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Notes of the Week.

THE *Church Times*, says an English Weekly, has always been exceedingly angry with the Bishop of Liverpool for attending the services of the Established Church in Scotland. They have now a still higher authority to condemn. The Archbishop of Canterbury, whilst the guest of Lord Aberdeen, was present at the Sunday morning service in the parish church of Methlic.

It is expected that the Moderator of Assembly will officiate at the opening service in connection with the conference of ministers and elders from the Synods of Moray, Ross, Glenelg, Sutherland, and Caithness, which is to be held at Inverness on the 5th and 6th of October. The object of the conference is the interchange of opinion on a variety of subjects embraced in the practical work of the Church, and the consideration of the best methods of promoting that work in Highland parishes.

A NEW order—that of St. John the Baptist—in connection with the Church of Scotland was inaugurated in Glasgow recently. The order aims at the promotion of sound faith, loyalty, and gentleness in the various relations of social life, and temperance and purity in the individual. There was a large attendance of the heads of the order from various parts of Scotland, and a preceptory was erected for the East End of Glasgow, and placed under the charge of Rev. John Parker, of St. James Parish Church.

THE United Presbyterian Mission of the Church in the United States in Egypt is having remarkable success among the Copts. At Assiout, the Copts themselves have held nightly meetings for over three years in their Cathedral Church. They have abolished the confessional, and have removed the pictures of the Virgin and the saints. Three Coptic young men have been placed by their parents in the training College of the United Presbyterian Mission, with the avowed purpose of preparing them for service in the Old Church.

THE Belfast *Witness* remarks that there are some most interesting items in the report regarding the Irish census, which has just been issued. The percentage of decrease in the several religious denominations is, for example, noteworthy. Roman Catholics have decreased 10 per cent. since 1881, Episcopalians 6 per cent., Presbyterians only 5 per cent. Again, it is curious to note that while the population has been decreasing, the ratable valuation of the country has risen in the ten years from £13,812,000 to £14,034,000.

THE late Mr. John Brownlee, of Stephen Lodge, Lisburn, has bequeathed half of twenty-one dwelling houses in Broadbent Street, Belfast, to his sisters for life, and then to be realized and the proceeds given to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for distribution in equal shares to the Church Extension Scheme, the Irish Mission, the Foreign Mission, the Jewish Mission, the Fleming Stevenson Memorial Fund for educating a native ministry in India, and a female association for promoting Christianity among the women of the East.

THE session of Coligny Ladies College, Ottawa, opened last week with twenty boarders and a large number of day pupils. By the end of the week the members will be considerably augmented. With the exception of three, the full complement of resident pupils has already been enrolled. Few similar institutions are so fortunate in their staff of teachers, the management sparing no expense in securing the very best available teachers in the several subjects taught. The Rev. Dr. Warden, of Montreal, the Rev. Dr. Campbell and the Rev. Mr. Seylaz, of Ottawa, were present at the opening. The session promises to be a most successful one. The staff consists of Miss Jessie McBratney, Principal, and nine resident teachers, one of whom is from Paris, France, and another from Germany.

THE Russian Stundists are to be still further harassed. The commission appointed to consider the means of checking the progress of heresy recommends that all religious meetings and assemblies of the sect shall be forbidden, "since they are calculated to promote false teaching and to produce a state of nervous exaltation among the ignorant classes of the people." Prominent Stundists are to be removed from their place of residence, while the extraordinary recommendations are made that "those who have exhibited mental aberration as the result of this teaching" are to be placed in the nearest hospital for the treatment of mental disease, and that the ecclesiastical authorities should compel those suffering from "undue religious excitement" to enter a monastery "till they are restored to a healthier and more normal state." If such recommendations are sanctioned it needs no great sagacity to predict that prejudiced priests and police will speedily discover that most Stundists are lunatics, or likely to become so.

ONE of the most interesting papers read at the Orientalist Congress now sitting in London was that by Rev. Professor Hechler, of Vienna, describing what may probably turn out to be the oldest existing papyrus of the Septuagint or Greek Version of the Old Testament, which was discovered some months ago in Egypt. It contains the greater part of the prophet Zechariah from the fourth chapter, and parts of Malachi. It consists of sixteen pages, ten in, by seven in, and is written on both sides. The great age of the papyrus is shown by its Uncial characters, which place it before 300 A.D. Some of its readings surpass the other Septuagint texts in clearness and simplicity of grammar. The Septuagint translation was made at Alexandria under Ptolemy Philadelphus, being begun about 280 B.C. and finished about 150 B.C., and was the version commonly employed by our Lord and His apostles when quoting from the Old Testament. Professor Hechler urged that it was the pressing duty of the British Government to institute an organized and scientific search for papyri in Egypt. It might result in all manner of treasures being placed at the disposal of modern scholarship.

