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Notes of the Week.

THE *New York Independent* says: Archbishop Cleary, of Kingston, Canada, lately issued a circular forbidding the people of his diocese to pay public school taxes, under pain of forfeiting absolution and Christian burial. It is a case of "higher law" with him. Well, those who assert the "higher law" against the law of the nation must not only take the risks of making a mistake in their law, but must also be ready to suffer the penalty of the human law.

AMONG the names mentioned as likely to be nominated for the Moderatorship of the United Presbyterian Synod in Edinburgh are the Revs. Dr. Kinnear, Dalbeattie; Dr. Henderson, Paisley, and Rev. James Fleming, Whithorn. The name of the Rev. Dr. Black, of Wellington Church, Glasgow, has also been mentioned, but the fact that the last year's Moderator hailed from the same city may militate against his chances, and probably prevent his name being brought forward at present.

THE degree of D.D. has been conferred by the Theological Faculty of the Presbyterian College, Belfast, on the Rev. R. J. Lynd, well known as one of the most eloquent preachers in Ireland, and the Rev. H. M. Williamson, of Fisher-walk Church, Belfast. Mr. Williamson was a minister of influential Free Churches in Aberdeenshire, and was prominently identified with the evangelistic movement. He is a preacher of marked ability, and of decidedly original turn of mind. In Belfast he has occupied the pulpit once filled by the Rev. Dr. Morgan.

A CLERICAL election, says an English contemporary, is going on at Launceston. The incumbency of the parish of St. Stephen's in that town is in the patronage of the rate-payers, who have advertised for a clergyman. There were eighty-nine candidates, who at a vestry meeting were reduced to six. Each of the selected men is to conduct divine service in the church, and to preach a trial sermon. Then will follow a poll, in which every ratepayer under \$250 will have one vote, another being conferred by every additional \$125 of rateable value, up to a maximum of six.

THE Rev. Ugo Janni, minister of the Italian Catholic Reformed Church at San Remo, founded last year in connection with the movement led by Count Campello, has started a monthly journal, *Il Labero*; and in acknowledging the first number Mr. Gladstone expresses his cordial good wishes. I have no polemical feeling in the matter, he writes, but when members of the Latin Church feel with Dollinger that no secure foundations can be laid upon historical falsehoods and that truth, faith and freedom will eventually stand or fall together, I cannot as a Christian withhold from these movements all sympathy.

A CONVENTION of Christian workers was held in Toronto last week. Besides several well known labourers in the home evangelistic field, Bertha Wright, of Ottawa, whose persevering efforts in connection with the Hull meetings has brought her name prominently before the public, and Col. Hadley, of New York, took an active part in the proceedings. Drs. McTavish and Parsons also participated. Questions of practical interest were earnestly discussed. Col. Hadley spoke on the urgent need there is to stem the tide of intemperance, and on "City Mission Work and the Qualifications Necessary Therefor," relating his own experience in this line of work.

THE evangelical missionaries in India sent out by the English Church Missionary Society are, it is said, becoming increasingly restive under the advancing tide of semi-Romanism in their communion. One of their number in the Punjab, a graduate of Oxford and a missionary greatly beloved by his people, found himself compelled lately by the ritualistic practices in his diocese to join the American Presbyterian mission; and Rev. St. Clair Tisdall, of the Mohammedan mission at Bombay, writes in a strain which indicates a widespread tendency in the same

direction. The Anglican bishops in India, with amazing fatuity, are inculcating the sacerdotal idea of the church on every possible occasion.

HER Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, has accepted the office of President of the Indian Female Normal School and Instruction Society, and intimated her intention of being present at the annual meeting to be held at the Princes Hall, Piccadilly, on the 22nd inst. Her Royal Highness had already shown her interest by according an interview to Mrs. Sorabji during her stay in England in 1886-87, when she expressed much sympathy, and the committee feel greatly honoured and gratified by this fresh token of her Royal Highness' kind feeling and desire to advance the interests of the mission. The society has now three medical students training at the School of Medicine for Women. An old and constant friend made a gift of 10,000 rupees, to be invested for the benefit of the society.

A NATIONAL Conference for the promotion of Christian principles in civil government has just been held in Washington. The annual reports stated that three district secretaries give their whole time, and three others part of their time to the work of the association, which is directed to the maintenance of the "influence of the Christian religion upon our national life." The Conference does not ask for a union of the Church and State; but it insists that the State has a relation to God and is under obligations to the moral law. The resolutions of the Conference declared that the State is a divine institution and should take as a standard of its morals the Word of God, which standard ought to be recognized in the national Constitution as it already is recognized in the laws and usages of the Government.

THE Clerical party in the Prussian Diet has presented through its leader, Dr. Windthorst, its demands, which are the creation of a Catholic section in the Ecclesiastical Affairs Department; a settlement of the question relative to the appointment of priests; the abrogation of the *Sperrgesetz*, by which priests in certain cases are deprived of their stipends; a supervision of the schools by priests; the free admission of Catholic religious orders into Prussia, and the prohibition of the use of Catholic churches by old Catholics. The Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs said the Government could not comply with these demands. Particular denominations could not claim to be represented in the Department of Public Worship. A bill dealing with the *Sperrgesetz* would be introduced in the Diet. He declined to interfere with the Old Catholics.

