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Notes of the Week.

PROFESSOR Drummond hopes to arrive in Japan on September 1, and spend one month addressing the students of Tokyo and Kyoto. His stay in Japan will be limited to one month, for he must sail from New York, October 26, in order to be in Glasgow at the opening of his college early in November.

THE *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* says that Dr. Stewart, of Lovedale, is talked of as the next Moderator of the Free Church. Dr. Stewart has done a great work in Africa, and has shown high qualities as an administrator. The name of Dr. Millar, of Madras, is also suggested. The friends of Dr. Adam and Professor Blaikie are putting forward the claims of these distinguished men to the honour their long and faithful services have so well merited.

THERE seems to be no sign of a subsidence of interest in the great evangelical conference which takes place annually at Mildmay. The meetings held recently were, it is said, better attended than ever, and the quiet earnestness which pervaded them was a subject of general remark. Among the leading speakers were the venerable Dr. Andrew Bonar, Mr. Spurgeon, Dr. Saphir, and Mr. Newman Hall; and the theme of discourse throughout was "The Lord Jesus Christ as a Witness, a Leader, and a Commander." Mr. Spurgeon's address attracted an immense congregation, and was greatly enjoyed.

IN Canada, as in the English Presbyterian Church, the *Christian Leader* remarks, there is a growing complaint that Presbyterian probationers do not get the opportunity to which they are entitled of preaching to vacant congregations. There seems to be an increasing tendency to make the limits of the congregation the bounds of the Church. In other words, Presbyterians are acting as if they were Congregationalists. We hear the same complaint made in respect to other matters by Presbyterian ministers in Scotland. It has been formulated with special emphasis in the Established Presbytery of Glasgow.

A GREAT demonstration against the prevailing evils of drunkenness, impurity, betting, and gambling will be one of the leading features of the conference of the Young Men's Associations of Great Britain and Ireland, to be held at Birmingham on 23rd September and three following days. One of the subjects of conference is the attitude of the associations to the social questions of the day. At a garden party an opportunity will be given for questions and statements on the difficulties of the work of the associations. It is a somewhat curious fact that none of the local men of mark appear on the programme of the Birmingham meetings.

PREACHING in Bothwell parish church on a recent Sunday in connection with the inauguration of an organ in that building, Dr. Marshall Lang referred to the revival of the ideal in the mode of worship in the Church of Scotland, and declared that it was only a few extreme men, appealing to extremely ignorant prejudices, who condemned it out and out. In reply to the fears of another class of persons, who were perhaps half afraid that this revival implied a departure from that which was characteristic of the position and history of Scottish Presbyterianism, Dr. Lang pointed out that it was really only a return to what prevailed in the Church before the days of persecution.

THE question of holding the World's Columbian Exposition open on the Sabbath is receiving a good deal of attention. No doubt all the religious denominations of America, perhaps with the exception of the Roman Catholic, will enter their earnest and solemn protest against the opening of this Exposition on the Lord's day. The Fair must in no case be used to destroy one of the chief institutions of American Christianity, the Christian Sabbath. The Lutheran denomination has already spoken, in no unmistakable terms, the sentiments of the leading

men in that branch of the Church, on the subject. The Sabbath Association of New York has also put itself on record in an earnest protest against any Sunday opening. And these are only the beginnings of appeal and protest on this subject.

THE *Week* announces a prize competition. Prizes of \$50 \$30 \$20 and \$10 will be given for the four best short stories by Canadian writers only on subjects distinctively Canadian, on the following conditions: The MS. must not exceed 6,000 words and must be type written, and on one side of the paper only. It must be delivered at the *Week* office, 5 Jordan street, Toronto, not later than 1st November, 1890. Each competing story must bear on the top of the first page a type-written motto and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with the same motto and the words Prize Story Competition, and enclosing the name and address of the writer. All the MSS. sent in to become the property of the *Week*. The *Week* will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

THE acceptance of the call to Renfield Church, Glasgow, by Rev. W. M. Macgregor, of Troon, intimated to Ayr Presbytery, is the source of intense satisfaction not only to the congregation which has hitherto enjoyed the ministrations of Dr. Marcus Dods, but also to the numerous friends outside who are interested in its welfare. The Glasgow Highlanders recall the fact that this is not the first time one of their compatriots has been chosen by the people of Renfield. Dr. Dods' immediate predecessor was a gifted Celt, Mr. Duncan Macnab; and the distinguished professor is now succeeded by a son of Rev. Duncan Macgregor, for many years pastor of the Free Gaelic Church in Hope street, Glasgow, and afterwards of Free St. Peter's, Dundee, and Augustine Church, Glasgow. It was in Free Renfield Church that the late Principal Willis was for a time the esteemed pastor.

