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## Notes of the Week.

Professor Sayce, of Oxford, says: "Monumental research has not only proved the truth of the events recorded in Scripture; it also proves that the accounts of these events must have been written by contemporaries. On no other hypothesis is the minute accuracy which distinguishes it to be explained."

Travel on the new Palestine railway will be rather expensive. The round trip from Jaffa to Jerusalem is four dollars. The distance by the carriage road is not over thirty-five miles; the distance by rail being somewhat longer. Camels and donkeys will not be in such demand as formerly, especially in the carrying of freight.

The famine in North Finland is increasing and there is a movement in Sweden to renew the subscriptions of last year for the aid of the starving Finlanders. Although the famine is raging in Russian territory, yet the Finns, on account of their old attachment to Sweden, look to the Swedes rather than the Russians for aid.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Standard says: "A British Consul, who has visited the famine districts of Kieff, Bessarabia, Khartoff, Koursk Razan, Orel, Tuia and Vorenesh, reports that the peasants are dying like flies of hunger and disease. There are no signs of relief from the horrors of a hard winter."

The Parliament House in Dublin is now occupied by the Bank of Ireland. In the event of Home Rule, the governors are said to be willing to allow the first session of the Irish parliament to be held in what was the House of Peers. But it is more likely that provision will be made in any Home Rule Bill for the compulsory acquisition of a building with such historic associations as this has.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company sold 38,551 acres of land to settlers in November, as compared with 9,451 last year, the former for 124,029 dols. and the latter for 42,047 dols. For the eleven months to date the acres sold are 378,537, as compared with 84,252, and the money result 1,320,334 dols., as compared with 348,771 dols. The Company has also sold town sites to the amount of 403,603 dols., which brings the total of the year up to 1,723,937 dols.

The strict impartiality of British justice was well illustrated at Northampton recently, where a trial for murder was in progress. The jury having been permitted to partake of a lunch in their room, one of their number profited by the opportunity to step out of doors and post a letter. The judge, to whom this act was reported, promptly gave the offending juror a sharp lecture and fined him \$250. He dismissed the jury and a new one was impaneled.

A missionary who has witnessed the change that has taken place in Madagascar through the influence of the Norwegian Mission, writes: "It is the Bible which has transformed Madagascar. There are now 1860 Christian congregations on the island, and these are the work of the Bible. Other books are considered useful, in so far as they throw light upon the Scriptures. The Roman Catholics began missionary work here in 1616, but not a trace is left of their labours, because they did not give the people the Word of God."

The Telegraph, St. John, N.B., commenting on the indifference of women to exercising the franchise, says: The reluctance of women to become voters must have

some good foundation in the instincts of the sex and to many thoughtful minds gives the impression that the world would not be greatly advantaged by shifting one half the cares and duties of political life upon that "better half" of the race which has hitherto been content with its sphere of usefulness in the home, the social circle and the religious, moral and literary movements of the world.

The late Dr. Duff devoted part of his estate for the establishment and endowment of a quadrennial course of lectures on some department of foreign missions. The last course of lectures was delivered four years ago by Sir Monier M. Williams, whose subject was Buddhism. In 1890 the trustees selected Rev. Arthur T. Pierson, D. D., of Philadelphia, at present in charge of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, as lecturer for the present quadrennium, and he is to deliver, in February, a course of lectures in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee. His subject is "The New Acts of the Apostles, or a Century of Modern Missions."

Mr. Gladstone likes plain and faithful preaching. On a recent occasion he said: "One thing I have against the clergy both of the country and in the towns. I think they are not severe enough on their congregations. They do not sufficiently lay upon the souls and consciences of their hearers their moral obligations, and probe their hearts and bring up their whole lives and action to the bar of conscience. The class of sermons which I think are most needed, are of the class which offended Lord Melbourne long ago. Lord Melbourne was one day seen coming from church in the country in a mighty fume. Finding a friend, he exclaimed, 'It is too bad. I have always been a supporter of the Church, and I have always upheld the clergy. But it is really too bad to have to listen to a sermon like that we have had this morning. Why, the preacher actually insisted upon applying religion to a man's private life!' But that is the kind of preaching which I like best, the kind of preaching which men need most; but it is, also, the kind of which they get the least."

New York Sun: The Jews are much more numerous and wealthy to-day than ever before in the history of the world. In the days of the greatest prosperity and power of the Jewish kingdom, under David and Solomon, they probably did not number, all told, more than five millions. Now they number considerably more than twice as many. In Asia, their original home, there are not more than half a million, settled in Syria, Persia, Arabia, India and China. Perhaps half a million more are to be found in Africa, chiefly in Morocco, the descendants of those Jews who, in the year of Columbus's discovery of America, were expelled from Spain. A considerable contingent is to be found in America. But the chief modern home of the Jew is Eastern and Central Europe, where they settled in the days of the crusades. At one time the kingdom of Poland contained nine-tenths of all the Jews in the world. Two years ago there were in the Russian empire, chiefly in its Polish provinces, fully five million Jews. In the Polish provinces of Austria there are two millions, and in Germany 750,000, and in the United States one million.

