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## Notes of the Week.

"Again," says the *Interior*, "the Manitoba school question is approaching an acute stage. The Roman Catholic members of the Manitoba Legislature favor the restoration of the separate schools as they were prior to 1890, while the conservative members of the Opposition propose that a system of separate schools similar to those in Ontario should be introduced. Neither of these proposals will be entertained by the Government and people of Manitoba. The Presbyterian General Assembly of the Canadian Church, after a keen and able debate, passed a resolution opposing separate schools in the Prairie Province, and various Methodist district conferences have passed deliverances deprecating interference with Provincial education by the Dominion Government."

What to do with probationers and how to keep them employed is a difficulty not confined to our Canadian Church. At the Free Church Assembly, one of the proposals of the report on Probationers was that, when a congregation will only call an ordained minister no probationers should be sent by the committee. The amendment, however, that this be rejected on the ground of its not being within the right of a congregation to come to such a finding, nor for a Presbytery to consent to it, only received five supporters. The committee accepted a motion strongly disapproving of probationers approaching vacant congregations with testimonials procured at their own request for circulation, and a motion by Mr. Hugh Ross, of Glasgow, was likewise accepted, directing the committee to take steps to secure the yet fuller employment of probationers as assistants and missionaries.

A Mr. James R. Green, of Ellsworth, Mahoning County, Ohio, now ninety-seven years old, was giving the other day to the students of Mount Union College, Ohio, some reminiscences of the Battle of Waterloo, of which as a middy, then seventeen years of age, he was a spectator. This old man, now so near the century mark, and who was in his young manhood at a time when the name of Napoleon was hated throughout Europe except in France, still retains his dislike of the conqueror and speaks of him after the manner of a century ago. "Napoleon was a cruel tyrant," said this nonagenarian veteran to the college boys, "and if you had known him in the age in which I knew him you would have thought so too. This Napoleon craze, of which my friends have been reading to me out of the current magazines of the country, makes me very weary indeed. I have not a spark of love for Napoleon."

The Turk is just now having a hard time of it, no harder we suspect than he deserves to have. To satisfaction of some kind, and in some way to give to Europe for Armenian outrages; an insurrection broken out in Macedonia which may easily assume large proportions, is to be added the report that Turkish troops have been sent into Bulgaria to assert the sovereignty of the Sultan. Bulgaria was delivered to a certain extent from Turkish rule after the Bulgarian atrocities, through the Russo-Turkish War, but the Turkish Suzerainty was still kept up and acknowledged by a payment of tribute, and a garrison of Turkish police. It is through an atrocious murder by one of these policemen that the present difficulty arises. The policeman murdered a young woman on the eve of her intended marriage, and a riot ensued, in which several Turkish policemen were killed and also some Bulgarians, who took up the cause of their murdered countrywoman. The Turkish Government sides with its police, and an unequal war is threatened, but to which side unequal only the future can decide.

Another canal opening on a more modest scale than that of the Kaiser Wilhelm has also just been celebrated by our cousins across the line. This is the Harlem Canal to open a direct passage from the Hudson to Long Island Sound. More than half a century ago the first attempts were made. But interest waned and money was not forthcoming. When the volume of trade increased to the extent which it has the project was revived, and two years ago it was again undertaken in earnest. Here also were great public rejoicings and congratulations, a picturesque water and land parade, bunting floating, music, booming of cannon, blowing of steam whistles, fireworks, the inevitable banquet and speech-making. The substance of the whole is that, the "ocean gateway of New York has been greatly improved, and modern argosies will bear rich merchandise along the canal, which supersedes the marine utility of Spuyten Duyval Creek."

One of those great pageants, which in some respect can only be enacted in all their splendor in old world lands, has just taken place in Germany, the opening of what is now to be known as the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal connecting the waters of the North Sea and the Baltic. It was international in its character, and so was made the occasion of one of those great gatherings of the greatest nations, in which, though war in its pomp and magnificence is displayed, yet make for peace. The whole occasion required much delicate management on the part of the Emperor and his subordinates which they appear to have managed very successfully. There were much feasting and speech-making, and considering the importance attached to the utterances of these royal personages, what was said was watched with interest. In the circumstances, the language could scarcely be anything but pacific, and we are assured it was eminently so. The sight was one of great magnificence and doubtless will prove to be of such historic importance that its like cannot often expect to be witnessed.

