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Notes of the Week.

The following is curious, if true. It is said that the Jews have at last had their revenge on Babylon. Nearly 2,500 years ago Babylon took their whole nation into captivity, but now two Jews have bought all that is left of the famous city.

A despatch from Constantinople to the *London Chronicle* says the latest accounts received there are to the effect that forty prosperous villages around Van, in Armenia, have been destroyed and every male over eight years of age killed. The total killed is placed at 12,800.

The death of Anson D. F. Randolph was announced week before last. He was seventy-six years old, and entered the publishing business at the age of thirty. Besides his distinction as the Nestor of publishers, which he has been dubbed for years, he was something of a poet and had published several volumes of his verse.

A London journal says that for some time Mr. Gladstone has been going through the dozens of huge boxes in which he has carefully preserved his correspondence for years. A great many letters of little or no interest have been weeded out, but there still remain no less than 60,000 missives, which are tied up in bundles and carefully docketed.

At the last meeting of the London Presbytery North an item on the agenda paper was a report from the Watching Committee on the Education Bill. Dr. Monro Gibson rose amid loud laughter and applause. He said the Watching Committee saw the Bill die with considerable satisfaction. It was decided to continue the committee, "in view of a possible resurrection of the Bill."

At a recent meeting of the Liverpool Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Watson applied for an extension of leave at his approaching vacation. He had been invited to visit America and deliver theological lectures at the Yale University, and he asked the Presbytery for three months' leave of absence. The Presbytery heartily acceded to the request, and the Moderator (Rev. T. W. Macpherson) said he hoped Dr. Watson would have a pleasant visit.

This is the way additions are made to the salaries of curates of the Church of England according to the *London Truth*: "I would respectfully call the attention of the Curates' Union to a poster of which the following is the substance: 'A Tea Fete and Gala in aid of the Llanstadwell Curates' Stipend Fund will be given in the Sports' Field on Wednesday, June 10 1896. Aunt Sally! Shooting Galleries! Lawn Tennis! Archery! Coconut Shies! etc.'"

A new department in the social work of the Salvation Army among the poor of the tenement districts was started in New York last week. It is to be known as the Mercy Box League, and its object is to distribute boxes among people who are in sympathy with the work of the Salvation Army, with the understanding that the recipients shall bind themselves to place one cent a week, at least, in the box. At the end of every quarter agents of the Army will collect the contents of the boxes, the whole of the proceeds subsequently being devoted to the service of the social work of the organization.

When the Prince of Wales went over a newspaper office on the occasion of his visit to Cardiff, he could not see the linotype machine at work owing to the absence of the operator. For this, the operator was dismissed. The man afterwards wrote to the Prince saying he did not mind being dismissed, but he regretted that he had occasioned the Prince disappointment. The Prince, through the Mayor, expressed the hope that the man would be reinstated, and the request has been granted.

The Queen of Roumania (Carmen Sylva) has written a poem in Scotch on the Burns centenary, which was given in connection with the recent Dumfries celebration. A medal has been struck to commemorate the centenary. A Burns Exhibition was opened in Glasgow a few days ago, the exhibits being valued at £100,000. A letter by Burns sold in London for £20, one by the poet Coleridge fetching £10, the same sum being paid for one by Alexander Pope.

At the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it was reported that the year's issue of Bibles, Testaments, and portions had been 3,970,439 copies, or 133,217 more than in 1894-95. The income of the general fund had been £126,372, showing a decrease of £11,403, legacies having diminished by £9,555. The receipts from sales had fallen from £93,552 to £87,590. The expenditure had been £197,756, a reduction of £17,024, largely due to cheaper methods of printing, with the aid of photography.

The war in Cuba drags wearily along. Jose Maceo, the insurgent leader, has been "killed" several times. Yellow fever and other diseases are prevalent in both armies. The Spaniards are discovering that they have a long task before them, on account of the unhealthy climate, the advantage possessed by the insurgents in knowledge of the country and the guerilla method of warfare that is so hard to meet. The cost of the war has already been enormous, and the Spanish treasury is feeling the drain.

The *Japan Gazette* wants to know if the British trader has lost his enterprise. "Time was," says the paper, "when British capitalists were first in any new field, but in Korea they do not seem to make any headway. The clever agent of an American company is building a railway, Russians are to work coal-mines, and the Germans are after the gold. The British are as hopelessly out of it as the Japanese. This is another proof of how politics affect commerce. Had the British officials retained Port Hamilton it is certain that by this time the British merchants would have shown keener interest in Korea."

It is now asserted that Moody and Sankey hymns caused the persecution of the Armenians by the Turks. "Onward, Christian Soldiers," read in the Turkish language, breathes a martial spirit and is apt to be taken in a literal sense as an exhortation to fight the Turk. It is suggested as a possible explanation of the charges against Professor Trounmanian that what was supposed to be his revolutionary language was the quotation of some such hymns. The revivalist and the sweet singer in Israel should be sent to Yildiz Kiosk to explain that they sing only in a Pickwickian sense.

