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Notes of the Week.

THE result of the French elections has been a genuine surprise. It was generally expected that the leaning of the people was chiefly in the direction of Radicalism. The Conservatives have developed unlooked-for strength. The people, stunned by surprise, were at first apprehensive for the stability of the Republic; or at all events they dreaded exciting outbreaks between the various factions. The Republic is in no immediate danger of subversion. The Bonapartist and Royalist factions are not only numerically insignificant, but so hopelessly at variance among themselves that they are not even dangerous. The extreme Radicals have developed no new strength; it is simply the Opportunists who have been crushingly defeated. Efforts to dazzle the French people by unjustifiable and expensive expeditions to Tonquin and Madagascar have failed to impress the imagination, and the piling up an enormous debt has caused the fools' paradise to crumble in ruins.

THE second annual meeting of the Peterborough Y. M. C. A. was held in St. Paul's Church recently. A number of energetic Christian workers are associated together in carrying on this most important and encouraging religious enterprise. It is gratifying to learn that obstacles which at one time last year seemed to be insurmountable have been successfully overcome, and that the Association is now in a prosperous and promising condition. An efficient Bible class was last year conducted by the Rev. A. H. Munro, and is to be continued this year by the Rev. F. H. Wallace. During the year seventy-four new members were added to the roll, making the total number at the present time 105. A regular Sabbath evening service of song was conducted during the year, an interesting course of lectures was provided and a comfortable place for meetings has been secured, in which there is a well-equipped reading-room. In seeking to surround young men with kindly Christian influences, this Association is doing a good work, deserving the sympathy and support of the community.

It is stated that Cardinal Manning is preparing an article for the *Dublin Review* on how Catholics should vote. The eminent representative of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, in the graceful periods for which he is famous, will probably write in a temporizing strain, and in somewhat ambiguous terms. But why should either Catholic or Protestant be told how they should vote? After all extensions of the franchise, and the introduction of the ballot it is a notorious fact that the average voter is far from being free. The landlord wishes to coerce the vote of his tenant, the master wants to control the vote of his employe, domineering relatives want to secure for their candidate the suffrages of their pliant kinsfolk. The political parties are almost frantic in their efforts to secure "your vote and influence." Then the weary elector will have peace! Not a bit of it. All kinds of interested organizations have to go for him next, wildly eloquent in their attempts to prove that it will be for his interest or his duty to vote just as they dictate. There is room for a new society whose mission would be the emancipation of voters. The man who is dragooned into voting by others can never be a free and independent elector.

ON Monday morning of last week the first meeting for the season of the Toronto Ministerial Association was held in the usual place, Shaftesbury Hall, the Rev. Dr. Thomas in the chair. After prayers by the Rev. Dr. Rose, Dr. Thomas gave an interesting address on Wales, its beautiful and sublime scenery, the rich and expressive character of the Welsh language, and the remarkable fondness of the people for preaching. It was asserted that in no other country is there a people better indoctrinated in religion or more familiar with the Word of God. The Rev. John Smith followed with an account of Prince Edward Island, especially in regard to the progress of public sentiment in favour of Temperance shown by the general support of the Scott Act. One-half of

the population of Prince Edward Island is Roman Catholic; but, in regard to the Scott Act, differences in religious views do not prevent harmonious and decided action in its favour. Mr. Smith concluded his address by reading very encouraging statistics respecting the progress of prohibition in other parts of the Dominion. The Rev. E. A. Stafford, of the Methodist Church, reported on the spiritual condition and prospects of the great North-West. Much regret was expressed that time could not be afforded for an address from the Rev. Dr. Clarke, of McMaster Hall. It is hoped he will favour the Association with his paper at the next meeting. The subject is one of vast extent and importance. "The Religious Condition and Prospects of the United States."

LAST Sabbath a most interesting event took place in New York city. The important mission in which the Rev. Jacob Freshman has for years been engaged has made a decided advance. On the day named the first Hebrew-Christian Church in America was dedicated. At the morning services Bishops Harris and Nicholson were present. The speakers at the afternoon meeting were Drs. Marvin R. Vincent, William T. Sabin and J. R. Ray. The preacher at the evening service was Dr. Howard Crosby. On Monday evening the services were conducted in German by distinguished divines. Services are to be continued during the week, a temperance meeting being held on Wednesday evening. Dr. Deems, George F. Pentecost, William Ormiston and others are to take part in the remaining services. Mr. Freshman is well-known to many Christian people in Canada, who sympathize deeply with him in his important work as the following, which appears in the last number of the *Hebrew-Christian*, will testify.—Enclosed please find cheque for \$15, a small contribution from my Sabbath-school for your work. A number of my young people had the privilege of hearing you when last in the city, and were led to feel a deep interest in your mission. Accompanying our trifling contribution is the earnest prayer that you may be sustained by the grace and favour of the "God of Israel" in your noble and self-denying efforts. I hope to still sustain and deepen the interest now taken by my young people in your blessed work.—Yours in common love to God's chosen people, JAMES MCCAUL, Pastor, Stanley St. Presbyterian Church, Montreal.