THE *Christian Leader* says: It seems a paradox that, in spite of the enormous growth of the temperance sentiment since 1851, there should now be the utmost readiness to give full scope to the drink traffic in connection with great exhibitions, whereas intoxicating liquors were expressly excluded from the pioneer exhibition. It was held by the commissioners, under the wise guidance of the Prince Consort, that it would be inconsistent with the nature of the exposition to allow the building to assume the character of a tavern; and only temperance beverages were allowed to be sold within its walls. It does not say much for the intelligence of the temperance leaders in Glasgow that they made no use of this precedent when the exhibition in that city was being constituted a huge drinking palace, wherein, alas! many an ingenuous youth was to be beguiled to his ruin. A great deal of the temperance sentiment prevalent in these days is from the teeth outward.

AMONG those upon whom the University of Glasgow has conferred the honorary degree of D.D. our readers will be glad to observe the name of the Rev. James Stalker, M.A., Free St. Matthew's, Glasgow, author of "Imago Christi." The list also contains the names of the Rev. Archibald Henderson, M.A., Free Church, Cardiff, one of the clerks of the General Assembly of the Free Church, and well known as a scholar and an acute thinker; and the Rev. George Robson, M.A., of the United Presbyterian Church, Inverness. Mr. Robson is one

of the most scholarly ministers in his church, and has done able work in translating from the German. He is also a man of high public spirit, and has admirably represented his church in the Highlands. He is at present in Jamaica, visiting the missions of his church. The Rev. Bryce Ross, missionary, of Caffraria, has also received the degree. The *British Weekly* thinks it would have been well if the Scotch universities had recognized the claims to the honour, now long overdue, of not a few Non-conformist ministers in England.

THE congregation of Renfield Free Church, Glasgow, says the *British Weekly*, have done a bold thing in calling a young preacher, Mr. Halliday Douglas, to succeed so eminent a man as Dr. Marcus Dods. But if Mr. Douglas sees his way to accept there are many reasons for hoping that the step will turn out to be a wise one. Dr. Dods was himself a probationer when he was ordained to the ministry of Renfield Church, and had greater difficulties to face at the outset than any that are likely to encounter his successor. We are not sure of the advantages said to be gained by young men of ability who begin their ministry in remote country parishes. Some of the most brilliant and promising students have gone to these places and, yielding to their soporific influence, have never done anything to justify the hopes cherished of their future. A small sphere is apt to belittle those who have not learned enough to see that every sphere is great; while, upon the other hand, when every faculty of body and mind is summoned to do full work the call is often nobly and completely answered.

THE annual meeting of the Anglo-Indian Evangelization Society was held in Edinburgh recently, Principal Sir William Muir, K.C.S.I., presiding. From the general report for 1889 it appeared that twenty years had passed over the society since it began operations in India. Forty ministers and evangelists had been employed in evangelistic work for periods varying from a few months to more than eight years. All had been more or less useful, and some remarkably so. The society was not going backwards, but a far more rapid progress was needed to meet the appeals that came for help. In connection with the Winter Mission, the report mentioned that Rev. Dr. Pentecost has resolved to go to India next winter. He is not, the secretary mentioned, going in connection with the society or any society, but he had the hearty recognition of the directors of the society. From the treasurer's report it appeared that there was a credit balance for the year, at home and in India, of about \$1,509. Rev. Archibald Brown, Church of Scotland Mission, Darjeeling, in the course of some remarks stated that the success of missions in India was in inverse ratio to the number of European settlers or traders in the neighbourhood. Some of the tea planters in Darjeeling district were, he stated, irreligious and immoral, and grossly despised the natives.

AT Exeter Hall, London, recently, the annual meeting was held of the English supporters of the McAll Mission in France—an organization devoted to evangelical work among Roman Catholics and sceptics. Mr. George Williams presided, and there was a large attendance. The report of the past year's work submitted by Mr. W. Chater was one of the most gratifying since the operations of the mission commenced eighteen years ago. There were at the end of 1889 129 stations in France, forty being in Paris alone. There had been 21,600 meetings, at which the aggregate attendance had been 1,181,642. The total income had been \$97,495, which, however, left a deficit of \$3,000. There had recently been a meeting of city gentlemen interested in the matter, and they had made arrangements for bringing the mission more in touch with London. England, Wales and Ireland had during the year sent \$26,440 to the funds; Scotland, \$19,335; Canada, \$1,335; United States, \$37,105; France, \$10,965. The speakers included the Rev. Dr. McAll, founder of the mission, the Rev. Dr. Pierson, Philadelphia; the Rev. Theo. Monod, Paris; Rev. L. B. White, rector of St. Mary, Aldermar, and Secretary of the Religious Tract Society, and the Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, Foreign Secretary of the London Missionary Society.