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Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. D. O. Mears, D.D., desiring to know how fully the Catholic Churches of Rome were attended, started out one morning, and between the hours of half past nine and half-past twelve visited seven of the principal churches in the Eternal City. He found the average attendance to be 167, the largest being 257 (including visitors), and the smallest seventy-three.

MR. JOHN SINCLAIR, M.P., formerly a Free Church minister, in a speech recently delivered at Ayr, said no scheme of Local Government could have a better model than the constitution of the Presbyterian Church, which had for its base Kirk Session and passed up in regular gradation to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Government measure lately passed failed by leaving out both the Session and Assembly.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Leone Levi was one of Italy's best gifts to Britain. He gave two-thirds of his time to the work of a Christian, philanthropic, or an economic nature. He left behind him an autobiography which has been printed for private circulation; but it is of a somewhat meagre character. The excessive modesty of the man prevented him from giving a history which would have been most valuable to his successors.

A HUNGARIAN very recently applied to be naturalized at the Court of Common Pleas, in Philadelphia. The court officer asked him if he swore or affirmed, and he replied that he did neither. He was asked if he believed in a God, he answered that he did not believe in a deity of any kind. The judge then promptly told him that he could not be naturalized, as he could not take an oath of allegiance, and added: We do not want any more infidels in this country. There are enough in it as it is.

LAST week the Toronto Presbyterian Council held a meeting at which the question of the diaconate was pretty fully discussed. Most of those who took part in the proceedings seemed to favour the idea that the management of the temporal affairs of congregations by deacons instead of managers was preferable because use in their estimation it was more Scriptural. Principal Caven, whose Biblical scholarship and whose personal modesty cannot be lightly questioned, was not quite so dogmatic as some of the other speakers.

THE Rev. James Johnston, secretary of the London Missionary Conference, has published a summary of Roman Catholic missions, drawn from a Catholic authority, the *Missiones Catholicae* for 1886. The summary gives a total of 2,742,961 adherents in the various quarters of the globe, nearly half the number being reported for India; 7,561 churches and chapels, 2,822 European missionaries, 752 native missionaries, and 4,504 elementary schools, with 110,742 scholars. For Africa and its islands only 210,000 adherents are reported, with 200 churches and chapels and 417 European missionaries.

THE Toronto Presbyterian Young People's Association, formed a year ago, held their first meeting for the season in the lecture room of Erskine Church. Mr. R. S. Gourlay, presided. Most of the congregational associations in the city were represented. It was agreed to commence the publication of a monthly paper in the interest of the young people. Rev. Dr. McTavish, of Central Church, read an excellent practical paper, in which he urged the training and utilizing of young people for Christian work. The Association is one well fitted to do good work and is worthy the confidence and encouragement of the Churches in the city.

THE *Philadelphia Presbyterian* says: The Romish Church is the Bourbon which never learns anything.

Experience is an interdicted doctrine. The meddling with the public schools in Boston was not an incident but a purpose to be pursued, and so it appears in the most unhealthy place in this country for this kind of aggressiveness, in Pittsburg, and in its most offensive form, where the Irish element, both Romish and Protestant, is most determined, and where memories of oppressions across the sea are fresh and irritating. The best thing the Romish priesthood can do in this free country is to let the public schools alone, and keep themselves out of them, and not to forget that enraged Protestantism in this country is a dangerous enemy.

THE Archbishop of Cologne has issued a pastoral letter to the faithful defining their duty in the coming elections for members of the Landtag. The letter says they must vote for candidates who are ready to defend the rights of the Church. The clergy are ordered to take an active part in the contests, using their utmost influence to elect men who are resolved to give to God whatever is God's due. The wrath of the Clericals falls upon Cardinal Galimberti, the Papal Nuncio at Vienna, who is accused of having been duped by Prince Bismarck in the negotiations and arrangements for the Emperor William's reception in Rome. The Bishop of Munster and the Bishop of Treves have issued pastorals similar to that of the Archbishop of Cologne.

BEFORE a large audience in the Academy of Music, New York, lately, Mrs. Margaret Fox Kane, one of the sisters who introduced "spirit rappings" many years ago, declared that spiritualism was a fraud, and showed to a committee of physicians how it was that she produced rappings, either loud or faint, by movements of the joint of the big toe. Her sister, Mrs. Catherine Fox Jenkins, occupied a stage box, and it was announced that she joined in Mrs. Kane's confession. Dr. Cassius M. Richmond, who has for many years investigated the seances of alleged mediums, performed the slate-writing feat and many other puzzling tricks in a very clever way; and, after thoroughly mystifying the audience, explained the simple methods by which the illusions were produced.

