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Notes of the Week.

Mr. Talmage is to have an assistant in the pastorate of the Brooklyn Tabernacle. He is 61 years old, and wants relief from pastoral duties "that he may attend to literary and lecture engagements."

Twelve young men have gone to the United States to avail themselves of a course of training free at Mr. Moody's institute in Chicago, in accordance with his offer during the meetings at Dublin.

Special provision is made for the spiritual welfare of the Hebrew soldiers in the English Army. Although there are at present but nineteen of these, the Minister of War recently appointed a rabbi to conduct services for them.

The Geographical Club of Philadelphia has decided to support Lieutenant R. E. Peary in his new expedition to the Arctic regions. The amount of funds to be contributed by the Geographical Club will be from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The churches in Victoria, Australia, have formed an organization called "The Council of the Churches in Victoria," embracing representatives, lay and clerical, of the Church of England, the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Atheran Churches. This is a long step in the right direction.

At Nankin, China, placards were recently posted naming a date for "burning out" foreigners. A crowd gathered in the Methodist chapel, and after destroying all the interior furnishings, made preparations for setting the place on fire. The completion of this nefarious work was only prevented by the timely arrival of officials.

The priest-party in Madrid, still demonstrate against the Protestant church recently opened in that city. They regard it as a very undesirable addition to the institutions of the Spanish capital. Many of the Spaniards have not travelled far away from the standpoint of "Acts of Faith" in which heretics were burnt.

Great suffering continues in Finland. Last year's crops were greatly injured by frost, and more than two hundred thousand persons are dependent upon charity. Fully five hundred thousand peasants are on the verge of utter destitution, having eaten nearly all their draught animals and domestic pets. Typhus fever adds to the terrors of the situation, the disease carrying off hundreds daily.

A portion of the county of Kent, England, sank into the sea recently to the great terror of the inhabitants thereof. The town of Sandgate, on the coast, was the scene of the phenomena. The cliff on which the town was situated was undermined by the sea. Walls cracked, ceilings fell, and the earth broke in great fissures. The town sank several feet. No lives were lost, but two hundred houses were destroyed.

We believe, remarks the Philadelphia Presbyterian, that it is now clearly settled that the Christian sentiment of the country has prevailed, and that the gates of the Columbia Fair are not to be opened on the Sabbath day. The Chicago papers are in despair, and the Times, of that city, declares the closing of the Exhibition on the Sabbath day to be "a crime—the monumental crime of this, the latter part of the nineteenth century."

The letter appointing Satolli, Apostolic Delegate which has been published, makes him really a Pope of the Romanists in the United States. Leo says: "Whatever sentence or penalty you shall declare or inflict duly against those who oppose your authority we will ratify, and, with the authority given us by the Lord, will cause to be observed inviolably until condign satisfaction be made, notwithstanding constitutions and apostolic ordinances or any other to the contrary." Very sweeping that. We are glad we are not under him.

The cold has been excessive in St. Petersburg and for weeks wood fires have been burned in the squares and streets of the city in an effort to make necessary outdoor business endurable. The streets have, however, been practically deserted. The double windows in the stores and houses are mostly iced over and frozen up. From north and central Russia a temperature of 30 to 39 degrees below zero is reported, which is 27 degrees below the average. In Siberia it has fallen to 45 degrees below zero.

There has been a phenomenal absence of snow in the Swiss Alps this winter, and the matter is said to be becoming serious for both visitors and natives. Transport is hampered by sledges being useless, and the Julier Pass is traversed on wheels, a midwinter circumstance previously unknown. The mountain slopes around St. Moritz are bare of snow, and it has been impossible to construct the toboggan slides usually such a great attraction there. Skating has, however, been especially good.

At the recent annual meeting of the Marylebone congregation, the chair was taken by Rev. R. M. Thornton, B. A., Moderator of the Session. Reports were presented, showing that during the period in which Rev. Dr. Pentecost had acted as 'stated supply' there had been much progress made. The additions numbered in all 138, of whom 118 were admitted on profession of faith, bringing the present membership up to 640. The attendances at the Sunday and week-day services were very large. The finances of the church were in a most satisfactory state. The total income for the year was £4,428, against £2,848 in the previous year. It was incidentally stated that the new weekly offering system by envelopes was purely voluntary, and that envelopes had only been sent to the 420 persons who had asked for them. The success of the scheme was already assured.

Referring to the movement in favour of union between the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, "H." in a letter to the Philadelphia Presbyterian, writes: "As to union with us, there may not be much more in it than there is of disunion with you, though union is in the air, so to speak. Steps toward union, in a limited way, may be made ere long. There is no reason why some denominations, that are very near to each other now, may not approach nearer—may, in short, effect a marriage in a happy way. Our Congregational friends and ourselves may, in a short time see our way to work in one corporate body. It is far easier, as it is far more pleasant, to enumerate reasons why we should come together, than to frame reasons for prolonging a separate existence. It is very seldom, indeed, that a sermon that is preached from a Presbyterian pulpit could not as effectively be preached from a Congregational pulpit, and vice versa. Indeed, broader grounds than that might well be taken. Other sister Churches might be embraced in such a category."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Washington Gladden:—It is better to say: "This one thing I do," than to say: "These forty things I dabble in."

