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Notes of the Week.

AN important overture was unanimously agreed to at the recent meeting of the Free Church Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, having for its object the formation throughout the Church of an organization for interesting the young in missions and securing uniformity in contributions. At present, on account of the want of this, there is a great lack of information in the Sabbath schools regarding mission work, while the children's givings go in an undue proportion to outside agencies which, however important in themselves as many of them undoubtedly are, yet have not the same binding claim as the Schemes of the Church. The Glasgow Presbytery has organized a Sabbath scholar's missionary association, which has already awakened a deep interest in missions; and last winter a series of meetings with the young were successfully carried through over the whole city. In this there is a suggestion worthy of consideration by Canadian Presbyteries.

THE Government Commission is still engaged in the North-West adjudicating the claims of the Half-breeds. Scrip has been issued to those whose claims have been proved to be satisfactory, but it is asserted that cunning speculators hover about the vicinity, plying the Half-breeds with whiskey and persuading them to part with their scrip at less than its face value. In plain English, designing knaves are plundering defenceless victims while the country is in rebellion and the flower of Canadian youth are dyeing the prairies with their life-blood. To the conscienceless greed of these schemers in the past not a little of the present grave troubles in the North-West is owing. It is to be regretted that these tricksters cannot be subjected to martial law. It is even doubtful whether merited discipline on the triangle, and ignominious dismissal to the tune of the Rogue's March, would suffice their phenomenal cheeks with a blush of shame, but their conduct causes all honest Canadians to blush for their country.

CANADIAN Volunteers have shown that under exceptionally difficult circumstances they possess the qualities that make good soldiers. They have been brave, resolute, vigilant; have endured fatigue and privation without finching, and have been thoroughly amenable to discipline. Their bravery under experienced and competent leadership has enabled them to hold their own and to advance to victory over a foe whose local advantages and mode of warfare would have tested the endurance and pluck of trained veterans. Riel's forces have been successfully dislodged from Batoche. The arch-rebel has lost his stronghold and whatever prestige he had. When Poundmaker's force is shattered the only formidable aspect of the North-West rising will have disappeared. A desultory guerrilla warfare may be carried on for some time, but no serious danger will remain. The pursuit of defeated and fugitive rebels may necessitate the keeping of a considerable force in the field for some time, but the end of the rebellion can hardly be far off. Meanwhile the list of killed and wounded has been added to and the number of bereaved homes and aching hearts increased.

THE Presbyterians of Belfast were enthusiastic in their welcome of the Prince and Princess of Wales during their recent visit to that progressive city. At the reception in the town hall, Presbyterian ministers and laymen were prominent. The Royal party visited Queen's and the Assembly's Colleges, where addresses were presented and responded to. In reference to the visit to the General Assembly's College, the *Belfast Witness* says: The remarks of the venerable President of the college, Dr. Killen, who presided on the occasion, especially deserve mention. Diverging from the stereotyped formalities of the occasion, he welcomed his Royal visitors in a few happily-chosen sentences which, delivered in his own emphatic style, and coming from an aged divine of his great eminence, who has seen four Sovereigns sit on the British throne, must have

made the deepest impression on the Prince and Princess. Indeed, we have the most satisfactory proof that they did, for on leaving the college his Royal Highness remarked to the Mayor that "nothing had touched him more since his arrival in Belfast than the simple and earnest words of that venerable old man;" while the Princess added that she admired him because he was so "natural and unaffected."

THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England was held in Regent Square Church, London. The Rev. Robert Taylor, of Norwood, was elected Moderator and gave his opening address, which dealt with the distinctive principles and position of the Church. The income of the denomination for the past year was \$1,065,000, and the average rate of contribution \$18.56 per member. There are now 383 congregations, an increase of four during the year. The committee appointed to consider the relation of the Church to the Confession of Faith submitted a declaratory statement drawn up on the lines of that adopted by the Scottish U.P. Church a few years ago, and also the heads of doctrine for a brief creed. The question as to the restriction of Moderators to the ministry also came up for final settlement. The reports submitted have been very cheering, showing that the Church is making good progress. All lovers of sound Evangelical Protestantism, says the *Belfast Witness*, will hail it as one of the good signs of the times that in these days when Romanism and Ritualism are advancing with such determined footsteps to obliterate all traces of Reformation work in England, this English Presbyterian Church is steadily growing in strength and influence.

