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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE British Museum has received five boxes of antiquities from Babylon, the results of excavations. Among the recent arrivals are some tablets containing the names: Kandlanu and Nabonassir, the Kinneladanos and Nabonassar of the Canon of Ptolemy, the last, the celebrated monarch of the era, dating from B.C. 747.

M. RENAN, in his preface to the Hibbert lectures, just published in Paris, says of England. "Certainly one of the rewards of my life has been the kindly reception I have found from a nation which has always inspired me with the greatest esteem and sympathy. This spectacle of a proud and powerful people enjoying the fullest liberty of which humanity has yet been capable afforded me a lively joy, and confirmed me in the conviction that the future of Europe, despite passing storms, belongs to an ideal of light and peace."

THERE are funeral ministers, says Dr. John Hall; gentlemen who carry around with them an air of professional solemnity; they carry it even in their handkerchiefs and pocket handkerchiefs, and look as if gently laid out in their coffins. There was a minister of this sort called on to marry a young couple; he stretched out his hands, and unconsciously commenced the burial service. "Sir," spoke up the young man, "we came to be wedded, not buried!" To which the gentleman of the cloth responded, "It won't be many years before you'll wish you had been buried." Ministers should be men first, then ministers—manliness and godliness are twin qualifications.

THE trustees of Liberia College, West Africa, have resolved upon the removal of that institution to some point in the interior more salubrious and more advantageous to the interests of the country. The fact that many chiefs of border tribes are seeking an education for their sons is a great incentive in this enterprise. Dr. Blyden is the president of this institution; and, considering the wide-spread use of the Arabic language in the country of the Mandingos and Foulahs just back of Liberia, a native African professor of Arabic is to be added to the faculty. In February last Dr. Blyden sent 1,200 Arabic Bibles into the interior, the gift of a benevolent Christian lady.

CARLYLE said with a great deal of truth when discoursing on the Jesuits, a good many years ago: "Ignatius' black militia have been campaigning over all the world for about three hundred years, and openly or secretly have done a mighty work everywhere. Who can count what a work! When you meet a man believing in the salutary nature of the falsehoods, and and the divine authority of things doubtful, and fancying that to serve the good cause he must call the devil to his aid, there is a follower of unsaint Ignatius; not till the last of these men has vanished from the earth will our account with Ignatius be quite settled, and his black militia have got their mittimus to chaos again."

THE three Waganda chiefs, Mtesa's ambassadors, have been made the objects of special attention in England. They were honoured with seats on the platform at the late eighty-first anniversary of the Church Missionary Society, where they were surrounded by lords and bishops and archdeacons. They have witnessed a royal review of the troops, "their carriage being allowed a place only a few yards from Her Majesty." They have been tendered a special reception by the Queen, have attended church at St. Paul's, and have visited the Woolwich Arsenal. They express themselves as pleased with everything; but the only remark which has been quoted across the Atlantic was the single statement made by one of them that he "had not yet seen anything bad in England." He hadn't fathomed London.

A SUMMARY view of the missions of the American Presbyterian Board shows that they have 11 ordained missionaries and 1,048 communicants among the In-

dians of the United States; 7 missionaries and 3,907 communicants in Mexico; 11 missionaries and 1,089 communicants in South America; 7 missionaries and 601 communicants in Africa; 30 missionaries and 971 communicants in India; 7 missionaries and 206 communicants in Siam; 22 missionaries and 1,784 communicants in China; 2 missionaries and 131 communicants among the Chinese in California; 6 missionaries and 739 communicants in Japan; 8 missionaries and 1,321 communicants in Persia; and 14 missionaries and 810 communicants in Syria. In all, there are 125 ordained missionaries and 12,607 communicants, with 17,791 scholars in day and boarding schools. Besides the ordained missionaries, there are 83 native ordained ministers and 147 licentiates, and 516 native lay missionaries.

AN archaeological and scientific expedition is now en route to Central America, under the joint auspices of the Governments of the United States and France. The main objects of the expedition are the investigation, with some approach to thoroughness and scientific method, of the monumental and other remains of early civilization in the nucleus of New Spain—Yucatan, Guatemala, and the adjoining provinces of Mexico—and generally the collection of such data as may tend to throw light on the many intricate problems connected with the mysterious races of Anahuac. The expedition will, for the first time, take casts of all important bas-reliefs and inscriptions, and thus do for the antiquities of Central America what has already been done so amply for Egyptian and Assyrian remains, and perhaps ultimately render possible the solution of the linguistic problem. One collection of these reproductions will be offered to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, and another will find a resting place in the Trocadero of Paris.

