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Notes of the Week.

The Swedes of Manitoba, it is said, have joined in the demand for a broad system of schools. They readily accept English as the language, but ask for an hour or two daily for teaching their mother tongue.

The report submitted to the United Kingdom Alliance at its annual meeting lately in Manchester maintains that the veto question fell far short of accounting for the Liberal defeat at the general election, and declares that there can be no abandonment of prohibition.

It is said that the post-office system of British India is the most up to-date concern of the kind to be found anywhere. Besides collecting and delivering letters, parcels, and other articles, it acts, to a certain extent, as a banker to the general public, sells quinine and salt; pays military pensions, and collects the revenue accruing to the government from land and other sources.

The death of Rev. Dr. A. C. Kendrick, at Rochester, New York, reduces to three the number of surviving American Revisers of the New Testament. Dr. Kendrick was one of the oldest members of the New Testament Company, having been born December 7th, 1809. The three survivors are President Dwight, of Yale, Professor Thayer, of Harvard, and Rev. M. B. Riddle, D.D. They were the youngest of the entire group so long associated in the same work.

At a late meeting of the Church Congress at Norwich, Eng., it was stated that four hundred benefited clergymen of that Church receive less than £50 per annum; there are 3,500 with less than £100 a year, and 7,000 with less than £130. "And yet," says the *Christian World*, "the Church of England has endowments to the value of £10,000,000 a year, and numbers in its membership all the big brewers, the millionaire shipbuilders and railway directors, the House of Lords in a body, and probably, the holders of at least three fourths of the national wealth."

The *Christian World*, of London, England, lately made an offer to ministers of one hundred free copies of Dr. Horton's new book, "The Teachings of Jesus." It says, "In response we have received very many more than that number of applications. The letters for the most part reveal such a keen appreciation of the chance of getting a new book and such a lamentable lack of opportunity, that it is distressing not to be able to respond more fully. One reader has kindly offered to co-operate with us. If any others of our readers are like minded, it may be possible to gratify many who will otherwise be disappointed."

When the Special Commissioner of the *Daily Chronicle* was in Montenegro, lately, Prince Nicholas gave him a message of admiration and gratitude to Mr. Gladstone. The hermit of Hawarden has replied, through the paper, with a message that will make the little Principality swell with pride. He says: "In my deliberate opinion the traditions of Montenegro, now committed to his Highness as a sacred trust, exceed in glory those of Marathon and Thermopylae, and all the war-traditions of the world." It was of this rough little mountain State that Tennyson wrote:

"O smallest among peoples! rough rock-throne
Of Freedom! Warriors beating back the swarm
Of Turkish Islam for five hundred years."

John D. Rockefeller has made another gift to the Chicago University of \$1,000,000, the money to be available on June 1st next, with a contingent contribution of \$2,000,000 more conditional upon the University securing another \$2,000,000 elsewhere. These donations will bring the aggregate of Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to the Chicago institution up to between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 made within a little more than five years.

The trial and conviction within the past week of three noted criminals, and the publication of the proceedings which has for some time been going on, have been very prominent and very sad and terrible features of recent news. The annals of crime have rarely furnished anything more ghastly than those which have occupied public attention in the cases of Shortis, Holmes and Durrant. It is evident that civilization and enlightenment of themselves cannot purify or heal the deadly evils from which society suffers, or convert and transform the human soul and a man's life. How humiliating is the verdict which all these cases and others like them pronounce upon the power of education alone to reform men and society! Vital religion or the fear of God alone can do this, and the lesson taught is that whatever else is neglected in the education of the young, this should be implanted deep and watched and nurtured with incessant care.

The Marlborough-Vanderbilt marriage has been a spicy morsel for all who appreciate, and who does not, the charming bits of gossip connected with a wedding. The decorations, the music, the presents, the show and parade have all been such as boundless wealth alone could furnish, when such wealth does its best. It looks a trifle extravagant, but we have, we confess, so utterly hazy an idea of what millions of dollars are like, how far they can go, that we are not competent to say whether the display in this case has savoured any more of extravagance than is often found in much humbler life, when there are a fine outfit to-day and much display in the newspapers and elsewhere, and if not the next day, yet very soon, a visit from the bailiff with a distress warrant, an auction sale of everything at a sacrifice, and honest people plundered of their dues by debts being unpaid with which the display was made. Everybody in this case is likely to be paid in full for the quota which they may have contributed to the show, and it may be hoped that the marriage will turn out more happily than the antecedents on both sides might perhaps lead one to fear.

