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Notes of the Week.

THE American Bible Society has decided to make an exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 similar in many respects to that at Philadelphia in 1876, when specimens of Bibles were shown in over 200 different languages. It is proposed, also, to provide for the sale of Scriptures and for their free distribution to foreign visitors.

SINCE the appointment of the Rev. Thomas Hamilton, D.D., to the Presidency of Queen's College, Belfast, it has been advancing rapidly, especially in its scientific departments. Dr. Hamilton has prevailed upon the Government to increase the accommodation for the prosecution of scientific studies, and new buildings are now to be erected, one of the features of which will be a "theatre" to accommodate 250 students of science.

FIVE members of Greenock U. P. Presbytery protested against the resolution passed at the preceding meeting to overture the Synod with regard to an elder becoming Moderator of Presbytery. Among other reasons for dissent it was stated that many of the duties of a Moderator could only be discharged by a minister. The proposal of the Synod's Committee that a retired minister should retain his seat and vote in Presbytery and Synod, and have his name enrolled as minister *emeritus* of his Church, was carried by eight votes to seven.

THE Rev. John C. Gibson, of Swatow, at present in Glasgow, states the causes of the troubles in China in the order of their influence to be: 1, national pride and prejudice; 2, the attitude of the official and literary class to the body of the people, the officials living by oppression owing to their small salaries; 3, the protectorate exercised by French missionaries over native converts and their demands for restitution of lands and houses gifted by former emperors; 4, the opium trade; 5, the existence of a plundering class in the cities; and 6, a wide-spread dislike to the present Tartar dynasty.

THE call of the London Missionary Society for one hundred new missionaries during the next five years is emphasized by the fact that the record of the last fifty years shows that, including ladies, the staff of the mission is only four more now than it was in 1841. Then the number of English missionaries employed by the Society was 192. In ten years it fell off thirty-three; in ten years more, sixteen; then it arose, but in 1881 was only 139, besides thirteen ladies. It is now 159 and thirty-seven ladies. The call includes forty more missionaries for India, forty more for China, ten for Africa, and ten for Polynesia, Madagascar, etc.

THE grand old historic Church in Wittenberg, to the doors of which Luther nailed his ninety-five theses, is being remodelled in magnificent style. Work has been going on for several years and is now approaching completion. The building will now practically be the memorial church of the Reformation in a manner which even the proposed Protestant cathedral at Spire cannot rival. One of the features of the structure is a stone balustrade round the naves, in which the arms of eighty prominent Reformation heroes are chiselled, and beneath it are the portraits in relief of twenty princes, scholars and artists of that period, cast in bronze in Lauchhammer.

THE Rev. Dr. Kellogg has been appointed lecturer on the L. P. Stone Foundation in Princeton College for 1892. The subject selected is "Modern Theories of the Origin and Development of Religion." The course is to consist of eight lectures, which, from the topics announced and the critical and analytical skill of the distinguished lecturer, cannot fail to be vividly interesting and instructive. The subjects on which Dr. Kellogg is to lecture are as follows: "What is Religion?"; "Religion and Natural Descent"; "Fetichism and Animism"; "Mr. Herbert Spencer's Ghost Theory"; "Max Müller on the Origin of Religion"; "The True Genesis of Religion"; "Development of Religion: Sin as a Factor"; "Order of Religious Development: Historic Facts"; and "Shemitic Monotheism: Conclusion."

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND presided at a lecture given by Dr. Stalker, of St. Matthews, Glasgow, on "America and the Americans." One of the things that struck him in his recent visit to America, Dr. Stalker said, was the number of churches. New York had seemed to him a city of churches, some of them exceedingly handsome. Colleges were rising all over the States in bewildering numbers, and the question of the higher education of women had made far greater progress in America than in this country. The standard of education at the universities was quite on a level with the best they had here, and in some respects superior. Speaking of Mr. Moody, Dr. Stalker said his work as an evangelist and as an educationist had won for him universal respect in his own country, and had stopped criticism, of which he had no doubt at one time received his share.

THERE is a rumour, says the *British Weekly*, that the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser is about to resign his charge at Marylebone. From enquiries we have made, we find that the rumour is based on the circumstance that Dr. Fraser and his office-bearers are not agreed as to whether an assistantship or col-leagueship would be best in the interests of the congregation; and on the further circumstance that there is widespread and growing feeling in the denomination that Dr. Fraser should be loosed from his charge and appointed to the post of General Home Secretary. The Church is suffering greatly at the present time from lack of *esprit de corps*, and, in the judgment of many, the appointment of Dr. Fraser, who is a born bishop, with a roving commission to stir up and strengthen the congregations, would be the speediest and most effective cure.