THE missionaries of the China Inland Mission often meet with native Roman Catholics, some of whom are of families which have professed the "Jesus" religion through six or seven generations. Their numbers must be considerable. Mr. Nicoll writes that when he was in Yunnan he was told, at a village where he rested over night, that there was a family of Roman Catholics in the place. He started out in the morning with a hope that he might meet some one of the family. He was more successful than he expected, easily singling out a shop in which a picture of Jesus hung. Stopping to look at the picture, the owner of the shop came forward, with the eager inquiry: "Do you praise Jesus?" The missionary says this little incident gave him more pleasure than anything else that occurred during his journey. Mr. Nicoll was accompanied by his wife, whose presence excited great curiosity. At Chung-king, for the first two weeks, from 100 to 200 women called daily to see Mrs. Nicoll, and subsequently the number of callers increased to from 400 to 500. There has been a most excellent opportunity for preaching to them.

THE incomes of the heads of the Episcopal Church are as follows: The Archbishop of Canterbury, £15,000 per annum; the Archbishop of York, £10,000 per annum; the Bishop of London, £10,000 per annum; the Bishop of Durham, £8,000 per annum; the Bishop of Winchester, £7,000 per annum; the Bishop of Ely, £5,500 per annum; the Bishop of St. Asaph, £5,200 per annum; and the remainder not less than £4,000 nor more than £5,000 per annum, the proper average to be maintained by a revision of the revenues of the various Sees every seven years. In addition to his salary, the Primate of England possesses two palaces—one at Lambeth and the other at Addington, near Croydon—and that in connection with the latter he was given the title to a pleasure garden (by an order of Her Majesty's Privy Council on the 27th of August, 1869), consisting of over 467 acres. The amount of personal property amassed by twenty-four bishops who died during the fifteen years preceding the appointment of the Ecclesiastical Commission and the three subsequent years is stated by Albany Fonblanque to have amounted to nearly an average of £70,000 for each bishop.

IT seems that attention is being specially drawn in England to the evil effects of smoking as practised by boys. One English physician is mentioned particularly as having examined thirty-eight of these precocious smokers, ranging from nine to fifteen years of age. In twenty-two of these cases he found various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and more or less marked inclination for strong drink. Twelve were subject to frequent bleeding at the nose and an equal number had slight ulceration of the mouth. All this is the most natural thing in the world, as can be seen in thousands of cases everywhere. We don't need to go to England for illustrations. All over Canada we see these juvenile smokers by the hundred, puny, spindle-shanked, tallow-faced, stupid-eyed, nervous nincompoops, just not quite so dazed and mindless as the Chinese opium smoker but not much better. Whether or not it be a mark of genius in a man to smoke tobacco we shall not stay at present to inquire, only remarking by the way that we have met with a very considerable number of adult and most vigorous worshippers of the weed who certainly gave not the slightest intimation of having genius of any kind. As far, however, as boys are concerned we may safely affirm that universal experience goes to shew that if they betake themselves in their teens or even sooner to the tobacco or the cigar, they will soon get quit of any symptoms of genius they ever possessed.

WHAT sorry nonsense, and something a great deal worse, many of those who claim to be "advanced thinkers" talk when they get fairly started on their hobbies. Everybody has heard about the marriage of "George Eliot" *alias* Miss Evans *alias*—well, we suppose we must say the *leman* of the late Mr. G. H. Lewes. Now, any reasonable mortal might have thought that even an "advanced thinker" might do something a great deal worse than get married in a decent, honourable way. It seems, however, not so. This last step, which Miss Evans has lately taken, is, it seems, the most awful and the most disgraceful transaction of which she could by any possibility be guilty. The horror and unspeakability of the proceeding can only be fully realized when one reads the following threnody over it by Mr. Moncure D. Conway, the well known London correspondent of the Cincinnati "Commercial." The poor man is utterly disheartened and overwhelmed by the occurrence. It is thus he moans and moralizes: "She is a shattered idol, a cruel disenchantment, seeing that a score of pathetic myths had invested her, ever since Mr. Lewes' death. Had she been aware of the niche she has long occupied in the holy of holies, the heart of the young, the heroic, the dreamers; had she known what it had cost these to raise her and to defend her," etc., etc., etc., "she could hardly have subjected the world to this cruel disenchantment by legally marrying, and that in the most fashionable church in London." "Here," cries Mr. Conway, "here was the reputed High Priestess of Positivism kneeling before a clergyman and pronouncing after him that she will live 'after the Lord's holy ordinance.' She who has not believed in any deity but humanity for over twenty years." Moreover, she signed her name "Marian Evans, spinster," ignoring Mr. Lewes, and confessing that her relations to him were not "after the Lord's holy ordinance." In sober sadness is this the understood way in which men of genius, or even of decent talent, or those who claim to be such, rant and rave? And is this the end of all the new philosophy and all the "advanced thinking," that it glorifies concubinage and thinks that a woman has finally and for ever dishonoured herself when she ceases to be one man's mistress and becomes another man's wife? "The Sty of Epicurus" is, evidently, the material, but not very honourable resting-plate for all such mouthing talkers, who, while dealing out their platitudes about being moral philosophers, shew very practically and very unmistakably that they have so ceased to be moral men that they are even angry at any of the unfortunate sisterhood of "congenial spirits" who may be found sweeping the house anxiously, if haply they "might find the piece which they had lost."