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Notes of the Week.

THE call of Elmwood congregation, Belfast, to the Rev. S. McComb, of Armagh, came before the Armagh Presbytery recently. The call was signed by upwards of 300 members. The congregation promised an annual stipend of \$2,500, and also to qualify for the Sustentation Fund. Mr. McComb intimated his acceptance of the call, and was loosed from his charge.

THE REV. ROBERT SMALL, Edinburgh, is entrusted with the revision, with a view to another edition, of the "Annals and Statistics of the United Presbyterian Church," by the late Rev. Dr. MacKelvie, Balgedie, Kinross-shire. Being fond of ecclesiastical lore, this work is a labour of love to Mr. Small, who has constant access to the minute-books of Presbyteries and records and MSS. in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh.

REV. DR. ANDREW THOMSON was presented at a social meeting of Broughton Place congregation, Edinburgh, with an illuminated address congratulating him on his reaching his jubilee as minister of that Church. Mr. White Millar, S.S.C., made the presentation, and among the interesting facts mentioned in it was that only ten of the 1,000 members with which Dr. Thomson began his ministry remained on the roll. In his reply he stated that he still retained not a little of the strength and vigour of his earlier years.

THE International Arbitration and Peace Association have published an address to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland, urging them to demand the creation of a body similar to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United States Congress, and thereby take precautions against all compromising treaties and engagements, all disputes with foreign nations, which may, at some unexpected moment, involve them in conflicts. Above all they are besought to secure for this country the inestimable blessing and security derived from permanent treaties under which all possible disputes shall be referred to arbitration.

SEVERAL pleasing instances of the co-operation of Nonconformists and Episcopalians in the Christian cause have been witnessed, says the *Christian World*, in connection with the annual assembly at Guildford, "for the promotion of practical holiness." The gatherings were promoted by the Rector of Stoke (Rev. F. Paynter), and a number of well-known Nonconformist ministers, including Rev. F. B. Meyer, have taken part in the proceedings. Revs. W. E. Peters, of St. Saviour's Church, and W. Houghton, pastor of the Congregational Church, have been the most active of the local Christian leaders.

EARL FORTESCUE presided at the conference held by the Funeral Reform Association in connection with the fourteenth anniversary. Lady Frederick Cavendish, at a drawing-room meeting in her own house, maintained that respect should be shown to the departed by rendering the body harmless to the living, that accordingly earth to earth burials should be adopted, and that street processions should be avoided by conveying the body overnight to the burial place so that friends should meet only at the grave. At the annual meeting it was urged that waste land should be utilized for interment, the bodies lying side by side, and not heaped on each other.

By the death of Rev. John Reid Omond, D. D., which took place at Gilmerton, recently, one of the few remaining fathers of the Free Church has passed away. Born in Orkney in 1804, Mr. Omond studied under Dr. Chalmers, and was ordained to the parish of Monzie, in 1830. Mr. Omond was the father of Auchterarder Presbytery, having come out at the Disruption, when a wooden church was erected at Gilmerton, being the second Free Church built in Scotland. This building served the congregation up to 1868, when the present handsome edifice was erected. In September, 1886, Mr. Omond celebrated his jubilee, and the following year the degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by St. Andrew's University.

CYRUS W. FIELD, whose name will be remembered as the organizer of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, has passed away. He was born in Stockbridge, Mass., in 1819, where his father was a Congregational minister. In 1853 he constructed a telegraph line across Newfoundland from Cape Ray to Cape St. John's, and connected Capes Ray and Breton by a marine telegraph. In 1856, by his own personal efforts, he secured the assistance of the British and American Governments, and after two unsuccessful efforts the first Atlantic cable was completed in 1858. Though this ceased to operate in a few weeks, his indomitable courage carried it to a successful issue in 1866, and it has been in operation ever since. A man marked by great private virtues, his name will be best known as a benefactor of nations.

STRATHPEPPER daily services for the benefit of the summer visitors were resumed at the beginning of June under the charge of the Rev. Neil P. Rose from Edinburgh, who delivered short addresses from day to day, assisted by other brethren and also by several laymen, including Major Ross from Aberdeen, and Mr. Morrison, Glasgow. Mr. Rose also preached in the church on the Sundays to large congregations, and his services have been highly appreciated. He likewise preached in the Free Church of Dingwall on a recent Sabbath with great acceptance in the absence of the pastor. Among the many distinguished preachers of his Church, Mr. Rose holds a high place. His labours in the Strath will be long remembered. We understand he is to be succeeded during the month of July by the Rev. John Symon of St. Pauls Church, Perth.

