen is so generally resorted to, and so little thought of, as he would have us believe, was it not time that he should make an example of a delinquent? Surely the worst method to put down systematic crime that could be adopted is for a judge to make light of it. Montreal judicial acumen needs revision.

THERE have been frequent occasions of late to record handsome benefactions for religious and charitable purposes. Several wealthy people have been putting their money where it is likely to do much good. To the gratifying list of excellent examples the following has to be added: Mr. Jacob Bradshaw, of Hampton, N.B., has presented to an organization formed for its management, viz., "The New Brunswick Baptist Ministers' Life Association," \$10,000, to be used, under certain conditions, to aid infirm Baptist ministers, their widows, and children. This makes some \$35,000 he has recently presented for different objects for the benefit of the Baptist denomination in his native Province and the Telugu mission interest. There is no doubt that these beneficiaries are as needful of aid as they are worthy and deserving, but might there not be in these days, when the cost of living is so much enhanced, a general increase of ministerial salaries, especially in the case of many who are so poorly paid, so that the hire may be a little more worthy of the labourer than it is, unfortunately, in too many cases? It is not creditable to Christianity that its ministry be pauperized.

PEOPLE in England have been moved with an unaccustomed excitement by the singularly sad suicide of Dr. Edwardes, of Hounslow, on account of a false charge brought against him by a female of questionable character whom he had been professionally

attending. While denying the charge in the most emphatic manner, Dr. Edwardes told some of his acquaintances that "the slightest taint of such a charge, whether proved or not, is sufficient to ruin any medical man, and the sooner I get out of this the better." At the coroner's inquest the woman who preferred the charge against Dr. Edwardes admitted that "it was Dr. Whitmarsh's doings that had set them on." It was Dr. Whitmarsh, and nobody else, that egged her on." It also appeared that Dr. Whitmarsh, Dr. Edwardes' business partner, had been trying to buy out the interest of his partner in the business. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide caused by temporary insanity, and added a rider to the effect, "That Dr. Edwardes was driven to his death by the pressure brought to bear by Dr. Whitmarsh using the false charge of Rose Bignell as a means of driving him to a dissolution of partnership."

THE death of William E. Dodge occurred at his home in New York last week. He steadily made his way in business life from small beginnings, till he found himself embarked in extensive and varied commercial, manufacturing and railway enterprises. He was a devoted Christian man, and warmly attached to Presbyterianism. His business career is a telling refutation of the popular fallacy that if you are to succeed in business you cannot afford to be very conscientious. His dealings were marked by strict integrity, and only a short time since he put himself on record as being entirely opposed to Sunday traffic on railroads. If a road of which he was a director insisted on running Sunday trains in opposition to his opinion, he withdrew from the road rather than incur the responsibility of disobeying the Divine command. He was deeply interested in missions, both domestic and foreign. His aid to these and all good objects was ungrudgingly and unostentatiously given. The temperance movement found in him an energetic and free-handed supporter. By his active efforts, sage counsels, and liberal giving, William E. Dodge has earned a place in the ranks of Christian philanthropy.

THE marked decrease in the consumption of alcoholic liquors in Great Britain is causing anxiety to patriots lest there be an immediate falling off in the revenue. Suppose there should, there would be a most beneficial falling off in certain expenditures. This is a theory, though not a visionary one, as may be seen by a very striking contrast. Vineland, N.J., actually, as well as legally, prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors; Yonkers, N.Y., licenses 145 saloons, and has in addition 70 places where liquor is sold in violation of law. Vineland has about 12,000 inhabitants, and Yonkers less than 15,000. Yonkers spends on its police \$37,000, and the police duties of Vineland are performed by one constable at the annual expense of \$75. Yonkers has a police judge with a salary of \$4,000, and a clerk who is paid \$800. Vineland has no police court and needs none. The paupers of Yonkers cost the town \$12,000; Vineland has a corresponding expense of \$400. Altogether these articles of expense cost in Yonkers \$53,800; in Vineland \$475. Making proportionate allowance for the difference in population, the government of Yonkers, so far as these expenses are concerned, costs more than ninety times as much as that of Vineland.

