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Notes of the Week.

JERUSALEM is growing in size and population at a rapid rate. The Jews build the greater number of houses, but Russians, Greeks and Armenians are also busy. A number of churches have been erected lately, and the Rothschilds have completed a hospital.

No better way for the manufacture of criminals, says Rev. C. Goldney, chaplain of an English prison, could be found than to press for the imprisonment of every little boy and girl brought before the magistrates. For imprisonments he would substitute commitment to industrial schools and corporal punishment.

AN immense sensation has been made in Italy by the preaching of Padre Agostius, who has been called the modern Savonarola. He addresses average congregations of 8,000 people, and reports of his sermons, uncorrected by him, have been published in volume form in Italy. These have been translated by C. M. Phillimore, and will shortly be published in England and America.

THE enterprising managers of the Permanent Exhibition of Manufactures in Toronto, have added a great attraction to the institution, by giving from time to time a series of high-class musical entertainments. Already those who appreciate good music have been delighted with the performances of the Hungarian Band, and the accomplished rendition of classic music by the Mendelssohn Quintette Club.

PROFESSOR CHARTERIS was unable to attend the Guild Conference at Kirkcaldy. During the summer he has not been well, and since his return from Germany, he has been ordered six months' rest by the doctor. In a letter of apology, he expressed a fear that he might never be able to attend another Conference; but an earnest hope was expressed at the Guild meetings that he would yet come back to them with all his old vigour. A cordial message of sympathy was sent to Dr. Charteris, from Kirkcaldy.

THE Anti-Poverty Society, of Toronto, recently corresponded with the Toronto Ministerial Association, requesting the reception of a deputation to explain to the Association the principles and objects of the Society. The ministers declined to receive a deputation, and the officers of the Anti-Poverty Society have addressed an open letter to the members of the Ministerial Association. The letter is ably written and temperately expressed. It remains to be seen what action in the premises the Association will deem best to take.

THE Presbyterian Churches at Kirkintilloch, Scotland, have entered upon an arrangement which has been found to work well, and which might be adopted with advantage in similarly circumstanced places. In the winter months the afternoon services are discontinued, and instead of having five churches open in the evening, and having five divines "nodding their bows" to sparse audiences, service is held in the respective churches in rotation. This plan admits of a definite syllabus of subjects being carried out, and also serves to knit the different congregations more closely together.

ONE of the biggest failures of this year, says the *Chicago Interior*, is Canon Taylor's much advertised *Fortnightly* article on what he falsely calls "the great missionary failure." The result is just the opposite of what the writer sought to reach. He has been confronted by a host of reliable witnesses who correct, contradict and refute him, and the upshot of the whole matter is the laying of greater stress on the established fact of missionary success. The Canon is either a confirmed pessimist, or he has a bad attack of the blues. Such a person cannot enter into the plans and hopes, nor recognize the rewards, of religious propagandists. As a review writer, even, the Canon himself is a failure.

AN English contemporary gives the conversation following as an illustration of the thoroughness of the Presbyterian form of Church government. It took place in the Irvine Established Presbyterian Rev J. W. Armstrong. I intend to fit up a gas bracket in my church. Rev. G. Gardiner. It is structural alterations that are referred to. Rev. J. W. Armstrong: Well, I suppose I shall have to interfere with the plaster. Rev. G. Gardiner: This Presbytery will allow Mr. Armstrong to exercise his discretion. Rev. J. W. Armstrong: That's all very well as regards my discretion, but I am afraid of the Presbytery. Rev. G. Gardiner: According to the strict letter of the law, it is illegal to drive a nail into a parish church without the sanction of the Presbytery.

AN address from the Irish Nonconformist ministers is about to be presented to Lord Salisbury and Lord Hartington, at a banquet in the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, London, on the 14th of November. The address will be presented by the Moderator of the General Assembly (Rev. R. J. Lynd) and the Rev. Dr. Evans, Methodist minister, and other eminent Nonconformist ministers in Ireland. and its purport is to "deprecate in the strongest manner, as disastrous to the best interests of the country, a separate Parliament for Ireland, or any legislation tending to imperil the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, or to interfere with the unity and supremacy of the Imperial Parliament." There are upwards of 900 Nonconformist ministers in Ireland, and it is believed that very few will withhold their names.

THE ballot-box has decided that General Ben Harrison is President, and that Levi Morton is Vice-President of the United States for the next four years. The keen struggle is over and the people have settled down with wonderful promptitude to the ordinary business of life. It will not be long, however, till the great rival political parties in the States begin the agitation of issues on which the next electoral campaign will be fought. The great questions raised during the struggle now terminated, have not been finally settled by the election. They will come up again, and agitation will be renewed. It is to be hoped, however, that common sense and neighbourly feeling will prevail over demagogic artifices, and that International questions will be treated with the dignity they deserve. There is no reason in the world why the United States and Canada should not be good and peaceful neighbours.

