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Notes of the Week.

A GOOD story is going the rounds of the British press about Mr. Gladstone. Invited to subscribe to a certain charity, he replied on the usual postal card that innumerable applications of the kind were received by him, and that he had to confine his donations to local needs. The postcard was duly put up to auction, fetching two guineas, and the G. O. M. appeared on the list of subscribers as a donor to that amount.

It is a fact of cheering significance that influential railway corporations in the United States are beginning to curtail Sunday traffic on their lines. Those who control the Vanderbilt system, not hitherto distinguished for their efforts to minimize Sunday labour, have taken a step in the right direction. On all their lines east of Chicago, all that they deem unnecessary traffic has been stopped. This action has been also followed by a portion of the Jay Gould system in the west. A general adoption of this reform will be greatly appreciated by all who respect the divine law.

COMMENTING on the vote on Mr. O'Brien's motion in the Dominion House of Commons the *Christian Leader* says: The act is *ultra vires* on the part of the provincial legislature, and should on this ground alone be set aside. In direct contravention of British law and practice, it recognizes in connection with the work of legislation the authority of a foreign potentate, and thus encroaches upon the freedom and independence of Parliament. Nothing more flagrantly unconstitutional has been perpetrated within the British dominions since those crimes against the State which brought Charles I. to the block.

THE determination of the Russian power to suppress Lutheranism in the north-west provinces of the empire is being vigorously carried out. A recent despatch shows that the Governor of Riga, replying to an appeal from a society of lawyers against banishing to Siberia a German solicitor named Bunger, said they must bear in mind that Bunger was justly sentenced, and that he was going to Siberia. Protestant consistories, which were being held at Riga, Revel and Arensburg, have been dissolved. The police have prepared lists of Germans, and have ordered that all who fail to become Russian subjects shall report weekly under pain of expulsion.

THE Rev. D. M. Ross, of Dundee, preached the annual sermon of the Free Church of Scotland Guild in Mayfield Church, Edinburgh, on a recent Sunday evening. The Church, he declared, was the organ by which Christ was to influence the life of the world. Whatever social upheavals and transformations might be ahead of us, whatever might be the future relations of capital and labour, and property and poverty, of this one could be sure, that no mere change in the organisation of industry, or in the economic condition of the people would solve our social problems. We needed to bring a nobler spirit into our industrial and social life, a spirit of brotherhood, a spirit of sacrifice and sympathy. We should not reach the democratic ideal without moral and spiritual power to bind men together.

THE pre-arranged Vatican programme to get up apparently spontaneous popular demonstrations in favour of the restoration of the Pope's temporal power is being carried out in places wide apart. Obedient sons of the Church recited their little lesson in Vienna. The same performance has been gone through in Madrid, and the authorities in Laval University, Quebec, have engineered a demonstration in favour of the reactionary policy, which the infallible wisdom of the Curia deems of vital importance. Persistent determination may accomplish one or other of two results: If employed in a just cause it will succeed in compelling recognition; if used to advance a discredited sham, it will be resisted with contempt. The demand for the restoration of the Pope's territorial sovereignty is paving

the way for one of the greatest humiliations it has ever been the lot of the Papacy to face.

At the closing meeting of the session 1888-89 of the Assembly's College, Belfast, the Rev. W. D. Killen, D.D., occupied the chair. The attendance of students has been above the average though somewhat below last year's, which was unusually full. The Moderator of the General Assembly spoke, and the closing address was delivered by Rev. Professor Leitch, whose subject was "Practical Training for the Work of the Ministry." The president, having referred to the power conferred by Royal Charter on the Faculty to confer degrees in divinity, stated that the distinction of B.D. had been won by Rev. George C. Love, of Killeter, Co. Tyrone, after an examination of several days over an extensive course of theological reading previously prescribed. The closing meeting of the session of Magee College, Derry, was also held recently. Rev. Professor Leebody (the president) stated in his address that the attendance had been the highest yet reached. The total number receiving instruction in the college was 156. The Moderator of the General Assembly delivered an address, and Professor Leebody gave the closing address on "Religious Teaching and Modern Thought."

THE Women's Christian Temperance Union of the Dominion of Canada, have issued a circular in which they announce that they will convene in session at Toronto, on Tuesday, June 11, 1889, at ten o'clock a.m. Miss Francis E. Willard, president of National and World Women's Christian Temperance Union, will be present, and many other distinguished workers from all our Provinces, and from across the Border. As questions of vital importance to the work will be introduced and discussed, the session bids fair to be a protracted one, and delegates are requested to come prepared to remain over the 17th. As the Women's Christian Temperance Union deals with many questions besides Temperance, we hope to have many visitors who are not members of our Association, and they will have the same advantage of reduced rates by rail or boat as our delegates, and arrangements made for reduction in rates at hotels and boarding houses if desired. On Tuesday evening, 11th, a reception will be given, when Miss Willard will be present. The following subjects will be discussed during Convention week: "Prohibition," "Social Purity," "Hygiene and Heredity," "Women as Wage-earners."

