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Notes of the Week.

The Northfield Summer Conferences, begun by D. L. Moody, and of which, even when absent, he is the moving spirit, have become a recognized institution. A "World's Students Conference" is already announced, to last from June 29th to July 9th; a "Young Woman's College Conference," from July 20th to July 30th; and a "General Conference of Christian Workers," from August 3rd to 15th. In all these conferences able and distinguished men and women will take part, and no doubt they will be to many an inspiration, and give them a fresh impulse in Christian work.

General Booth, since his return to England, has given, in a letter to the *New York World*, his impressions of America, the word in this case applying to the United States. He says some very plain things, which, if taken heed to, may do great good: "I have been disappointed in the American people. I expected to find them extremely wise politically. I don't think I ever saw so much humbug. There is so much clap-trap, so much appealing to prejudice, so little of sound reasoning and calm decision in matters affecting public safety." Faithful are the wounds of a friend.

An exchange notices the following very interesting facts in connection with the Jerusalem Railway: "Turkey gave the concession. France found the capital. Belgium furnished half the rails and coal; England found the other half. Poland and Switzerland sent engineers and laborers. Egypt and the Soudan and Algiers sent laborers. Greece furnished the cooks. The United States shares with Germany the man who first surveyed the road, while Philadelphia supplied the engineers! The nations may yet unite in doing much more important work in restoring the Jews to Palestine."

The Presbyterian ladies of Toronto in connection with the different congregations, have been kept very busy for some time past, and their ingenuity and powers taxed in completing all the arrangements for the annual meeting, which has now assumed such large proportions, of the W.F.M.S. Those who have never had to do with making arrangements for a meeting of such a size, composed of delegates from all over the Province, can have but little idea of the toil, the wisdom, tact and administrative and organizing skill necessary to secure that everything shall go off well and work smoothly. One thing is sure that, if it can be done at all, the ladies of the Presbyterian Churches of Toronto can do it.

The Annual International Christian Endeavor Convention is again in the air, and many bulletins respecting it will be issued from this time until it is over. Arrangements are being rapidly completed and all necessary information given to all who expect to attend. All delegates will be met at steam boat landings and railway depots by officials who will see them to their homes, where accommodation at prices to suit all purses will be obtained. A change which we should think one for the better, consists in making Monday instead of the Sabbath the closing day, so that the convention, as a convention, will not be in session at all on that day. The regular church services, the Sabbath-schools, the missions, and the endeavor prayer-meetings will, on the Sabbath, be the great rallying points for all visiting and resident delegates.

The best method of treatment of the poor, needy and out of work, is a question of great difficulty. Much waste often attends it, by the work of different societies overlapping, by relief given to the undeserving, and withheld from the deserving. The difficulty is accentuated during such a period as we have been passing through of scarcity of work. They have just been wrestling with the subject in Ottawa, and, aided by the Governor-General and Lady Aberdeen, have formed an organization called the "Associated Charities," and the matter has been put into the hands of a large committee of ladies and gentlemen, with Lord and Lady Aberdeen as Patron and Patrons. After the association has had experience of a considerable length of time, and variety, it will be interesting to learn the result.

The fight for the preservation of the Sabbath as a day of quiet and rest, like the effort to get and keep hold of every good thing is, and will be, more or less, a hard one. Arrangements for base ball games during the coming season on the other side, include seventy-five games on the Sabbath in some of the principal cities. The other day when this practice was inaugurated in Cincinnati, Rev. Dr. Pelton and others, representing the Reformed league, appeared at the ball park, and insisted on the Indianapolis and Cincinnati players being arrested as soon as they appeared in uniform on the grounds, but the police refused to make arrests until after a game of nine innings had been played. Then the men were arrested. This plan will be followed at all Sunday games there during the season.

The third Summer Session in theology was opened in Winnipeg on the evening of the third inst., with a large and interested gathering in the Convocation Hall of Manitoba College. Rev. Principal King, beside whom on the platform were several other professors, presided, and welcomed the students present to attend the Session. The Arts course this winter has been attended by 138, that is 13 more than the previous year. He spoke of the good work done and fortunate position of the college as regards its professorial staff, especially in having had so long and continuously the services of Professors Bryce and Hart. The Summer Session again promises well, and in addition to the theological professors in Winnipeg, Rev. Messrs. Scrimger and Ross of Montreal and Professor Orr of the U.P. College, Edinburgh, will assist in the work of the session. The subject of Principal King's opening lecture was The Atonement.

Late papers from India, tell of the wonderful interest excited by the visit and preaching of the evangelist McNeill. "The city is moved," says the *Indian Witness*. "There has never been any thing of the kind witnessed in Calcutta, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Every body is talking about it. The best of it is, it is the simple old gospel that is preached. 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me,' is again demonstrated to be true. The story of the cross, vitalised by the Holy Spirit, and its attractive power is felt alike by rich and poor, old and young, irrespective of creed or colour. Protestants, and Roman Catholics, and Hindoos, and nondescripts sit side by side hearing the words of life. High officers of state and professional men and men of business are there; young men and maidens, and honorable women not a few, flock nightly to the tent."