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Mission Union was held at the Mission Hall last week. Mr. S. H. Blake occupied the chair, and on the platform were Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Messrs. W. H. Howland, S. R. Briggs, J. J. Gartshore, A. Sampson, Henry O'Brien, R. Kilgour, and others. There was a large attendance. The erection of the Mission Hall on College Street has greatly facilitated the work of the Union, meetings having been held every evening since at this commodious and comfortable place of worship. The report stated that the attendance on the whole had been good, and steadily increasing, ranging from 800 to 1,000 in the aggregate during the week. The Sabbath afternoon Bible class, conducted by Mr. W. H. Howland, is attended by 300 members, and the children's church on Sabbath evenings by over 300. The Home for the Aged in connection with the Union was prospering, the report stated, and the Union hoped to procure two more houses to enlarge the work. The morning Sabbath school had met with good success. The Sewing Society has assisted over 100 families during the year. The treasurer's report showed that the total receipts up to April 1 amounted to \$3,061.96, of which \$1,924.85 was for the erection of the Mission Hall. The good work being done by this Mission Union, which is undenominational, is deserving the support and encouragement of the Christian people of Toronto.

THE Earl of Aberdeen, writing in the May number of the *Fortnightly Review*, refers to the disposition among the various Presbyterian bodies to dwell upon the various points of agreement rather than those of difference, and to contemplate favourably the possibilities of union. Having mentioned a few of the leading obstacles to a good understanding between the parties concerned, such as the principle of Voluntarism and connection between Church and State, his lordship suggests that, given a sincere desire on the part of the respective churches to effect a union, the various bodies might agree to a joint representation to Parliament with the view of obtaining a transfer of the Scottish ecclesiastical endowments to a new United Church, formed of existing denominations combined, the present form of connection between Church and State to be at the same time brought to a termination. No doubt a section of the House of Commons would oppose all legislation which implied any sort of recognition of religion by the State; but, on the other hand,

Lord Aberdeen says the suggested mode of dealing with the question would find support from many who sit on opposite sides of the House. Though not a State Church in the technical sense of the term, it would be thoroughly national; and, though not established by law, it would be founded on the broad and firm basis of the people's approval; and, having been brought into existence by the exercise of forbearance and mutual concession, it is not unreasonable, adds his lordship, to expect that these qualities would be maintained in healthy operation.

PROFESSOR GEORGE E. DAY, D.D., of Yale, President of the American Board for the Revision of the Old Testament, speaks enthusiastically of the forthcoming volume. I do not, he said, expect the present generation, and more especially elderly people, to give up their old Bibles. To them it would seem a sacrilege perhaps, and, while they would have nothing to unlearn, the new book might never seem natural to them. But it is the coming generation which will adopt the revised version. Professor Day emphasized the point that, as the new Bible was the outcome of researches of the very highest knowledge in restoring the Scriptures to their textual purity, to the unlearned even more than to the learned will the new version be profitable. The meaning of the Word would be made clearer, and scepticism will become disarmed. The changes made are not fundamental. They touch nothing which is essential to Christianity. It is a new revision and not a new translation. In concluding, Professor Day said that another point which could not be brought out too strongly was that the Bible reading public, while it might miss some of the beautifully flowing and favourite passages of the old English version in the revised version, should recollect that all rhetorical considerations should be put aside for the one thing of importance—that of having the truth and the whole truth. He did not know whether the clergy of New Haven used the revised New Testament, but he did not think one of them durst preach contrary to the sense of the text of that volume. He was sure they used it for reference constantly.

VICTORIA University Convocation was held at Cobourg last week. From the report of the proceedings it would appear that the Methodist friends of the higher education had a splendid time. The honorary degree of D.D. was conferred on Rev. Henry Evans, Belfast, Ireland; Rev. W. S. Griffin, Guelph; Rev. W. R. Parker, M.A., St. Thomas, and Rev. E. J. Watkins, President of Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia. The degree of LL.D. was conferred on the Hon. Justice Rose. After an able discussion of the question of University Federation by the Alumni Association, the following resolution was adopted: That it is the unanimous opinion of the Alumni of Victoria University, in annual meeting assembled, that we ought not to go into the proposed Federation without all reasonable assurance of our perpetuated existence as an Arts College. Rev. President Nelles, who is a vigorous and consistent champion of University Federation, is reported to have said: But it is evident that a large part, and perhaps an increasingly large part, of academic work is to be done by the Provincial University, and the question is whether the Methodist Church will do her share in the work or prefer an isolated and less influential position? I have tried to forecast the disastrous results to the Methodist Church which some of our friends prophesy from this scheme, and when I have summed them all up, and, at the very worst, I can only find the following: First, improved intellectual advantages for all the youth of the country, including, of course, the youth of the Methodist Church; secondly, the same religious safeguards which we possess at present; thirdly, a wider range of religious influence; fourthly, increased facilities for the theological training of our ministers; and lastly, all of these with a smaller or, at least, a more productive outlay of money on the part of our Church than is possible under any other arrangement.