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## Notes of the Week.

The Rev. Dr. John S. MacIntosh has been elected by the Presbytery of Philadelphia General Secretary of its Committee on Charters and Church Extension, and has accepted the appointment. This means an effort larger and more vigorous than has been hitherto attempted in behalf of city missions in Philadelphia. Dr. MacIntosh has been chosen to lead in this effort because of his earnest and effective work as chairman of the Committee of Sustentation of the Synod of Pennsylvania. This step, it is expected will lead to a great development in the line of city missions and church extension in Philadelphia.

Whether the Presbyterian Church in England should remove its Theological College to Cambridge or not, for the sake of its special educational advantages, was only settled in the affirmative after long and keen debate. Now we learn that the arrangements for a Catholic House of studies at Cambridge, affiliated to one of the well known Catholic colleges, are practically complete. The arrangements at Oxford are not so far advanced, but it is said that the Jesuits in any case will open a house there immediately for their own novices, who are to go through certain higher studies at the university before they enter the priesthood.

Before the summer school of theology held in Halifax last year closed, it was resolved to repeat it this year. It will accordingly begin on July 14th and continue until the 25th. Besides lectures by the professors of the College, and other able ministers of the Maritime Provinces, the faculty has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Professor Watson, Queen's College, for three lectures on Balfour's "Foundations of Belief," and of Dr. Scott, of Chicago, whose general subject will be, "The Theology of the Nicene Age," which will be most timely in view of the trend of theological thought at the present time. Applications for particulars should be made to Professor Falconer, Pine Hill.

The fifth annual conference of the Church of Scotland's Women's Guild was held lately when about two hundred delegates were present. Papers were read, followed by discussions, showing the helpful influence the Guild has on life and character, raising the moral and religious tone of the members; as a means of developing work, and of promoting unity. The annual report stated that there were now 380 branches, with a membership of 26,401, being an increase of 43 branches and 1,477 members. During the year the members had collected for various Church and mission purposes a total of \$36,000. Professor Charteris, who was present noted the lack of enthusiasm in forming local branches. Dr. J. Marshall Lang spoke upon the missionary aspect of Guild work, and declared that it was not creditable to the Church of Scotland that it should lag behind in the missionary movement. It did not give anything like the half of what the Free Church gave to foreign missions, and it did not give nearly so much as the United Presbyterian Church, and yet its members and communicants outnumbered both.

Manitoba summer theological session, partly, we suppose, because it is a summer session, manages to secure for itself some of the ablest help to be found. In addition to some of the best that the Dominion can furnish, it last year had a course of lectures from the able and distinguished Professor Orr, of the U. P. College, Edinburgh. This year, besides President Patton, of Princeton, and Professor Beattie, of Louisville Theological Seminary, Kentucky, it is also announced that the Rev. George Adam Smith, D.D., of the Free Church College, Glasgow, has consented to give a course of lectures during this summer. This is an advantage, which by abandoning the summer session this College and the Church would have to forego.

The Halifax Presbyterian Witness of the 25th of April contains a most interesting sketch (taken from the *Herald*) of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax. It was the first Protestant dissenting church in British North America. The building was a wooden one, and the frame was brought from Boston. Its first pastor was the Rev. Aaron Cleveland, great-grandfather of President Cleveland. He came to Halifax in 1750 and received a salary of £100. The name, St. Matthew's first appears in the minutes of December 8th, 1815, and its records are complete from 1787 until now. In 1857 old St. Matthew's was burnt down, and the present church, costing about \$50,000, exclusive of site (\$8,000) was erected. "Increasing usefulness," says the *Witness*, "is the note of a true church and this note characterizes St. Matthew's."

It is unfortunate that even the Premier of the Dominion should feel himself compelled by a regard for facts and truths, to speak most disparagingly of the late government and parliament. Others cannot be blamed for thinking and speaking as Sir Mackenzie Bowell did the other evening at St. George's dinner at Ottawa. Most will agree with him in the opinions which he thus expressed: "The Parliament of Canada, he did not think, had added much to its reputation during the past three or four years. Truly it was unique in its character, but unfortunately for them they had lost three Premiers, three of the most brilliant men that ever lived in Canada. There never had been a Parliament, however, that had had so many sleepless nights and done so little work as the present one. However, he hoped that they would never in Canada witness a session of Parliament that would be in the remotest degree a parallel to the one just closed." Let us hope so.

