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Notes of the Week.

Owing to there being financial difficulties in the way of his retirement just now, Professor Calderwood has regretfully declined the invitation to become the Unionist candidate for South Edinburgh.

Since Belgium was permitted free trade in drink, public houses have so multiplied that intoxicants can be purchased at almost every shop. As a result, four-fifths of the deaths of men are now said to be caused by intemperance.

The British Parliament has been prorogued, and the leaders on both sides are making speeches defining their positions. Mr. Gladstone's farewell letter to his Midlothian constituents simply expresses his gratitude to them, and reviews the beneficial progress secured by the Liberal Party in that town.

A Cromwell statue is proposed for Huntingdon, the birthplace of the great Protector. *The Hunts County News* thinks it the "very irony of fame" that this "greatest of English rulers" should be without a statue in his native county, and invites contributions for the erection of some memorial to the greatest man Huntingdonshire ever produced.

Life in British Columbia is described in *Good Words* for July. That province is called "The Sportsman's Paradise." Big game is very plentiful. "As for salmon, they are so numerous as, in shallow water, to push one another out of the stream on to the banks." Sometimes for a fortnight in winter there may be a "cold spell" of 30 degrees below zero.

The New York Times has printed statistics from which it appears that the people of that city spend about five and a-half million dollars yearly on churches, and about six and a-half on theatres and theatrical amusements. It is also true that during the financial stringency, two years ago, some people gave up their boxes at the theatre, but made no cut in their church expenditures.

Great Britain shows an annual decrease in crime, and prisons are being closed accordingly, but in France crimes of all kinds have increased during the last fifty years at a ratio of 130 per cent. The number of criminals from sixteen to twenty-one years of age has increased by 247 per cent. This is a natural outcome of the atheistic spirit which prevails in France and for which Roman Catholicism is largely responsible.

Dr. Pentecost, successor to the late Dr. Donald Fraser, has been reading the Marylebone congregation a lecture on giving. On a recent Sunday the collection boxes contained 600 coppers. If these represented as many hearers the sum contributed was not what might be desired; while if some had put in more than one bronze coin, the givers would do well. Dr. Pentecost urged to change their copper into silver on the Saturday.

In Great Britain an appeal to clergymen, ministers and church officers for the use of unfermented wine at the Lord's Supper has recently been issued by the Women's Total Abstinence Union. The reform, they declare, is not only desirable for the sake of those rescued from the evils of drink, but also for the members of juvenile Temperance societies, who have been carefully instructed in the principles of total abstinence, and should not be driven to take their first taste of alcohol at the Lord's Table.

French advices are received from Majunga, on the Western port of Madagascar, stating that several thousand Hovas, who attacked the French outposts at Tsaraasaotra, were repulsed. An attack was then ordered on the Hovas position, and they were routed with heavy losses, leaving their tents and baggage.

There may be more significance in the contemplated trip of the Egyptian Khedive to Constantinople than lies upon the surface. He is an inveterate hater of England and of everything English, and nothing does his heart more good than to hurl defiance at Her Majesty's Government. Although virtually a subordinate of the Sultan, the Khedive's counsel may none the less have weight with that potentate; and there is little doubt that if he should be consulted as to the Anglo-Turkish imbroglio his voice would be for neither concession nor compromise.

The following paragraph from the *Scotsman* testifies to what extent the inhabitants of the Island of St. Kilda are isolated from the rest of the world: "On the shore of Burra, Shetland, there was picked up on the 9th ult. on old tin canister, which on being opened was found to contain a number of letters from St. Kilda with money to post them. This strange mail packet had been sent off on its voyage of three hundred miles on the 1st of March. A note enclosed to the finder conveyed the intelligence that there had been no births, deaths, or marriages on the island since last year."

An extraordinary fiction has been retailed in many newspapers respecting the number of juveniles arrested for drunkenness in Liverpool in 1893. The number was stated with great exactitude at 1,411, whereas the fact is that in 1893 only ten persons under sixteen were apprehended for drunkenness in Liverpool. A similar paragraph is going the rounds about London, viz.: that, "according to a police return, there were 300 children under ten years of age apprehended for drunkenness in London last year." The Chief Commissioner of Police says that "no such police return has ever been made."

