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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ST. THOMAS, the youngest city of Ontario, is one of the most enterprising. It is pleasantly situated and possesses agreeable surroundings. Its educational institutions have attained well merited distinction. A flourishing Collegiate Institute does excellent work, and is presided over by a gentleman of sound scholarship and practical teaching ability. St. Thomas is also the seat of Alma Ladies' College, over which Principal Austin, B.D., assisted by a large staff of competent instructors, presides. Though only founded a few years ago it has from the first had a successful career. It is growing in popularity. The work done by this institution is efficient. Its facilities for imparting a liberal education, in literature, science, and the fine arts, are of the best. As a Ladies' College it has special educational and local advantages.

THE report of the committee of the Church of Scotland General Assembly appointed to consider the subject of Temperance was adopted as follows: 1. That licensing reform is urgently required as to the number of public houses, as to the hours of sale, as to the manner in which such houses are crowded into and around poor and working class localities. 2. That the ratepayers should have a more direct and effective control over the licenses. 3. That the ratepayers should exercise this control by a direct vote, some being of opinion that the vote should be as to prohibition pure and simple, but the opinion of the great majority of the committee being that the vote should be as to continuing, restricting, or prohibiting the issue or renewal of licenses in any given locality.

It requires something unusual to disturb the apathy that prevails regarding the social plague-spots of our much vaunted modern civilization. Occasionally the curtain is drawn aside and people catch a glimpse of the misery and wretchedness that the violation of moral law always entails. Suspicious death of infants leads to investigations of those awful institutions known by the name of baby farms. A case now being inquired into in Toronto reveals the utter loathsomeness of the circumstances in which helpless infants are slowly but surely done to death. The unhappy mothers of the children usually entrusted to baby farmers are not in a position to keep a close watch over them, and the sudden death of their little ones increases the sorrow they have to bear for the most part silently. It is not to be thought of for a moment that facilities for immorality should be provided; but humanity calls for the extirpation of the baby-farm.

AT the recent local University Examinations the Brantford Young Ladies' College sent up six candidates. All were successful in passing, five taking honours as follows. First-class honours in English. Miss M. Sommerville; 2nd class Miss G. Mahood. First-class honours in History and Geography, Miss M. Sommerville; 2nd class Miss G. Mahood and Miss B. Gordon. French, class I., M. Sommerville, B. Gordon and E. Allan. French, class II., Miss F. Barr. In two subjects Miss Sommerville takes the first place over nearly a hundred competitors, standing third also in English. The good record made by these young ladies must be a source of satisfaction to the Principal and teachers, and should lead to a more general recognition of the merits of the college. Miss Marjorie Sommerville, of Dundas, is the successful candidate for the medal, offered for the highest results at these examinations in the college, by His Excellency the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lansdowne.

TITULAR distinctions are not now regarded with the favour they once were. To many they are the objects of eager desire, but the tendency of the time is to regard them as superfluous and unmeaning. The recent elevation to the peerage of the poet-laureate, brought out the fact that as a recognition of literary eminence Alfred Tennyson was worthy of the distinction; yet it did not and could not enhance the

honour and esteem in which he was held solely for his personal merit and poetic genius. It is now announced that the distinguished Canadian *savant* Principal Dawson, is likely to have the honour of knighthood conferred upon him. No one will be disposed to question the worthiness of this distinguished scientist to wear a decoration. Most people cannot help being pleased that science should be honoured in the person of one who has done so much for its advancement, even though some may be of opinion that the recipient named will confer as much honour on knighthood, as it possibly can on him.

THE proverbial expression that there are epidemics of crime receives countenance from the fact that one of the most detestable forms of criminal assault is more than usually prevalent at present. Scarcely a day passes that United States leading papers do not chronicle several revolting instances of the most brutal attacks being made upon defenceless women and girls. Brutality does not adequately describe these crimes. Without exaggeration they may be characterized as fiendish. It is a dreadful state of things when women cannot pass along a city street without molestation. These attacks have not been confined to any one locality. They have occurred all over the country. Degraded ruffians lie in wait for their victims. In some instances the cowardly wretches have in crowds made attacks on a single defenceless girl. In the city of Hamilton, the other Sabbath evening, as a young man and woman were returning from church, both were attacked by lurking scoundrels, who have thus far escaped detection. This iniquity must be stamped out by the swiftest and most severe measures that the law admits of.

MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE has in reply to a request addressed to her by a New York daily, given several valuable practical hints respecting cholera. From her experience in India, where the disease is never entirely absent, she is able to speak with confidence. She believes firmly that cholera is not transmissible, that is, it is not communicated from one person to another as contagious diseases usually are. Her letter says: "That the isolation of the sick cannot stop the disease, nor quarantine, nor cordons, nor the like. These, indeed, may tend fatally to aggravate the disease, directly and indirectly, by turning away our attention from the only measures which can stop it." Cholera, she is convinced, originates in filth; and her suggestions are: "Vigorously enforce sanitary measures, but with judgment—e.g., scavenge, scavenge, scavenge; wash, cleanse and lime-wash; remove all putrid human refuse from privies and cess-pits, and dustbins; look to stables and cowsheds and pigsties; look to common lodging-houses and crowded places, dirty houses and yards. 'Set your house in order' in all ways, sanitary and hygienic, according to the conditions of the place, and 'all will be well.'"

THE Pittsburg Convention of the prohibitionist party in the United States at which Governor St. John was nominated presidential candidate, adopted the following as the second article in its platform:—That the importation, manufacture, supply and sale of alcoholic beverages, created and maintained by the laws of the national and state governments during the entire history of such laws is everywhere shown to be the promoting cause of intemperance with resulting crime and pauperism, making large demands upon public and private charity; imposing large and unjust taxation and public burdens for penal and sheltering institutions upon thrift and industry, manufactures and commerce; endangering the public peace; causing desecration of the Sabbath; corrupting our politics, legislation and administration of the laws; shortening lives, impairing health and diminishing productive industry; causing education to be neglected and despised; nullifying the teachings of the Bible, the Church and the school—the standards and the guides of our fathers and their children in the founding and growth under God of our widely extended country, and while

imperilling the perpetuity of our civil and religious liberties, are baleful fruits by which we know that these laws are alike contrary to God's laws and contravene our happiness; and we call upon our fellow-citizens to aid in the repeal of these laws and in the legal suppression of this baneful liquor traffic.

A CASE has just been decided in the English law courts, which has given rise to rather startling reflections. A Mrs. Weldon, whose path in life has not been remarkably smooth, obtained a decree of separation from her husband. She fought heroically for her rights, and became too troublesome to her interested relatives, who endeavoured to have her restrained as a lunatic. The necessary medical certification was obtained from eminent physicians, one of them being no less a personage than Dr. Forbes Winslow, a recognized authority on mental disease. Against this determination of her friends to place her in an asylum for the insane, Mrs. Weldon fought with her accustomed tenacity. She sued the certifying doctors for libel, assault, and false imprisonment. The case against Dr. Winslow was dismissed some time ago on a legal technicality, but that against Dr. Temple has been decided in her favour, and she has been awarded \$5,000 damages. Judge Hawkins, before whom the case was tried, stated that Mrs. Weldon was entitled to the thanks of the public for the very thorough manner in which she had succeeded in exposing one of the very worst public abuses of the time. The lady has shown the world that the English lunacy laws actually afforded an easy opening for some of the most serious offences against personal liberty that had ever been devised by malignant ingenuity. The ease with which, under the English lunacy laws, perfectly sane and useful members of society could be removed from the path of designing persons and be put actually out of the world, Judge Hawkins said terrified him, and should be made the subject of immediate legislative correction.

THE Bobcaygeon Diogenes is ever on the alert for honest men, and in his progress never misses an opportunity of placing a stigma on ways that are dark. In a recent issue of the *Independent* appears the following: "The common desire to obtain money without earning it, nowhere shows itself in a more vicious manner than on the Corn Exchange. Gambling on the price of the food of the people is a recognized custom of modern civilization. Let us look at the reports of the markets. Here is an item taken from the New York market reports: "Wheat feverish, irregular, unsettled; a fair trade for export; a light city milling business, and large transactions on speculative account. Sales, 2,916,000 bushels future; 194,000 bushels cash, nearly all for export." Observe the item—"sales 2,916,000 bushels future." What does that mean? Why insert the word "future?" The answer is given at once. Not a grain of that 2,916,000 bushels of wheat was really sold, only bets were made on the price of the wheat at some future day. It amounts to this: A bets B that on the third of September wheat will be worth one dollar a bushel, and takes his chances on 100,000 bushels. If at the date agreed upon, the grain is worth one dollar and ten cents, he receives from the other party to the bet ten cents a bushel or the neat little sum of \$10,000. If wheat has gone down to ninety cents a bushel he has a like sum to pay. It is therefore quite clear that such speculation is gambling, and it should be so treated. But it is not. The world refuses to accept it as gambling and persists in recognizing it as speculation. Modern civilization bows down before the successful grain gambler, but sets the police upon those who gamble at cards. To bet on wheat is honourable, to bet on euchre the reverse. What shall be done to raise the morality of the people? We don't know. This journal stands alone in the work, and can't get on as fast as it wishes. If this journal were a bishop it would order its clergy to preach on the subject, and teach the people that no one can honestly possess anything he has not earned."