THE authoress of "Aldersyde," Annie S. Swan, paid a brief visit to Toronto last week. She has been staying in Hamilton for some time. In a letter in the *Christian Leader*, she gives a description of her visit to Niagara Falls, which concludes as follows: I was left to be lulled to sleep by that wild lullaby which for ages has thundered through the night. It did not disturb my slumber, and by sunrise I was up watching the sun gleams and the rainbows making beauty amid the terrors of that awful torrent. It grows upon one, the majesty and grandeur seem to sink yet deeper into one's being. There is no monotony; I cannot imagine that familiarity with the sight could ever lessen the sense of awe. And yet perhaps it would. I have a feeling now that the memory of that great torrent rushing madly in its rocky bed, and the music of its roar as it gathered itself for the final leap will remain with me while I live.

THE movement for building a tabernacle for the Rev. John McNeill, of Edinburgh, has taken definite shape. On the return of Principal Rainy from the Continent, the committee, of which he is Con-ener, held a meeting, at which he submitted a first proof of a circular which it is proposed to have printed and scattered throughout Scotland containing an appeal for funds. The chief grounds on which the committee base their appeal are the good work already done by Mr. McNeill, the urgent need for his efforts in Edinburgh, and the probability that if Edinburgh

does not provide a fitting place for him to hold his services in, some other large town will make an offer too tempting to be refused. It is also stated on the best authority that the subscriptions, though the list has not yet been formally opened, amount to over \$10,000. One lady, a well-known giver, and a member of the Free Church, has intimated her intention of giving \$5,000, to be paid in five years, at the rate of \$1,000 a year.

COMMENTING on Mrs. Oliphant's newly issued life of Principal Tulloch, the *British Weekly* says: The most pathetic thing in the whole book, not even excepting the story of his death, is the account of his struggle with *Fraser's Magazine*. He began in great hope, but could do nothing with it. This may perhaps serve as a lesson to those gentlemen who are continually criticising editors, and saying how much better they could do the work themselves. Generally when they get a chance they drive the coach over the precipice in about six months. Tulloch, we should say, did fairly well with *Fraser's*. He showed no genius, and had no telling ideas. His politics were of the Laodicean order, and personal considerations of friendship influenced him. Still, *Fraser* under his control was a good magazine, and ought to have lived. The *Church of Scotland Monthly Record*, which he also edited, was on the other hand simply a scandal, perhaps the worst edited religious monthly ever published, which is saying a good deal.

THE English *Presbyterian Messenger* pays the following tribute to the memory of the Rev. John Black, general secretary of the Church, who died on the 20th ult.: We are very much grieved to have the melancholy duty laid on us of announcing to our readers the death of the general secretary of our Church, the Rev. John Black. He passed away very peaceably at half-past five on the morning of the 20th October, at his residence, 21 Highbury Grange, N. His loss is a very heavy blow to our Church; for, in the position he held as the first person appointed to the office of secretary on its creation by the Synod, he displayed a remarkable administrative skill, combining the highest fidelity to rules with a tender sympathy for all cases of difficulty that came under their operation. He loved our Church with a deep-seated affection, displayed in other ways as well as in the conscientious discharge of his often severe and trying duties. His truly Christian spirit appeared in all the tenor of his life, and he has left a place empty in many hearts which will not again be filled.

THE first anniversary of the opening of the Toronto new Young Men's Christian Association building, and the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Association was held last week. The night was very unfavourable, but there was a tolerably good attendance. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Stephen Caldecott, president of the Association. The reports presented were favourable and encouraging. Mr. J. J. McLaren, Q.C., submitted the financial statement which showed the cost of the building and furnishings to total \$110,000, of which \$46,000 was still unpaid. The expenses of the year reached \$12,000, toward the payment of which \$5,000 was received for members' fees, and \$3,000 from donations. As an evidence of their growth, he stated that the members' fees had increased from \$297 in 1885 to \$5,000 in 1888. Secretary McCulloch reported a successful year's work. Their membership had increased to 1,655—a gain of 900 on last year—600 of whom were taking the gymnasium training. The health of many young men had been greatly improved by the exercise of the gymnasium, a class in mechanical drawing had greatly benefited young artisans, and during the year he had equipped fifty young men with letters of introduction to Associations all over the Continent. Mr. Robert Kilgour described in gratifying terms the devotional and religious growth of the year. Dr. Dowling gave an interesting lecture on "The Good Old Times." He preached in Association Hall on "The Secret Working of Silent Forces" on Sabbath last.