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Notes of the Week.

Last month a deputation from the Committee of the International Peace and Arbitration Society submitted a memorial to the members of the London Eng. School Board, urging upon them the desirability of adequate ethical teaching in schools on the subject of peace and war, duties to foreign nations, and other kindred questions. The memorial was unanimously referred to the School Management Committee for consideration and report.

For the first time for sixty-three years, Parliament assembled without the inspiration and master-hand of perhaps the greatest Parliamentarian of English History, and minus a voice which has swayed larger issues than that of any living Briton. The House has met distinctly the poorer for the loss of one of England's greatest Commons. At his marvellous call to arms in aid of the oppressed Armenians he seemed definitely to retire from Party; and men of every political shade begin to speak of him in the language posterity adopts towards its Immortals.

The Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly has fixed Wednesday, the 11th September, as the date on which the special meeting of the General Assembly will be held in May street, to elect a Professor of Logic, Belles-Lettres, and Rhetoric, in the Magee College, Londonderry, in room of Professor Dougherty, and a Professor of Systematic Theology, in the Assembly's College, Belfast, in room of the late Professor Watts. In consequence of the interest and importance of the appointments and the keenness with which the contest is being conducted on the part of the several candidates, a large attendance both of ministers and elders is anticipated.

In *The Church at Home and Abroad*, which answers to the American Presbyterian Church North, the purpose our *Record* does to our Church, there is a cut of the Presbyterian House, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, which may well fairly overwhelm modest, canny-going Presbyterians in Canada. It is the head quarters and permanent dwelling place for the Board's of Home Missions and Foreign Missions and of several other agencies of the Presbyterian Church. The building stands at the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Twentieth Street. Its frontage on Fifth Avenue is 92 feet, and that on Twentieth Street is 192 feet, and it is twelve and a half stories in height. We merely mention this just now to prepare our readers for the brief article giving some further account which we shall shortly publish from the columns of the periodical above mentioned.

A quarter of a century having passed since the Battle of Gravelotte, the first in the Franco-German War of 1870-71, the occasion was celebrated by William II. laying the foundation-stone of a monument, to cost £400,000, to his grandfather, William I., which will be erected on the site of the Palace of Liberties. In his speech the Kaiser said nothing that could wound the susceptibilities of the French people, but dwelt upon the self-sacrificing unanimity of the German princes; the wise counsel and energetic support of the great Chancellor; the consummate strategy of Count Moltke; the incomparable skill of the brave leaders, especially of the Crown Prince, his father; and the loyalty unto death of the people in arms. "From the blood-stained seed sprang up under God's blessing the harvest of German unity." The ceremony was military rather than national, and dissatisfaction at the refusal to admit the public as spectators has been freely expressed.

Jews in Russia cannot yet count upon peace and rest. Instructions have been received by the Governor of Vladivostock to expel all Jews resident in that far Eastern entrepot. No time of grace is allowed to the expelled beyond such short periods as are necessary for winding up their business affairs and disposing of their immovable property and household chattels. There are several hundred Jews in Vladivostock, all of whom will be now compelled to return to their native domiciles in European Russia.

Advices received in New York from Lima report the arrival of a party of English and American missionaries. The natives resent their coming and have demanded that the Peruvian Government shall take steps for their immediate expulsion. In the meanwhile the missionaries are being restricted to very cramped quarters on the coast. The Government replied that they would be protected as long as they obeyed the laws of the country. The people are by no means satisfied with this assurance, and a rebellion is talked of, while threats are freely expressed against the lives of the whole missionary party.

The announcement was made in both Houses on Monday that Lord Wolseley will be Commander-in-Chief of the Army from November 1. His powers, however, will be less than those of the late Commander-in-Chief. They have not yet been defined. The Government is to be congratulated on resisting the pressure to appoint the Duke of Connaught. Several years ago a scheme of Army reforms was drawn up by a committee of which the Duke of Devonshire was chairman, but it has been impossible to initiate the reforms owing to the opposition of the Duke of Cambridge, who refused to admit his responsibility to Parliament. Now, under our most experienced practical soldier, the reforms will be carried into effect.