"Advices by steamer from China," says the *New York Independent*, "state that the recent outrages at the capital of the Szechuen Province were of 'unprecedented magnitude, so far as concerned the amount of property involved.' There were four missions—those of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Canada Methodist Church, the China Inland Society and the Roman Catholic Church. The French Catholic Mission owned, it is said, a very large amount of property. It is believed that the retiring Viceroy instigated the attack, which it seems was not confined to the capital of the province, but extended to some of the smaller cities.

Dr. Stalker and Prof. Drummond, of Scotland, are both well-known in this country, but it is safe to say that Dr. Drummond is not now quite so popular among those who were his firm friends a few years ago as he was before the appearance of his recent work, in which he outlines his views on evolution. In the Free Assembly in May, Dr. Stalker delivered a speech in defence of his friend against whom charges of heresy had been brought. But Dr. Stalker does not agree with Prof. Drummond. He said among other things:—

"Prof. Drummond's own demonstrations seem to me, in many respects, singularly unconvincing. He constantly confounds evolution in the sense which is denied with growth in the sense which all acknowledge. He has proved nothing which would not go well enough with the assumption of an irreducible number of species, much smaller, perhaps, than has hitherto been supposed, but still large. Then, I cannot persuade myself that there is not more in the first chapter of Genesis than Prof. Drummond allows. If there is one chapter in the Bible which is divine it is this one;

and, although I would by no means say that it is science written beforehand, yet I am equally unable to believe that the harmonies which it presents with the latest discoveries of science are accidental. But it is one thing not to accept a certain view and quite another thing to declare it intolerable."

The *New York Observer*:—"There are four hundred Congregational ministers in England who receive less than \$750 a year, fifty-four less than \$450, forty-four less than \$600, twenty-five less than \$300, eleven less than \$250, and ten less than \$200. The Congregational Church Aid Society was formed to meet such needs as these figures represent, but its last report speaks of 'strain still unrelieved, claims increasing in urgency, and disappointment and sorrow because of the inadequate resources placed at the disposal of the Council.' Our Congregational brethren could afford to adopt some such scheme as a sustentation fund. An under-paid ministry should gall them more than the adoption of such a bit of Presbyterianism as that.

The *London Chronicle* publishes what is purported to be a confidential document summarizing the Government's policy under three heads. Under the first head is the Imperial policy, including a strong navy. The second head is devoted to the Colonial policy, including the development of Africa and improved facilities of intercourse between the mother country and the colonies. The third head treats of the domestic policy, embracing poor law reform, the easy transfer of land, removal of the registration grievances, restriction of the immigration of pauper aliens, fiscal reform, the amending of the Employers' Liability Act, improved dwellings for the poor, facilities to enable working men to purchase dwellings, agricultural legislation and other matters.

The Inebriates' Bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords. The Bill applies to two classes of habitual drunkards—those who have rendered themselves amenable to the law, and those who have not been charged. As to the first class, it is proposed that they should be liable to detention in an inebriate reformatory for one or three years; while in regard to the second class, who have not become amenable to the law, their compulsory detention might be obtained, on the application of a relative, by order either of the High Court or the County Court, for a minimum period of one year and a maximum of two years. Objection was taken to the mode of dealing with this latter class, which, it was said, would place people at the mercy of unscrupulous relatives.

We see it stated that delegates to the Christian Endeavor Convention from the provinces propose to organize a union for the Dominion of Canada, and it is likely action will be taken at this convention. Each province has a provincial union, and it is desired that a union of all the provinces be formed to secure greater unity in Christian Endeavor work in the Dominion. This action, if taken, will in no wise change the attitude of the Canadian societies toward the United Society of Christian Endeavor. They are as enthusiastic regarding the founder of the society as are their brethren in the United States. Nowhere is Dr. Clarke received more cordially than at the provincial union conventions, many of which he attended. Dr. Clarke was born in the Province of Quebec, though his parents are both New Englanders and he has a very warm feeling for his brethren from the Dominion. The first and most immediate result of the proposed union would be that the Canadian societies would hold triennial or quadrennial intercolonial conventions. This has been desired for some time, but has been found difficult to bring about, from the fact that there is no one to act authoritatively. The connection of the societies in the Dominion with the international conventions, as now held, would in no way be affected.