THE fame of "Maclaren, of Manchester," has spread over Christendom. It is no wonder that the *Christian Leader* should protest against treating him slightly. Here is its remonstrance. The conductors of the daily press in Scotland, and more particularly in his native city, do not seem to be aware that Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester, is certainly one of the three greatest preachers in the British pulpit, and in the estimation of some good judges the greatest of the three. The other evening he made a speech at Glasgow and next morning in the leading diurnals of that city his name was only included in the closing sentence "amongst others who spoke." Had Mr. Robertson, of Stonehaven, delivered an address in the same city, his crude extravagances would have got at least half a column. It is true, no doubt, that Dr. Maclaren has not appeared often in the pulpit of his native land; and on neither side of the border does he indulge in sensational language. Still we may venture to hope that his books are not unknown in Scotland; and the Glasgow dailies might afford a few lines for one of his speeches, in spite of the fact that he happens to possess high culture and genuine eloquence.

IN his address at the convocation of McGill University, Montreal, the President, Sir William Dawson, made the following reference to the vote in the Dominion House of Commons on the Jesuit Estates Disallowance motion: We have evidence, to which I cannot here specially refer, that the disabilities under which we have been placed will bring out in the future increased endowments in aid of the higher education which now more than ever depends on the support of private benefactors. I do not even look with despair on the extraordinary spectacle

presented in a recent debate in the House of Commons of the Dominion, when men of both political parties seemed to vie with each other in depreciating the constitutional rights and educational interests of the Protestant minority of this Province, and in deciding by an immense majority that such rights and interests are of no account in comparison with party exigencies. This somewhat discreditable vote, rendered more so by some of the arguments advanced in its behalf, has already provoked a reaction that must in a short time modify the position of political parties, and must tend to the greater consolidation of the Dominion, as exposed to the divellent influence of merely provincial action, based either on the weakness or aggressions of local parties.

At the Conference in connection with the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, to be held in St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14, the following programme has been arranged: Monday evening, May 13, Rev. D. D. McLeod, presiding, devotional exercises, address, conference on "Helps to Family Worship and Home Religion;" introduced by Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, B.D., of Galt. Tuesday forenoon, May 14, Rev. J. B. Fraser, presiding, devotional exercises, conference on "Bringing to Decision for Christ;" introduced by Rev. A. Jackson, Galt. Conference on "How to Develop and Utilize the Working Power of Church Members, old and young," introduced by Rev. J. M. Cameron, of Toronto. Address on "Development of Missionary Spirit in our Congregations;" Dr. Wardope, of Guelph. Tuesday afternoon, May 14, Dr. McLaughlin, M.P.P., presiding, devotional exercises, conference on "How shall we Increase the Efficiency of our Sabbath School?" introduced by Mr. D. Fotheringham. Conference on "How shall we adapt our Pastoral Work to present social conditions," introduced by Dr. H. M. Parsons, of Toronto. Address on "Endowment with Power for Christian Work," Dr. Caven, of Knox College. A collection will be taken up on Monday evening to defray the expenses of the Conference. The committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to arrange for a Conference on Religious Topics in connection with the meeting of Synod submit the foregoing programme. We sincerely hope that a deep interest will be taken in it, and that members will come prepared to make it a helpful meeting.

THE authorities of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have chosen Toronto as their next place of meeting, and that important body will accordingly convene in the Capital of Ontario, on the 27th August next, to remain in session one week. This gathering of probably a 1,000 prominent scientific men, will prove an interesting event for all who desire the diffusion of systematized knowledge, and its outcome cannot fail to be of benefit to the whole Province. The discussion of scientific subjects, the interchange of experience, and the application of its results, must stimulate the material as well as the intellectual progress of the country. The coming meeting will be the thirty-eighth of the annual gatherings of this learned body; and, while two previous meetings have been held in Montreal, this will be the first time that the Province of Ontario has been honoured by having the Association assemble within her borders. The first meeting was held in Philadelphia in 1840. In 1882, Montreal was chosen, Principal Dawson, of McGill College, having been made president that year. The Association numbers from 1,500 to 2,000 members, American and Canadian, and there are about 300 Fellows, some of them Canadians. A very large general committee has been formed in Toronto to arrange for the proper reception of the Association. The president of this body is Charles Carpinel, F.R.A.S., Director of the Meteorological Service, Canada; the treasurer is James Bain, Jr., chief librarian, Toronto Public Library, and the general secretary is Professor Loudon, of University College. Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, Mechanical Science, History, Geology and Geography, Biology, Anthropology, Histology and Microscopy, Economic Science and Statistics, are among the subjects to be discussed, in different sections of the Association, during the week that it continues in session.