The immense extent of the Dominion is very strikingly illustrated by the fact mentioned in an interview with Professor Bell of the Geological survey staff, reported in the *Globe*, of the discovery by him in the James Bay region of a river hitherto unknown, larger, it appeared to him, than the Ottawa. The country in which it flows, taken as a whole, he described as a plateau about 1,000 feet above the sea along the height of land, and diminishing to some 400 feet at 100 miles or so from its mouth, and then descending more rapidly to the shore of James Bay. Every fresh fact which comes to light respecting the capabilities of our Dominion may well create a patriotic pride in the richness of our great inheritance, and a deep sense of responsibility as to making the right use of it. Of this new region Prof. Bell says:

Its climate is good enough to render it all fit for agriculture. It may be fashionable, by those who have not looked into the matter, to disparage our north country, but I have no doubt that the region I refer to is certain to be inhabited in the course of time. It is capable of producing grain, hay and root crops in abundance, and some day, I am confident, it will support a large population. And why should it not? It lies to the south of England in latitude, and, as our weather comes from the west, it is protected from the cooling influence of the western Atlantic.

"Turkey warned" is again the announcement reported in the daily papers from the old world. This language has become so common that naturally people have become sceptical as to what it really means or whether it means anything definite and practical at all. The unmentionable atrocities practised by Kurds, even by Turkish soldiers and officers themselves, against the Armenian Christians, and the terrorizing of others, appear scarcely to have paused in the least. Now there is apparently a pretty general consensus among the great powers, that intervention cannot be delayed much longer, unless Turkey puts an end herself to the horrors which have been and are being enacted. "Seeing," in this case, "is believing." Most of the people, we fancy, would agree with the *Daily News*, which says that "Joint intervention by the powers which signed the treaty of Berlin would be the end of Turkish independence. It would be a good thing, too. Turkey is now within measurable distance of disruption and partition."

The Hyams case, with its gruesome and intricate details of suspected crime, is again, under the skillful hand of Mr. Osler, slowly unwinding itself to the public eye and ear; and every point at which there is the least sign of weakness is being also skillfully contested in behalf of the prisoners. Whether innocent or guilty, we are glad it does not lie with us to say; but for the protection of society it is well that, wherever there is any fair presumption of guilt, the bare lapse of time will not prevent that presumption being thoroughly investigated, and every clue being carefully followed up before the courts, until innocence or guilt, so far as the law can do it, is established. The peaceable and upright citizen will fear nothing from this arrangement, and it is a deterrent to the bad and criminal, disposed to know that it is a most difficult and dangerous thing to attempt to commit a crime in the face of the certainty that, if they leave any reason for it which human ingenuity can discover, it will inevitably be followed up, and minutely searched out to the bitter end.

At the meeting of the Ministerial Association of this city on Monday, 4th inst., the irrepressible subject of Religious Teaching in the public schools was discussed by Rev. Dr. Dewart. As he usually does when he deals with any subject the Rev. Doctor said some good things very pointedly and clearly. "I believe," he said, "that moral and religious training is as essential to qualify for useful citizenship as the acquisition of knowledge and the development of the intellectual faculties. If the education which children received at school was not adapted to make them good citizens, it failed in its main purposes." The demand, he said, for so-called religious teaching was almost always for sectarian, rather than religious teaching, and there was no satisfactory evidence that the children educated in church schools present a higher type of moral character than those educated in National Schools. Two strong objections which he emphasized against dividing the schools on church lines were, weakening the resources and therefore the efficiency of the public schools, and that this would tend directly to create and keep up, a state of separation among the people inimical to patriotic unity in political and municipal affairs. In conclusion he said: "I am free to confess if such united religious teaching as seems to me desirable and proper should prove impracticable, I would rather give up all formal religious teaching in public schools than accept a system of denominational schools, because I believe these would be a greater evil than the absence of direct religious teaching in the schools. I would, however, remind Christian people who volunteer to secularize our public schools that they probably do not see how far this may carry them."