Dr Talbot W. Chambers:—"Doctrine without duty is a tree without fruits; duty without doctrine is a tree without roots."

Tennessee Methodist:—Prayerfulness and spirituality go hand in hand. The first precedes the other, and is the condition on which it is to be secured.

Herald and Presbyterian: Does your past life have nothing helpful or cheerful in it? Well, the future is yours. See to it that it shall become a more helpful past than the years that have gone. It can be done.

Dr. Alexander McLaren:—"We must be on the mountain like Moses in fellowship with our Master, if we are to come down and walk amongst men with radiance streaming from our countenances, so that all that look upon us shall behold our face, 'as it had been the face of an angel.'"

Christian Union: The drink habit is to a tremendous extent a social habit; the social life of the people must be dependent on the homes. Educate the wives and daughters to create homes of health as well as happiness, and the drink habit will no longer give legislative power to men who owe their elevation to the corner saloon.

Rev. T. Adams:—We must either think of God as a reconciled Father, or groundlessly presume upon his mercy, or be under continual dread of his justice. The first of these is the Christian state, the second is a state of dangerous security, the last is a slavish state, full of fears and terrors, and if we think of God at all will destroy the comfort of our lives.

N. Y. Evangelist: We are apt to think that a father's love should excuse us from punishment. But on the contrary, the very fact that our father loves us aggravates our guilt if we do wrong, and thus adds to our punishment. Jehovah's message to his people by Amos the prophet was "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will visit upon you all your iniquities." God's grace in time past was the very ground of their condemnation, because it was that which increased their guilt. The penalty of slighted love, or rejected mercy, is greater than that of broken law.

N. Y. Observer: When we think of the value of the Word of God, and of its essential relation to all true Christian life and lasting Christian success, we feel that there could come no greater blessing upon the Church than what we might perhaps call a Berean baptism. There cannot be too great familiarity with the Bible, and from the veteran minister down to the youngest student for the ministry and in all the ranks of the laity we would do well to give ourselves to a fresh study of its sacred and inspiring contents. Were the whole Church of Christ on earth, ministers and laity, seized with a hunger and thirst for it, and to go to work simultaneously and systematically to satisfy that hunger, the result would be a revival of religion that would do away with much profitless contention, and silence many a carping critic.

Phillips Brooks:—My dear friends, let us think how solemn, how beautiful, the thought of dedication to Christ becomes when through His voice which calls us sounds the warning and inspiring cry of His disciple, "Brethren, the time is short." There is no time to waste of what belongs

your place now. Bind yourself now in with the fortunes of those who are trying to serve Him. This Christian Church which we see here is only the beginning. This poor, stained, feeble Church of earth is only the germ and promise of the great Church of Heaven, and we who are trying to serve Him together now have a right to take courage from the promise of the Master, who has overcome: "Him that overcometh I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out."

Dr. Chamberlain:—They tell us that in the great Mohammedan mosque of Damascus, on the lintel beam of an ancient portal, in dimmed letters of Greek is the inscription, "Thy kingdom, O, Christ, is the kingdom of the ages, and Thy dominion is throughout all generations." For more than a thousand years the followers of the false prophet have passed beneath that word, carved there when the mosque was a Christian church, the while they have dreamed of a world-wide conquest. Their dream shall be for ever vain. The lines of that trustful, holy inscription shall not wholly fade, until Crescent yields to Cross, and Christ is all in all.

N. Y. Independent:—Renewed attention is called to the best military establishment in the world. A non-commissioned officer had been unusually brutal to a German recruit of good family, who eventually was driven to suicide to escape the degradation to which he was forced, but not before he had written a letter to his parents giving a full account of what he suffered. This letter was sent by them to the Emperor who has caused the arrest of the brute. A result has been the discovery of the fact that out of 127 deaths in the army during December last, twenty-four were suicides, mostly caused by desperation at the tyranny of non-commissioned officers. But war is essentially brutal.

The Templar:—Nova Scotia has a rough climate, with more winds and storms than we in Ontario are acquainted with, but many of its people live to a wonderfully green old age. Only last week three persons died in that province all over a hundred years old. Malcolm McMullen, of Catalone, Cape Breton, was 106. He was working in his fields until quite recently. Mrs. Catherine Ross, also of Cape Breton, was 101; and Mrs. Donald Chisholm, of Guysboro, was 102. The names would indicate that these centenarians were all Scotch, or of Scottish descent. They all resided in Cape Breton, the most stormy and windy part of the province. Very likely thrifty habits and temperate living had much to do with their great longevity.

Ram's Horn:—"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." (Psalm xxii, 5.) The Christian is the only man in the world who has the most to eat when his enemies are trying to starve him to death. The reason of this is that when crops fail on earth he gets his bread directly from heaven. It is also well to notice that at such times he not only gets abundance for himself, but something over for his friends and neighbours, for by running his cup over God makes him a blessing to others. While the rich worldling is in the midst of cruel famine, the humblest child of God may be rejoicing in the very best kind of growing weather. Being a living spring himself he never finds out what it means to have to live in a desert. "My cup runneth over." The man with that kind of an experience is never considered tedious because he may happen to talk three minutes in prayer meeting.