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Notes of the Week.

The Hawaiian Constitutional Convention met on the 30th ult. The new constitution will be presented to the convention for its approval. The government is to be called the Republic of Hawaii. The executive power will be vested in the President. The Executive Council will consist of five members instead of four, as at present, a Minister of Health and Education being added. The Upper House will consist of fifteen Senators. Senators must be thirty years old, able to read and write English, shall have resided in the islands three years, own property not less than \$5,000 in value, and have an income of \$1,200 a year. The Assembly of the Lower House is to consist of fifteen members.

The festival in connection with the opening of the Massey Music Hall this week will be an event of importance to all lovers of music, for two reasons. The intrinsic attractions of the festival itself will, it cannot be doubted, be of the highest character, while the fact that it celebrates the opening of the splendid hall which the liberality of a citizen has provided for the use of the citizens of Toronto, will give to the occasion a special interest of quite another kind. The City Council has done well to honor the donor of this magnificent gift in the most emphatic way. The citizens will not fail to take this, the first opportunity, of showing their appreciation of their fellow-townsmen's generosity.

The Presbyterian Witness, of Halifax, of the 26th ult., contains a long article on the "Enlarged Hymnal." The tendency, it says, is toward a much larger book than our present one, with greater variety of topics, so that the number of hymns, old and new, to be submitted to the next General Assembly will be upwards of 600. "The new Book of Praise will in this way consist of the good old 'Psalms of David in metre,' complete and unchanged, and about ninety psalms or portions of psalms partly in the revised Irish Presbyterian and other versions. This version is in some cases exceedingly happy, as for example, the 29th Psalm. Then will come a small selection of sentences of Scripture for congregational chanting; and the 600 or 610 Hymns."

The Edinburgh Presbytery of the Free Church, it appears, has a standing order which might with advantage be adopted in a good many others, namely, that those who introduce motions and overtures are to be limited to speeches of twenty minutes. At a recent meeting Dr. William Balfour moved the recall of this standing order. He admitted that the Assembly had such a standing order, but the time of that court was limited, while theirs was unlimited. Rev. D. M. McAllister seconded. In moving an amendment that the standing order be not recalled, Rev. R. S. Balfour said that if that order was an abridgment of the liberty of some members, that liberty of the few was bondage for the many. The amendment was carried by a large majority.

This is the description of the city government of New York given by the Rev. Dr. J. Balcom Shaw, of the West-end Presbyterian Church, in a sermon on a recent Sunday evening on "The Political Evils." Public office, he added, was no longer a public trust, but a public steal. If this were not so, whence came the wealth of the bosses and leaders? They were the only people who were making money at present. Brokers, bankers, contractors, and others had all they could do to hold their own, but Tammany Hall, as represented by its horde of officeholders, was amassing prodigious fortunes. By extortion and bribes, by thefts and threats, these men were picking the pockets of the people, and with such ill-gotten gains were filling their own coffers. Most of the civic rulers of New York had been prize-fighters, gamblers, murderers or saloon keepers. As a remedy for existing evils the preacher suggested that partisan politics be eliminated from municipal affairs.

If the C. E. Convention, to be held in Cleveland is not a success in the matter of numbers, it will not be for want of effort on the part of the Endeavorers of that city to make it a success. In addition to some printed matter of one kind or another, reaching us every few days to stir up interest, to give information or ask or urge attendance, or to inquire what can be done for your comfort, here now lies before us a map presented with the compliments of the Y.P.S.C.E., showing plainly not only how to get to Cleveland, but a chart also of the city itself, containing such full information about it, and everything connected with the convention as must greatly help all who go in making their way over the city. The convention halls, the State and Province headquarters, parks and monuments, railway passenger stations and steamboat landings, street car lines are all laid down and plainly marked, so that by means of it one may make his way over the whole place without difficulty.

The General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly of the United States met this year at Eugene, Oregon, on the morning of the 11th ult. According to the despatches, three hundred Cumberland Presbyterian excursionists reached Denver, Colorado, from Kansas City and Fort Worth. In Denver they were the guests of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Central Presbyterian Church. They were taken in a body on electric cars over all the principal streets of the city and to various suburban towns of interest. At 3 p.m. a missionary meeting was held at the First Congregational Church, resident friends and members of the Assembly joining in the service, Rev. P. A. Rice, Grand Junction, Col., presiding. The organization of a church at Denver was discussed. One gentleman proposed to be one of several to support a missionary in Denver and others responded to his proposition. Much enthusiasm was aroused. At 4.30 p.m. an informal reception was tendered to the visitors at the Central Presbyterian Church. The excursionists left at 8 p.m. on a special train of ten coaches and spent the following Sunday in Salt Lake City.

