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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A SERIOUS accident often brings out the best and worst features of human nature. Self sacrifice at its best, and intense selfishness at its worst are sometimes seen side by side. The grounding in a fog on Sable Island of the steamer *Amsterdam*, has occasioned some decidedly unpleasant revelations, if the reports have any truth in them. People were found mean enough to plunder their fellow passengers, and some of the islanders were no less inhospitable. The ship's stock of liquors was made free with, and the brutality that accompanies drunkenness was not wanting. It was not generally thought that there was a savage island so near our Canadian shores.

THE working of the prohibition law in Iowa is thus described: So far as can be learned, about five-sixths of all the saloons and liquor-houses in the state have been closed up. Probably eight-ninths of the population of the state have no open saloon or other drinking-place within easy reach. There are no open saloons, in fact, except in some of the larger cities, such as Burlington, Davenport, Dubuque, and Council Bluffs, and very many of the saloons even in these places are closed. Prosecutions are being brought against those which are open. Liquors are, no doubt, still sold secretly in many places, and will be, most likely, for a while, though the vigilance of the Law and Order Leagues will gradually hunt them out.

MONSIGNOR CAPEL, says the *United Presbyterian*, is attending educational conventions, pointing out the defects of the "American school system." There is a kind of sublimity of assurance in a representative of a system, everywhere with the distinction of darkness, coming among us to work for the overthrow of our public school system. We suppose he would like to have us adopt the papal system as it existed in Spain and Italy before it was interfered with by revolution, where eight tenths of the people could neither read nor write; as it existed in the South American States, and old Mexico, where the densest and darkest ignorance prevails; or as it existed in our own New Mexico, where eighty per cent. of the Catholic population are without the first rudiments of education.

POPULAR demonstrations on a great scale in support of political changes seem to be in favour at present. When these are spontaneous, and not the result of manipulation by interested parties, no great objection can be urged against them. It is the most effective method of conveying a true idea of what the people desire. The immense demonstrations now taking place in England in favour of the Franchise Bill are unmistakeable evidences of the general desire of the people for a large extension of the franchise. No one can mistake the overwhelming popular majority favouring this important concession of political privilege, or the unity of effort with which it is sought. The action of the House of Lords in rejecting the Bill has aroused great enthusiasm throughout the country in its favour, and a determination to force its passage over the strong opposition of the hereditary chamber.

THE petition from Halton County, though in some respects confessedly irregular, favouring the repeal of the Scott Act, has been accepted by the authorities at Ottawa, and it is expected that the ratepayers of that county will again be called upon to vote on the question, about the middle of September. A fierce struggle will take place. Both parties, the upholders of the Act and its opponents, will do their utmost to secure victory. Much depends on the decision now pending in Halton. It will directly affect every county in which it is proposed to submit the Act. The friends of temperance must bestir themselves. There is no time to lose. Every fair and honest means for retaining the advantage gained in Halton must be made. Indifference will surely lead to defeat. There is no necessity for fighting side issues. Effort must be concentrated on Halton from now till the day of decision. With ordinary vigilance, activity and deter-

mination, a more decisive triumph will await the cause of temperance in that county and throughout Ontario.

THE relations between France and China are again strained. The present difficulty has arisen out of the affair of Langson. The ill-judged attack of the Chinese has led to serious complications. A large indemnity has been demanded, and additional concessions by the French. Far-seeing Chinese diplomats clearly perceive that it would be well to follow a discreet line of policy, making a show of resistance, without being too unbending in their attitude. There is, however, a belligerent party in the council of China affairs who think that by the adoption of modern military and naval methods, they would be able to hold their own against their antagonists. So far as the struggle in Tonquin is concerned the results fail to justify such expectations. For the present at least, negotiations have been interrupted, and hostile fleets off Foochow are confronting each other. It is, however, not unlikely that the diplomatic crisis will be tided over without any serious collision.

THE irreligious squabbles of religious bodies are at least instructive, if they are unedifying. When contending parties lose sight of Christian principle, and allow heated passion to hurry them along, it is astonishing what follies they will commit. The fierce strife of a few moments may leave lasting regrets that cannot easily be forgotten. A paragraph is going the round of the press showing how far the members of a coloured church in Philadelphia forgot themselves. The sable brethren are, no doubt, more impulsive than other races, and therefore proceeded to extremes, but the elements of strife are latent in the human heart, and professing Christians have to be watchful, that nothing be done through strife or vain glory. This is how the melee is described: The troubles of the Union Baptist (coloured) Church culminated in a general fight while the morning service was being held. The fracas was opened by Brother Gardner,—not the philosophic president of the Lime-kiln club, it is to be hoped—president of the Board of Trustees, who struck Deacon Craig a powerful blow in the face when he attempted to read the lesson. The entire congregation became involved in the row, and the police finally cleared the building.

