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IMPROVED CLASS ROLL

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Notes of the Week.

THE New York *Independent* says From one of the pulpits of this city last Sunday, those who are opposed to the views of Dr Briggs, and desire to bring them before the General Assembly and before his own Presbytery, were characterized as "bloodhounds of Orthodoxy." If there are "bloodhounds of Orthodoxy" it is because there are wolves of heresy.

AN extended biography of the late Professor Delitzsch is in preparation by Pastor W. Faber, who, as Delitzsch's associate in the work of evangelizing Israel, was his constant and most intimate companion during the last eleven years of his life. It was Delitzsch's oft-repeated wish that, if a biography of him were written, the work should be entrusted to Faber.

THE Rev. Professor Thomas Smith, D.D., was presented a few days ago with a cheque for two hundred guineas by a number of his friends as a token of their esteem for himself, and of their gratification at the honour about to be conferred upon him by his elevation to the Moderator's Chair of the Free Church General Assembly. A silver tray with an inscription suitable to the occasion was presented to his daughter.

THE committee on the Confession, appointed by the Free Church Assembly, at its meetings, recently, adopted a statement on minor points, that while diversity of opinion on these is recognized, the Church retains full authority to determine what points fall within this description, and thus to guard against any abuse of her liberty to the detriment of sound doctrine. It was agreed to recommend the Assembly to frame a declaratory act on the basis of the statement drawn up by the committee.

A NUMBER of Roman Catholic communities in India have sent a memorial to Lord Salisbury protesting against privileges which the crown of Portugal continues to exercise over Catholics in British India, relics of the period when the Portuguese were a power in the East. The memorialists allege that there educational as well as religious work is severely hampered. The king of Portugal still appoints five bishops in Southern India, and exercises in many parts of the country co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Pope.

THE Presbytery of South Melbourne, Australia, is pressing on very vigorously the work of Church extension. Several very promising fields are being occupied. One of these is at Cowes, Philip Island, which lies off the coast of Australia, in position and shape not unlike the Isle of Wight. They have secured a site for a church, and are erecting a neat building at the cost of \$2,000. Dr. Robb, late of Jamaica, is labouring there with acceptance and success, and he reports favourably of the prospects of the station. We are glad, says the *United Presbyterian Magazine*, that our able and scholarly brother has obtained a field of work in the land of his adoption.

A PAPER has been drawn up for presentation to the three Assemblies in Edinburgh bearing the signatures of the Duke of Argyll, Lord Moncreiff, and Lord Provost Boyd as representing the Established Free and United Presbyterian Laymen's Leagues;

The document declares that "to violate the convictions of many as to the duty of the nation to religion can never be a prelude to reconciliation," and that "such an ecclesiastical change would undoubtedly open up a long vista of increased bitterness, struggle, and separation." They invite the several Assemblies to cease from all aggressive action and to labour for the reunion of the three Churches with a preservation of the endowments.

THE meetings of the Evangelical Alliance at Florence were a great success. Writing in *Le Signal*, M de Réveilland says. One of the English delegates was Mr. Webb-Peploe, a graceful and instructive speaker, who dealt chiefly with the work of the Holy Spirit. Lord Kinnaird and Lord Radstock took the same line, and it was they who conceived the plan of holding holiness meetings on several evenings in a separate room. Mr. Webb-Peploe is a conscientious and earnest worker, but he prefers to keep to the good old ways, and has not a fresh intuition of things." Some of the Italian papers published full reports of the proceedings, and have praised the Conference in polite Italian superlatives.

AN overture in favour of amalgamating the foreign missions of the three Presbyterian Churches found, says the *Christian Leader*, only four supporters in Edinburgh Free Presbytery; but another overture moved by the same elder, Mr. Alex. E. White, in favour of bringing about a reconstruction of the Presbyterian Church "on the grand fundamental principles of the Reformation," though opposed by Principal Rainy, was carried by seventeen to thirteen. Dr. Rainy said union was a great object to be kept in view; but it did not follow that the most extensive schemes were in the end the most successful. The overture was not inspired with regard to the real situation in the Free Church; nor was it a real contribution to the object of union. Professor Thomas Smith, who moved the non-transmission of the overture for the union of the missions, said that in all his experience in India he had not found that evils arose from there being more than one Presbyterian mission in that country.

