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Notes of the Week.

The "Joint Hymnal," which Professor Story, A.K.H.B., and a few of that ilk thought to extinguish for the want of their distinguished patronage is not going to die. The Irish Presbyterians have joined the United Presbyterians and the Free Church of Scotland in its preparation. Objections were made by the Irish Committee to four of the hymns selected; the objections were sustained by the Joint Committee, and the hymns went out. Now, the three Churches will work together in the preparation of the book, and its publication will be rapidly advanced.

At a late meeting of the London (Eng.) Presbytery, North, an interesting point was raised in the question submitted to it by a mission congregation: "Whether elders can preside at the Lord's Supper?" The Presbytery was asked to declare such a course competent, or make such other declaration for the relief of the petitioners and of sessions similarly situated, as may seem expedient in the interests of good order. The Nomination Committee were instructed to bring up the names of a committee at the next meeting to whom the matter would eventually be remitted.

Princeton University, in its bestowment of degrees at its late interesting celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, showed wise discrimination so far as those which came to Canada are concerned. Goldwin Smith and President Loudon of the University of Toronto, and Principal Petersen of McGill College, who received the degree of LL.D., and Principal Caven, upon whom was conferred that of D.D., are all men who will do as much honor to the degree as it possibly can do to them. As for many who are burdened with D.D., at least, it would puzzle omniscience to discover on what grounds they wear it rather than hundreds who, in the judgment of their brethren in the ministry, are in every respect equally worthy of such an honor.

Mount Holyoke College is a name known and honored in every part of the English-speaking world at least, and especially wherever American missionaries have gone. It was founded in 1836 by Mary Lyon, who in her zeal for a specifically Christian education of young women was a forerunner of Mr. Moody, whose schools at Northfield are not far distant from Mount Holyoke. Originally instituted as an academy, it has recently been organized as a college, empowered to grant degrees. It suffered a severe loss, which will be sympathetically felt around the world at every mission station, in the destruction lately of its original edifice by fire. This loss, we are glad to learn, the enthusiastic affection of liberal friends will abundantly repair.

The annual report of the United Kingdom Temperance Alliance, which was submitted to the General Council of the body at its meeting lately in Manchester, states that amongst the masses of the people the Alliance propaganda was never healthier or more vigorous than it has been during the past year. One result of the General Election has been to arouse amongst the people a large amount of attention to the question at issue between the Temperance party and the liquor party such as never existed before; and the enormous efforts put forth by the liquor party to mislead the nation have had the effect, the report says, of greatly intensifying the interest in the drink controversy which has previously been felt by the more thoughtful of the working-people, as well as the more earnest and enlightened of the religious classes.

The cause of temperance and its advocates in Great Britain and Ireland have to contend against tremendous odds, but their courage, and faith and pertinacity are worthy of all praise and are bound at last to conquer. Attempts are at present being made to form for Ireland a United Temperance Council with a view to bring greater weight to bear on temperance legislation. For this purpose Temperance conferences have been lately held in Belfast and Cork at which have come under review the following subjects on which legislation is desired: (a) Suspension of Issue of New Licenses. (b) Abolition of Grocers' Licenses. (c) Early Saturday and Total Sunday Closing in Ireland. (d) Closing Public Houses on Election Days. (e) Prohibition of the Sale of Intoxicants to Children. (f) Registration and Regulation of Clubs. (g) Imperative Reduction of Licenses. (h) Direct Popular Veto over all Licenses. (i) The Licensing Authority.

It is noteworthy how many of the ecclesiastics who have achieved high distinction in the Church of England have first of all served an apprenticeship in the teaching profession. Not to speak of other names which will at once occur to everyone at all acquainted with the subject, the late Archbishop, it is mentioned, began his work as an assistant teacher at Rugby. Then he was appointed headmaster of Wellington College. In this position he achieved a conspicuous success, as the college is in effect his creation. The successor of Dr. Benson, the Right Rev. Frederick Temple, D.D., Bishop of London, was first Principal of the training college at Kneller, then an Inspector of schools, and before being appointed by Mr. Gladstone to the bishopric of Exeter, was headmaster of Rugby school. High as the character of previous Archbishops of Canterbury has been, it is believed that in the person of Archbishop Temple the dignity and honor, the character and usefulness of this high office will be fully sustained.

The Baptists, in some parts at least of the neighbouring republic, have a short and sharp method of dealing with departures from what are regarded among them as orthodox opinions. Professor Nathaniel Schmidt, of the Theological Seminary of Colgate University, Hamilton, was charged, more than a year ago, with rejecting the Baptist doctrines of the canon and inspiration of Scripture, the divinity and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the miracles in the Bible and immersion. He denied all these charges, and declared his faith in a clear and manly statement which, however, not being considered satisfactory, he was without further trial, notified by the trustees that on complaint of the Baptist Education Society, his relations with the seminary were ended. He protested that the action was unjust and illegal, and that its object was "to suppress such honest investigation of Biblical problems as the Baptist freedom of faith allows." However, he has accepted a professorship of Semitic languages in Cornell University, and thus takes himself out of the discussion.

