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Notes of the Week.

The Montreal *Daily Star*, of September 20th, publishes a map of terrible suggestiveness. It is called "a murder map." It was compiled from official sources and shows with a gruesome vividness to the eye, the cities, towns and villages in Asia Minor in which butcheries occurred between October and December 1895, and the total number in each case, except in that of Sasoon. The number given is of course only a mere fraction of the total number slain during the whole period of the persecutions.

A few months ago the Christian people of Britain were much exercised by the conduct of the French in asserting a protectorate over Madagascar, after picking a quarrel with the Queen of the Malagasy and her people. Recent accounts give a discouraging picture of the condition of the island since its occupation by the French, and strikingly illustrate the very different kind of methods and success of the French and English in dealing with conquered peoples. Immediately where the latter go there is security for life and property; religion and civilization begin their beneficent work. Recent visitors to Madagascar say that it is in a condition of anarchy from one end to the other. The French rule in the capital and in a few large towns; outside the range of their batteries their authority does not exist. Robber bands have it all their own way. The native administration has been destroyed, and the French have so far put nothing in its place.

While we are writing, the Foreign Mission Committee of our Church is in session for the transaction of a large amount of important business; the committee is also in session for settling finally the tunes to be used with the hymns in the contemplated new hymn-book for the Church, and on the evening of Monday, 12th inst., the Executive of the Home Mission Committee will hold their semi-annual meeting. The Augmentation Committee of the Church is also called to meet on Wednesday, the 21st inst. We shall endeavor to acquaint the Church with all the business of importance transacted; in the meantime it will be well for all our pastors and sessions to be reminded of the deficit last year in our foreign mission work, and in view both of wiping that out and meeting all requirements for the present year to do their utmost, that all our Church schemes may at the end of the year come out square. To accomplish this will need steady and persistent effort.

The spot in Europe to which during the last few days the greatest number of eyes has been turned with anxious expectation is Balmoral Castle. They turn thither from the Armenians, and again from there to the Armenians, and men are anxiously waiting and asking what will be done? It is to the Queen and the great influence which she is believed personally to possess, and her using that, supported by the influence of Lord Salisbury representing the feeling of the English people, with the young Czar, that men are everywhere looking to obtain some relief for the Armenians. It is almost too much to expect, and yet Russia appears so much in its power in this case, that it is among the possibilities that something thoroughly effective may result from the high state conferences of the Queen, Czar and Lord Salisbury. But so often has hope of effective steps being taken been raised, and so often has it been disappointed that now we can only wait till we see. With

such consummate deceivers and hardened butchers as are the Sultan and some who surround him, it is evident that nothing but the most heroic treatment will be of any avail. The measures taken must be thorough, otherwise the great criminal may only take encouragement to carry out to the bitter end his cruel, even ferocious and fanatical impulses.

The facility with which Rome becomes all things to all men is a well-known characteristic of the system. The following from the *Osservatore Cattolico*, as translated in the *Literary Digest*, is very significant: "It is well known that among other well-established formulas, the Pope commands the faithful to pray for peace and union among Christian princes. Of late, however, pious Catholics have more than once asked who the 'Christian' princes are whose peace and union might be regarded as worth praying for. For twenty-six years the Pope, the most legitimate of all secular princes, has been deprived of his possessions, not to mention that such princes as the ruler of Bulgaria, who has deserted the Church, do not deserve the prayers of the pious. In view of these facts His Holiness Leo XIII. has modified the above-mentioned formula. In future the prayer will be for the liberty of the Church and for peace and union among Christian nations rather than the princes."

Annual meetings are being held in many parts of the country of the W.C.T.U., at which are reported the work of the past year and preparations made for future work. If we have a Dominion plebiscite within 1897, the members of the W.C.T.U. in every part of the country may be fully depended upon to do their share of the work well and successfully. When the legislation comes which all temperance people are anxiously looking for, it will be in no small measure due to the faith and prayer and persevering labor of the women of this world-wide organization. Their reports show the large and beneficent field of their operations. They include almost everything by which individuals or society can be benefited. Here is a sample taken from the report of one society: Legislation, Fair work, that is at the fall fair; flower mission, distribution of literature at railway stations, cab-stands, fire-halls, among lumber shanties; work among the young in Bands of Hope, among newsboys; hygiene, scientific temperance instruction. This is very good for one society; in others it is varied by dropping some of these and adding on others according to locality and needs. Of the legion of organizations working for the welfare of man we doubt if there is any single one of them all doing more or better work than the W.C.T.U.

The appearance of Mr. Gladstone at the great meeting held lately in Liverpool on behalf of the Armenians, whatever the final result of it may be, is one that appeals strongly to the imagination. Withdrawn for some years now from active participation in public affairs, coming out of his retirement when near to ninety years of age, yet active in body, clear in mind, fired with a holy enthusiasm of humanity, pleading with all his old-time eloquence which once and again has carried all before it and changed the current of history, in behalf of an oppressed and down-trodden people, helpless under the heel of a crowned monster, and to rouse a whole nation, Europe we might say, to action and hurl the tyrant from his throne, is a spectacle unique and inspiring with a great moral sublimity. He is still the Grand Old Man,

and it is in its moral aspect that the grandeur of the spectacle lies both for him and for the nation, for in what man or nation could such a thing take place, but in one in which the principles of the gospel of the brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God very largely hold sway. It is a fit subject for a noble picture at the hands of a great painter. Unhappily the most varied and diverse opinions are expressed as to the probability of its leading to an arrest of the ghastly horrors which have for months filled the public mind with pity, and shame, and loathing.

