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Notes of the Week.

The new Mayor of New York, Wm. L. Strong, was installed on New Year's Day, and the power has been wrested from Tammany. The new Constitution of New York classifies all kinds of gambling as crime. The revolution that has overthrown the corrupt city government lays a great responsibility upon the successors of Tammany. The people of that city will wait and watch for results, and if Mayor Strong makes an honest effort to carry out the purpose of the reformers, he will receive their support.

Dr. Parkhurst has proposed a plan for the removal of the entire New York police force. To investigate each individual case would require a century, and he therefore recommends the appointment of a committee of five to reorganize the whole force by examining men to fill their places, making all who are implicated ineligible, and retaining all who have been faithful and can stand the test of the examinations. The time of the old force to expire July 1, and the term of the committee to end when the old force goes out.

The New York Chamber of Commerce adopted the report of its Committee on Municipal Reforms. The three chief recommendations are that the Lexow Committee be continued to investigate other departments; that the powers of a Court of Record be conferred on it; and that the Oyer and Terminer Court grand jury prosecute all public officers guilty of corruption. A letter accompanies the report from the committee expressing the conviction that there can be no complete reform in municipal government until it is lifted out of politics.

The following resolution it is said will be introduced at the next Session of the Legislature of the State of Washington, U. S.: "Whereas, there being a great agitation throughout the United States on account of the establishing of an Ablegate or Delegate of an ecclesiastical power within the boundaries of the United States of America; and whereas, believing that that Mgr. Satolli, the said Ablegate or Delegate of the Pope of Rome, is a menace to our free institutions; therefore, be it resolved by the Washington Legislature, that our Senator be instructed and our Representative in Congress be requested to have said representative of said ecclesiastical power removed beyond the shores of the United States of America."

The programme is just issued of a convention of the Reformed Presbyterian Churches throughout the world, to be held in Scotland, 1896. On the last Sabbath of June special services are to be conducted at several places associated with the most thrilling events of the covenanting struggle. On the following week there will be meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh, at which papers will be read and addresses delivered by ministers and others of these Churches in America, Canada, Australia, and Ireland, as well as Scotland. It is also intended to hold at the same time an exhibition of various memorials of the covenanters and their times. Rev. Dr. Kerr, Glasgow, is chairman of the Convention Executive.

The governor of Alabama is awake to the present situation. He sees that the horrible lynchings could not take place without the connivance of the officers of the law and the support of public favor. In nine cases within the past year the victims have been taken from the custody of an officer. This could not be without cowardly weakness or connivance on the part of the officers. So strong is the public sympathy, that not in a single case has it been possible to secure the conviction of the guilty party. The governor therefore asks that power be given him to remove any officer

failing in his duty, and also the enactment of a law giving the family of a man taken from an officer and punished, the right to sue the county for damages.

An Australian tells us that the religious world of Sydney has been in a great stir through the mission of the Rev. John McNeill. Immense congregations have attended his preaching. A hall capable of containing nearly two thousand was filled almost daily by men for a dinner-hour address. There is, therefore, much susceptibility of some kind to work upon in Sydney, though it is probable that it will prove itself more ready to respond to the sensational and extravagant style of preaching than any other. There was much of this in Mr. McNeill, and a good deal of dramatic power shown in action as well as language; but all allow that there was a sterling sincerity and truthfulness, a stern and rugged genuineness about the man which attracted men of real religious feeling and discernment.

Mr. John Morley, a member of the Imperial Government, is well known, not only as an able man, and one of great literary ability and taste, but as being quite sceptical in his religious views. The Countess of Aberdeen is credited as the authority for the following incident. When Mr. Morley was visiting at the Viceregal Lodge, in Dublin, the Countess, with her usual consideration for other people's convictions, told Mr. Morley that he need not come down to family prayers, as she understood such exercise might not be in harmony with his sentiments. Mr. Morley's reply revealed at once the splendour and the humility of his character. He said he would certainly come down, if only to renew his own sense of littleness amid the mysteries of life, and to begin the day with a feeling of fellowship in service with the humblest member of the household.