A SAD blow has fallen upon the English Presbyterian Mission in Formosa, through the sudden removal of one of its most promising medical missionaries, Dr. Gavin Russell, intelligence of whose early death has just been received. Dr. Russell was sent out to Formosa only four years ago, at the expense of the late Rev. R. W. Barbour, M. A., Bonskeid. Mr. Barbour felt so deeply interested in Dr. Russell's work that he bequeathed the sum of \$50,000 to perpetuate it, the interest to go to Dr. Russell's support, and after him to any successor who might be appointed to the same field. Dr. Russell's work, which was carried on at Toa-sia, a distance of five days' travel from Tai-wan-foo, the headquarters of the mission, was most successful, upwards of 3,000 patients being treated by him annually. His services were so highly appreciated by the Formosans that he was frequently asked to visit at the homes of the gentry.

THE *British Weekly* says: It is the fashion to sneer at popular preachers—a poor fashion it is. A popular preacher is a preacher people go to hear. Is there anything wrong in that? "Oh, but they go to hear his jokes and his vulgarities, and that is all." No, we answer, let the derider of the popular preacher set up his pulpit and be as vulgar and humorous as he possibly can be, and he will alienate and disgust the people. There is always, be it admitted, something about the acceptable preacher to the masses that the cultivated do not quite like. But no great popular preacher holds his ground without high qualities of mind and heart. Dr. Parker's ministry has been eminently that of a hard thinker

and a close student. Mr. Spurgeon's remarkable genius was coupled with prodigious industry; Mr. McNeill often shows that he has brooded long and deeply on great themes; in short, the man who says that the people can be taught and led by buffoons libels the people.

WE understand, says the *British Weekly*, that the Presbyterians of the Midlands are giving themselves for the work of an advance movement in Birmingham and the neighbouring towns. The recent meeting of Synod had the effect of opening the eyes of the leaders of the denomination to the possibilities of a wide church extension movement, and several representative men from London have joined a local committee formed for the purpose of strengthening and extending the Presbyterian cause. At a dinner recently held in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, of which Sir George Bruce was chairman, the rapid growth of the city was commented upon by several speakers, and it was felt that if English Presbyterianism was to be a living force in the district, it must bestir itself and devise means whereby the migration to the suburbs might be taken advantage of. At present most of the Churches are stranded high and dry in most unsuitable localities, and the ministers and people actively engaged in keeping the wolf from the door and the peace within themselves, find it somewhat difficult to engage in the work which is after all the *raison d'être* of their existence.

If Dr. Briggs is not more accurate in matters of criticism than he is on questions of Church statistics, those who follow him blindly may find themselves in the ditch. Speaking in Rochester the other day he stated that if all the evangelical Churches would unite, 50,000 ministers and \$50,000,000 might be spared for evangelistic and missionary purposes. According to the best authorities there are we believe, about 80,000 ministers in the United States. From this number, deduct professors of theology and teachers of many kinds, secretaries and other officials and many who are not in the work of the ministry. Deduct also the aged and infirm and then deduct the 50,000, and, as the *Herald and Presbyter* asks, how many would be left? The richness of the proposal to save \$50,000,000 may be learned from the fact that there is not \$50,000,000 paid to all the ministers of the United States. The *Herald and Presbyter* would like to know how anybody can trust the Doctor when he speaks about the Jewish Church in the time of Moses, David and Isaiah.

THE news that comes across the wires every day from the Old Land illustrates in many striking ways the breadth and manliness of the typical Briton and the greatness of his Empire. Great Britain is the only country under heaven that dares to throw open its ports and challenge the world to trade. Great Britain is the only country strong enough to allow any man to take a seat in Parliament who can persuade the electors to give him one. Among the members recently elected there is the former editor of an American newspaper. There is also a Parsee from Bombay, and a Frenchman. There are several Jews and one or two pronounced Socialists. Just fancy the howl about loyalty that would be raised in Canada if people of that kind tried to get into Parliament. John Bull knows very well that the way to keep them harmless is to keep them free. What electors other than Britons would vote against a member of the Royal Family? If the Queen's son-in-law were running in some constituencies we know every man who dared to vote against him would be called a rebel and charged with disloyalty, treason, and a host of other crimes. As likely as not he would be mobbed. The Marquis of Lorne was defeated for the second time the other day and no Englishman paid any special attention to the circumstances. They don't vote in England for a candidate's wife or mother-in-law—they vote for or against the candidate himself. A Canadian feels proud when he sees the true British qualities displayed in the great fight across the water, but his feelings suddenly change when he looks nearer home.