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Notes of the Week.

It is being arranged that the centenary of the birth of Thomas Carlyle, on the 4th of December next, shall be fittingly celebrated. In Scotland, county associations and other bodies are communicating with each other, with the view of according the occasion fitting honors.

The statistics of the Congregational Churches in Wales lately compiled show:—Churches, 1,000; communicants, 135,725; scholars in Sunday Schools, 138,807; total number of adherents, 278,347; total collections during the past year, £152,060.

There are few ways by which a benefactor who has it in his power can do more for the good of a community than by providing parks and playgrounds for the people. Lately more than 12,000 children took part in the opening of the playground of a hundred acres, which an anonymous donor has presented to Wavertree, Liverpool.

The present struggle of the Cubans against their masters the Spaniards is likely to end as all previous ones have ended in defeat. At present, however, the Cubans are gaining on the Spaniards rapidly, whatever may be the final outcome. A constitutional convention has been held, a republic has been declared, and a president has been appointed.

The name of Professor Francis A. March, LL.D., of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., U. S., is well-known for his many able and distinguished services to philology. On the 24th inst. Lafayette College will hold a celebration in honor of the distinguished philologist, who this fall completes his seventieth year and forty years of service in the college.

The *League Journal*, of a late date, published in Glasgow, Scotland, contains an extended notice of the death, at the age of 65, of ex-bailie William Ure, of Glasgow, brother of Rev. Dr. Ure, of Goderich. The deceased was a very public-spirited man, having been a member of the town council for nearly twenty years, and for several years a city magistrate and a justice of the peace.

On the last two Sabbaths of last month the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Scotland repeated its arrangement of the last year for an interchange of pulpits in the interest of foreign missions. In this way it appears that special sermons on foreign missions were preached in forty-six churches within the Presbytery. We commend the example to the Presbyteries of our own church. If she is to keep up the urgently-needed forward movement in missionary effort, ministers must lead the way.

One hundred and twenty-two delegates representing twenty-two different States and coming from Boston on the one hand and San Francisco on the other met lately in Denver, Colorado, in Congress in connection with the National Prison Association of the United States. General Brinkerhoff, the president of the association had just returned from a three months' trip through Europe and European prisons, having just arrived from the International Prison Congress, held in Paris in June. He spoke of some of the lessons Europe may learn from the United States and what they may learn from Europe. European superiority consists more largely in superior management than in superior methods. This arises from their systematic training of prison managers and officers for their work, making it a vocation, not a political job.

The death of Pasteur, the distinguished pathologist and discoverer of what is called now the "Pasteur treatment," makes a blank in the scientific world which will be distinctly felt and lamented. While it is in one respect humbling, it is also fortunate and well for the advancement of knowledge and human wellbeing that no one man is indispensable, and good work holds on its way. The great thing is that the path which he pointed out for the alleviating of human suffering and keeping death at bay, many are entering upon, and as it always is with all true knowledge, its area for good is continually widening.

The *Dayspring*, the vessel built by the efforts of Dr. Paton, of the New Hebrides mission, and paid for, has just been completed. She has paid a visit to Belfast and the *Witness* is quite enthusiastic over her fine appearance and the excellence of her arrangements for the work she is intended for. It says:

"The rooms are fitted up in a suitable manner for the service of the mission in tropical seas. The vessel has a clipper stem, with a figurehead representing an angel with a Bible in outstretched hand. Altogether, she presents a graceful appearance in the water, and should prove a valuable acquisition to the mission. The ship is under the command of Captain Reynolds, and during the day she was visited by a very large number of people, who were cordially received on board, and seemed greatly pleased with her neat and pretty appearance. She left this port for Douglas, Isle of Man, from which place she will proceed to Liverpool, and then from thence to Australia.

At the opening of the Atlanta Exhibition Mr. Booker T. Washington was chosen to represent the Negro race. No speech on the occasion was more eloquent than his, and no one, according to the reports, was more cordially received and applauded. Indeed it is said that "almost every sentence was followed by applause, and his speech was a great hit all the way through." We quote the following fine sentence and sentiment.