One of the most interesting and hopeful features noticeable in some governments, at least, at the present day, is the constantly increasing attention paid to the improvement of the comfort, social condition and physical well-being of the humbler classes in society. Many instances of this might be mentioned, especially in countries older than those on this side of the Atlantic as yet, where some solution of social difficulties is imperative and pressing. Among other instances of this we notice that the Dutch Government has nominated a commission, composed of twenty-five members, representing all the shades of political opinion, to report on the best system of State pensions for the old and infirm members of the working classes.

The recent and present disturbances in China, which, it should be remembered, are but additions to disturbances which for a long time have been occasionally breaking out in some part or other of that vast empire, have given rise to many explanations by many different kinds of travellers and observers. Here is one by the Hon. G. N. Curzon, in his "Problems in the Far East," he states that one source of the difficulties is misunderstanding with the native population of "the constantly increasing employment of women, and particularly of unmarried women, by the missionary bodies. In a country like China," Mr. Curzon adds, "the institution of sisterhoods, planted alongside of male establishments, the spectacle of unmarried persons of both sexes residing and working together, both in public and in private, and of girls making long journeys into the interior without responsible escorts are sources of a misunderstanding at which the pure-minded may afford to scoff, but which in many cases has more to do with anti-missionary feeling in China than any amount of national hostility or doctrinal antagonism."

The Occident, says *The Church at Home and Abroad*, suggests a Presbyterian Education Extension Course for the Pacific coast, which shall both counteract the rationalistic and anti-Biblical teaching of the common school and university and strengthen the cause of Presbyterianism. Feeling the need of consolidation in Christian Endeavor work, improvement in Sunday school effort, and a new impulse to Church life and home-training, it would inaugurate a peripatetic lecture course led by able instructors and pastors who can discriminate between the known and guess in current theories, and extend among the people the wholesome influences of the Word of God. Though perhaps we do not yet need such action so much as they do now on the Pacific coast yet herein lies a suggestion of work that, with modifications suited to our circumstances, might by continued effort be undertaken with great profit especially in all our country towns and villages.

The deaths of the week is always a paragraph of much though also of sad interest in the *Christian World* of London, England. Amongst others appeared last week the following notice which will be of interest to many English visitors to the Continent, or residents thereon, owe a priceless debt of gratitude to Baron Christian Bernhard Tauchnitz, who has just died at Leipzig, in his seventy-ninth year. The little paper-covered volumes of English authors, beautifully printed, to be purchased at every railway bookstall and at every popular resort, have largely increased the pleasure of a Continental holiday. The idea took possession of the German publisher in 1843. Before then, as after, Continental publishers freely pirated English copyright works, and also freely mutilated them. Tauchnitz was an honourable man, and he put himself into friendly communication with English authors, proposing to pay them for the right of cheap republication, for exclusive Continental sale. His propositions were received in the same friendly spirit, and he had the most pleasant relations with Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Carlyle and others who bore testimony to his liberal treatment of them. In a letter to Thackeray, Tauchnitz apologised for inaccuracies in his English. "Don't be afraid of your English—a letter containing £ is always in a pretty style," was the reply. Nearly 3,000 volumes have appeared in the "Collection of British Authors."

One more perfect than was Labour Day could not be desired, hardly even imagined. The air was pure and clear, so that in its morning freshness it was a luxury and delight to breathe it. Not too hot to be oppressive to the thousands of pedestrians who walked in procession and thronged the streets, nor too cool to be uncomfortable during the inevitable delay in marshalling so large a parade. Toronto turned out to do labour honor, and judging from the general appearance of the great mass of manual or machine toilers who walked in procession, our city so far from being ashamed of her artisans, may well be proud of them. With scarcely an exception that could be seen in all the thousands in the ranks they looked well clad, well fed, contented and pleased, manly looking in their bearing, and intelligent. Among the thousands of spectators who lined the streets for miles, nothing but good nature, good order and good conduct could be seen; no drunkenness, no roughness, no crowding, no swearing. A most hopeful and encouraging sight it was. We doubtless have plenty of evils yet in our midst to contend with, but if in Canada we can not only keep up the present status of our handicraftsmen and farmers, but improve them, and along with them improve also the standing of all whose work is more with their heads than their hands, Canada will have a population, taking it in the mass, which may well make her the envy of the whole world.