THE *Morning Post* contains a private letter from an English missionary in Uganda, which confirms former intelligence as to the evil results attending Roman Catholic ascendancy in Uganda. At the date of this letter there was great excitement among the people, who were all armed. The Mohammedans, who had long been watching their opportunity, had made an advance and the Christians had suffered a reverse. A most deplorable account is given of the condition of the once smiling country; thousands have died from plague, war, and famine. It is hoped that the British East African Company, which is in Uganda in some force, will be strong enough to restore order and security, and that the distracted country may regain its former peace and prosperity. The Church Missionary Society has sent out a reinforcement to its mission in Uganda, consisting of Bishop Tucker, and four missionaries. They reached Usambiro, where Mr. Mackay latterly lived, and where he died. There two of the missionaries died, and the others have been very ill. It is, therefore, concluded that Usambiro is unhealthy, and the mission is to be removed to Nassa.

THE *Christian Union* says: The Rev. Mr. Lyne, who, following the custom of the stage, has adopted another name for the public, and is ecclesiastically known as Father Ignatius, is undertaking to purge the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of heresy. Some people will be apt to connect his effort in this respect with the fact that his audiences are diminishing. The profane will think it somewhat impertinent that an ecclesiastic who has no standing in the Episcopal Church in this country, and concerning whose ecclesiastical standing in the Episcopal Church of his own country there has been question, should set himself to work to instruct the clergy of the United States in respect to their clerical duties. It is very certain

that the performances of Father Ignatius are as little in accord with the canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church as the doctrines which he imputes to Dr. Newton, and that if the one is not an orthodox clergyman, the other is certainly not a Protestant clergyman. At all events, the indecorum of an Englishman who has been sharply criticized in his own communion undertaking to rectify abuses which he imagines he perceives in the communion of a sister Church in this country is as palpable as it is, happily, extraordinary.

THE annual meeting of the Toronto Ramabai Circle was held last week, at which Mr. Hamilton Cassels presided. Miss Carty presented the report in which it is stated that the Pundita Ramabai lectured in many American and Canadian cities, and under the inspiration of her presence, her forceful presentation of the subject, and her thorough belief that this form of missionary work would appeal to the hearts of her own people, particularly her countrymen, the Ramabai Association was formed, pledging her support for ten years. She returned to India, and the school was opened at Bombay, March 11, 1889, with one child widow and one more widow pupil. Now at the close of the second year there are forty-two pupils, twenty-nine of them being widows; the oldest is twenty-three and the youngest nine years. The Ramabai Association has fifty-seven circles or auxiliaries, including three in Canada—Toronto, Montreal and London. The income for the year from annual members' fees was \$5,353 and from all sources \$9,722. This includes scholarships and donations to building funds, and it is the earnest desire of all who are interested that it may be possible to obtain a permanent home for these helpless child widows. The Toronto Ramabai Circle feel devoutly thankful for the share they are permitted to take in this work. There is an increase of members, the membership now being 265, of which forty-one are life members. The income for the year was \$769.83 and we notice with pleasure that the Toronto circle stands third in the givings for the year and sixth in the total givings for the three years of the work.

THE New York *Independent* has the following just remarks on a question that is engaging public attention. The scandals which have involved in disgrace seven members of Parliament within a comparatively brief time, we may hope will come to an end with the exposure of Captain Verney and Mr. De Cobain. These dirty revelations have affected both parties, and it may be feared that Mr. Gladstone was right when he said that there is nothing exceptional in the cases of public men which make them worse than other people, but that these exposures are symptomatic of a social and moral disease in the community which requires vigorous, united Christian action to root it out. If this is the fact, the case is bad enough. Yet it is hard to believe, indeed we do not believe, that the morals of England at the present time are any worse than they were in the time of George III., to say nothing of Charles II. It is perfectly evident beyond all question that in a matter of what is ordinarily called public morality, affecting the purity of government and the conduct of official duties, Great Britain is vastly purer than it was at the beginning of the century. Corruption, which was common and justified then, is now considered disgraceful. The only question is, whether with the diffusion of wealth and the increase of an idle, lazy class, a class bent on pleasure, what is called social morality has degenerated. Even this seems to a student of the history of social life not possible. It is true, however, that more scandal attaches to sins against virtue; and it is also true, we doubt not, that with the purer tone of society libertinism is driven into more revolting forms. The real remedy is that indicated by Mr. Gladstone. Law has its place, but the final remedy always is vigorous, united Christian action. It is a matter of religious education, just as in this country the one and only method we can depend upon to elevate the character of the Negroes of the South is precisely this same combination of the inculcation of religion and the work of the school-room.