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Notes of the Week.

Emperor Francis Joseph has indicated to Prime Minister Wekerle, of Hungary, his full support of his plans for religious liberty, and of the bills to be presented before the House of Magnates. These are looked upon in religious circles as more pernicious than the Civil Marriage Bill.

Steps have been taken at Cambridge for starting a memorial to the late Prof. Robertson Smith. At the meeting held at King's College, presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, it was resolved:—"That for the purpose in view a fund be raised, to be expended on the promotion of Oriental studies; (1) by the continuance and extension of Professor Smith's library, which has been left to Christ's College, and, if possible (2), by the purchase of MSS. for the university library."

There are increasing reports in regard to the liberal tendencies of the new Czar. He is said to intend to introduce several important reforms, among them being the establishment of Parliamentary representation in the administration of the Government. He showed marked courtesy to newspaper correspondents at the time of his wedding, which is commented upon very favorably, and has frequently appeared upon the streets of St. Petersburg unattended.

There are now being sold in the streets of London beautifully-printed and handsomely-bound Bibles at the price of 1½d each. The history of this phenomenal reduction in the cost of the Scriptures is somewhat interesting. Some time ago the Clarendon Press of Oxford sent out to America a shipload of volumes of the Revised Version of the Bible. The copyright laws of the United States do not protect imported books that are bound in another country, and the Clarendon Press, having erred in this direction, the whole cargo of Bibles was sent back to England. In the return voyage some of the volumes were slightly damaged, and now the whole of them are being sold at 1½d each.

The Presbyterian, of London, England, has been having what may be called a symposium on the "Best methods of Preaching, Reading, Memoritor, Extempore or Notes," in which many well-known, able preachers give their opinions. From the whole it appears there is no one absolutely best method. The gist of the whole matter thus far is well summed up in the following opinion of Rev. John W. Rodger, Bournemouth: "My opinion is that every minister must learn by experience what is for him the best method of preaching; and that the choice between these four just named, or a combination of some or all of these, will be determined by considerations of memory, self-control, faculty of expression, power in delivery, and other things purely personal."

It is highly complimentary to the far-seeing statesmanship of the delegates to the Intercolonial Conference, which met in Ottawa last summer, that the Earl of Jersey, a man in whose knowledge, judgment and ability the Home Government had such confidence that he was appointed to represent it in the conference, approves generally, and commends for the adoption of the Imperial government, the main conclusions of the conference upon the questions of the cable, steamship and trade relations of the colonies in the empire. Should the arrangements which were discussed under these heads, so far as they are definitely known be heartily entered into and prove a success, a new and most important link will have been formed between the different portions of Britain's vast empire. The proposal as regards a "maximum tariff for foreign nations and a minimum tariff for

members of the empire," inasmuch as its adoption would involve a fundamental change in the policy of Great Britain is not looked upon, and is not likely to be ever looked upon with favor in Britain.

Those who have caught a glimpse now and then of the life at home of Prince Bismarck, as it has reached the public through the press, cannot fail to have been struck with its thoroughly happy, peaceful, domestic character, and the large and attractive part in it taken by Princess Bismarck. She died at Varzin, on November 27th, and since her death many beautiful tributes have been paid to the character and memory of the devoted wife and lifelong companion of the great chancellor. It is touching and pitiful to read of the great, strong man of iron, who has seen so much and taken such a prominent part in the great events of modern history, bowed down with grief, and inconsolable for the loss of her who has been so much to him; and beautiful is it to see the messages of tender sympathy and condolence pouring in from all quarters upon the aged Statesman, now more desolate and lonely than ever in his retirement.

The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, of New York, to whose wise, courageous and persistent attacks it is mainly due that Tammany and its infamous abuses have been swept away, is now the hero of the hour. "He now has," says the *Independent*, "the praise of everybody. He is honored by the press; he is held up as an example in the pulpit; he is toasted at every public dinner, and his name and work are familiarly discussed around the family table." A complimentary dinner was given to him last week in New York city at which were present not fewer than 500 guests comprising many leading citizens. Commendatory and congratulatory speeches were, of course and deservedly, the order of the day. The last speaker was Father Ducey, upon whom public attention has been concentrated on account of the rebuke which Archbishop Corrigan, his Ordinary, addressed to him because of his attendance at the sessions of the Lexow Committee. He said: "A creed has reigned long enough. It is time for all creeds to co-ordinate and co-operate. Dr. Parkhurst has set us an example that all of us, archbishops, bishops and priests, ought to follow. I thank Dr. Parkhurst for the example he has set the clergy. I feel convinced that Jesus Christ has blessed his work. He has followed Jesus Christ, and though he be a heretic, I am prepared to follow him."

