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Club Offers For Next Year.

Young and old should read our liberal club offers as announced on page 828. We expect five thousand new names by the 30th day of December. If friends all along the line only make a little effort we shall not be disappointed. Let the subscriptions pour in day by day until this number is reached; and thus help us to a glad celebration of this semi-jubilee season.

Our Bagster Bible forms a superb premium. It is given to anyone who sends us the names of eight subscribers (half new) and ten dollars. Balance of year free to new subscribers.

Notes of the Week.

Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, of Glasgow, and not Dr. Robert Rainey, of Edinburgh, is said to be the leading spirit in the new movement for union between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in Scotland.

La Minerve, a French journal in Montreal, has taken the ground that the Parliament of Canada will continue to be seized of the Manitoba School question until Catholic Separate Schools are fully restored.

Hon. A. R. McClellan, the new Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, is a Methodist and a member of the Board of Governors of Mount Allison University. Mr. G. G. King, who succeeds him in the Senate, is a Presbyterian.

The General Assembly of 1887, of the Kirk of Scotland, resolved that fifty more churches ought to be endowed if possible within the following ten years. Up to last General Assembly, forty-one of these fifty churches had been endowed.

"Shade of Sir Walter Scott!" exclaims the *London Chronicle*. "Cluny Macpherson of Cluny, as chief of the Clan Chattan, presided at the inaugural gathering of the clan in Glasgow this week, but apologized for not appearing in the kilt, as he was afraid of catching cold!"

It is stated that Dr. Temple, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, hears private confessions! This has caused a sensation among the Evangelicals of the Anglican Church, and Nonconformists say that "the distance from Lambeth Palace to the Vatican does not seem to be very great."

The world's wheat crop is short this year in Russia, India, Australia and Argentina at once. The net decrease is only about 150,000,000 bushels, but it is all outside of this continent, and most of it is in the exporting lands. Russia is short 80,000,000 bushels, the Balkan lands 50,000,000 and India has a half crop, Argentina a third and Australia none.

At last there seems to be a definite prospect of forcing the Turkish Government to proceed with real political reforms. Late despatches indicate that the combined fleets of France, Russia and Great Britain will assemble near Constantinople, and that the Russian Ambassador will present an ultimatum to the Sultan. Italy has agreed to endorse the plan of operations, and Germany and Austria-Hungary are expected to do so. The reformation of Turkey means the ultimate elimination of the Turk, but pending that the country will be virtually governed by the Great Powers.

Hall Caine, the distinguished author of "The Deemster," "The Manxman," etc., spent the early part of his boyhood in the picturesque little Manx Island, which his genius has illuminated. His early struggles and adventures, his associations and vicissitudes, will form the subject of a charming autobiographical paper to be published in the next volume of the *Youth's Companion*.

The Protestant School Board of Montréal cannot be said to have dealt harshly with a teacher who, to punish a pupil for having tobacco in his possession soaked it in water and made the boy drink enough of it to sicken him. The man who is capable of so foolish an act is utterly unfit for the management of pupils, but the Board contented itself with instructing the chairman to administer a public rebuke, which was done accordingly.

The rejoicings in Spain and the Spanish part of Cuba over the death of Antonio Maceo are an involuntary tribute to the greatness of the man. A mulatto by birth but a gentleman by fortune and education, he displayed during the last few months of his life a military capacity which greatly worried the whole Spanish nation, while it simply paralyzed the Spanish army. It seems quite probable that his work of guerilla warfare will be carried on by others, and that Spain's rejoicings are at least quite premature.

Mr. Justin McCarthy is about to write for publication in the *Outlook* a series of papers entitled, "The Story of Gladstone's Life," and, at the request of the editor, he contributes to a recent number of that journal "An Autobiography in Little" of himself. It is humorously written, as one might expect, and is in itself a good example of a difficult and delicate task charmingly performed. Mr. McCarthy tells modestly and without a whine of the great sacrifices he was forced to make by going into Parliament to the detriment of his literary work and the destruction of his popularity; but the experience he gained there is what fits him to write a sketch of Mr. Gladstone, with whom he became very intimate and of whom he is an enthusiastic admirer. "It is one of the triumphs of a life to have known such a man," he says, "and to have been permitted to understand his high, unselfish, noble, hopeful nature." Mr. McCarthy's "story" of him will be read with great interest throughout both the United States and Canada, for Mr. Gladstone's name is a household word in both lands.

