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Notes of the Week.

THE Christians in Japan have lost an influential friend by the death of Nakamura Masanao, who has been a prominent public man there since the revolution of 1868. He was the head of the Female Normal College and later on a professor in the university of Tokio. He was also a life-member of the House of Peers.

THE Rev. A. Alexander lectured in the McCheyne Memorial Church, Dundee, recently, on his personal knowledge of Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophical movement. He asserted that he had read in Madame Blavatsky's own writing a communication in which she declared her purpose to be not only to restore Hinduism to its ancient glory, but to sweep Christianity from the face of the earth.

PREACHING in Holburn Church, Aberdeen, Dr. MacGregor, Moderator of the General Assembly, declared that his earnest prayer, night and morning, was that he should live to see and be a member of a great United Presbyterian Church. The Church and its worship, he contended, had done a good deal for Scotland. They had been most potent factors in the formation of the national life and character.

LECTURING recently in Queen's Park Church, Glasgow, on "The Reconstruction of the Church," Dr. Fergus Ferguson remarked that civil society was essentially religious, and that if we took a true idea of civil society on the one side and the Church on the other, there was no reason why they should not co-exist. He also suggested a conference of Christian Churches for the purpose of bringing about doctrinal agreement, the appointment of special committees for bringing forward the question, and the desirability of greater co-operation in home and foreign mission work between the Churches.

THE University Extension movement is becoming generally popular. The good such a movement is capable of doing is coming to be understood. Those interested in this work in Toronto are about to hold a conference in the Educational Department, on November 5 and 6. Dr. James, of Philadelphia, president of the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching, will give a public address on the evening of November 5. All of Canada is included in the invitation. Sir Daniel Wilson, who is a member of the advisory council of the above society, has agreed to take part, and representatives of other universities will do the same.

DR. MONRO GIBSON says of the meeting of ministers at Southport: It is acknowledged on all hands to have more than fulfilled the most sanguine expectations. The number in attendance has been quite as large as was desirable for the first time; for while most of us were well acquainted with each other before in a friendly way, few had had opportunities of spiritual fellowship, and it would have been difficult to enter into confidential relations with a very large number in so short a time. As it was, I do not think there was one of our number who did not feel quite at home, while all received stimulus and encouragement, and some more than ever in their lives before. For my own part, it is not too much to say that I never received more in so short a space of time.

THE Dublin Christian Convention has been memorable this year for the presence of Archbishop Plunkett as chairman at one of the meetings. In the face of the antagonism manifested by some of his clergy towards the Convention, and of the bitterness with which his own catholicity has lately been impugned, the Archbishop had the courage to declare his increasing interest in these gatherings, where cleric and layman, Episcopalian and Dissenter meet as brethren anxious to kindle one another's evangelistic zeal. One of the principal speakers was Dr. Stalker, who incidentally referred to Conybeare and Howson's "Life of St. Paul" as "the chief theological glory of the present century."

THE Toronto Children's Aid Society is an institution deserving of cordial and substantial support. It seeks to benefit a class whose unfortunate condition renders them fit subjects for general and generous sympathy. The fresh air fund has during the past four years benefited over 20,000 children, and including the Christmas treats the number would be about 25,000. The season recently concluded was the most successful yet, about 8,250 youngsters and mothers participating. Over 12,000 lunches and 800 gallons of milk were given away. Those desiring to aid this meritorious effort at good-doing will always find the secretary, Mr. J. S. Coleman, ready to receive whatever charitable impulse combined with principle is willing to offer.

AT Perth, Scotland, Free Presbytery a deputation was present from the Perth United Presbyterian Presbytery, and took part in the discussion. The Clerk, Rev. John Rainnie, submitted recommendations of the joint-committee appointed to confer with the United Presbyterian Presbytery on the subject of co-operation between the two Churches. Various recommendations to the effect that deputies should be present from the Presbyteries at each other's ordinations and inductions, that there should be exchange of pulpits, joint conferences on missions, ministerial interchange at communions, efforts to promote union as opportunity may arise of small congregations belonging to the two Churches in thinly populated districts; mutual conferences between the Presbyteries when new movements in Church extension are contemplated, were approved of.