A BRITISH contemporary says: Hardly a week passes without giving evidence in one form or another of the spread of Roman Catholicism in Scotland. Apart from the significant fact that where Episcopacy is most favoured it is in the ritualistic form, it is impossible to overlook the active propaganda being carried on in all parts of the country by Romanists. By means of the munificent gifts of the Marquis of Bute and others, new churches are rising in all parts of the land, and those already in existence gather large congregations. Among the crowds of visitors who gaze eagerly every day at the Jacobite relics in the Glasgow Exhibition are numerous Roman Catholic priests, and these appear to derive considerable satisfaction from the deep interest manifested in the mementos of the last movement Scotland made in their favour.

THE *Christian World* says: In Greenock there lives a minister who has not received any salary for several years past, simply because he refuses to sign the form of receipt favoured by the Town Council. The members of that body maintain that they are only under an obligation to pay the minister of the Mid Parish Church \$600 yearly, together with any balance derived from the seat rents; but Rev. D. S. Peters contends that, apart from seat-rents, he should get from the Council an income commensurate with his position as minister of the leading Established Church in Greenock. It is because the form of receipt ignores Mr. Peters' claim that the salary is in the bank instead of in Mr. Peters' pocket. In an age when most men contrive to enjoy their principles and their income at the same time, it is refreshing to meet with a case in which the former are enjoyed in the absence of the latter.

THE *Chicago Interior* says: The formation of the Synod of Brazil and of the United Church of Christ

in Japan, was in part the application of a principle afterward laid down by the Presbyterian Alliance-Action went before advice. That advice, bearing the unanimous approval of the council, was that mission churches should be encouraged to become independent of home churches, first self-supporting and then self-governing. When a church has proved its capacity and willingness to keep itself in funds and to manage its own affairs, it is on the very threshold of a wider stage of usefulness. The next thing in order is for its hands to be held out in aid of some less prosperous body of believers. We see the same sequence of events in home mission enterprises. Put a frontier church on its feet, and very soon you will find it trying to steady the steps and strengthen the hopes of some other organization of the faithful. This law of spiritual growth holds true in the case of an individual soul, a local society or a national Synod.

HERE is a story for which a regular correspondent of the *British Weekly* says he can vouch as absolutely true: A leading Presbyterian from Melbourne recently visited this country. On his voyage to England he became familiar with some young officers who were crossing in the same steamer, and spoke frankly to them as a religious man. The officers took his admonitions in good part, seeing that they had to do with a person of sterling honesty. He informed them that one great object he had in view in visiting Europe was to see the Alhambra, and observed with surprise that on every fresh announcement of this cherished purpose his companions involuntarily betrayed great surprise. At last one of them frankly took him to task. "How is it," said he, "that you, as a religious man, a professing Christian, should have such a desire to visit the Alhambra?" Explanations ensued, and it was found that the Presbyterian had purposed a tour to Spain. Thus the misunderstanding arose.

ON certain occasions, it is proclaimed that the Pope does not interfere in politics, but he seems never to miss an opportunity of denouncing the Italian government and putting in a good word for the restoration of the temporal power. To the Neapolitan pilgrims who last week paid their respects to him, the Pope, it is reported, condemned the Italian Government and stated that the hatred of all foes of the Papal See was concentrated in Rome. The Pope said: "In this city they do not hesitate to confirm by new insults, even on solemn occasions, the usurpation and violence which are within the remembrance of the whole world, degrading Rome to the simple position of the capital of the Kingdom, while God predestined it to be the See of the Vicar of Christ and it shall ever remain the capital of the Catholic world." In concluding, the Pope expressed perfect faith in the triumph of his cause. It is probable that his hope is as baseless as his claim, where is the authority in Scripture, or out of it, for the assumption that "God predestined Rome to be the See of the Vicar of Christ?"

WHAT to do with inefficient ministers still forms a subject for discussion in Scottish Church courts. The following are some of the sentiments expressed: Mr. A. Strachan, of Montrose, thinks it would be well to have two classes of ministers, the most attractive and ablest preachers filling the pulpits, while another sphere of labour should be found for those whose gifts and qualifications are of another order. Mr. Strachan also purposes to relieve congregations of ministers who have ceased to attract and edify them. Falkirk U. P. Presbytery has agreed to support the overture giving increased powers to Presbyteries to deal with inefficient ministers. Arbroath Presbytery unanimously disapprove the overture, at the same time suggesting that the present rule be modified so as to secure prompt attention to the case of any congregation whose condition is unsatisfactory in order to remedy the same if necessary by loosing the minister from his charge. In no case, however, is a Presbytery to counterance measures tending to sacrifice a reputable minister to the unreasonable feeling of his Session, or of a party in the congregation.