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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THERE are in Scotland, according to the report of the executive committee at the seventh annual Conference, sixty-seven Y.M.C. Associations with a membership of 12,053.

AT Barcelona, Valladolid and Santander, Spain, Y.M.C. Associations have been organized, though not without trouble, and even yet they have to struggle against great fanaticism.

THE "Nonconformist" finds "good reason to believe that at the next general election disestablishment will be uppermost in the thoughts of the constituencies of Great Britain."

THE Roman Catholic Bishops in Scotland are taking steps for revising and modernizing the Douay version of the Bible now in use, and its idiomatic Latin style is to be anglicized by English scholars.

"SCETICISM in Rome," says the correspondent of the *London Times*, "which, however latent, was almost universal under despotic rule, is now openly avowed and professed under the new constitutional regime."

DR. W. B. CARPENTER, of London, the celebrated physiologist, has withdrawn from his office as vice-president of the Sunday League, because the name of Mrs. Annie Besant appears on the list in the same capacity.

A STATEMENT from the Board of French Evangelization is crowded out of this issue. It will appear next week. Meanwhile, we ask the congregations that have not yet forwarded their contributions to do so without delay.

A CHEAP cookery movement, under the leadership of the Princess Louise, of England, is now in progress in Brighton. A teacher has been engaged from the Kensington National School of Cookery, who gives lessons in all branches of the art.

A WRITER in the *Watchman* advises that the penny contributions in Sunday-schools be carefully looked after. Children should be encouraged to give regularly, not from their parents' money, but from their own. In this way a good lesson in benevolence will be inculcated.

THE great controversy among missionaries in China in regard to the Chinese word for God shows no signs

of abatement. *The Chinese Recorder* is obliged to announce in its July-August number that the articles already received will be published in the next two numbers; but after this year the magazine will be closed to the discussion of the question.

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON SMITH, Rev. Dr. Marcus Dods, and Revs. Fergus Ferguson and George Gillfillan are before several church courts in Scotland under charges of error in their ministrations. The latter two boldly take the ground that their teachings are correct, and that it is the Confession of Faith that is at fault, and needs revising.

IT would be well for all housekeepers to look just now to the drainage and cleanliness of their dwellings and outhouses. Typhoid fever is dreadfully prevalent in many places, threatening to become a widespread epidemic. The disease, if it does not originate with bad ventilation and drainage, is at least known to feed upon them. Pure air and pure water will now be specially required as cures and preventatives of disease.

DR. WORDSWORTH, the Bishop of Lincoln, has, in a letter, reproved one of his clergy for forwarding to him a petition in favor of the use of unfermented wine at the Holy Communion. The bishop is severe on the petitioners, and says that "in their present frame of mind they are not fit to receive the sacrament at all, as in their pharisaic self-conceit they set up their private opinions against the universal practice of 1800 years." The Bishop of Lincoln always will use strong language.

THE Pope's annual income of \$645,000, allowed by the Italian Parliament, has been tendered him for seven years in a single bill, engraved especially for that purpose, and as regularly been declined. The bills were then placed on deposit in the bank of Italy, at the Pope's order, being conveyed into the treasury if five years elapse without their being claimed. The two first have thus returned to the nation; but whenever the Pope dies his heirs will find \$3,225,000 which they can legally claim.

THE New York Christian Home for Intemperate Men has accomplished a great work considering the short time it has existed. It was opened in June last. Already sixty men have been received into the Home, of which forty-two have left and twenty-seven of the number are doing well, having procured situations and living up to their professions. All of those remaining at the Home are living Christian lives, giving every encouragement that they will soon support themselves. Fifteen more men can be received. Applicants who give proof of their inability to remunerate the Home will be received free. Could not a similar institution be opened in Toronto or Montreal with like satisfactory results? Perhaps some practical philanthropist in our midst may take the hint.

THEY are not afraid of the Bible in the public schools of London, nor have they construed an undenominational system as exclusive of Biblical instruction. Four thousand Bibles were recently bestowed upon pupils under the care of the London School Board as prizes for proficiency in the study of the Scriptures. Lord Sandon, who distributed the prizes, commended the work of the Board highly, saying that

he thought there could hardly be a better system of religious instruction than that laid down by them. Out of 150,000 children, 80,000 had voluntarily come up for examination in Scripture knowledge. One child in a thousand only had been withdrawn from religious instruction by the parents. The prizes were given by Mr. F. Peck and the Religious Tract Society.

AT present, we are told, the death of Brigham Young has brought no change in the condition of the Mormon community. It is believed that the ignorance of the great bulk of the people will make them acquiesce in whatever Government may claim their allegiance. Several of the leaders have just arrived from Europe, called home by the death of their chief. The choice of the future head of the community will not be made until the end of the present month; and meanwhile a correspondent writes of large bodies of new converts being on their way. The general expectation has been that the death of Brigham Young would lead to the extinction of Mormonism; but while Europe thus continues to be so good a recruiting ground we can see no hope of the pernicious system disappearing, and of an end coming to the lifelong misery and shame of Mormon women. We are glad to know, however, that a powerful public opinion is being brought to bear upon this fearful fanaticism.

AFTER making due allowance for bias and exaggeration in the war reports, it seems evident that the Russians have been gaining advantages. Their great victory in Armenia is confidently confirmed in subsequent dispatches, and the statement is made that Kars is invested, a statement hard to believe when we consider that the Russians have only about 70,000 with whom to operate. There is greater probability that Plevna is effectually invested, though it is by no means certain that the Turks could not break through the besiegers' lines if desirable. At all events the Russians do not feel warranted in making a general assault upon the fortifications. There is now a revival in England of the question of mediation, and some dispatches intimate that there is at Constantinople a disposition to ask for a settlement. Russia is beginning to dread the coming winter, and to this feeling and the desire to do something decisive at once, may perhaps be attributed her sudden activity which has led to at least temporary success.

SINCE the demolition of the old College Church, Glasgow, the congregation has been meeting in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Gallowgate, on Sabbath afternoons, until their own new church at Dennistoun was ready. For five sabbaths the Calton U. P. congregation were associated with them, during the painting of their place of worship—the Rev. Mr. Somerville and the Rev. Mr. Campbell conducting the services alternately. Both congregations met for the last time on Sabbath week, the Rev. Mr. Campbell officiating, and at the close took occasion to advert to the unwonted spectacle of an Established and a United Presbyterian congregation worshipping together in a Methodist church. He thought it a hopeful sign of the times when Churches which held opinions at the antipodes of each other on minor matters thus fraternized. It was evidence that the bigotry which had characterized them in a bygone generation had much abated. He hoped the day was not far distant when the denominations represented would be knit together by that charity which was the bond of perfectness.