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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE losses of British farmers for the past year are estimated at £100,000,000 to £150,000,000.

THE Russian authorities have summoned the German police of the Baltic provinces to St. Petersburg, to aid in suppressing the Nihilists, the Russian police having proved unequal to the task.

THE Duchess of Marlborough says the danger of the famine in Ireland appears to be over, and that if the charity of the public continues to be exercised no one in the country need be allowed to die for lack of food.

COFFEE Palaces, as an antidote to the liquor saloons, are coming widely into favour in Europe. A company has been formed at Amsterdam with a capital of \$75,000, and one has been opened there at a cost of \$17,500.

THE trustees of the British Museum have just completed for publication the autotype *fac-simile* of the New Testament and Clementine Epistles comprised in the fourth volume of the celebrated "Codex Alexandrinus." Only a limited number of copies has been printed. A *fac-simile* of the first three volumes of the Codex, containing the Old Testament, is now in progress.

IT is a marvellous thing to record, but the Irish Presbyterian papers are protesting against the students of the Irish Presbyterian Church passing part of their time at the Free Church Theological Schools in Scotland, as there is much doubt felt concerning the soundness of the Free Church Professors, both in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE, a well known Hebrew in England, is reported to be making large investments in Palestine in the expectation that it is to be restored to the Jews and occupied by them. The reputed wealth of the Rothschilds and other Jews and the embarrassed condition of the Turkish Government financially, encourage them to expect that they shall ere long again possess the Holy Land.

THE Pope has commissioned Father Ballerini to examine into the questions in dispute between the religious orders of the Roman Catholic Church domiciled in England and the Romish bishops of the same country. Considerable dissatisfaction with the appointment is manifested, because Ballerini is himself a Jesuit, and therefore belongs to the Order which is especially concerned in the quarrel with the bishops, and might be suspected of partizanship against the latter.

ALLOWING for defects in returns, there are, as nearly as can be ascertained, 100,000 men in the army of Great Britain who have declared themselves as belonging to one or the other of the several religious bodies. Of these 62,860 are returned as belonging to the Church of England, 7,125 are Presbyterians, 3,985 are Wesleyans and other Protestants, and 20,872 are Roman Catholics. Thus, out of 94,842, more than two-thirds are adherents of the Established Church.

IN the village of Orient, L.I., a village of eight hundred population, there is not a liquor shop; and the hotel has no bar. This is not due to law, for the excise commissioners of the town grant licenses in other villages but not in this one; and this for the simple reason that the public sentiment is so strong that neither they nor any dealer dare to defy it. For thirty-eight years there has been a weekly temperance meeting, and this is maintained with the same regularity as the Sabbath services in the churches.

M. PASHKOFF has become the instrument of an important Protestant evangelization movement in St. Petersburg, Russia. At first he attempted to gather

together the droschky drivers and hackney coachmen of the capital, many of whom were converted. Thence his work has gradually extended until now he has at his house, every morning and evening, public reunions, at which people of all ranks of society are to be met, and the Prefect of Police has authorized him to distribute the Scriptures and tracts in the streets of the capital.

A SCOTCH correspondent of an English paper says, in Glasgow, which is pre-eminently a church-going community, the worshippers are moving from the old places of the worship into new ones in the suburbs. He says: "Most of the old churches of Glasgow are now deserted by the rich and fashionable, who prefer worshipping in the temples they have built for themselves in the suburbs. It is just the case of London, on a smaller scale, and great popular power is needed by the preacher who would fill one of the large churches in the heart of the city."

THE Committee appointed to prepare the programme of subjects to come before the Presbyterian Council which meets in Philadelphia in September, has completed the selection of topics to be treated in papers to be read and discussed by members. These writers and speakers are selected from among the ablest men in the various branches of the Church throughout the world, including mission stations, theological seminaries and colleges. It is already certain that the Council will have the presence of some of the most eminent men of Europe.

IN Japan there are already a number of Government schools, and they are increasing. The school system was organized by Englishmen and Americans, and in Tokio (formerly called Yeddo) the English language is taught in some of the schools. Industrial schools have been established, and, as the opposition of the old feudal party to the new order of things is fast diminishing, it is likely that Japan will soon be provided with a school system rivaling that of the Western nation in completeness. China will not so readily accept European and American ideas; it has a very ancient school system of its own; but there are indications of a breaking up of Chinese exclusiveness and an introduction of China into the community of nations.

