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Notes of the Week.

THE Nonconformists of Leeds have established a lectureship, under the title of the Hamilton Lecture, to perpetuate the memory and continue the work of the first pastor of Belgrave Church, Dr. R. W. Hamilton. The object of the promoters is to attract the thoughtful workmen of Leeds by securing the services of the leaders of religious thought to expound and enforce Christian truth in the light of present day needs. The lectures will be delivered in Belgrave Chapel, the lecturers for this winter being the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, Dr. Duff, Rev. John Hunter and Dr. Clifford.

THE Montreal Presbyterian Ministers' Association at a recent meeting in Crescent Street Church, considering the question of higher religious instruction of the Sabbath school children and of the young people generally, adopted the following resolution: Whereas, it is desirable that the young people of our congregation should acquire a better knowledge of the Scriptures and kindred subjects, they be recommended to study the subjects laid down by the General Assembly's Committee upon Higher Religious Instruction, either personally or in classes conducted by leaders approved by sessions.

A LARGE missionary boat in connection with the M'All Mission is, it seems, to be anchored in the Seine. Daily services will be conducted in the cabin, which will contain nearly two hundred persons. The authorities have given every facility and protection. The Parisian prefect of police testifies to the good work which the Mission is doing. He says: "Every new M'All station means a reduction of police force." Sixty persons now give their whole time to the missions, and from 600 to 700 co-operate. There was an aggregate attendance last year of 1,200,000 persons in the one hundred and thirty *salles* in all parts of France.

SPEAKING in Aberdeen, at a meeting of the office-bearers of the Presbytery of the granite city, Principal Rainy remarked with reference to the non-churchgoing classes, that he had no doubt it was possible for many an honest, hard-working tradesman to lead a respectable life without going to church; but when this took place on a large scale it meant alienation from Christianity, and the consequences were moral and social. Could not the Church find out some way to get alongside those men? They as a Church must be blameworthy if in some way they could not interpret to such men what the kingdom of God might be.

LOHCARRON Free Church Presbytery have resolved to take no part in the present effort to increase the contributions to the Sustentation Fund. They give as their reason that the action of the last Assembly has greatly disheartened, if it has not alienated, the minds of the people, especially in the Highlands, from the Church they so much loved. Revs. W. Sinclair and R. Dingwall reported concerning their visit to the Assembly, and the Presbytery expressed its disapproval of the deliverances of the Supreme Court on the cases of Drs. Dods and Bruce, and with reference to the sanction given to bestow grants of money to assist congregations in purchasing organs.

THE foundation stone of another new Presbyterian church, the Belfast *Witness* says, was laid in one of the suburbs of Belfast recently. The old church at Ballysillan, so long associated with the memory of the genial and accomplished, Rev. W. C. McCullagh, can no longer accommodate the people of that increasing neighbourhood, and so under the leadership of their popular and energetic minister, the Rev. James Loudon, they have resolved to "arise and build," proving at once their sincerity and their laudable spirit of self-reliance by contributing very largely for the purpose. The new erection will

be a very capacious, thoroughly-furnished, and handsome building. The cause of Presbyterianism is making noble progress in Belfast. Within living memory the churches were never, taken as a whole, so well attended as they are at present. We are glad to see that the Episcopal incumbent of Ballysillan took part in the proceedings at the laying of the foundation stone.

PROF. BLAIRIE presided at the annual meeting of the Edinburgh auxiliary of the M'All Mission. During the past year it has raised \$5,145, an increase of \$705; and the total remitted from Edinburgh since the establishment of the mission now exceeds \$55,410. At the tenth annual meeting of the Glasgow auxiliary, over which Dr. Marshall Lang presided, the treasurer reported an income of \$6,970. Two of the honorary directors of the mission, Dr. Thurber and M. Louis Sautter, represented Mr. M'All at the Scottish meetings, and told of many interesting features in last year's history. None of these has been fraught with greater encouragement than the summer visit of the *Bateau Missionnaire* in the Seine. This mode of evangelization, quite novel in Paris, had the effect of gaining the attention of very many who never previously heard the Gospel. Mrs. Mure Macredie and the Misses Mure helped to meet the cost of this special movement; and an effort is being made to obtain permanently a large boat for the rivers and canals of France, which might carry the Gospel into many of the remotest and most benighted districts of the country.

THE *Ardrossan Herald* is responsible for a racy anecdote of the late Sir Peter Coats and a Free Church minister, now also deceased, who filled a charge in a village, near the Ayrshire residence of the worthy knight. A few years ago, before leaving on a trip to America, Sir Peter called at the manse of this neighbour to bid him good-bye, but as the good man was from home a card was left on which Sir Peter had written in pencil the usual formula, "P. P. C." But the French valedictory message conveyed by these initials was unknown to the minister, who after long cogitation arrived at an interpretation which he duly intimated from his pulpit on the following Sabbath. He gravely informed his flock that their friend and neighbour, Sir Peter Coats, had gone to America, but before leaving had called at the manse, and, not finding him at home, had left his card with the letters "P. P. C." written in pencil upon it. These letters he interpreted as signifying "Pray for Peter Coats;" and he accordingly led his people in prayer for the safe conduct and return of the genial knight. No one had the courage to tell the minister of his mistake, and he never omitted the special prayer for Sir Peter until he returned.

