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Notes of the Week.

Several ministers of the Established Church of Scotland assert that the vote in the General Assembly on the joint hymnal has been misunderstood, inasmuch as it was given on the merits of the book alone and not in relation to the "unionistic sentiment" which has been spoken of.

Modern ways of observing the Sabbath in some quarters exercised the Established Church Synod of Glasgow (Scotland) at the last meeting of that body. The throwing open of museums and green-houses in the public parks, the riding of cycles, the driving of gigs, and the playing of golf and bowls were all glanced at with regret.

An idea of the immense activities of the American Presbyterian Church may be gathered from the fact that last year the expenditures reached the sum of \$14,000,000. Of this \$750,000 went for foreign missions, \$2,000,000 for missionary work in the home field, and \$1,000,000 for general benevolence. This is a splendid record for a Christian body.

A subject which has exercised the public mind in Britain for many years, and which has been well threshed out in our church courts, is now at last apparently nearing a final settlement. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister having passed again and again in the House of Commons but always defeated in the House of Lords, has at last been carried on a second reading in the Upper House by a vote of 142 to 113. A large detachment of royalties voted for it; and the Marquis of Salisbury, the Duke of Norfolk, the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, and eighteen bishops voted against it.

According to the statement of a friend of Li Hung Chang, reported in a San Francisco paper: "It is his intention to build railroads all over China, a good navy, organize a splendid army, improve coast defences, and above all bring about a stronger centralized government. It is probable that the other viceroys will become simply governors of their provinces subject to the central power." For a man of Li Hung's age it might be felt this is a pretty large contract. If, however, he can only make a fair beginning of it, it will be an evidence that China has begun to move, and should it advance as fast as Japan has done, who can tell what those now young may live to see?

Mansfield College, Oxford, so well known in connection with the name of the gifted Principal Fairbairn, has reached the close of its first decade. At the anniversary meeting, which has been held, all who have assisted have rejoiced in the great work which the first decade has seen accomplished, and in the high hopes and lofty ambitions which still inspire the college. Without including those who leave this term, sixty regularly admitted students have left the college. The income had fully met the expenditure, and had even availed to wipe out entirely the deficit of the previous two years, which amounted to £237, leaving a trifling balance in the hands of the treasurer.

At the annual meeting of the Evangelical Alliance of this city the cause of the persecuted Armenians was taken up, and arrangements were made for collecting and forwarding assistance on their behalf to the English Armenian Relief Fund.

Dr. W. B. Geikie was made treasurer of this Fund, and he has just reported that the first ten drafts sent to England amounted to \$9,684; whilst the four remitted since that date come to \$3,077, making a grand total of \$12,761. The last of these drafts was for \$716, and was sent yesterday. The amount subscribed so far is considered highly satisfactory, in view of the fact that all the subscriptions have been purely voluntary.

The Venezuelan Government depending no doubt upon the support of their big brother the United States, appears to be determined to pick a quarrel with Britain. Its last act has been to forcibly arrest Mr. Harrison, the Crown Surveyor, of British Guiana, while engaged in road-making with a force of a hundred labourers and engineers at a point well within the Schomburg line. The London press generally calls for prompt action by the Government. While ample and just reparation will no doubt in time be exacted, the British Government can well afford to be patient, and will not fly into a passion at the petty annoyance of a petty semi-civilized state on the outskirts of its world-wide empire.

The fifty-third annual meeting of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Among the Jews was held lately in Exeter Hall, London. The Society has twenty-six missionaries and many voluntary helpers working at mission stations in England, Germany, Austria, Russia and Turkey. It has medical missions and two homes for aged Christian Jews. Progress was reported during the past year, especially in work among the young. Mr. Scott Moncrieff, who has recently spent some months in Jerusalem, stated that there were more Jews now scattered over the world than ever before, it being reckoned that some twelve millions of Jews were living to-day. Fifty thousand now reside in Jerusalem and its suburbs, while 100,000 Jews are colonists already in Palestine.

The Rev. John Watson, D.D. (Ian Maclaren), made his first bow lately to a Belfast audience, in a lecture on Burns. The *Witness* speaking of his first public appearance in that city, says: "However much his readers may have admired him as a writer, those who had the privilege of listening to him as he lectured on 'Burns' will be inclined to say that the speaker is no less deserving of admiration than the writer. Dr. Watson, who is in the prime of his manhood, has an agreeable presence, a rich, resonant, and flexible voice, capable of great variety of expression and modulation. He delivered his lecture without manuscript, and with only an occasional reference to a few notes on a single sheet of paper, and to a volume of the poet's works for some quotations. We may say his manner was perfect, his arrangement clear, his sentences finely cut and polished, his criticisms subtle and suggestive, his delivery captivating and fascinating.

During the academic year of 1895-96 one hundred and four courses have been delivered under the auspices of the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching. Of these forty-two have been financially successful, twenty have had deficits, six have been free, and thirty-six have not been reported. In many cases the deficits have been met by a guarantee fund, to which members of the Local Committees, or persons attending the lectures, have contributed. The total attendance on courses has been between 15,000 and 20,000 persons, and the attendance at all lectures has been about 115,000. It is

interesting to report that there has been an increase in the number of free lectures and lectures to artisans. Ten courses have been given to working men, seven in Civics, two in American History, and one in English History. One course in English History has been given to colored people in Philadelphia.