THE original package conflict, says the *Interior*, was pretty short and sharp, and the liquor sellers have come out second best. They thought they had everything to their liking, when the United States Supreme Court made that original package decision; but the temperance men went at Congress and Congress has responded with a satisfactory law. Here is the measure as finally passed, after conference between House and Senate, and signed by the President last week: All fermented, distilled, or other intoxicating liquors or liquids, transported into any state or territory for use, consumption, sale or storage, shall, on arrival in such state or territory (or remaining therein), be subject to the operation and effect of the laws of such state or territory, enacted in the exercise of the police powers, to the same extent and in the same manner as though such liquor or liquids had been produced in such state or territory; and shall not be exempt therefrom by reason of being introduced therein in original packages or otherwise. With such a law in force, it will not be the fault of the Federal Government if prohibition does not prohibit in those states where it is on trial.

THE *Christian World* says: The effect of Bank holiday upon London generally was to be seen at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on Sunday morning. At least half of the seat-holders appeared to be out of town, while country cousins and friends from across the Atlantic more than filled the vacant pews. Mr. Spurgeon is more fortunate than the average preacher, for he can invariably summon a ministerial assistant from among his hearers. On Sunday morning his eye lighted upon Dr. W. M. Taylor, of New York, whom he beckoned to the platform and invited to engage in prayer. Dr. Taylor has grown very grey of late, and beside him Mr. Spurgeon looks almost youthful. Before commencing his sermon one of the deacons handed Mr. Spurgeon his watch, which the pastor deposited on his hymn-book. The reason for this new departure was not generally known. Thieves recently broke into the Tabernacle, for nothing is sacred to the burglar. Finding their way to Mr. Spurgeon's platform, they carried off the little clock which was set into his table or

reading desk. Penetrating into the offices at the rear, they appropriated another clock and some loose money, but overlooked about \$300 which had been placed in a drawer.

THE Malta arrangement with the Pope concluded by the English Government through the agency of Sir Lintorn Simmons has evoked a spirited newspaper discussion in Great Britain. The *Belfast Witness* puts the matter in its proper light when it says: We object to the Pope being regarded as the umpire in the quarrels of Europe. It is many centuries since the Pope advanced a Divine right to be universal judge and arbiter in Christendom. That claim he has never laid aside, and never will, probably; but it is a claim which no English Government should recognize, either by a temporary mission to, or by permanent diplomatic relations with, the Vatican. Innocent III. told the statesmen of his day—"Whatever sin is committed in Europe it is my duty to judge it, and whenever a public scandal is committed in Europe it is my duty to prevent it." Leo. XIII. may veil his pretensions, but they are practically the same as those of Innocent III. Any Government which practically acknowledges these claims is a traitor to liberty and to its subjects. . . . We fear the Government has committed itself to an untenable position, and think the Pope's claims in Malta have been admitted in a way incompatible with the liberty of the subject and with the sovereignty of the Queen. The matter cannot rest where it is. It is something to know that "the proposals are receiving the most careful attention," and that "the matter will come before the House." We hope when it does come several doubtful points will be cleared up; that, if Sir J. Lintorn Simmons has attempted "to graft the Queen's sword on the shepherd's crook," he and his mission will be disowned, and that this will be the last attempt to open up diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

IN view of the agitation in the North-West over the influx of Mormon settlers the following from the *New York Independent* is interesting: The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, sustaining the act of Congress for disestablishing the Mormon Church in Utah, and confiscating its Church property, and applying the same to the support of public schools in that Territory, is, by Mr. Justice Bradley in stating the opinion of the court, placed on the following grounds: That Congress has, by the Constitution, supreme legislative power in all the Territories of the United States. That the Mormon Church, in its organic character, teaches, fosters, and upholds polygamy, which by the law is a crime against the United States, and had hitherto used its Church property for this purpose. That, as a penal measure for the suppression of crime, Congress, in the light of the facts, had the power to confiscate the property of the Church thus used for criminal purposes. This, in the compass of a nutshell, is the substance of Mr. Justice Bradley's deliverance on the subject. The confiscating act, as he stated the matter, has no relation to the religion of the Mormons, except as that religion leads the Church to make itself the teacher and supporter of crime against the Government; and, when it did this, then it became amenable to the power of the Government to suppress crime; and it was for Congress, having exclusive and supreme jurisdiction in the Territory of Utah, to determine how this power shall be exercised. The decision of the Supreme Court, of course, settles the question of law; and yet, as it seems to us, the argument is carried to its extremest length, and comes very near the confines of injustice, if it does not actually involve this result. The taking of private property from its owners without just compensation, as is done in an act of confiscation, is, except in very extraordinary circumstances, usually regarded as an act of robbery. Mormon polygamy we abominate, and earnestly favour every just measure for its suppression; but we would not at the same time forget that Mormons are human beings, and the most of them citizens of the United States, and that, as such, they have civil rights which ought to be respected. Just and righteous ends ought always to be sought by just and righteous means.