IN certain communities where the Scott Act is brought into force there are some people who are desperate in their determination that it shall not succeed if criminal tactics could prevail. In Orangeville attempts were made to wreck the dwellings of two well-known and respected citizens, who have been energetic in their efforts in favour of the Act. Such deeds of barbarism receive, as they deserve, universal condemnation. At a convention of the Oxford Scott Act Association held at Woodstock last week, it was stated that at the Township Fair in Embro, held recently, only one drunken man was seen, and that the streets of the village by nine o'clock in the evening were as quiet as on an ordinary evening. Two years ago, on a similar occasion in the same village, the night following the Fair was disgraceful for the drunkenness and brawls which desecrated the village streets till after midnight. Perhaps Woodstock, it is said, has suffered most of all from the unscrupulous defiance of the law; but even here eleven convictions have been secured, and the Temperance people are determined to bring law-breakers to justice. The convention, having heard the reports, adopted the following resolution. That this convention, having heard from the various municipalities in the county, is greatly encouraged in relation to the operations of the Scott Act. The Act has been working with greater or less vigour in every part of the county, and the facilities for its enforcement are continually increasing. This convention would call attention to the deliverance of the Grand Jury for the county of Oxford at its recent meeting, for the effect that the number of commitments for drunkenness and disorderly conduct since the Act came into force has

been seventy-five per cent. less than for the same period last year under the license law.

IN the published Transactions of the British Association for the Advancement of Science there appears a brief and lucid sketch of the history and condition of education in the Province of Manitoba, by the Rev. Prof. Bryce, LL.D., of Manitoba College, from which the following is an extract: In the year 1835, the Red River settlement was organized under the name of "The District of Assiniboia." The Territory was placed under the rule of a council appointed by the Hudson's Bay Company. There seems to have been no public provision for schools made by this Government. Each church erected had by its side a school under the control of the missionary. There was no system of taxation in vogue; but the school was sustained by private subscription, or by grants from the missionary societies in England. In the District of Assiniboia in 1870 there were in all some 12,000 people, viz. 5,000 French Half-breeds, 5,000 English-speaking Half-breeds (largely of Orcadian descent), and 2,000 whites. The population of different origins seems to have segregated into parishes. In the French Half breed parishes a few schools were found. In 1870, there were fourteen schools in the English-speaking Half-breed parishes under the Church of England, and two schools under the Presbyterian Church in the parishes belonging to the white descendants of the original Selkirk colonists. As early as 1833, a higher school was established which existed in various forms, with varying fortune, until in 1855 it became St. John's College. The present Bishop of Rupert's Land placed this institution on a new footing in 1866. Just as the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company was passing away, the Scottish Selkirk Colony, with the help of Canadian friends, took steps towards the founding of a college. Thus, third in time of the colleges in the country, Manitoba College was begun in 1871.

AMONG the many deserving charities of this city the Industrial Refuge for Women should not be forgotten. It is doing a humane and Christian work in a quiet and unostentatious manner. The thirty-second annual meeting was held last week, when a number of those interested in its prosperity assembled in the institution. The report submitted by the secretary contained many interesting and gratifying particulars. It states that the number in the Refuge 30th September, 1884, was thirty. Since then, sixty-nine were admitted. Of these twenty-five have gone to situations, thirty left after a longer or shorter stay, seven were sent to or taken out by relatives, five sent to the hospital, three dismissed, one to the Lunatic Asylum and one to the Haven, leaving twenty-seven. As a rule the inmates are industrious, and useful employment is found for all who are able to work. Laundrying, plain sewing, knitting, quilting and carpet-making are the industries pursued by the inmates. Friends are asked to patronize the work-room. The new branch, the Aged Women's Home, which is completely separated from the Refuge, though under the same management, has been most successful, and has met a want long felt, viz.: for a comfortable home for aged and respectable women, who from old age and infirmities, required to be cared for, and for whom it was difficult to find comfortable board at a reasonable price. The charge at the Home is \$5 and \$6 per month, according to room and attention required. Several are placed there and paid for by the churches of which they were members. The payment for others is met by friends or relatives. The treasurer's report showed that the balance on hand at the beginning of the present year was \$711.49; and that the receipts were as follows: Industrial Refuge: Proceeds of work, \$1,412.17; Government and city grants, \$844.34; subscriptions, \$1,401.26; interest on investment of part of J. Michie's legacy, \$31.40; miscellaneous income, \$42.81. Aged Women's Home: Amount received for board of inmates, \$773.50; Government grant, \$138.32; moneys received for use of certain inmates and to be paid out to them as required, \$52.90; total, \$5,408.19. The expenditures were such as to leave a balance of \$381.31, of which \$76.97 is held in trust for the use of certain of the inmates.