"As we have proved our loyalty to you in the past in nursing your children, watching by the sick bed of your mothers and fathers, and often following them with tear-dimmed eyes to their graves, so in the future in our humble way we shall stand by you with a devotion that no foreigner can approach, ready to lay down our lives, if need be, in defense of yours, interlacing our industrial, commercial, civil and religious life with yours in a way that shall make the interests of both races one. In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

The confidence and trustful earnestness with which many of Britain's wards in the most distant parts and borders of her great empire look to her for protection is pathetic, and at the same time a tribute to her love and practice of justice. It may be sometimes in a rough way, but still it is in a better way than those who appeal to her have been accustomed to. By way of illustration of this an English exchange says:—"Khama, the great South African chief, is coming amongst us to plead that his country, which is under our protectorate, may not be absorbed into Bechuanaland and Mashonaland, which is to be made over to the Cape. This fine potentate is a Christian, and was, we believe, a disciple of the venerated Robert Moffat. He took sides with us in the war against the Matabele, and has been loyal to British rule. It is a case that deserves the generous consideration of our new Colonial Secretary."

The memory of the Shortis tragedy, which was enacted some months ago in Valleyfield, is revived by the prisoner being put on trial for his life at Beauharnois. At the beginning of the case the lawyer for the defence put in a special plea which claims that, at the time of the commission of the events alleged in the indictment, the prisoner was laboring under natural imbecility and disease of the mind to such an extent as rendered him incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the act, and of knowing that such act was wrong, and

was at the same time in a state of unconsciousness and disease of mind by which a free determination of his will was excluded—was in a state of madness, and was insane. Its formal character as a plea was at once challenged, and the judge regarded and accepted it "merely as a notice of what the learned counsel intend to prove." The case will no doubt be watched throughout the country with great interest.

The first week in October is quite a notable one in Toronto and similar educational centres for the opening of colleges of many kinds, the great amount of intellectual machinery then set in operation, and the large numbers of young men and women brought to the city, whose presence is a distinctly noticeable feature in our streets after that date. Some idea, a very faint one, may be formed of the amount of educational work now entered upon by noticing the advertisements for one day of a daily city paper of work of the kind referred to as just beginning; the opening lecture of Knox College, the opening of Wycliffe College, of the School of Pedagogy, the opening lectures at the University and Trinity Medical Colleges, entering upon the occupation of the New Chemical Laboratory for the University of Toronto. To all this must be added hundreds of schools of various kinds commenced last month, in which hundreds of teachers and thousands of scholars are all now busy at work.

The mortal remains of the late Professor Williamson, of Queen's University, Kingston, were consigned to their last resting-place in Catarqui Cemetery last week with impressive services and every manifestation of sincere respect and affection from a large body of college authorities, students, and of the general public. His life was unique in its length of service in one institution and the ardent affection and devotion with which he served it. The Senate adopted a suitable minute in connection with his decease which was read by Chancellor Fleming, C.M.G., at the opening of the funeral service in the convocation, where the body was lying, and part of which we quote:

"By the death, on September 26th, 1895, of the Rev. James Williamson, M.A., LL.D., professor of astronomy and Vice-Principal, one of the fathers of the university has been called to his rest. His work, so unprecedented in length, so laborious and varied, is over, and the sons and friends of Queen's everywhere are mourning. His arduous duties in Queen's for 53 full sessions, his wide and ready scholarship, his paternal interest in his college boys, his simple, sweet and generous disposition, are well known. Those of his first students who are now alive are grey-headed and talk about him to their grandsons. To the last he was willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of the college which he had helped to nurse and rear. All his days he feared God, and the spirit of childlike reverence penetrated his entire work."

China appears still in some parts of it to be in a very unsettled state, and the anti-foreign and anti-Christian agitation still to be kept up. By last advices Canton even, where we would not expect such a state of feeling, has been the scene of wanton interference with the services proceeding in one of the chapels of the American Board of Missions, ending up with destroying the furniture. Other and worse outbreaks are reported elsewhere. There appears to be little doubt that if these assaults are not instigated they are connived at in many cases by the official class, who appear to be masters in the arts of duplicity. The firm and decided action taken by Lord Salisbury in sending a number of war vessels up the country, and threatening stronger measures if his demands are not complied with, will likely soon tell upon the conduct of the officials at least, and make the attacks less frequent and less violent. It is matter of profound gratitude that our missionaries in Honan appear to have so won the confidence of the Chinese authorities that they are permitted to carry on their work in peace, and that its promise of good fruit continually grows.