Our neighbors to the South, we should suppose, will be glad when November comes and settles their Presidential business, allows the fever heat of excitement to subside and ordinary business to be attended to. State elections have been held in several States, in some with the result of a Republican majority and in others with a majority for the Democratic party. According as this result is viewed through Republican or Democratic spectacles prophecies are made as to who is to be the winning candidate for the Presidency. Maine and Arkansas have held elections and here is the conclusion drawn from the result by a Bryan Democrat paper, *The Citizen*, Brooklyn. It may serve as a specimen: "In Maine the Republicans appear to have increased their plurality some ten thousand over what it was two years ago, and in Arkansas the Democratic increase within the same period is about twenty thousand. In proportion to the population of the two States, this shows a net gain for the Democrats of close upon thirty per cent. Maine, to have done as well by the Republicans as Arkansas did for the Democrats, ought to have increased the plurality by not less than fifteen thousand. Here, then, we may say, are two waves destined to meet in the heart of the continent, and the question is, which is the more powerful? By answering that question the reader has the solution of the Presidential problem, in so far as it can be solved by any mere reckoning up of probabilities."

To whatever cause it may be owing, we have hitherto in Canada been to a very large degree free from those labour troubles from which the public both in the United States and Britain have suffered severely. It is therefore with regret, and to those who have not special sources of information, a surprise, to learn that we are threatened with what may be, although we hope the difficulty may be settled before it comes to that, a serious labor trouble in the case of a certain class of telegraph operators and train dispatchers of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is by an incident of this kind that all classes are taught to what a great extent men are now and to an increasing degree dependent upon one another. The same lesson is impressed by the strike of the London cab-drivers now extending to 1,500 men, and which, it is said, is spreading fast. Those only who have been in London know how great a hardship will be involved in a general strike of the cab drivers of that city. As to the merits of the dispute in the case of the C.P.R. telegraph operators, the information at hand is too meagre to enable the public as yet to judge where the blame, if any, lies. It is most earnestly to be hoped that wise counsels may so far prevail with both the C.P.R. authorities and their employees, that at this season of the year especially, there may be no general derangement of business, and risks and loss of life and property incurred by the stoppage of telegraphic communication now wholly indispensable to the safety of both.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Samuel Smiles: Obedience, submission, discipline, courage—these are among the characteristics which make a man.

Ram's Horn: Men have been known to pray in church for something to do, when their wives had to saw nearly all the wood.

Lutheran Observer: Innocence based upon ignorance may endure when there is no temptation, but virtue based upon intelligence will prove a much surer safeguard in time of testing.

Golden Rule: For the first time, we heard, a few weeks ago, in a church service, public prayer offered for editors of newspapers. Surely, if anybody needs the strength and guidance that comes through prayer, an editor does.

United Presbyterian: "Is your pastor paid?" is a prominent question in the Methodist conferences. It would be well for many Presbyterian congregations and their ministers if Presbyteries would require an answer to the same question.

Cumberland Presbyterian: If you are yourself strenuously striving to "run the Presbytery," do not say ugly things about somebody else who really succeeds in running it. After all it is about time the Lord were allowed to run your Presbytery.

Rev. F. B. Meyer: Do live the life of faith. Begin to live it now, looking out for, and making use of, God's supplies, and learning day by day how rich and strong and glad that life is, which goes without scrip or change of coat, because it gathers up as it goes the things which God hath prepared for loyal and loving hearts that wait for him.

Sunday school Times: "Regeneration" and "conversion," as those terms are used in the Bible, are two entirely different words, yet they are often confounded with each other. "Regeneration" is God's work. We have no responsibility for it. "Conversion" is our work. We are responsible for it. "Regeneration" is the new birth of our spiritual nature. "Conversion" is our turning about at God's call.

Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.: There is one style of preaching that is vastly more effective than any other, and that is the irresistible eloquence of a pure, manly, noble and unselfish life. "My pastor's discourses are not very brilliant," said an intelligent lady, "but his daily life is a sermon all the week." The "living epistle" of Paul was as sublime and convincing as any words that fell from his lips on the hill of Mars; for Jesus Christ lived in him.

Alexander McLaren, D.D.: This is always true—that the people who do not make worldly good their first object are the people who can be most safely trusted with it, and who get most enjoyment out of it. Whether in the precise form of the gift to Solomon or not, outward good does attend a life which postpones pleasure to duty, and desires most to be able to do it. All earthly good is exalted by being put second, and degraded as well as corrupted by being put first. The water lapped up in the palm, as the soldier marches, is sweeter than the abundant draughts swilled down by self-indulgence. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added unto you."