A movement of a most important kind and one which augurs, as we conceive, untold good wherever it may be adopted, is that which was the subject of a conference held recently in Asheville, N.C., during the sessions of the Southern Biblical Assembly to consider the Bible in liberal education. Sixty institutions were represented and they embrace universities, colleges, institutes, academies and high schools for males and females in ten states. It appears from the reports that decided progress has been made since the first conference held last year. Several

chairs for Bible study have been added to leading institutions, and a number of others are enlarging their courses according to suggestions made by this conference at the last meeting. The objects of this movement are to encourage in educational institutions everywhere the holding of Bible classes taught by competent professors; the carrying on of Bible training-classes and private effort in Bible study, and the study of the Bible rather than books about it. For state colleges and universities the conference recommends the teaching of Old Testament history, the evidences of Christianity, moral philosophy and practical morals from the Bible point of view, as well as to secure in these institutions the emphasizing of the study of Biblical literature.

In the vestibule of the new Broadway Presbyterian Church, Belfast, which was opened lately by the Rev. W. Ross Taylor, D.D., there has been erected a beautiful and costly tablet to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Watts, who was father-in-law to the pastor, Rev. J. W. Gibson. This tablet which has been erected at the sole expense of Mr. David Harvey Watts, United States, America, nephew of the deceased, is one of the finest pieces of workmanship ever executed by any firm, and is a fitting memorial of Dr. Watts, who occupied such a prominent position in the Presbyterian Church, and who took such a deep interest in the welfare of Broadway Church. The tablet is composed of a mosaic marble panel, 2ft. 10in. by 1ft. 8in., enclosed by a frame work of brass, 3ft. 10in. by 3ft. 6in. It bears the inscription:

In Memory of the
REV. ROBERT WATTS, D.D., LL.D.
Professor of Systematic Theology in
Assembly's College, Belfast, from
1866 until 1895.
Died 26th July, 1895.

"The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth to all generations."—Psalm c., 5.

On a ribbon of copper, entwined among the ornaments at the base of the tablet, is engraved the following: "Presented by his nephew, David Harvey Watts, United States, America."

Our latest English exchanges abound in expressions of regret at the death of the late Archbishop Benson, so alarmingly sudden and in circumstances so striking and yet so fitting, in God's house, on God's day, and while engaged in the very act of worship. His decease is universally lamented, and from all quarters tributes come to his high character and services to the Church and to his day and generation. Many of the incidents mentioned in connection with it have a most pathetic interest. Mrs. Benson showed great presence of mind until the end came when she was overcome with grief. The great bell of St. Paul's tolled for an hour which brought together an immense concourse to learn what had happened, and a vast audience assembled to hear the Dean of Canterbury. "He died like a soldier," exclaimed Gladstone, when the news was broken to him. A telegram was sent Mrs. Benson from the Queen expressing the tenderest sympathy with her in her great affliction. A communion service was held in Hawarden Church at 8 o'clock a.m., where the remains, enclosed in the coffin, were then lying. When it was conveyed to the station, attended by a mournful procession, to be conveyed to Canterbury, Mr. Gladstone accompanied it, walking with bared head. In the touching sermon of the rector of Hawarden, on the evening of the same day, he said that, "One of the thoughts pressing heavily upon the Archbishop's mind was the sufferings of the Armenians."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM

Ram's Horn: It is better to be able to suffer long and be kind, than to be able to talk like an angel.

Herald Presbyter: He who knows that Christ saves and is able to save, because he has been saved himself, has something to tell that the world needs very much to hear.

Tennessee Methodist: Nothing new, but this same old Gospel is what humanity now needs and must get, if Christ is to become the regnant force in the moral and social life of the world.

Canon Farrar: There is many a working man in these streets, many a cabman, many a labourer, who spends every day of his life on drink a sum which I could not afford, and which I should think it criminally luxurious and disgracefully extravagant in myself to spend.

Canon Farrar: Let us do our duty, and pray that we may do our duty here, now, to-day; not in dreamy sweetness, but in active energy; not in the green oasis of the future, but in the dusty desert of the present; not in the imaginations of elsewhere, but in the reality of now.

Rev. Dr. Singmaster: We should be grateful to God for the many personal comforts, for a home in a goodly land, for the church, for victory over sin, for God's help in trouble, for his continued mercy, for membership in his kingdom, for the progress of Christianity, for the assurance of hope, and for life everlasting at his right hand.

New York Observer: It is quite a favorite dodge of the devil's to seek to secure the withdrawal of moral issues from pulpit treatment simply by calling them "political." But if such questions are properly treated by the earnest preacher the people will acknowledge that they are listening more to the morality of the Mount than to the politics of the platform.

Mid-Continent: Here is something for the contemplation of those short-sighted Protestant parents who may be disposed to hand over the education of their children to Roman Catholic schools. It is a recent statement made by Archbishop Ireland, of Minnesota. Speaking of their Church schools, he says: "Faith [and of course he means the Romish faith, as he could acknowledge no other] is there grounded into children so that it never leaves them afterward." Granted that he is referring primarily to the children of Catholics, yet is the character and training influence of the school that he speaks of brought to bear on all youth who are within its walls as pupils.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: The pious Quaker's motto: "Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, and in all ways you can," might profitably be adopted by every Church member. It accords with what was said of a certain Hebrew in Esther's day, "Seeking the good of his people and speaking good to all his seed." God has sent us into the world to benefit others. Ours ought to be no selfish life. In all earth's relations we can be helpful. We can and should soothe the weary, console the afflicted, aid the necessitous, instruct the ignorant, arouse the desponding, pour oil upon the troubled waters, and minister to the dying. In a word, "Do good to all men as we have opportunity."