In reply to the question, "Could not this weekly rest-day be secured without religion?" Dr. Wilbur Crafts, the Financial Secretary of the American Sabbath Union, gave this pertinent and unanswerable reply, "A weekly day of rest has ever been permanently secured in any land except as the basis of religion. Take religion out and you take the rest out." Joseph Cook says, "The experience of countries shows that you will in vain endeavor to preserve Sunday as a day of rest unless you preserve it as a day of worship. To make the Sabbath a rest-day by legal enactment is right and should be demanded, but this will not preserve it, and its advantages, unless in practice Christians make it a sacred day."

We find in a German paper, says the *Literary Digest*, some curious references to the Golden Rose, which the Pope confers upon Catholic princes and princesses as a mark of distinction. Pope Julius sent it to Henry VIII. of England. Within a year the Pope lost his power over England. Another Pope gave the Rose to King Bomba of Naples. In less than a year the king lost his throne. Emperor Francis Josef received it, and lost the battle of Sadowa soon after. Napoleon III. got it, and lost the war against Germany and his throne in less than a year. Queen Isabel of Spain, too, lost her throne in less than twelve months after the Rose had been conferred upon her. It is said this list of unlucky recipients could be much extended.

All the Australian Parliaments, except Queensland, have already passed an Enabling Bill for federation, and Queensland will follow. A constitution will be drafted by these delegates, and we may expect that the measure which has been hanging fire for so many years will before long be carried out. The public sentiment is in favor of a form of government which will be not simply democratic, but have some socialist features. In South Australia, under the new Female Suffrage Act, fifty thousand women were permitted to take part in the balloting, and the result was a great triumph for the Government, which was supported by the Socialists, or labor men, so that the Premier, Mr. Kingston, is now practically their leader.

Another Blue Book on Armenia has been issued. It repeats the same fearful story to which we seem to be becoming quite accustomed. This last report shows that the state of things was fully known to the late Government as well as to the present. In a letter, dated Bitlis, June 1893, which was enclosed in one by Sir A. Nicolson to Lord Rosebery, the following passage occurs: "Christians are often aroused at midnight and hurried to prison or to exile without even being told the reason why. To have books in one's house is often deemed a sufficient reason for the imprisonment of the owner until the books can be examined; and it often happens that the examination of the books is delayed for months. Instances are multiplying where Armenians, owing to the oppressive taxes and other hardships to which they are subjected, have turned from the faith of their fathers and become Mohammedans. In one village four families, in another six, and in a still another fifteen families, including a priest have recently declared their acceptance of Mohammedanism. As such an act is rewarded by exemption from taxes for fifteen years, it is very probable that more and more of these wretched Christians will be driven to do likewise."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Tennessee Methodist: The religion that would rather be poor than touch a dishonest dollar, carries the divine life within it.

Wm. M. Paxton, D.D.: Pack your sermon. Let your introduction be a rifle shot at the theme. Jump at once in *medias res* and lay your best things first, and be sure to stop when you get through.

Cumberland Presbyterian: The Christian who can talk politics from sun-rise to sun-set and then talk but five minutes with God before retiring, must be an anomaly to the angels.

A. W. Pitzer, D.D.: It deserves earnest attention that the Spirit in his work of moral and spiritual renovation never moves upon men in masses, but always as single individuals; He attempts no reform in Church or State or communities, except as He renews the individual heart and sends forth the New Man in Christ Jesus as a light and life-giving factor in human society.

Catholic Register: Dr. Langtry possesses the remarkable faculty of making history as he goes along, and he certainly makes it to square with any contentions he sees fit to set up. He mixes up his own history with references to Venerable Bede and other writers, and, so to speak, sandbags his adversary with statements of history offered without any other authority than his own name at the end of the letter.

United Presbyterian: It is not on record that the disciples ever asked of Jesus that He would teach them how to perform miracles of healing, or how to preach and teach; but they did ask that He would teach them how to pray. The inference would seem to be that they were more impressed by His prayers than by His power to work miracles. We ought to covet earnestly the best gifts, and the gift of prayer is certainly one of these.

The Canadian Baptist: The question suggested by way of moral is whether the prohibitionists do not lose more than they can possibly gain by carrying the question into politics, to the extent of trying to form a distinct Prohibition party. It is by no means likely that such a party can win an election, for, however loyal intelligent electors may be to temperance, and however strongly they may believe in prohibition, few of them will ever make that the supreme political issue, to the extent of sinking their views on all other questions.

David Pryde: The crowning merit of a book must always be its practical usefulness. It may be a work of fiction, diverting your thoughts from the chaos of business, and allowing your mind to recover its elasticity and its tone; or a history, bringing before you high ideas for your imitation; or a poem, elevating and refining your tastes, and filling your imagination with beautiful forms; or the work of a Christian philosopher to warn you, as with the blast of a trumpet, from self-indulgence to self-sacrifice. It makes you more imitable, or more sympathetic, or more appreciative of what is beautiful, or more resolute to follow what is good and noble, then the highest purpose of a book is gained.