THE cholera is subsiding in Marseilles and Toulon. Residents are returning to the infected cities. The disease is, however, slowly spreading south into Italy and Spain. A mild form of it appeared in St. Petersburg and Charkoff, where the summer weather is unusually hot. In respect to Italian infection, cases have appeared at Borgo, San Dalmazzo, and the vicinity of Turin and Rome. The deaths at Marseilles have averaged from eight to twelve daily. The ports of Brazil have been closed to vessels from Marseilles, Toulon, Spezzia, and all ports at which cholera prevails. The authorities at Madeira have refused to allow passengers and mails on a steamer which has arrived there from England to land. The Italian *Diritto* insists on the publication, by the Government, of reliable information of the strength of the epidemic. In consequence of the more favourable reports from Europe, there is less apprehension of the pest appearing on this continent. Strict quarantine is maintained. The importation of rags for paper manufacturing is prohibited when the vessels bringing them come from the infected regions. The aspect of affairs is encouraging for the disappearance of the disease as soon as the weather becomes cooler.

A GRAND reception was given last week at Portsmouth, N. H., to the survivors of the Arctic expedition, who were rescued by the relief squadron sent to search for them. No efforts were spared to make the ceremony as imposing and impressive as possible. Members of the Federal Government, high officials and prominent citizens vied with each other in making the reception worthy of the occasion. The brave men who had risked their lives to add a very little to existing knowledge of the ice-bound regions of the

north, and the no less gallant men who went to their rescue, were worthy of the honours heaped upon them. Lieutenant Greely and his comrades gracefully, and with becoming modesty, acknowledged the superabundance of compliments paid to their heroism and endurance. These demonstrations will no doubt be kept up as long as public interest is directed towards the survivors of the expedition. Will this be the last attempt to reach the north pole, which seems to possess an irresistible attraction for the curious and adventurous? Opinion is becoming general that enough of life and enterprise have already been sacrificed in Arctic adventure, and that further efforts in this direction would only be quixotic. Human nature is so constituted, however, that future adventurers will aspire to out-distance Greely.

THE relations between England and France are by no means so cordial as they have been for many years. Since the Crimean war the *entente cordiale* remained unbroken, until disagreements arose out of the Egyptian question. Before the bombardment of Alexandria, and since, there has been spasmodic outbursts of the old time dislike of perfidious Albion in the French press. The Egyptian conference, which was expected to bring about an amicable understanding, has broken up, leaving the two parties most interested further estranged than ever. In the House of Commons Mr. Gladstone stated that the conference had failed to attain the object for which it had met. The delegates were unanimous in their views respecting the prospective changes in Egypt, and the necessity of a fresh loan, but England and France differed irreconcilably respecting changes and receipts. France refused to assent to any diminution of dividends payable under the law of liquidation. England was unable to accept any plan which did not provide for necessary change of administration. The French plan, Gladstone said, would have entailed financial confusion in Egypt. He expressed the hope that the idea that the government had ever proposed to constitute international control similar to dual control, might be altogether dismissed. The government had no proposals as yet to submit to the House. The Anglo-French agreement had ceased to be in force, and England's responsibilities in Egypt had been greatly increased. Mr. Gladstone's formal announcement of the resultless dissolution of the Conference in the House of Commons created the greatest interest and excitement.

PICKERING COLLEGE has acquired the reputation of being a first-class educational institution. It has done good and efficient work in the past, and from the eminent qualifications of its Principal and teaching staff, there is a guarantee that it will continue to hold the high position to which it has attained. In addition to the curriculum of studies, the moral and religious training of the students is carefully attended to. The discipline is strict and thorough. The handsome college building is situated in a beautiful and healthy locality. The following from the calendar just issued explains the design of the school. The object of Pickering College is to secure to its students as thorough an education as can be obtained outside of a university or of a professional school, and at the same time to surround them with all the moral influences and guarded care of a well-conducted home. The qualification for entrance into the College is the same as that required for High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, but there are two preparatory classes for those not having passed the Entrance Examination. The programme of studies for entered students is arranged with four main objects in view: First, to prepare students for passing the examinations annually held by the Department of Education, called the Intermediate Examination, or examination for Third and Second Class Certificates; secondly, to prepare students for passing the Examination for First Class Certificates, and also University Examinations of Junior Matriculation, Senior Matriculation, and the Examination of the First Year; thirdly, to give a sound business education; and lastly, to afford thorough instruction in the fine arts—music, drawing and painting.