The question of the moderatorship of the great ecclesiastical assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland and England has in some of them been already settled. At a meeting recently of ex-Moderators' of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in Edinburgh, it was agreed to nominate the Rev. Dr. Donald Macleod, brother of the late Dr. Norman McLeod, of Park Church, Glasgow, as Moderator-elect of next Assembly. He is one of the Queen's chaplains, and is well known as the editor of *Good Words*, of which his brother was the original editor. For seven years he has been convener of the Home Mission Committee and on the days when he submits his reports on Home Missions to the Assembly the house is crowded. He is the fourth of his family who has filled the Moderator's chair, including his father, his uncle, and his brother.

At a meeting of the Standing Committees of the Free Church the Hon. and Rev. W. Miller, C.I.E., LL.D., Principal of the Madras United Christian College, was nominated as Moderator of the next General Assembly, Dr. Miller is expected home in March or April next.

For the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England only one name has as yet been mentioned—that of the Rev. S. M. McClelland, of South Shields. All who know Mr. McClelland know how eminently worthy he is of such an honor.

The Presbyterian, of London, England, of the 29th ult., is to contain in connection with the celebration of the jubilee of the college of the Presbyterian Church in England, a supplement containing portraits of the past and present Professorial and Tutorial Staff, the various Conveners of the College Committee, a copy of a rare sketch of Queen's Square House, etc., etc. It will also contain full reports of all the proceedings, including Principal Dykes' address in Regent Square, and the gathering in the King's Hall in the evening. Further, five "old students," representing and covering the ground of the five decades of the college's existence, will give their reminiscences of personal experience and tradition. There will also be descriptions of the historical memorabilia that have been collected, together with the missionary relics that are on view. Neither labor nor expense is being spared in the hope of making this number a permanent and worthy memento of one of the most signal occasions in connection with the history of the Presbyterian Church in England.

It will scarcely be believed, but it is true notwithstanding, that a petition has been presented to Governor Waite, of Colorado, and the Chief of Police, of Denver, the State Capital, against keeping the gambling halls of that city closed. This petition is signed by the First National Bank, the American National Bank, the Appel Clothing Company, the George Trich Hardware Company, and forty-three other business establishments of equal prominence, and reads as follows: "Your petitioners respectfully represent that in their judgment it is detrimental to the business interest of the city of Denver to compel gambling halls to remain closed; that many buildings and parts of buildings are rendered tenantless and bring in no rent to owners thereof, and that a large amount of money is kept from coming into the city of Denver and being put into circulation by reason of such closing, and that trade and all kinds of business are effected thereby; and we therefore earnestly request that such halls may be permitted to be opened by such class of responsible men as, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, will conduct such halls with decency and propriety, and under such regulations and surveillance as the Police Department may prescribe for their general conduct and maintenance." Nothing but dishonor and shame can come to Denver from such a petition as this. There is evidently great need for vigorous Home Mission work amongst some of the leading business men of that city.

On the evening of Sabbath, 2nd inst., Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's College, addressed the members of the Scottish societies of Kingston. He discussed the place that such societies properly filled in Canada, pointing to the evils of following the feuds, past or present, of the old land to mark the lines of political or ecclesiastical divisions in this country. "Religion," he truly said, "must be at the basis of every great national life, and therefore the religious forms of one nation will be different from those of another." John Knox, Andrew Melville and Thomas Chalmers were described as three great statesmen, far in advance of the age in which they lived. They saw that the church must be "broad, based upon the people's will," and therefore that the people must be religious, free and educated. He described Knox's educational proposals as an effectual provision of parish schools, High Schools and universities, supported partly by fees, but chiefly by endowments. Chalmers was the only man in the nineteenth century who thoroughly faced the great social problem of caring properly for the poor, and showing the only way in which it could be met, and also the great ecclesiastical problem of how churches, unconnected with the State, can be sustained by a financial scheme adequate to a whole country. In conclusion, he urged them never to break any of those bonds, but to cement them in every possible way, direct and indirect, and so to make Canada the inheritor of all the past, especially to rivet and sanctify the ancient ties by sweet charity."