While sermons are being preached, speeches made, and resolutions of various kinds are being passed by societies, chiefly Orange, with respect to the remedial legislation which has been ordered to be given on behalf of Roman Catholics in Manitoba, a new light has been thrown upon the legal aspect at least, of the Roman Catholic claims, by the bringing to light of the true document which was sent to the Ottawa government as the basis of the rights of Manitoba on the granting of which it entered into the Confederation. This document says nothing whatever about separate schools, but for it was substituted, in some mysterious way, a spurious one, which provides for separate schools, according to the "system of the Province of Quebec." This Rev. Professor Bryce characterizes "as one of the most astounding violations of truth and honour this country has witnessed." This may not have much effect upon the final settlement of the question, but if the statements as given are according to fact, it alters the whole aspect of the claim as founded upon a bill of rights, which so good an authority as Professor Bryce declares to be "fictitious."

The Lord's Day Alliance has already rendered valuable service to the cause of Sabbath observance in calling the attention of the local Government to the fact that the twelve Radial railway bills which were lately before the House contained no provisions as to any limited or prohibited operation of their railways on the Sabbath, similar to those contained in the Toronto Railway Bill. These same bills contained provisions for the purchase of parks and pleasure resorts, but omitted any reference to these being unavailable on Sabbath. These omissions we may be sure were not accidental. But by the intervention of the Lord's Day Alliance Association, these companies have been put on the same footing as the Toronto Railway Company which interposes two obstacles against their being run on Sabbath: First, the obtaining a favorable vote of the municipalities, and, secondly, the proving that such Sabbath operation is in accordance with the Provincial Lord's Day Act; or, in other words, that the use of such a railway on Sabbath is only by "travellers" in the statutory sense. We trust every religious body in the country will rally to the support of the Alliance in its work.

The *New York Observer* has the following on the failure of pastors to aid in placing the religious newspaper in each family:

By not doing so, they lose the services of a most faithful ally in their efforts to foster aggressive Christianity in their fields of labour. That eminent Methodist minister, the late Rev. Dr. J. O. Peck, when he sent in a list of nearly three hundred subscribers to the *Christian Advocate*, more than a hundred of whom were new converts, said: "I never feel quite sure of additions to the Church till I put the *Christian Advocate* in the family. And usually I find one of the earliest unmistakable signs of backsliding to be giving up the religious paper." There are thousands of Presbyterian families who read no Presbyterian journal. Presbyterian pastors could change all this if they would. The benevolent work of the Church at large is done by the readers of religious newspapers.

True, every word of it! And quite as true of Canada as the United States. Ministers may help, if they please, by telling their people that THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN can be had for the remainder of the year for \$1.00. We make this offer in order to add thousands of names to our list; and if they should become readers for the next eight months, we shall try and retain them permanently. Ministers and old subscribers can greatly help by making this offer as widely known as possible.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

The Golden Rule: It often takes the surgeon's knife to open our eyes so that we may see God.

Presbyterian Witness: The man that sells his vote is not better than the jurymen that sells his verdict.

Young Men's Era: If your religion sours with age you have possibly mistaken an attack of indigestion for conversion.

The Interior: The very worst thing the Church has to contend against is the inconsistencies of its members. The errors which most affect the Bible are the sins of those who vindicate it.

Scientific American: Beer drinking in this country (United States) produces the very lowest forms of inebriety, closely allied to criminal insanity. The most dangerous class of tramps and ruffians in large cities are beer drinkers.

Christian Instructor: Don't give up the prayer meeting because there are not many there. If the Lord Jesus is there, that should make it attractive and profitable. Always ask Him to come. Never disappoint Him when he does come.

Cumberland Presbyterian: If we are not helping to preach the gospel and make disciples, then we are failing in the one thing which Christ committed to the hands of His followers. If you are not a missionary helper or giver you have no right to claim the name of Christian.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: Do your work intelligently and well. Leave nothing undone. Daily inquire of the Lord what He would have you do. Enjoy His love and presence in all that you undertake. Keep up a cheerful, hopeful frame of mind. Thus duty will become a pleasure and everything will be lit up with the smile of heaven.

United Presbyterian: The Jews did not know until they hung their harps upon the willows in a strange land how precious the privilege of worship had been to them at home. We do not realize how much our Sabbaths and our churches are to us. We ought to thank God for them every day. More than that, we ought to show our appreciation by our use of them.

C. H. Parkhurst, D.D.: Perhaps you have a great mind, perhaps you have an eloquent tongue; it may be you have a large purse, and can glorify God and bless mankind with that; but perhaps you have nothing in the world but a kind, sweet smile. Then let that fall upon some poor life that has no smiles upon it. Remember that dew-drops glistening in the sun are just as beautiful as a rainbow.

Presbyterian Witness: One thing on which we hope there shall be in coming years, as there is now, complete unanimity in our Presbyteries and Assembly is the desire to conserve the use of the Psalms and to make it universal in our congregations. There is not and there ought never to be, any antagonism between the use of good hymns and the use of Psalms. Risk comes when the taste of the young is vitiated by the use of frivolous, weak, and unscriptural hymns. Our Church is right when she tries to provide for the service of praise the best possible hymns wedded to the fittest music.