THE interest in Mr. Moody's work in Belfast, writes the correspondent of the *British Weekly*, continues unabated. During the past week, mid wind and rain, the huge "Convention Hall" was nightly crowded up to 12,000 and 13,000; and the afternoon meetings in St. Enoch's Presbyterian Church numbered at least 3,000 of the busiest men and women in the city. On Sabbath a somewhat new departure was made in meetings entirely for non-churchgoers. In connection with these, special arrangements and efforts had been made to secure the attendance of this class, and with complete success. Enormous audiences gathered together, and the impressions made were, it is said, very marked indeed. An afternoon meeting for women only was also held on Sabbath at three o'clock p.m., and about 12,000 of them had gathered together to hear the celebrated evangelist long before the hour for commencing the service. Other meetings were held during the evening in the Convention Hall and in places adjoining, when Mr. Moody was aided by local ministers, the Rev. John Robertson, from

Scotland, and the Rev. Martin Smith, of Chicago. All round serious impressions are deepening, sympathy awakening, and the "swing" increasing, so there is seemingly no certainty as to when Mr. Moody may cease from his work in the North of Ireland. Many fair-sized towns outside Belfast have made efforts to secure his services for at least one meeting, but up to the present he has refused to leave the city, and outsiders have to content themselves with visits to the centre. Thousands of these keep flocking in daily. One of the most striking features of this visit is the deep interest the secular press has taken in his work. His addresses and sermons of the day and night before appear each succeeding morning at very considerable length in its columns. He has publicly thanked the Belfast press for this, stating that he had never been so well reported before. On Saturday he was almost coming in for a complete upset from the collision of a car upon which he was driving to the Northern Counties Station on his way to spend the day with his friend, Mr. William Young, J.P., Fenagly, Ballymena. The boot was torn off one foot and his ankle sprained. Fortunately, beyond the lameness there is no other indication of injury. Mr. Burke is aided in the musical department by the Fellowship Choir of the Belfast Y.M.C.A.

THE London *Presbyterian* gives the following details concerning members of the new British Cabinet. There are seven members of Mr. Gladstone's Government who are Nonconformists, or are of Nonconformist blood. Even the Keeper of her Majesty's Conscience (Lord Chancellor Herschell) himself comes under this designation. He springs from a family conspicuous in fidelity to religious principle; and a highly-honoured kinsman of his is the pastor of the Congregational Church at Loughborough Park to this present time. Three other members of the Cabinet represent in some measure Wesleyanism, Congregationalism, and Presbyterianism. Mr. Asquith, the new Home-Secretary, is the son of Congregationalist parents. Mr. Henry Fowler, the new President of the Local Government Board, is a representative of the old Wesleyan Methodist body. Not only is he a Wesleyan Methodist, but he has been a lay member of "the Conference," or Wesleyan Church Synod, ever since laymen have had a place on that body. Mr. Arnold Morley, the Postmaster-General, is the son of the late Mr. Samuel Morley, who was for one year the chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and whose name is well remembered in connection with chapel building and other denominational benefactions. Mr. Bryce, who, as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, will, like his Quaker predecessor, Mr. Bright, have Church patronage to bestow, comes of Presbyterian stock in Scotland and in the north of Ireland. He embodies in himself the culture, enterprise, and Protestantism which are characteristic of the folk from "o'er the border." Among those in office outside the Cabinet, coming within the nonconformist category, are Mr. Thomas Burt, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr. Woodall, the Financial Secretary, at the War Office, and Mr. Thomas Ellis, a junior Lord of the Treasury, one of the Liberal "Whips." Mr. Burt, the "Miners' Friend," is a Unitarian; and Mr. Ellis is a Calvinistic Methodist. It need scarcely be said that both these are ardent "Liberationists"; and, in the interests of religion as much as for political advancement, will certainly do all in their power to promote the time when privilege on the one hand and disability on the other, on account of religious opinion, will be past; and there shall be in these fair kingdoms of England and Scotland, and the Principality of Wales, Free Churches within a one and undivided Free State. The appointment of Mr. William A. McArthur as a Junior Lord of the Treasury, adds another Wesleyan to the Government. Mr. McArthur is a young man, but he is worthy of his family traditions. It was his uncle, Sir William McArthur, who, through many years, and amid many disappointments, conducted the campaign in the House of Commons for the abolition of ecclesiastical grants in Ceylon, a work which he happily lived to see crowned with success.