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Notes of the Week.

AT the close of the Episcopal Convention in New York Bishop Williams of Connecticut, pronounced the benediction. There was an affecting scene in the Memorial Building when the venerable presiding bishop, penetrated with the thought that he may never meet his brethren again, bade them farewell, kissing each of them on the cheek. It was a fitting close to a convention in which amity and good will had reigned from beginning to end.

THE Bible idea in regard to Thanksgiving, says the New York *Independent*, is that we should give "thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. v. 20.) The whole scheme of our existence and everything in it should call forth our gratitude to the great Author of our being. What we sometimes call evils are often our greatest mercies. Every Christian should be a devout *optimist* and constantly praise God for his goodness.

THE directors of the McAll Mission in France, which holds services in one hundred and thirty halls, have asked their helpers and friends in Britain to set apart a Sunday for special prayer and praise. The wonderful blessing vouchsafed calls, they say, for earnest thankfulness, and as some forms of work have been undertaken upon the promise of gifts from subscribers who have since died, there is need to pray that the spirit of generous giving may be imparted, so that the work already in hand may be maintained.

DR. MELVILLE, in the opening address at the first general meeting of the Dundee Presbyterian office-bearers' union, said such societies worked two ways—inwards towards the central administration of the Church's affairs, and outwards towards the administration of congregational matters. In reference to the financial side of church affairs, he said spiritual work should be paid for. Who were to pay for it? The whole nation as one body, or those who benefited by the work? Practically that was no question to them, for they knew where they stood. They stood where their fathers landed them, and they saw no reason yet to depart from the position in which they had been placed.

THERE are only from 70,000 to 80,000 Jews in France, but their position and influence may be judged from the following facts:—Six of the largest daily papers have Jews as directors or secretaries of the editors, besides many writers in the public journals; three Jews are senators; four are Representatives in the Chamber; two Inspectors-General of Public Instruction; seven members of the Privy Council; four members of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres; four of the Académie des Sciences; three of the Académie des Médecines; three of the Collège de France; two of the Sorbonne; two of the Ecole Polytechnique; three Professors of Medicine; the President of the High Court of Appeal is a Jew; many officers, medical men, and engineers of the State are Jews; five are generals of the army, and many are subaltern officers.

WITH the annual evangelistic conference of the London Presbyteries, held in the college lately, the winter's work was inaugurated. Rev. C. Moinet presided. Rev. Wm. Ross, of Cowcaddens Free Church, Glasgow, introduced the subject, "Aggressive work in large cities." He touched upon the helps and hindrances. A calculation had just been made, he said, that there were 300,000 persons in Glasgow who were outside church organization of any kind. To reach such men needed to be filled with the Holy Ghost, their purposes should be fixed but their plans free. Impressions should be always followed up, and in the work of the elevation of the masses Gospel Temperance must take a prominent place. Mr. Ross spoke of the success of his work in Cowcaddens, where services have been held for 2,190 consecutive nights. The work should be done by the Church into which the people should be gathered.

THE services in connection with the Catholic Centennial Celebration at Baltimore, will begin on Sunday, November 10th. They will be at the Cathedral, and tickets for every seat in the building have already been issued. The ceremonies will begin with a procession from the Cardinal's residence: The two Cardinals will march under a gold and crimson canopy, and in the cathedral they will occupy thrones of red damask and gold. The Archbishops and Bishops will wear their richest robes, and the priests will be in white surplices. A hymn composed especially for the occasion will be sung by a choir of several hundred voices. Archbishop Williams, of Boston, will celebrate the Pontifical Mass, and the centennial sermon will be preached by Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia. The Convention will be attended by 600 delegates. The ecclesiastical participants in the celebration proper will include Cardinal Gibbons, Cardinal Taschereau, fifty bishops, a delegation from the Vatican, hundreds of priests and nearly a thousand Catholic societies. Premier Mercier of Quebec, it is announced, will be present and take part in the celebration.

WE announced last week, says the *British Weekly*, that the Rev. George Adam Smith, M.A., of Aberdeen, who has been unanimously invited to succeed Dr. Marcus Dods as minister of Renfield Free Church, Glasgow, has felt it his duty to decline the call. Mr. Smith, although fully sensible of the importance and attraction of the sphere to which he was invited, felt that the state of his work in Aberdeen was such that he could not conscientiously leave it. This decision involves the rejection of overtures from Free St. George's, Edinburgh, many of the members of which desired to have Mr. Smith settled as a colleague to Dr. Whyte. Happily there is no urgency about St. George's, Dr. Whyte remaining still in full vigour of body and mind. The promptitude with which Mr. Smith has made his decision known is highly satisfactory, and it may be that others in similar circumstances will follow the excellent example. It seems to be felt in Scotland that while the average of preaching among the younger men is very high—perhaps higher than ever before—there is a certain lack of marked individuality and power. We do not doubt, however, that there are those among them in every way fit to occupy the most important positions.

