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Notes of the Week.

The opening of a new lock the other day at Sault Ste Marie, on the American side, conveys vividly from its size an idea of the needs and greatness, as yet only dawning upon us, we might say, of what our great inland navigation and trade demand. The lock was commenced in 1880; it is 800 feet in length between the gates, 1,100 feet in length over all; 43 feet high; 100 feet wide, and will accommodate boats drawing 21 feet of water.

As illustrative of the state of things in Spain as regards the circulation of the Scriptures and facilities of obtaining the Word of God, the following statement is made in the last *Missionary Review of the World* by the Rev. William H. Gulick, of San Sebastian, Spain. The Archbishop of the see of Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia, one of the most important dioceses of all Spain, on one occasion promised to give a Protestant of that parish a Roman Catholic Bible in exchange for his Protestant Bible; but after spending a long time in looking for one, he had to confess that he could not find one in the episcopal palace, that "he would have to send for it to Barcelona," all across the peninsula.

It is hard to say which of the specific objects the Christian Endeavor Society has in view is the most important; not the least important, however, and destined to have a powerful effect upon society, is that of Christian citizenship. The attention of thousands of young people to be hereafter the citizens of the country, voting, making and administering its laws, must tell and that soon. There is urgent need for it. On the evening devoted to this subject at the last Christian Endeavor Convention held in Washington, meetings were held in two mammoth tents, in half-a-dozen churches, and in Central Hall, and crowds of Endeavorers met to listen to addresses by distinguished speakers on this important theme, which was treated and powerfully advocated from a great many different points of view, but all tending, if embodied in life and action, to the great betterment of society.

The International Missionary Union met this year for the seventh time at Clifton Springs, New York, in the Tabernacle, a beautiful structure erected for the use of this organization by Dr. Henry Foster at an expense of \$4,000. The societies represented were, numerically, respectively as follows: American Board, 42; Methodist Episcopal, 27; Presbyterians, 25; Baptists, 16; Protestant Episcopal, 15; Reformed Dutch, 3; Canada Baptist, 3; China Inland Mission, 2; Independent, 1; United Presbyterian, 2; Woman's Union, 2; Canada Presbyterian, 1; Established Church of Scotland, 1; Reformed Episcopal, 1; Seventh Day Baptist, 15; Southern Presbyterian, 1; Y.M.C.A. Foreign Field, 1. Total, 127. The countries represented were Africa, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Italy, Japan, Korea, Persia, Siam, Malaysia, Syria, Turkey, Spain, West Indies, South America (Brazil, Colombia), India (Assam, Burma, Ceylon), Persia and the Hawaiian Islands.

The extreme interest now taken in science by all enlightened nations, and the great length of the distance travelled from the superstitious fears of ignorance regarding eclipses of the sun, are very strikingly illustrated by the elaborate

preparations which were made by several nations through their scientific bodies to observe, wherever it could be observed, the last total eclipse of the sun. Only one minute and fifty-eight seconds was the length of total obscuration, and for the sake of utilizing in the interests of science, which are also the interests of mankind, these precious two minutes less two seconds, expensive expeditions were fitted out with the most costly and delicate apparatus of all kinds that could be of any use, accompanied by scientific men and artists of the greatest skill, sent in special vessels to distant parts of the earth to glean knowledge, to ascertain definitely and settle unsettled points. The whole scientific world, and many who are not scientific, will now wait and watch anxiously for reports as to the results of the observations made, so far as they are of a nature to be made known speedily. For others, all that can be done will only be to wait.

Ministries come and go so rapidly in France that not much can be built upon any one, except in so far as each must more or less truly reflect the spirit and sentiment of the country. "The present Ministry," says a writer in a current number of a religious periodical, "seems to be fairly minded with regard to the rights of Protestants and their missionaries at home and abroad. We have the most Radical Government we ever had, and it is only from the Radical party that we can ever expect, in this country, measures which will lead to the separation of Church and State, one of the greatest needs of France. The President-General for Madagascar, now on his way to Antananarivo, is M. Laroche, a Protestant gentleman. Mme. Laroche, though born a Roman Catholic, has joined her husband and is well known in Protestant philanthropic circles. Several Protestant officials, along with a great many Roman Catholics of course, have been sent with M. Laroche to the new colony. It is hoped therefore that the Swedish and English missionaries on the great African Island will be impartially dealt with.

"Hot the day!" "Ay, awfu' hot!" were the salutation and rejoinder of two Scotsmen to one another on a certain day in a certain town in Scotland, when to a Canadian passing by it felt comfortably cool. But in this heated term, even Canadians have been heard to say, "Hot to-day!" "Ay, awful hot." Thanks to the Weather Bureau which promises "Cooler after to-day, August 10th." We hope it may be a true prophet. If it deceives the public on this occasion, the Bureau ought to be punished. Everybody is complaining, and what is the use of having a Weather Bureau if it cannot make things more comfortable for suffering humanity. But there is a very serious side to such long-continued and extreme heat. Boating accidents and death by drowning, deaths from sunstroke and heat-prostration, and largely increased mortality, from disease especially among children, violent thunder storms, not to speak of cyclones and death accompanying them, are chronicled in all the newspapers from all parts of this continent almost, and from Europe as well. To this must be added what, if the Weather Bureau report turns out to be a hoax, will soon become much worse, and aggravate all the evils of a heated term, scarcity of water. If we human beings with all our appliances and means of relief suffer, how much more must some of our fellow-creatures of the lower orders suffer. At such a time, the righteous man will regard the life of his beast, and be

merciful to it, especially, in as far as possible, providing his dumb cattle with water.

