

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Parliament of Canada was prorogued on Friday with more than usual pomp and pageantry. His Excellency and the Princess Louise were present, surrounded by the Ministers, Judges, Senators and Commoners, who, with the gaily attired ladies, made an attractive spectacle. After the usual formalities, the Governor-General delivered the speech from the throne, and declared the first session of the fifth Parliament closed.

The address, which was subsequently presented to the Governor-General and Princess, expresses not only the voice of both branches of the Legislature, but also the sincere feelings of the whole population of the Dominion. Lord Lorne's rule has been an admirable one in every way, and the people of Canada will hail with satisfaction every honour which Her Majesty may be pleased to bestow upon him. The Governor-General's kind allusions to Canada, and his emphatic expressions of the warm friendship of the Princess and himself for its people and welfare, will be received with great pleasure.

OUR new Governor General is to be the Marquis of Lansdowne, an Irish nobleman, under 40, married, the Marchioness being a daughter of the Duke of Abercorn. We believe his Lordship served a term as Under Secretary for India, and is a man of considerable ability.

It is now generally conceded that the Suez Canal has broken down from excess of traffic. When the Canal was opened, thirteen years ago, only 500,000 tons of shipping passed through it. Last year 7,000,000 tons of shipping used the Canal. It is but natural that England should take the lead in the proposed enlargement of the great waterway. Of the 7,000,000 tons of shipping using the Canal, 82 per cent are owned in that country; and of every five dollars levied as toll, England pays four dollars. Unless M. de Lesseps soon offers adequate facilities for the conduct of the enormous growth of trade in that direction, we may soon hear that the Khedive has granted a new concession to some competing company.

"ALL good Americans go to Paris when they die." So it is said, and statistics shew that Paris is the resting place of the money-made citizens of every nationality. Out of 100 people residing in Paris, only 30 are born within the limits of the town. One strange thing about this foreign influx is, that before the German War Germans represented 19 per cent of the foreign element in Paris; since the war, Germans have increased to 31 per cent. Belgians furnished 50 per cent of strangers who occupy the city.

THERE is nothing more satisfactory in England to-day than the strides that temperance is making in the habits and homes of the people. But what is of equal satisfaction is the pressure of the people on Parliament in favour of temperance legislation. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's motion on "Local Option" was carried by a large majority, and the force of public opinion practically compelled the Government to go into the lobby with Sir Wilfrid. The Home Secretary struck the right chord when he said that only a year or two ago nobody would have dreamed that anyone speaking from the front opposition bench would have imagined that in opposing a local option resolution he was taking the unpopular side. That was a sign that temperance reform was a powerful factor in politics. We

know that the bulk of the clergy of all denominations have worked hard to accomplish this purpose, but the Church of England Temperance Society exerted a power far above that of all the others combined. Opinion on temperance is progressive, like opinion on every other important reform. It is not long ago since to fall under the table from excess of wine was hardly considered ill-breeding in a guest. That day has gone, and already the brighter day appears when the force of public opinion will compel those in high places to banish their choice decanters from the presence of the guests.

THOSE who still delight to "quaff a cup of old Massica" may be interested in the information which reaches us from France. Since the spread of the vine disease, phylloxera, the ordinary wine has little or no grape juice in it. Noxious drugs cheat the palate, and colouring matter deceives the eye. "White wine" is too often simply vitriol and water. Brandy, it is well known, is distilled from potatoes and beetroots. The deep-coloured "Port" receives its richness from the many gallons of bullock-blood which the butchers save for the vintners. Enough of the secrets of the trade!

MONEY *versus* Morality seems to be a true statement on England's opium traffic. The moral feelings of the public demand the surrender of the nefarious traffic. But India, if the traffic was given up, would be deprived, at one stroke, of a revenue of six or seven millions. The trade was forced upon the people at the point of the bayonet, and that which England fights for she is very loth to give up. Military and fiscal arguments cannot prop up the lame morality of the whole proceeding, and some day the Government will learn that a deficient revenue is better than a degraded people.