THE question of the Moderatorship of the Irish General Assembly for the coming ecclesiastical year is again to the front. The Assembly will not meet in Belfast this time, as is its wont, but in Dublin, and the eyes of many are turned to the Rev. R. M'Cheyne Edgar, M.A., minister of one of the Dublin Churches, as the most suitable man that could be selected. His unanimous election would be a compliment to the southern section of the Church, and an honour to Mr. Edgar himself—and no man in her ministry deserves the honour more. For over a quarter of a century he has been one of her ablest preachers, most faithful pastors and most scholarly authors. As a pastor and as a literary man he has been one of the brightest ornaments of Irish Presbyterianism. A move is being made to bring a worthy Belfast minister into the running; but it is hoped that since the Assembly meets in Dublin, Belfast will keep in the background for the present.

PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS, of Glasgow Free Church College, has published his introductory lecture on "The Old Testament and its Critics," with a preface, in which he says: I can only say that I have been habitually prepared to apply to myself the practical treatment which seems to me theoretically the right one for ministers and professors. A very serious illness, exactly fifteen years ago, restrained me from all work during the greater part of the session, and it left its ineffaceable mark upon me. By the kindness of the College Committee and of my own Senate, approved by the General Assembly, my labour was lightened ten years ago by an arrangement

which gave me an assistant year by year. But I felt that this arrangement ought to be only temporary. And the Quinquennial Visitation of the College last session furnished me with a suitable opportunity for intimating to the Church that I should ask the General Assembly of 1892 to grant me a colleague, along with whom I might continue to give service in the College as I should find myself able I could not, indeed, expect that this plan would work well unless there should be a general agreement in its favour. I have since been led to suppose that I must cherish little or no hope of this; and I have therefore intimated to the College Committee that I shall resign the offices of Principal and Professor into the hands of the General Assembly, which is to meet in May.

IN commenting on the Rescue work of the Salvation Army the *Christian Leader* says: There are many noble and high-minded things in the preliminary report of the Salvation Army Social Wing. Its letterpress tells us much, its pictures tell us more. We see in them the miserable tramps shivering on the benches along the Thames Embankment, the girls from the streets, the prisoners from the cell. The great work of the Army did not grow out of the publication of "Darkest England," but was begun and partially carried out before the book was written. "Darkest England" grew out of a work already proved and carried on with success. Bread, coffee and bunk had been already provided at the cheapest rate, and were all very well as far as they went; but the problem recurred every morning, what was to be done with the shivering wretch who was to be turned out into the cold? How could he be put in a way of earning fourpence for the next night at the very least? So the factories and labour bureaux were established to solve the problem. The ex-convicts and discharged prisoners were next taken care of. Now, about 10,000 houseless and homeless are sheltered every night in the city of London, and, what is infinitely more important, nearly the same number have, during the past year, had a good chance of new life given to them. We rejoice to see that the work of helping is not confined to those who have been brought down to the lowest depths by their own fault. Great numbers of the honest poor who, by stress of circumstances have been reduced to the greatest straits, have received great attention, and naturally many of the most important successes of the Army work have been with this class. Many of the most miserable of the men and women who pass through the Salvation Army colonies stand firm in their new positions, and, of course, as the class of the raw material rises, the percentage of successful cases also becomes lighter. The General specified \$150,000 for the running expenses of the past year. The work has been done for \$85,000. The scheme will, says the report, be extended or contracted according to the steady help that is given for its maintenance. We note the foolish sneers of a London weekly paper as to the amount needed to keep up the scheme. It would be unutterably foolish and futile to subscribe \$500,000 for the setting up of costly machinery, and then cut down the amount necessary for running expenses, and so leave part of the machinery useless. Some wiseacres suggested that the sharpness of the distress last winter was in no wise abated by means of the "Darkest England" Fund. The author of the report answers in a straightforward manner. "Certainly not!" he says. "That money was not given to be dribbled away in dinners and doles, but to be spent after a fashion which would enable thousands of men to earn their own dinner, and listen to the sound of their own wages clinking into honestly-filled pockets. And it has been sacredly so expended." In answer to other cavillers, the General signed a trust-deed early in the year by which all moneys paid into the account of the Social Wing are kept distinct from the ordinary income of the Army. The book is a record of a work almost miraculous. The money has been mainly subscribed by men and women who differ widely by training and interest from the Salvation Army and its leader. It was given on the simple faith of the word of the best abused man of his time. Their trust has been deserved, and this preliminary report is the best proof of their wisdom.