The Benedictine Fathers of Fort Augustus, Scotland, with the approval of all the Archbishops and Bishops of Scotland, are starting a work which will be of interest to all Protestants and Roman Catholics alike. It is the forming a *Confraternity*, which bears the name of the "League of St. Andrew." All Catholics, whether belonging to the clergy or the laity, are received as members. "The only obligations which they undertake are: (1) Enrollment in the Register of the League at St. Benedict's Abbey, (2) the daily recital of one *Hail Mary*, and three or four ejaculations to the Sacred Heart, and the Patrons of Scotland, (3) the offering of Mass by priests or Holy Communion by lay members at least once per annum for the intentions of the league. The intentions, specified in the official circular, are: (1) The conversion of Scotland in general; (2) of particular individuals whose names or initials have been forwarded to the secretary; (3) the eternal rest of departed members whose names have been entered on the death roll; (4) thanksgiving for the conversion of those whose names have been sent for entry in the thanksgiving roll.

We are glad to learn that the first volume of a new work of special value to those interested in Biblical and Oriental study, as well as to students of history generally, will soon be published. It is entitled *History, Prophecy, and the Monuments*, and is by Prof. McCurdy, of the University of Toronto. Its design is to furnish a hand-book and manual of reference for Old Testament history, or, more precisely, for the history of ancient Israel, as it was conditioned and influenced by those antecedent and contemporary peoples who along with Israel contributed so much to the progress of our race. The book is practically an historical guide to the Old Testament, but at the same time it gives an accurate picture of the early condition of Western Asia, and of the rise and fall of those nationalities that laid the foundations of the ruling civilization and religions of the world. The material is drawn directly from the original sources; but the work is written in a popular style, and is so arranged as to be easily used

as a text-book by college students or general readers. The first volume brings the story down to the fall of Samaria, 721 B.C. A second volume, to appear in about a year, will complete the work.

Again we are in the throes of a Provincial election and there are to be seen and heard over all the land, the noise of battle and the marshalling of the opposing forces. The contest, it is felt, is keen, and the issues are very important to the interests of Ontario, and because it is the premier province, will affect more or less the political complexion of the whole Dominion. New complications have arisen, and what effect they are going to have on the outcome of the contest remains yet to be seen. While there is still plenty of mud-throwing, of charges and counter-charges, of falsehood and resorting to ways that are crooked to influence electors, there is as yet, so far as we have seen, less of these than has characterized many former elections. It is to be hoped that under the influence of honorable and fair-minded men of both parties, this state of things may continue, and our politics and the character of the whole people for fairness and honesty be redeemed from the evil reputation which we have, on too many occasions, earned for ourselves. The more that principles are kept before the public mind and discussed, the less likelihood is there of our disgracing ourselves by those degrading and abominable personalities which not only would no gentleman practice or encourage, but are unworthy even of all decent men.

In our happy country, where we know nothing of an Established church, we have little idea of the annoyance and oppression it may show towards Dissenters. In view of the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales a land commission has been taking evidence in Cardiganshire and some very strange things have been brought to light. Reference was made to a conclave of landlords, agents and parsons held in a town in that shire, at which it was agreed that all tenants who voted for a Liberal candidate in that year should be evicted; that all who remained at home on the day of the election should have their rents raised; that where possible no farm should be let to Nonconformists; and that, in order to extirpate Nonconformity, new churches should be built all over the country. This spirit and the conduct which results from it have been actively at work during the last twenty-five years. A certain estate was referred to where twenty-five years ago there were twenty Nonconformists, but now there are only eight, the others having been turned out to make room for those who promised to leave the chapel for the church. One landlady of eighty, prompted, it is said, by a priest, sent a long circular letter to all her tenants, saying that from conscientious motives she gave them the alternative of attending church with their families or of quitting their farms.

What a world in itself is London! While one section of its huge population has been going wild with excitement over the Derby races, another has been stirred with a nobler enthusiasm in celebrating the jubilee of that most beneficent Christian organization, the Y.M.C.A. It is surely a sign of the times, and that in some respects and in some quarters they are getting better, rising to a truer appreciation of what is good, that the founder of this Christian society, formed purely for the promotion of all that is best in the lives of young men, should in recognition of the services he has rendered in this regard, receive from Her Majesty the honour of knighthood. Never has it been more fittingly given. The City of London in its official character has honoured the work of this society, its founder, and the delegates attending the jubilee, by a public recognition of the great service it has rendered to mankind. Montreal, it is worthy of notice, has the honour of having been the first city on this continent to form a branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Nov. 1851, and also to have had held there the first North American convention. A great rally was held on the evening of the 5th inst., in honor of the jubilee, at which a former president of the Montreal branch, Mr. F. G. Grafton, an early personal friend of Sir Geo. Williams, gave an interesting sketch of the organization of the first association.