From an interesting bulletin of the "Weather and Crops of Newfoundland," collected for the *Centenary Magazine*, by James Murray, Ex.-M.H.A., we make the following extracts: "Summer weather permanently set in on the 11th of June, after a long, cold, damp, easterly spring. From the 11th of June until the 28th of July—six weeks exactly—there was an almost uninterrupted spell of fine summer weather. Although the spring was late, as a season, the crops ripened usually early, and hay was ready to cut in most parts of the country on the unusually early date of July 25th. The crops, including wild berries, were good, early and full, thus showing that the cool moist weather of the early season was not favorable to their growth. With some exceptions as to locality the codfishery was also successful. While all articles used by the Newfoundland fishing classes have sustained a shrinkage in value during the last ten to twenty years of twenty-five to fifty per cent., Newfoundland codfish has not lessened, but has actually increased in absolute value. Relatively, therefore, the trade of Newfoundland ought to be of increased value both to the domestic producer, and to the colony as a whole in the same ratio. The purchasing power of the Newfoundland trade this year ought to be one-fifth greater than in ordinary years, in consequence of the favorable abundant marine and land crops, while, on the other hand, as all leading articles of provisions purchasable on the American Continent are about twenty per cent. cheaper than usual, this purchasing power will be further enhanced by that depreciation also."

The claim is made by Mr. James Murray in the *Centenary Magazine* that Newfoundland, for its size and density of its population, is the wealthiest country—the most wonderfully wealthy country—on the face of the earth. This extreme, or, as perhaps some may think it, extravagant, assumption, is made with the utmost deliberation, and based upon general facts, which the writer sets forth. They are nearly all connected with fishing. We quote the following: "The fishing season, broadly speaking, extends over three or four months of the year. During that brief working period a sufficiency is earned by some 40,000 or 50,000 fishermen to provide for the support and supply the wants of an entire population of 200,000 souls. Every year there is drawn out of the water in Newfoundland wealth amounting to from \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000, including the value of fish used for home consumption, and most of this product is realized and marketed within the working year. The producers of Newfoundland codfish hold in their hands a practical monopoly, and are certain of an unfailing a market as they are of an unfailing supply of the product. The great diversity and extent of the area of its operations, and the fact that the waters around the island furnish the proper food of the codfish, the annual crop of the Newfoundland fisheries is, in the aggregate, practically as certain in its supply as any annual crop known to commerce. And this annual crop, being inalienably in the hands of the actual producers, and inseparable from the country of production, is less affected by such financial fluctuations as affect other crops in other countries, and no such fluctuations can extend to the capital stock on which the annual crop is defendant, so as to limit the production or lessen its value from year to year."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Christian Observer: There is no work so humble that faithfulness in it will not be noticed and rewarded.

Dr. H. D. Jenkins: No singing bird is a misanthrope; he loves good company, and only pours out his heart in melody when there is somewhere near a human ear to catch it.

Record: The results in Quebec of the recent Dominion elections are both cheering and alarming. They are at once a cause for gratitude and a call to strenuous, earnest, immediate effort.

Principal MacVicar, D.D.: The weakest part of every man's creed is that which he holds alone; the strongest part is that which he holds in common with the whole of Christendom.

United Presbyterian: We must not conclude that a pastor is not doing good and faithful work when he is seldom heard of in great conventions. He may be keeping his own vineyard.

Central Presbyterian: The Lord's day has a new enemy in the bicycle. It is enticing a great many from the sanctuary. It is devoting the sacred hours of worship to an exhilarating sport. What would Isaiah have said had he anticipated the desecration? His denunciation of the offence of Sabbath breaking would have been still more indignant and terrific!

Mid-Continent: In these "higher critical" times the fact should not be overlooked that two hundred and forty-nine times is the Pentateuch quoted in the New Testament, and a considerable proportion of these quotations were made by the lips of Christ himself. He generally prefaced the quotation by ascribing the authorship to Moses. The German critics, and their obsequious followers in this country, assume to know more than Christ himself.

The Standard: The ideal of Sunday school instruction is realized when by means of it pupils are led to accept Christ as Master and unite with the church. Such conversions are likely to have a more solid basis than those which arise merely from prayer-meeting impressions, because they are built upon a foundation of scripture and of the steady Christian influence of a faithful teacher. Happy is that church that sees the young people coming one by one from the Sunday school into its membership, having received the beginnings of their faith in a quiet experience that will withstand the obstacles that beset all young Christians.

D. L. Moody: A minister who lost his child asked another minister to come and preach for him. He came, and told how he lived on one side of a river, and felt very little interest in the people on the other, until his daughter was married and went over there to live; and then every morning he went to the window and looked over that river, and felt very much concerned about that town and all the people there. "Now," said he, "I think that as this child has crossed the river, heaven will be much dearer than ever it has been before." Shall we not just let our hearts and affections be set on the other side of the river? It is but a step; it is but a veil; we shall soon be in the other world.