It is with great pleasure that we note the instituting of a new decoration for nurses. If "decorations" are necessary to the well-being of a country, then let decorations be given to noble workers in every craft, and on all sides. The Royal Proclamation announces the creation of a decoration styled "The Royal Red Cross," and it consists of a cross, enamelled crimson, edged with gold, having on the arms thereof the words, Faith, Hope, and Charity. The proclamation announces that "it shall be competent to us and our successors, to confer this decoration upon any nursing sister, whether subjects or foreign persons, who may be recommended to our notice by our Secretary of state for War." It is a great pity that the decoration is to be extended only to those who shew special devotion and competency "with the army of the field, or in naval and military hospital." Far harder and nobler work is done in the fever wards of some quiet hospital, and by the bedside of lingering disease. But, the brave workers will get their reward!

THERE is a freedom of expression in some of the newspapers which would sometimes be amusing if it was not so very personal. An American Contemporary having a taste for the statistical, tells us the following personal description of the superlatives of the Senate:—"Fair of Nevada, is the richest senator; Harris of Tennessee is the poorest; Sherman of Ohio is the leanest; David Davis of Illinois the fattest; Butler of South Carolina the handsomest; McDill of Iowa the ugliest; Mahone of Virginia the most heterodox; and McMillan of Minnesota the most orthodox; Bayard is the most scholarly; and Plumb the

least so," etc., etc. The same freedom is taken by some of the English papers. A recent editor of an English contemporary tells us "that the town which once echoed with the eloquence of a Robertson," is now famous for nothing but "the mildest form of twaddle." And that "the sermons of a certain clergyman (naming him) are an insult to intelligent people." "The mannerisms" of another "are intolerable, and he talks inflated nothings of nonsense." Certain, it is, that many of the clergy do not strive to gain a masterly eloquence, nor do some of them give due diligence to reading; yet, we think that if *personal* work must be criticised in this way, it is far better done in gossiping coteries than in the columns of a newspaper.

THE REV. JNO. STORRS, who has recently been appointed by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Rector of St. Peter's, Eaton Square, in succession to Bishop Wilkinson, the new Bishop of Truro, is a Nova Scotian, and a son of the late Rev. John Storrs, Rector of Cornwallis. St. Peter's is probably the most important Parish in England, and the fact that Mr. Storrs, who was for some time Bishop Wilkinson's Curate, but more recently Vicar of St. James', Bury, St. Edmunds, has been made the Bishop's successor, proves him to be a man of exceptional ability and prominence. Well done Canada.

THE world breathes more freely. The autocrat of All the Russias has been crowned, and his life is still preserved to him. Nihilism has contained itself for the occasion, or the Government's extreme precautions have prevented a catastrophe. Everywhere along the line of procession at his entry into Moscow, we are told, the greatest demonstrations of loyal affection were shewn by the people. And on Sunday at the coronation services the ceremonies were of the most magnificent description, and the behaviour of the populace exceedingly loyal and demonstrative. Let us hope that this inactivity of the Nihilists is an indication that a better disposition towards the ruling power has asserted itself, or that the authorities have the ability to check further excesses.

WE gladly chronicle the fact that the New York Aldermen sufficiently regarded their dignity and manliness as to refuse to give way to the demand of the Irish Dynamiters who wanted the day which was selected for the opening ceremonies in connection with the bridge between New York and Brooklyn changed because it happened to be the 24th of May, the anniversary of the day on which England's Queen was born. The imposing ceremonies came off on Thursday, and the immense undertaking has been handed over to the proper authorities, and will henceforth be the thoroughfare for the enormous traffic between the two great cities.

THE presentation by Sir Alex. Galt on behalf of the Nova Scotia Militia of a sword of honor and an address to General Laurie, is a well merited recognition of an officer who has done very much to bring the local forces of that Province to its present state of efficiency. There is a general feeling among those who are able to express an opinion, that General Laurie's long services, and great devotion to the interests of the Militia of Canada, could be best recognized by appointing him Commander of the Dominion forces. If a change is to take place we have great pleasure in nominating the gallant officer for the position.