The Rev. Dr. Roberts, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, North, makes a statement in view of the closing of the books of the Church and the liquidation of debts yet pressing upon the activities and efforts of the Church. Contributions of churches and auxiliary organizations amount to \$350,000. Through help received from the million dollar fund the Foreign Mission Board is now out of debt. For the purpose of accomplishing the first object the clearing away of debts, for which that fund was begun, \$200,000 are yet needed. One Presbyterian west of the Mississippi in a spirit of consecration has offered \$10,000; a lady of western New York offers \$10,000, on the condi-

tion that four other ladies will with her contribute the last \$50,000. "In view of these offers," says Dr. Roberts, "the committee feel that they must appeal to all church members during the next twenty days to seriously consider the question of their individual ability and responsibility in connection with the relief of the Boards. The Church should rouse herself to the work to which God has called her, especially in this great land. Presbyterians in the past, whenever they have understood and have faced their difficulties, have done their duty."

There must be some strange and peculiar fascination about political public life, to keep men in it till long past the period when rest from its turmoils would appear natural and desirable. Sir Oliver Mowat has so long held his seat as premier of Ontario that it must have become a second nature for him to be there. But the noise of battle all over the Dominion has been too much for the veteran and hero of many fights, and so, to the surprise of many and delight of more, he last week made public his decision to take part in the fray now going on, side by side with Mr. Laurier. Victory has often perched upon his standard, whether it will this time remains to be seen. Canada does not want for courageous old men willing to do battle for the party they belong to, and for the country. Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Oliver and many others, have given to Canadian politicians and Canadian youth an example of devotion to the public service, and of a virile old age given up to it, which ought to be felt. It should lead those who may follow them to a noble emulation of interest in their country and willingness to serve it, which, when it is accompanied with integrity and purity of public and private life that are unimpeachable, are the most precious of legacies which can be handed down to succeeding generations.

This month is the time of the meeting of Presbyterian Synods and General Assemblies in Britain. A feature of these gatherings, in which they differ from ours, is the retiring or opening address of the outgoing and incoming Moderator, reviewing at such length as would be considered all but intolerable amongst us, the leading denominational and often also the general, public events of the year in their bearing upon the church's interests. In Ireland, the Rev. William M. Mordie was made Moderator of the Synod of Dublin. The Rev. T. S. Woods, of Ballygowan, was chosen Moderator of the Synod of Belfast. The retiring Moderator, speaking of the losses which the Church had sustained by death during the year, referred especially to those of the Revs. Dr. Watts and Murphy. "The former," he said, "was a distinguished member of the Synod, the Assembly's Professor of Theology, an able defender of the faith once delivered unto the saints, an interesting and convincing writer, and withal, one of the most childlike, kindly, and unselfish of men." And of the Rev. Professor Murphy he added: "At the age of almost ninety years, his great mind unimpaired in strength and clearness, full of honors, and beloved by all who knew him, he has been removed to a sphere where he will enjoy a clearer vision of those wonderful realities on which his great mind had often so profoundly meditated."

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: Undertake something for the Lord, in the name of the Lord, and you will soon be surprised at how much you can do.

Cumberland Presbyterian: There may be more real egotism in skinking from duty because of mistaken modesty, than in pressing forward to do God's will even though prominence may incidentally and necessarily result.

Cannon Farrar: That they did so err, I am not so irreverent as to assert, nor has the widest learning, and acutest ingenuity of skepticism, ever pointed to one complete and demonstrable error of fact or doctrine in the Old or New Testament.

New York Observer: Some one has been wondering why the Lord does not send down his lightnings and smite with sudden destruction the many evil agencies at work in the world. In comment upon this, some one else remarks that the Lord has lightnings, but he wants conductors. The circuit is established by consecrated souls.

J. M. Ludlow, D.D.: We shade our eyes with the hand to shut out the glare of the strong daylight, when we want to see far away. God thus puts, as it were, His hand upon our brows, and tempers the glow of prosperity, that we may take in the wider phases of His goodness. It is a common experience that, looking out from the gloom of some personal affliction, men have seen for the first time beyond the earth place, and caught glimpses of the Benlah Land. Let us not shrink from the hand which we know is heavy only with blessing.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: We need not worry ourselves about the time of our Lord's second coming. That He has no revealed, nor are we expected to know it. What now should concern us most is readiness for it. We are to be found watching and waiting for our Lord, not in the heated discussion about the season and mode of his manifestation, nor in rhapsodies over it, but in fitness of spirit for it and in faithful performance of every-day duty. He who is always in a holy frame of mind and in zealous work for his Master has all the needful preparation for meeting his Lord howsoever and whensoever he may come.

Rev. J. L. Murray, M.A.: Let us never lose sight of the one supreme object of church service—spiritual worship. It is our privilege and our duty to employ whatever may help, and avoid whatever may hinder that worship, having the scriptures as our guide. Yet the best of means are means at best. The only aid that is absolutely essential is that of the Holy Spirit. A soul attuned to the service and praise of God is what the live Christian is in quest of. Let us aim at cultivating those habits of thought and feeling which shall be expected of us in the perfected service of our future home. Worship is supreme there. All is praise for all is triumph, enjoyment and blessedness in that city, without sin or sorrow, whose King is Jesus, whose walls are salvation and whose gates are praise.