A letter just received in Chicago from Miss Clara Barton, dated Constantinople, 21st ult., says that there is cordial co-operation between the American missionaries and the Red Cross men, the latter distributing agricultural supplies, while the missionaries furnish food and clothing. Speaking of Harpoot, she says: "Thousands of houses were burned, people are shelterless, unable to obtain lumber for their roofs, which our people are providing so far as they can, trying to give a yoke of cattle to each village, and tools sufficient to cultivate the seed grain, which they are also giving. At Palou they need 1,000 cattle, oxen and cows." "You will see," she adds, "by this that my expeditions are not engaged in giving food especially, but rather in trying to create it. The prospect of the necessities of the future for the desolated, requires your sympathy and mine." As indicated by a cable just received, the Chicago Committee says "the needs are as great as ever."

The success of the Prince of Wales lately on the racecourse has called renewed attention to and general and strong condemnation in the religious press of Britain against the prevalence and the evils of betting so greatly promoted by racing. "It is impossible," says the *Christian World*, "to deny that the racecourse, the betting-ring, betting agencies, and the whole system of ruinous gambling, mis-called 'sport,' owe very much of their hold on the populace to the example set by Royal Princes and Ministers of the Crown for generations past." The difficulties, the temptations and miseries of the "submerged tenth," on the authority, the best that can be given, of the Salvation Army staff, are due, next to drink, to betting as an agency of hell. "It is impossible," says the same paper, "to repress or disguise the astonishment we feel that one who evidently has the welfare of the nation at heart should continue, by his influence and example, to encourage a system which makes the betting-ring more like the mouth of hell than any place on earth."

The fate of the Education Bill of Lord Salisbury and of the Coercion measure of the Canadian Government furnishes a very notable and most significant coincidence, worthy of the attentive consideration of all English-speaking people in every part of the world, strongly illustrative of their spirit of independence and a protest against government by force in any form. Strong as the Salisbury Government is, it has judged it safer to abandon its Education Bill, which was designed to ply into the hands of the Church of England, as Separate Schools in Canada play into the hands of Rome, rather than incur the odium of carrying it out to the bitter end. The Government of Sir Charles Tupper and the party which staked their existence upon a measure intended to give special privileges to one class of the people at the expense of another, and to carry out such a policy by force, has been deservedly overthrown. The two things together have in them a lesson which may be read with advantage in every English-speaking country, and is a rebuke to government by coercion which as often as it is attempted we hope will meet with the same fate.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Lutheran Observer: We are not becoming more like Christ in likeness, if we are becoming less and less like Him in spiritual conduct.

Ram's Horn: A star is added to the soul winner's crown when an old man is saved, but when a child is put into the arms of Christ, it may mean a whole Milky Way.

Tennessee Methodist: The Lord never purposed that His blood-bought church should transform itself into a system of concert halls, kitchens, and entertainment bureaus.

United Presbyterian: What grace did for Paul, it may do for others. It is the same divine power, the same quickening life, and whoever is willing to receive it will enjoy the same blessed fruits.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: Among the bits of ecclesiastical gossip floating about in Roman Catholic circles is a story that Queen Victoria spends Easter on the Continent because she is inclined to Roman Catholicism. The Priests in the more illiterate parts of France delight their hearers with this intelligence. On the contrary, when the Queen is at Balmoral, she is somewhat ostentatiously a Presbyterian. She seems to be really a Broad Anglican Protestant.

The Interior: Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of Great Britain, does not take as kindly a view of Tommy Atkins' drinking habits as Kipling, but is probably nearer the truth. In a recent speech before the English Army Temperance Association, Lord Wolseley made this striking statement: "There are yet some battles to be fought, some great enemies to be encountered by the United Kingdom, but the most pressing enemy at present is drink. It kills more than all our newest weapons of warfare, and not only destroys the body but the mind and soul also."

Principal Grant, D.D.: France gave without stint the great explorers, whose names are sown all over this continent thick as a field,—martyrs and missionaries of deathless fame, saintly women whose works do still follow them. Their blood was not lost in vast inland seas and on rugged Laurentian and Huronian rocks. It fell on good soil, and we see its permanent memorial now in a noble French-speaking people, enjoying their own language, laws and institutions under a flag identified with their liberties, and under a constitution that they and their fathers have helped to hammer out. Their children sit side by side in our federal parliament with the children of their ancestral foes, and the only real contest between them is, which shall serve Canada best.

Zion's Herald: Think of each hour of your present existence as so much added hold upon eternal progressive life. Think of each deed as the beginning of an endless series of deeds like it—life leading up to life, unbroken, homogeneous, one in purpose, in meaning, in power! Just accepting salvation is no more what this life was given you for than just saying "I will" is the keeping and consummation of the moral law. Life now, life then, life forever, is a preparation for life to come. There is no such thing as spiritual inertia in the universe. Christ says, "Come," but after that He says, "Go—go ye into the whole world;" and so by noble, helpful living prepare, not for the hour of death, but for the eternity of celestial service which is to come.