THE body-snatching ghoul in the neighbourhood of Montreal are growing bolder every week in their ghastly business. It is said that a gang of American resurrectionists are actively at work in the country villages surrounding Montreal stealing bodies for the medical colleges in Vermont and other places in the eastern States. Raids upon vaults in St. Anne des Plains, St. John's, and St. Paul de L'Ermite have been made, and several bodies stolen. Singular as it may appear, six subjects were shipped away openly from Montreal one day last week in boxes addressed to various medical colleges across the line, and without any attempt on the part of two city detectives, who were looking on at the depot, to interfere. Their attention was drawn specially to the outrage, but their excuse was to the effect that they had no power to act.

It is alleged that a whole gang of American resurrectionists come into the Province regularly during the winter, and make a good living out of their abominable trade. Any price demanded will be paid by the medical faculties across the border for subjects. It is stated by the police that the parties connected with the thefts are well known and could be easily arrested; but the poor people whose deceased friends are taken cannot bear the expense of prosecution, and therefore it is no use capturing the banditti. And people's feelings can be lacerated because they are poor.

ON the party political aspect of the license law we have no occasion in these columns to speak. It is solely in so far as the agitation now in progress is designed to help or hinder the cause of public morality, and making existing laws as efficient as they are capable of being in the restriction, and if possible the speedy suppression of intemperance, that reference is here made. Various representative bodies have put themselves on record as to whether it would be desirable to revert to the former mode of issuing licenses by municipalities instead of by Commissioners appointed by the Government. Holders of licenses themselves are largely and strongly against the retrograde course. The city councillors of Toronto have with few exceptions expressed themselves as opposed to a change in the proposed direction. Then we have the ministers of the city of all denominations giving emphatic testimony against a return to the former state of things. This, of course, was only to be expected. Ministers, like their fellow-citizens, entertain their own political beliefs as they have a perfect right to do; but it is noticeable that not a single one of them favours the granting of liquor licenses by municipal authorities. There is entire agreement among the clergymen who have spoken on the subject that a change in the direction indicated would not be favourable to the cause of temperance. By the way has a bishopric ceased to be an influential office, at least a compromise bishopric? Apostolic firmness has become so diluted through the long stream of doubtful apostolic succession that crisp opinions on a live social question can hardly be looked for from our modern episcopate. At all events this is what His Grace of Toronto says: "I have not given the matter sufficient attention to enable me to give an opinion."

MANY people feel that the newspaper press is a most responsible institution. It is the daily chronicle of the world's doings, but it is not like the school-boy's slate. The record of to-day does not completely efface that of yesterday. Seeds are sown in readers' minds that germinate afterwards in good or evil. The practice of modern journalism, in publishing the most minute details of social scandals and criminal acts that may be before the courts, is, to say the least, a dangerous one. It does not lessen journalistic responsibility to say that because a large class of the community like to read coarse recitals of criminality, therefore they ought to be supplied. The papers that pander to vitiated tastes are wielding an evil influence on the public mind. In saying this it would be a mistake to suppose that they should run to the opposite extreme, and by their silence lead the average reader to suppose that beneath the decorous surface of social life there were no festering cankers of corruption, appalling in their hideousness. A sudden death in Toronto the other day aroused suspicion sufficient to warrant a coroner's inquest. It resulted in the removal of all grounds for the impression that there had been foul play; but it brought to light the fact that a thirteen-years-old daughter of the deceased woman, together with three others and three boys, one of them a brother of her own, had passed the night on which her mother lay dying in a woodshed in rear of her parents' dwelling. The coroner's jury decided on the following as a part of their finding: "The jury would further draw the attention of the proper authorities to the facts elucidated by this inquest, that children are allowed in the midst of our city to grow up to a life of shame through neglect; and would further ask that some endeavour should be made to reclaim them by the proper supervision of a health officer."