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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

BRIGHTER business hopes have replaced the anxiety prevalent a week or two ago. The prospects of a good and abundant harvest are day by day becoming more assured. Timely rains have fallen in many places, and the farming community are expecting a rich return when the harvest season comes. Good crops mean prosperity to the farmers, and renewed business activity generally. The material well-being of the people of Canada is largely dependent on the prosperity of the agricultural interest.

TORONTO is not the only city that has enjoyed a great celebration. The week before the semi-centennial display here, Montreal was *en fete*. The French Canadian patron saint's day was kept with unusual demonstrations, and the week in which it occurred was devoted to attractive displays. Immense numbers of expatriated French Canadians visited Montreal, and took part in the festive and scenic proceedings which were so attractive and successful. A peculiar feature of the St. Jean Baptiste celebration this year was the performance of Grand Mass, with great pomp, on Mount Royal.

THE meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council, so far as an estimate from the meagre reports that have yet reached us can be made, has been a very interesting one. Important and timely subjects have been discussed. The various Presbyterian churches have been well represented. The Irish people have entertained the delegates with generous hospitality, and the meetings have been most enjoyable. The Cumberland Presbyterians, who have been so long knocking at the door, have at length been admitted. Next week, it is hoped, some interesting details of the proceedings will be placed before our readers.

RECENT reports indicate that there is no decrease in the ravages of cholera at Toulon and Marseilles. A daily average of ten deaths has been reported for a number of days in the former city, while the mortality in the latter has not been quite so high. The people in both places became panic stricken, and numbers sought safety in flight. These fugitives are not regarded anywhere as welcome visitors. Precautionary measures have been taken to confine the disease to the places where it has broken out and as yet it has not appeared at other points. The rumour that cases had occurred at Paris has been contradicted. It would be well if its ravages extend no further.

LAST week a meeting of the prominent temperance workers in the constituencies where it is proposed to submit the Scott Act this season was held in Toronto, at which Rev. J. M. Cameron presided. The reports presented indicate a most hopeful state of things. The counties are apparently solid in favour of the Act, while several cities are at the present time somewhat less hopeful. Toronto, London, and St. Thomas are centres of the liquor trade, though in the last named city there is not the same discouragement. The friends of Temperance there are pushing the movement vigorously, and it is even yet possible that the youngest city in Ontario may be in advance of the rest. On the whole, the conference has made it plain that the cause of Temperance will gain immensely in the present campaign.

A PIECE of astounding rascality in New York has been just brought to light. A dishonest employe of the Elevated Railroad had perfected a scheme for swindling the company out of about \$200,000 a year. The method by which this was to be accomplished was the substitution of counterfeit tickets and the subsequent sale of the genuine ones replaced. In order to work the scheme, the collusion of parties in the service of the company had been secured. Suspicion was aroused, and the police were informed. After careful watching, the principal swindlers were arrested, and several of their accomplices have also been captured. The gigantic fraud has been nipped;

in the bud, and the scoundrels will likely meet with the punishment they deserve. Such rascality is a revelation of the desperate courses to which dishonesty usually leads.

THE difficulty between France and China in the east has not yet, it seems, been definitely settled. The Chinese at Lang Son did not yield to the French demand for peaceable occupation. They declined to withdraw, and made an attack on the French troops. This has led to fresh complications, and may yet, though it is scarcely probable, lead to serious results. Marquis Tseng seems to inspire the war party with fresh courage, and the Chinese Jingoism would evidently like the inauguration of a vigorous foreign policy. The immediate effect is that the French are making fresh demands for indemnity, and it is rumoured that they ask possession of the island of Formosa as a material guarantee. Should this be conceded, we are interested to know what will be the effect on our mission there.

THE directors of the Brantford Ladies' College are striving to make this institution still more deserving the patronage of Presbyterians. In music, next year, there will be two distinct departments; one for instrumental music, under the direction of Professor Aldous, the other for voice culture, under Professor Steele. It is further intended to prescribe a course in music, which, when completed by a student, will entitle her to a diploma. This will doubtless prove a great boon to many who are desirous to prepare themselves as teachers in this speciality. The college, which has been founded almost wholly through the liberality of the citizens of Brantford, with the reputation it has gained, deserves to be largely patronized. The fees may appear higher than those of colleges under other denominational auspices, but the directors of the Brantford College base their claim to patronage not on cheapness, but on the comforts of the home provided, and the thoroughness of the course of instruction, as shown in the results of the university examinations from year to year.