THE John Carruthers Science Hall, an addition to Queen's University, Kingston, was opened on Friday week in presence of a large assemblage. Principal Grant delivered an address, in which he pointed out that nearly all the necessary machines were gifts from friends, among them a dynamo from an electric company of Peterboro. He mentioned that \$20,000 were needed for the Mineralogy chair, and said that Mr. Hugh Waddell, of South Monaghan, had offered \$2,500 towards the same, provided three others give like amounts. The Doctor also said that Senator Gowan had forwarded \$500 as the nucleus of a fund for establishing a Sir John Macdonald scholarship. The senator hoped the fund would swell and the Principal added it ought to, as Sir John was identified with the College for fifty years. Dr. Grant alluded to the prospect of the Government locating the school of science there, a thing the College had waited for too long, and said in anticipation of it that he would recommend the Senate to discuss the establishment of chairs for the school.

THE International Federation of Lord's Day Societies, an organization which has its executive at Geneva, Switzerland, has issued a circular calling attention to the marked change that has come about on the Continent, in regard to securing Sunday as a day of rest. In Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland, laws have been passed forbidding or restricting labour on Sundays. In France a Labour Law has been passed, securing rest for one day out of the seven, and the French League for Sunday Rest has accomplished much. In Holland there is a general movement in that direction, one of the most influential newspapers hav-

ing closed its offices on Sunday. In Norway and Sweden there are movements to relieve the pressure of Sunday work, and in Russia numerous petitions have been sent into the Holy Synod. Perhaps the most significant item is the construction of a railway from Yverdon to St. Croix, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland, which by its constitution is to be free from Sunday traffic for at least twenty-five years.

THE following letter has been addressed by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Percy Bunting, who is one of the editors of the new *Review of the Churches*, which will contain a symposium on the Re-union of Christendom, of which this letter will form a part. The other writers are the Bishop of Ripon, Earl Nelson, Mr. Price Hughes. Mr. Gladstone writes: Though my hands are too full to allow of my considering your plan with a view to co-operation, I think that the prosecution of discussions and plans for the union of Christian bodies now severed is a matter to be regarded with much interest and desire, until and unless it touches points where real beliefs or great institutions are to be compromised. In your actual plan, judging from what I hear, there are two schemes of union which seem to be of early promise: that between the severed classes of Presbyterians, and that between Congregationalists and Baptists. Methodism will be hard to bring in, but the discussion may do good in softening tempers, even when the subject may seem to be more speculative than practical.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: The missionary enthusiasm of the Irish Presbyterian Church shows no signs of ebbing. On the contrary, the tide seems rising faster and higher than ever. On Tuesday evening the largest missionary party which ever sailed from Irish shores for the foreign field was solemnly commended to the care of the Almighty at a meeting in Elmwood Church, which was itself a clear indication of the interest which is taken in Belfast in the subject. We have never indeed seen a more earnest or more significant meeting. It came all the more appropriately just when the spirit of the Church is being tried as it is by the persecutions which the missionaries are encountering in China. But it has often been noticed that it requires opposition to rouse the Church to a full sense of her duty towards missions. As long as things go smoothly, we are tempted to go smoothly also. It is when the need for thoroughly devoted effort comes that the thoroughly devoted effort is given. The Church will follow the members of this departing missionary party with its sympathy and its prayers, as they go "far hence unto the Gentile," and we trust we shall soon hear of their safe arrival at their destination.

THE Rev. Mr. Macneil, of St. Andrews Church, St. John, N.B., has been for five years pastor of that congregation. Preaching an anniversary sermon recently he showed the progress made in so many directions, and in his able and appropriate discourse he said: It is also true religiously that improvement has taken place. Desponding prophets speak of declension and decadence. Tears are shed over the downfall of religious institutions whose venerable antiquity ought to have exempted them, it was thought, from the sledge-hammer of the iconoclast. Old wine-skins, that were esteemed all-sufficient to enclose the beliefs of our fathers, are being exchanged for the new bottles more suitable for the rich new wine that modern critical discovery is pressing from the ripe old Bible grapes. We lament lack of reverence, the drift from old moorings, the dishonour of the Sabbath, the spiritual indifference, the lack of enthusiasm among the young. But there were more heretics of old than now. There is more real reverence, reverence for what is truly noble, unselfish and pure than ever. I feel sure the Christian Church never was so loved, never did better work than now; never were the mass of the people on a higher religious level. Once there was more fighting than now, but never were the special Christian virtues more frequently illustrated in life. To say the former days were better than these religiously, "would not be to enquire wisely."