REV. ALEXANDER KEITH, the distinguished author and traveller, whose death is announced by cable, was born at Keithhall, N.B., in 1791. From 1816 to 1843 he was a minister of the Established Church of Scotland, at St. Cyrus, Kincardineshire, afterward of the Free Church; but for many years he was unable to attend to his ministerial duties. Of his many religious works may be mentioned his "Evidences of the Truth of the Christian Religion, and Poetical Interpretation of the Prophecies," translated into many languages. In company with the Rev. Dr. Black, the Rev. A. Bonar, and the Rev. Robert McCheyne, constituting a deputation from the Church of Scotland to Palestine and other eastern countries, he visited some of the scenes of Scripture prophecy, to make researches respecting the actual condition of the Jews. A narrative of this mission was published under the title of "A Narrative of the Mission to the Jews."

WHEN Miss Havergal was about to die she pleaded with those who were at her bedside that they would preach and exhibit a "bright" love for and devotion to the Saviour. She meant by this, of course, not the frivolous, giddy worship and practice of those who do not know the difference between Christian cheerfulness and religious nonsense, but that exhibition of joy in the Lord to which she has given so much beautiful expression in her books. And as giving point to her meaning she said, "be sure none of you put on crape for me, not one scrap." It was counsel in keeping with her life and teaching, and embodies a lesson which all Christians should try to learn and put in practice. There is no propriety in the Christian's observance of a form in favour of which so little can be said, and to which there are so many

objections, and the spirit of Miss Havergal's opposition to it is a good starting point, at least, for those who will seek its dismissal.

AUSTRIA still enjoys the bad pre-eminence of being the most intolerant country in Europe. Mr. W. McArthur and Mr. E. R. Bleigh, referring to the recent visit of the deputation of the Evangelical Alliance to the Emperor of Austria, and the action which has succeeded the Emperor's assurances upon the subject, writes: "Two months have nearly now elapsed, and matters remain much as before. Bureaucratic hindrances and theological jealousies have probably hindered that speedy remedy which the Emperor's words and manners seemed to indicate. The facts of an intolerable persecution being undeniable, we feel the time has now come when enlightened public opinion may call upon the Government of Austria, in the name of right and liberty, to give effect in its own dominions to that great principle of religious freedom, which with its own hand it has so lately inscribed upon the international law of Europe."

THE "Southern Cross," of Melbourne, commenting on recent Church meetings, says: "Ecclesiastical gatherings, in long and quick succession, have marked the last few weeks, and still the streets of Melbourne shew theological faces and costumes in unusual abundance. The Congregational, Baptist, Wesleyan and Presbyterian Churches, in turn, have met in council, reviewing the work and results of the past, and laying earnest plans for the future. The reports shew with what energy the work of Christ's Church is carried on in this colony. They bear witness to the robust vitality of the Protestant Churches of Victoria; to the vigour and flexibility of their organization; to the fidelity and thoroughness of oversight with which all their interests are watched; and to the practical business skill with which their affairs are managed. Never did a healthier life beat in the veins of the Churches; never had they a purer atmosphere, or a higher general level of loyalty to Evangelical doctrine. And while each denomination is wisely and tenaciously faithful to its own ideal of organization and discipline, never were the *differentials* of the churches, the mechanical details in which they are unlike each other, felt to be of less importance.

SOME time ago the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, England, called for evidence, from clergy, recorders, governors, and chaplains of prisons, of lunatic asylums, governors of workhouses, and superintendents of police, as to the results of the use of liquor. The evidence returned is of one complexion. "I can trace," said one clergyman, "nearly every case of family destitution to intemperance." Another says, "There would be no real poverty here, except from some illness, if there was no drunkenness." The governors of workhouses replied as follows, following the exact order in which they are printed: "Twelve years' of experience shews that two-thirds of the inmates of this house are victims of intemperance." "80 per cent. may be given as the proportion of paupers who are victims of intemperance." "I should say that three-fourths of the inmates of this house have been victims of intemperance." "Without hesitation I should say that 70 or 80 per cent. of the paupers come to that state through drink." And so it goes on, "80 per cent.," "80 out of 100," "three-fourths," "80 per cent.," in terms that very soon range themselves into a grim tautology. Onemaster of a workhouse says, "I have been relieving-officer eleven years, and during that time I never knew a teetotaler applying for parish relief." What is true of Britain is equally so of Canada and the States. In fact everywhere it is the same old sad story. But for this crying evil poverty would be brought within very manageable compass. Indeed, we are almost inclined to say, that if drunkenness could be banished from this continent there would be few children unclothed, unfed, or uneducated, and little need for those poorhouses which so many are beginning to regard as an indispensable part of Christian civilization.