A FOOLISH youth, on entering a barber's shop in London, Ont., was followed by an official of the financial establishment where he was employed who politely told said youth that he must immediately leave the city. It was not altogether a voluntary exile. The young man had to submit to this humiliation or face something worse. The thoughtless dude had spent his money and his time in a stupid manner. His income was very small, but he lived in a style that only a person well-to-do could have afforded, if he had been equally silly. The youth, whose career of spurious dandyism was thus cut prematurely short, was very much to blame, but he is not alone in his folly. It is scarcely the fair thing to expect that bank clerks can live as full-blown fashionables on a miserable pittance. Their position, no doubt, is honourable, and they are, some think, unduly petted, but it is no kindness to expect them to live in a style for which their means are utterly inadequate. As a class they are no worse than others. Senseless display everywhere is one of the crying evils of our time.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, of Berlin, was at the late tercentenary celebration of the University of Edinburgh, and while there delivered an address to the students on Darwinism, in which he declared his belief that no relic of any predecessor of man has yet been found. On this point he said: "In my judgment, no skull hitherto discovered can be regarded as that of a predecessor of man. In the course of the last fifteen years we have had opportunities of examining skulls of all the various races of mankind—even of the most savage tribes—and among them all, no group has been observed differing in its essential characters from the general human type." He cautioned the students against loose speculation on this subject, saying that "every man who goes beyond the sphere of observation becomes a transcendentalist, and transcendentalism has always been dangerous to science. Thus, one after another of the scientific authorities

cited by Darwinians as maintaining their theory, repudiate it because it is founded on assumptions, and not on facts.

THERE was, says the *Chicago Interior*, a debate in the Canadian Assembly over an overture from the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, on party politics. THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN gives a good report of the debate, but does not print the overture. We can only infer from the discussion that the brethren of that Synod wished the Assembly to declare that it was wrong to permit party spirit to engender enmity between brethren; and also that it is not right to tell lies for political purposes. The Canadians are ferocious political partisans, and it is said that their talents for lying are of the highest order. The Assembly adopted the overture, but a minority put their protest against it on record. Whether they meant to say that it is not true that the "Tories" and the "Grits" fight and lie about each other; or whether they meant to say that the case is hopeless, the report does not reveal. It does not appear, however, that the religious papers of Canada need any ecclesiastical admonition on the subject. We wish we could say as much for those on this side of the line.

EIGHTEEN years ago last week the first Dominion day celebration was held. Every year since more or less enthusiastic demonstrations have taken place throughout the country. This year has been no exception. Large gatherings of people took place all over the Dominion in honour of the day that witnessed Canada's first step on the way to independent nationality. The opinion is largely held that the present state of affairs is only transitional. The hope is entertained, especially among the younger portion of the people, that Canada will take rank among the independent nations of the world. On this great continent there is ample room for two independent English speaking nations. Their incorporation is not necessary. Many think it undesirable. There could easily be healthy competition and friendly rivalry. The interests of freedom would be best advanced by separate national existence. Whatever uncertainty there may be as to the ultimate form of Canadian nationality, one aim should be kept steadily before the people, and that is that Canada must be a Christian nation.

THE impression that scientific men and scholarly thinkers generally are hostile to Christianity, received a rude shock at the Edinburgh University tercentenary celebration. Testimony is all the more valuable when coming from such men as Count Saffi, who with Garibaldi, and Mazzini formed the brief Roman triumvirate of 1849, Professors Lavaleye and Beets, said: The grand and inspiring feature which here struck me in this celebration is the harmony, the union—the intimate union—between religion, patriotism, and science, which has appeared in all your proceedings. It is our great want in Catholic countries, owing to the decay of the old belief and the want of a new one. Now I am happy to be able to take home with me to my countrymen your noble example, and try to inspire them with the necessity of the union to which I have referred. My faith is comforted and confirmed by what I have seen. Professor Lavaleye, of Liege, said: It is by love of others, by charity, not by egotism, that all great things are accomplished. But how to approach this problem. Permit me in two words to tell you very humbly what I think of it. Open on the one side, on the left, the books of your wisest men; but on the other side, on the right, open the Gospel! and if there is disagreement, follow above all the Gospel. Recall to yourself the profound words of Jesus—"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and the rest shall be added unto you." Professor Beets from Holland, speaking of the coat-of-arms of the University, said: "And in the centre what do I see? An open book. What is it? The emblem of all precious knowledge, open to all, and offered by the University to all. When Sir Walter Scott was dying, and wished something to be read to him, he was asked from what book? He said: "Why do you ask? There is but one book!" The bravest student and the greatest scholar may come to a point when, after reading so many books, he may also say—"There is but one book."