THE Minister of Education has issued "Instructions to Teachers and Trustees of French-English Schools," which if faithfully followed out will meet the objections that have been urged against the methods pursued in schools where French-Canadian children are being educated in this province. The encroachments made by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics on the Ontario common school system in certain districts has aroused a degree of apprehension it was wisdom to allay, by insisting on a full and faithful adherence to the educational system which the Province of Ontario has adopted and supports. The study of English is enjoined, and the management of the school, as far as practicable, is to be conducted in English. Teachers' institutes and a model school for teachers are to be established. The bilingual readers authorized in the French schools in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have been authorized by the Department for use in the French schools in Ontario. In addition to recommendations concerning the teaching of the various branches in these schools, the Regulations respecting unauthorized text books and religious instruction are printed in these "Instructions" for the guidance of teachers and trustees. Prompt measures have been taken to correct evils which might have led to serious trouble.

BIG Words and Small Deeds is the title the *Christian Leader* affixes to the following: Bishop Courtney, formerly an Episcopal clergyman in Glasgow, was the preacher at the triennial provincial Synod of the Church of England in Canada, held recently in Montreal. Christian union was the burden of his discourse, and he contended that the Church of England should be a centre of union both for Romanists and non-Episcopal Protestants. After

this sermon came a great missionary meeting, with much eloquent talk, Bishop Courtney referring to the fact that while some people asserted that missions were played out, the missionary societies had more money and more men than ever. He might have added that if all the other churches did as little for missions as the one in which he is junior bishop, there would have been no grounds for this boast. The fact is that both for domestic and foreign missions the Canadian Episcopalians have only raised \$81,000 during the past three years, which is at the rate of \$27,000 per annum. The Presbyterian Church of the Dominion, which is supposed to be about equal in numbers and resources to the Anglican, raised last year for corresponding purposes \$220,000. And yet the Anglicans coolly set themselves up as the grand "centre of unity"! The best index of a Church's vitality is to be found in its pecuniary offerings, and in the light of the above contrast, the claim set forth by Bishop Courtney becomes slightly ridiculous.

ONE of the devoted leaders of the crusade against the demoralizing music halls in London is Mr. McDougall, of whom a correspondent thus writes to the *Christian World*:—"I am glad to notice that you speak a word for Mr. John McDougall, who has brought a hornet's nest about his ears by attacking the indecency of the music halls. He is one of a family that is devoting itself with remarkable unanimity to the service of man. His father, still alive, started as a private schoolmaster in Manchester, and from dabbling in chemistry came at last to build up a magnificent business in disinfectants, cattle food, manures, etc., which has brought fortune to himself and his son. Perhaps the most useful fact in the lives of these sons is that in two of them the philanthropic impulse has mastered the desire for wealth, and both have retired in the prime of life, in order that nothing may stand between them and devotion to humanity. One of these brothers is Mr. John McDougall; the other is Councillor McDougall, of Manchester, whose pamphlet on 'Drink and Poverty' has recently made such a stir. He is working as a guardian of the poor. Another brother has for twenty-five years or more conducted a Sunday class in the Mint, Southwark, striving without ostentation or parade to lift up those who have fallen. A sister has been for twelve years matron of Dr. Stephenson's Children's Home, choosing work rather than ease. I do not know a case of such strenuous and devoted missionary spirit affecting a whole family; and the power to stop in the race for wealth carries a special lesson for the times."

THE Chautauqua movement which from the first has achieved a remarkable success, and has been productive of most excellent results, has received a cordial support from Presbyterians. A circular has just been issued in which it is stated that "from the first Chautauqua Assembly to the present time, Presbyterians have shown marked appreciation of the advantages that life at Chautauqua offers, hence it is not surprising to learn that for several years Presbyterians have out-numbered all other denominations in the number of students engaged in the various departments of the University. This year fifty-five Presbyterians were enrolled in the Teachers' retreat, nearly one-sixth of the total number. In the College of Liberal Arts, Presbyterians again lead with one hundred and twenty-six students, or over one-fifth of the enrolment. On Denominational Day there were three hundred present at the Presbyterians' meeting, despite the rain; of these twenty-three were ministers, ten elders, and five Sabbath School superintendents." A Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua has been formed. A building is to be erected. An appeal is made to the Presbyterians who have visited Chautauqua to aid in the accomplishment of this laudable design by subscriptions, which may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Skinner, Westfield, Chautauqua, N.Y. On the Board of Management are, among many others, the names of Dr. John Hall, Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans; Dr. Geo. P. Hayes, of Kansas City; Elliott F. Shepard, Geo. P. Morris, New York; A. O. Granger, Philadelphia; and Eugene M. O'Neill, of Pittsburgh. There can be little doubt that this movement will be crowned with the success it deserves.