An eminent French publicist has written a magazine article to prove that France's avowed admiration for Russia has served two purposes neither of which is in the interest of France: it has enabled Russia to go on quietly annexing a large part of Asia, and it has alienated Great Britain which ought to be France's closest ally. He advises that instead of irritating Britain by vain demands that she shall evacuate Egypt, the policy of cultivating her friendship should be adopted. There is good sense in this view of the situation, and it should commend itself all the more readily to France because it would disappoint Germany. It is useless now to think of the evacuation of Egypt, seeing that Britain has been compelled to bear the expense of the late Dongola expedition, which was undertaken to avert an invasion of the dervishes of the Upper Nile. It is better for civilization that Egypt should remain as she is until the way is opened up for her formal incorporation with the British Empire. Moreover the interest of France is almost as great as that of Britain in the prosperity of the Nile Valley.

While some Anglican ecclesiastics are exercising themselves more or less over the Papal refusal to recognize the orders of the Church of England, Prof. Story, of Glasgow University, stated quite correctly the position of the Scottish Presbyterians generally when he told his class in Church History that "not a single Churchman in Scotland, clerical or lay, cared a straw whether the Bishop of Rome considered ordination by a Scottish Presbytery valid or invalid."

It has been reported by cable that the friends of the Transvaal raiders will try to show that both Mr. Chamberlain and Sir William Harcourt were accessories before the fact, and that they not merely knew what was intended but actually encouraged the scheme. That either of these statesmen ever said anything like this in writing is not alleged, and it is safe to say of such veterans in state-craft that they never committed themselves even orally to the extent asserted. That they sympathized with the desire of the Outlanders to secure some measure of local self-government in Johannesburg is quite likely, but that and approval of a stock-jobbing raid are separate a long interval.

The progress of events has made it clear there is a pronounced lack of harmony between State and Church in Italy even in matters with respect to which there is outward co-operation. Some time ago the Pope sent an emissary to Menelik, King of Abyssinia, to induce him to surrender his Italian prisoners. They were ultimately set free as the result of a treaty between the two Governments, the Papal intervention having apparently counted for nothing in the matter. This is made by some of the Italian journals a subject of congratulation. So intense is their dislike to Vatican influence that they do not care to accept at the hands of the Pope even a favour if they can get along without it.

An important legal and constitutional question has been raised in connection with the settlement of the Manitoba school difficulty. The various steps in the case are these: (1) The enactment of the separate school law in 1871; (2) the repeal of that law by the Public School Act of 1890; (3) the judgment of the Privy Council declaring the Act of 1890 to be valid; (4) the opinion of the same courts that the Catholics had, as the result of the repeal of the separate school law in 1890, such a grievance as made it proper for the Privy Council of Canada to consider it with a view to asking the Dominion Parliament to grant redress; (5) the issue of a remedial order by the Dominion Privy Council; (6) the failure of Parliament to give effect to it by legislation; and (7) the agreement between the Governments of Canada and Manitoba, in virtue of which the Manitoba Legislature is expected to modify the Act of 1890, so as to do justice to the Roman Catholics without restoring separate schools. The legal point now raised is, whether the remedial order above cited is or is not still capable of being enforced by legislation in the Parliament of Canada. If it is so, then any private member may introduce a bill to give effect to it; if it is not, then the Dominion Parliament can be moved to consideration and legislation only by proceedings begun *de novo* on an application to the courts for redress under the Manitoba school law as about to be amended. Though the Executive Council of Manitoba has not complied with the remedial order in terms, it has offered an alternative, and, as a matter of law, it is quite likely that the Imperial Privy Council would decline to go further than consider whether this is a fair remedy for the grievance felt by the minority. It is, at all events, premature to reopen the agitation now.