N. C. Presbyterian: There is nothing to be allowed or done in proper Sabbath observance that will depreciate the origin and purpose of the day, dishonor God who gave it and is to be worshipped, or fall of a blessing to the whole man and to all men in all generations because, "The Sabbath was made for man."

J. H. Taylor, founder of the Chinese Inland Mission, says that if success be really desired there must be Christly giving and Christly service, not that which is done for Christ's sake merely, but that which is done after Christ's pattern.

It is two years since a band of missionaries assembled at Shanghai, China, issued a call for '1000 men for China, to be sent within five years. It was a large draft but is likely to be honored. It is said that draft but it is likely to be honored. It is said that 350 of the recruits called for are already in the field. This is the work in which the famous young Oxford students have taken so strong a part.

At the last annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society one of the speakers referring to the 4,000,000 copies, in whole or in part, of the Word of God issued by the Society in one year, said "Suppose these could be printed in Chinese and distributed on Chinese soil. Before the task could be accomplished of placing one copy in the hands of each of China's 380 millions, 95 years would have rolled by and three generations of mortal men would have passed away.

An old Scotch woman used to give a penny a day for missions and for the sake of doing so, went without some things that she might otherwise have had. One day a friend handed her a sixpence so that she might buy herself some meat, as an unusual luxury. "Well now, thought the old woman, 'I've long done very well on porridge, and the Lord shall have the sixpence too. In some way the story came to the ear of a missionary secretary who told it at a missionary breakfast. The host was much impressed by the simple tale, and, saying that he had never denied himself a chop for God's word, subscribed \$2,500 on the spot. Several of the guests followed his example, and \$11,000 was raised before the party separated.

Christian Guardian: The opening of the Exhibition on Sunday will deprive thousands of the needed day of rest. It means that the Exhibition will be used to compete with the churches for the attendance of the people on Sundays. It means that the sanctions of national authority shall be thrown around the open violation of the Sabbath. This cannot be done without tending to break down the sacredness of the Lord's Day all over the country.

\* \* The secularizing of the Sunday for months at the Exhibition will have almost as demoralizing an influence in Ontario as in the State of New York. The general observance of Sunday is a wall of protection around religious work and worship. To break down this wall is to open the gates for an influx of demoralizing laxity, that would work great mischief to religion and morality.

Under the scheme for the improvement of the slums in Edinburgh 830 houses will be removed and 2650 people displaced.

From Dublin there is a rumour that Lord Houghton will grace his first year of office as Viceroy by bringing a bride to the Castle. The lady named is the youngest daughter of the Earl of Faversham, and sister of the beautiful Duchess of Leinster.

The Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees considers one sermon a day quite enough. He thinks the members of his congregation, instead of returning to the evening service, would be better employed looking after their children at home, or doing some Christian work.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

A poor colored man in the West Indies brought to one of the missionaries the sum of \$13 to help in spreading the gospel, and when asked if that were not too much for him to give replied, "God's work must be done, massa, and I may be dead."

Independent: The vote (in the Briggs case) is a vote for a toleration wide enough to cover the views of an erratic mind that prefers the Martineau type of Christian to the Spurgeon type; that honours the Unitarian, who rejects the supernatural in the Scriptures and depends upon his own reason for divine authority; that lauds Cardinal Newman, who prefers the Church to the Bible.

Christian at Work: Wisely have a large number of the clergy of New York agreed to hold no Sunday funerals hereafter except in cases of absolute necessity. The ground for this action is the all-sufficient one of hard labour and full occupation on that day which should not be added to. A point in favour of week-day funerals is fewer carriages and less junketing display. We hope the rule will be enforced.

United Presbyterian: Those who reject the Bible and affirm that Christianity is dying, never seem to grow weary of the statement that this is an age of progress. Progress towards what? A better state of things? Are we to infer that this "progress" will in the course of time bring us to an ideal condition of society, when class differences will be settled, evils exterminated, vice vanquished, oppression overthrown, social problems solved, and when everybody will be prosperous and happy and free? The Bible will do all this for us at once, if men will receive it as the word of God and practice its precepts. They only are making true progress who are following where the Bible leads.

The Templar: "Keep politics out of the pulpit and out of your Religion, too," say some very good and very well-meaning people. To all intents and purposes that simply means "Keep politics in the gutters and moral cesspools." Such people are nearly always talking about "the dirty pool of politics," and all that. It is a shame and a disgrace to the Christian church and to the patriotic citizens if the country's politics become a dirty pool, or disgraceful at all. The indifference, or indolence, or inactivity, or downright cowardice of good-meaning and pious people has too much to do with the fact that the public affairs of the country are too largely in the hands of schalewags and schemers. It is our duty to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, as well as unto God the things that are God's.

Herald and Presbyterian: Presbyterians may have some differences of opinion. That is all right. They are the people who stand for the right to have opinions. They have been having them right along, and they have made kings and priests and infidels, in fact, the whole army of the oppressors of our race as uncomfortable as the champions of truth and freedom could make them. And they propose to keep on thinking and making trouble for those who do not like it. But their differences as to thinking are inside the bounds of evangelical truth, and their differences as to liberty stop within the bounds of Christian life.