THE English Presbyterian Church has been for some time dealing with the question of ministerial inefficiency. At a recent meeting of the London Presbytery the following motion was adopted: "If the Presbytery shall find at any time, either from visitation or otherwise, that the condition of a congregation is unsatisfactory, immediate attention shall be given to ascertain the cause. If this condition of the congregation be shown to be due in the main to the imprudence, inefficiency, or unsuitability of the minister, and if the Presbytery, having exhausted ordinary means of remedy, arrive at the opinion that there is no likelihood of the ends of the ministry being attained in that charge, it may dissolve the pastoral tie, subject to appeal to the Synod in ordinary form. If, on the other hand, it should be shown that the unsatisfactory state of the congregation is in great part due to the conduct of any office-bearer or member thereof, the Presbytery shall deal with parties so implicated, and, if it see fit, remove him from office or membership, subject to complaint and appeal as aforesaid." On the motion of Mr. Robert Whyte it was also agreed that "In the judgment of the Presbytery the committee should be requested to consider the desirability and practicability of providing, whether jointly from the general funds of this Church, and those of the par-

ticular congregation affected or otherwise where the circumstances are such as to justify and require it, the stipend of the minister so removed could be continued for one year.

IN a debate in Edinburgh United Presbyterian Presbytery, on a remit from the Synod regarding procedure in calls, considerable discussion arose on the proposal of Mr. Thin, elder, to do away with the written call. Rev. John Smith, who dissented from a good deal of Mr. Thin's reasoning, contended that it was a libel on the members of the Church to say that they did not feel what they were doing when they signed a call. By the proposal they were simply going to level themselves to the commercial platform. Mr. James, of Bristo, in seconding Mr. Smith's amendment, also noted the tendency at the present day to bring down the ministry to the commercial level. Mr. Dunbar, of St. James', contended, on the other hand, that the union held together by a call was only a paper union, and declared that he had not the slightest sympathy with the high-toned objection of Mr. Smith. Mr. Thin repudiated the idea of doing anything to degrade the ministerial office; and on a division his motion was carried by twenty-four against twenty-one. The committee's proposal to dispense with reasons for translation and answers thereto was also strongly resisted by Mr. Smith, who saw profound spiritual wisdom in the old rules. What underlay the whole method of procedure was that it was the Church which had to decide for the Church's interest. Mr. Stevenson, of North Leith, who seconded Mr. Smith, declared that the proposal was un-Presbyterianizing them and carrying them in the direction of Congregationalism. Mr. Thin said Mr. Smith evidently wanted to go back to the old rule when a minister had no say in the matter and was absolutely in the hands of the Presbytery and Synod. Rather than put up with this, ministers had sometimes fled the country. On a division Mr. Smith's motion was defeated by twenty-one to seven.

THE *British Weekly* says: We record with very much regret the death of Dr. Brown, of Paisley. Dr. Brown had been long in delicate health, and laid aside from preaching. He was one of the best known ministers of the United Presbyterian Church, and had a fame which extended far beyond its bounds, and the bounds even of Presbyterian Scotland. He belonged to that class of men, in present circumstances of incalculable and growing value, who link their churches to the wider world of literature and thought. Whether Dr. Brown was profound as a scholar and a philosopher we do not know. There is nothing in his public work to show it; on the other hand, there is nothing to disprove it. What we do know is that every task undertaken by him was performed with rare fidelity and skill. He first made his mark by his admirable and charming biography of Thomas Davidson, the Scottish probationer, well christened the Scottish *Elia*. His materials, it is true, were abundant and of the finest quality, but they could not have fallen into more sympathetic and reverent hands. His other biographies of Eadie and Robertson of Irvine are well known. Dr. Brown took a very prominent part in the business of his denomination, and was one of the best known figures in the Synod, where his genial temperament made him a great favourite. Although he was perhaps in some ways less progressive than most of the members of his own communion, no one ever doubted his deep loyalty to his Church. In Paisley he gathered a large and very influential congregation, who worship in one of the finest churches in Scotland. This will remain a monument to Dr. Brown's energy and good taste. A man so catholic-spirited could not fail to have friends in many circles, and Dr. Brown maintained an intimacy with Principal Caird, Dr. Cameron Tees, and many other leading men outside his own denomination. Quite recently one of the most distinguished *litterateurs* of the day remarked to us that he considered Dr. Brown the ablest writer in Scotland. His attached congregation only a few days ago presented him with a large sum of money, and this evidence of their affection greatly cheered their minister's last days.