Koa Kau, the Chinese student with Dr. MacKay, of Formosa, created a little merriment in the foreign mission meeting at the Assembly, by telling the audience that the religions of China, "Confucianism, Brahmanism, Taouism," and others were all mixed up like "a stew." The political world both in Britain and here is just now mixed up pretty much like a stew. What with Home-rule, Liberal Union, square honest Tory, and square Liberal, Radical, Parnelite and anti-Parnelite, the Welsh disestablishment issue and all the rest; and here the Manitoba school question, the threatened Quebec revolt, Curran Bridge and like scandals, remedial and anti-remedial legislation, tariff issues, hierarchical interference and other questions, we have what may be most appropriately called a stew. Precisely what will be evolved out of this stew no one can tell, but it will be a relief when the whole thing is settled down, and political affairs are running once more in something like their accustomed channels. These are times when sound principle is needed, and holding fast to it, is the only way of getting successfully through a very mixed up state of things.

The closing or the opening addresses of the Moderators of Assemblies or Synods in Britain are often elaborate and carefully weighed reviews of public events and tendencies in the Church or State or both. The Rev. Dr. MacLeod, the Moderator of the Established Church Assembly, speaking in his closing address of the Catholic Revival said: "It was, perhaps, not an unnatural reaction from negative teaching, but he regretted the aping by some of their ministers of a ritualism foreign to Presbyterianism, and out of place when not connected with doctrines repudiated by their Church. It would be deplorable if the loyalty of the people were shaken by painful suspicions aroused by a most uncalled-for use of phrases and mannerisms;

still more by sacerdotal claims and a type of ceremonial which, as used, were worthless in themselves, and could only create offence and produce division." These are wise words and we hope that our beloved Church in Canada may ever by the blessing and guidance of her great Head, steer clear of a rock, which appears so greatly to threaten the peace of some portions of the Church in Scotland, and alienate from her the affection and devotion of a large body of the people.

It is creditable to our church in this country that it should have discovered and put to use an elasticity in Presbyterianism that the church in older lands is only now discovering. Ordaining missionaries for service in our home field for a term of years has been in use with excellent effect amongst us for years. In the Free Church Assembly Dr. Ross Taylor tabled the report of a committee to which had been remitted the question of ordaining ministers without charges. It was proposed to empower the committees of the Home Mission and the Highlands and Islands to ordain probationers for a limited term not exceeding three years to suitable places. Dr. Winter moved that the proposal be rejected as opposed to the principles of the church, and Dr. Thomas Smith seconded him. Dr. Wells heartily approved of it, and wished it applied to the missions in towns. Mr. Mitchell, of Kirkcudbright, moved that it be sent down to Presbyteries for consideration, and Mr. Somerville, of Mentone, seconded. It was pointed out by Professor Lindsay that in the case of foreign missionaries the principle that ordination must be conjoined with a charge had been broken through. The proposal was supported by Dr. Rainy, who contended for elasticity in the church system. On a vote, Mr. Mitchell's motion was carried against Dr. Winter's, but was defeated by Dr. Ross Taylor's. The scheme, therefore, was approved of.

Bishop Brooks of blessed memory, has been followed by one of like Catholic spirit, if we may judge by the following utterance from him in his pulpit, quoted in the *Interior*: "What is the significance of affiliation with the remote Russo-Greek church, of whose spirit and work we know almost nothing, compared with the significance of, at least, a spiritual affiliation with the Presbyterian Church, of the splendid results of whose Christian missionary, philanthropic and educational work we know almost everything. Who and what are the Old Catholics that we should grant to them the recognition and sympathy we withhold from the Methodists, who found a new church every day of every year, in which is proclaimed pardon and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord? What has Pere Hyacinthe done—what does he give promise of doing—in France that he should be received into our open arms, while we have no relations with the millions of Baptists, North and South, who are doing more than any man can tell for the religious and moral education of America. The Greek Church never gave us a single priest; the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches have given us, out of their ranks, bishops and clergy by the hundreds. The Old Catholics have never been anything to us: we never come into contact with them, we know almost nothing of them; they know quite nothing of us; yet with Greek Church and Old Catholics we are united in fraternal bonds. But Presbyterianism and Congregationalism are not simply names: there is not an intelligent man in this city who does not know that the religious, moral and intellectual life of this country is immensely the richer for their presence and work among us." God speed that good bishop in his work. When this spirit prevails everywhere among our Episcopal brethren, if we cannot have an incorporating union, we shall have a true spiritual union, and Christian fellowship, and real, mutual helpfulness in every good work.