The fund in the Irish Presbyterian Church equivalent to our Augmentation Fund is like our own in straits. The convener says that unless there is a substantial advance on the collection of last year the grants must be reduced. Some one suggests that if the people do not respond sufficiently, why not appeal to ministers on behalf of ministers? While the average income of our ministers is £190, I find 57 receive over £300 each, viz:—

35	receive	between	£300	and	£400.
9	"	"	400	"	500.
8	"	"	500	"	600.
3	"	"	600	"	700.
2	"	"	700	"	800.

If these 57 would—in addition to the collection and subscriptions from other ministers—forego, for one year, their income beyond £300, on behalf of weak congregations, it would place the fund in a position it has never occupied, and rejoice the hearts of their poorly paid brethren throughout the Church, as well as that of the convener.

Mr. Gladstone contributes to the *Evangelical Magazine* a long article, filling twenty-eight pages of print, on "The Evangelical Movement; Its Parentage, Progress and Issue." Summing up the characteristics and results of the Tractarian and Evangelical movements, the writer says:—"Both the cases may perhaps be found by some to lie under a common and sweeping condemnation. Both systems, it may be said, created instincts, and simulated longings, which they could not satisfy. The evangelical movement filled men so full with the wine of spiritual life that larger and better vessels were required to hold it. The Oxford school, in constructing a scheme of external usage and of Church authority, forgot that the little piece of mechanism thus elaborated for use within the limited range of Anglicanism would of a surety gravitate more or less towards the huge mass of

the Latin Church, lying before, and behind, and all around it. Our Nonconforming friends seem, it must be admitted, in a condition from their point of view to admonish both in magisterial tones: That is what we have always said! Your semi-reformed Church, with her inconsistent laws and institutions all bound up together, is always on the downward gradient, which descends to Rome. We teach evangelical doctrine liberated from such associations, and consequently, as you see, Rome gathers no booty from our homesteads; you teach it in a Church of succession and priesthood, and from among you she makes captives at her will."

All natives of Belfast, and there are many of them in Canada, and those who were brought up in that good city, will be interested to know that Mr. Robert M. Young, B.A., of Belfast, the author of an edition of "The Town Book of Belfast," after securing access to and possession of a great many old and curious documents which have never before seen the light, intends issuing, under the title "Old Belfast," as a companion volume to the "Town Book," embellished with a splendid collection of old maps and portraits, and a number of full-page and other plates dealing with local subjects drawn by Messrs. John and Joseph Carey. "Altogether," says the *Belfast Witness*, "we are promised a work to which, we venture to say, Belfast people will look forward with something like impatience, and which, when it appears, they will find to be one of the most interesting and important volumes bearing on our local history and that of the North of Ireland that has ever appeared. The book is expected to ready in April next," and only a limited edition will be published.

The annual public meeting of the Metropolitan Tabernacle Pastors' College was held last month, presided over by the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, who, in the course of an opening address, spoke of the intense interest the late pastor always took in the work of the college. The work was still going on well; the teaching of the college was the same. "May the college cease to exist," said Mr. Spurgeon fervently, "when it desires to depart from the pure doctrines its founder held so dear." The Rev. Dr. J. A. Spurgeon, in giving an account of the college, said there were in all twenty-three students settled during the past twelve months, making the total number of those who had gone from the college into the work of the ministry 921. One hundred pastors and students had died; 737 men were still actively engaged in the work of the Lord, 650 of whom were Baptist pastors, missionaries, or evangelists. The additions reported by the brethren during the years, 1865 to 1894 were 181,197. Of these 108,660 were Baptists on profession of faith. The net increase to the churches was 88,432.

Last month England and Wales passed safely through the most important rural revolution which has ever taken place in the country. On December 4th, the first Parish Councils were constituted in those parishes where the seats were uncontested. The pollings, where necessary, took place on December 17th, and the first meetings of the Parish Councils on December 31st. Much interest seems to have been taken throughout the country in this practical initiation of popular local government; so much so that in some parishes there were three times as many nominations as there were seats. It may be safely affirmed that no greater boon has ever been given to the peasantry of England than the right and the power to take an active interest in the management of their own immediate affairs. Under the pressure of his new responsibilities, "Hodge" may be expected to waken up more and more; and the working of the Parish Councils Act will, undoubtedly, in the long run, have results, both far-reaching and beneficent, upon the social as well as the political life of England. The Act is the harbinger and creator of a new era.