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For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

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Notes of the Week.

RABBI LICHTENSTEIN, who has heartily accepted almost every part of the Christian creed, has written and hopes to publish a book under the title of "Judaism and Christianity," which brings together all the passages in the Talmud which in his opinion point Christ-wards. To Mr. Wells, of Pollokshields, now travelling in the East, he remarked: "The study of the New Testament is my life-element. Without the personal Messias, religion becomes a tree without fruit, a well without water."

READERS may remember that the obstacles encountered by our mission in Indore were due largely to the hostile attitude of the then British resident, Sir Lepel Griffin. Of that gentleman the *Christian Leader*, in the last number received, says: That unyielding foe of Christianity, Sir Lepel Griffin, declares that the Burmans are the most interesting race in the world because they count life its own sufficient object and reward. To this British administrator in India the moment a people begins to think of eternity that moment it ceases to be interesting.

SPEAKING of the monthly publication, *Free Russia*, a Scottish contemporary says: The number for May continues a work that is now seen from almost every day's paper to be incumbent on every true friend of humanity. It contains many special items of information respecting the sufferings of the victims of the atrocious Muscovite despotism. In the United States, thanks mainly to Mr. Kennan's influence, societies are being founded to assist the friends of freedom in Russia; the Siberian Exile Humane Society, in particular, is spreading with marvellous rapidity all over the States.

THE books obtainable by the blind in the Braille system constitute, says a contemporary, a most respectable library. The British and Foreign Association are constantly employing blind writers to copy works of all descriptions, and some hundred and sixty seeing people, mostly ladies, give a large portion of their time gratuitously to writing first copies of books in Braille. These are again copied by indigent blind writers, who in this way are enabled to add to their scanty incomes. Almost all the leading authors of the century, besides our greatest classics, are now within reach of the poorest blind reader. By the latest invention, a type-writing machine, it is thought that Braille may be written with much greater rapidity.

CHALMERS' Memorial Church, Anstruther, built at a cost of about \$50,000, the greater part of which has been borne by Mr. Stephen Williamson, M.P., was opened lately by Dr. Wilson, of Barclay Church, Edinburgh. He said Chalmers let the people know what the Gospel was through the actual preaching of it, and it had pleased God to bestow upon him the honour of becoming a teacher of evangelical preachers. The result was the regeneration of the country. In that respect he belonged to no church, but to Scotland and to the world. The collections amounted to \$5,220, of which \$2,500 was given by Mr. Williamson's firm in Liverpool, which was specially allocated, one-half going to the Foreign Missions of the Free Church and the other equally between those of the Established and United Presbyterian Churches.

THE Rev. H. A. Robertson, missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in the New Hebrides, reports that the French are stocking the islands full of French traders, and that their object is to buy up the "eyes" of the group, as indeed they have to a considerable extent already done, for they have got possession of all the best harbours together with large tracts of land. By the present arrangements French traders can sell as many firearms as they like, which handicaps the British trader, who is obliged to go under the French flag in order to preserve his trade. If the French get the islands they will at once send convicts thither to be employed as labourers to the traders. But Mr. Robertson trusts the French will never get them. "If they do," he says, "Australia only is to blame. Nearly all the money spent on the islands for the last seventy years has been British money, and all the life sacrificed British life."

DR. KILLEN'S recently-published treatise on "Church Government" is warmly eulogized by Mr. Spurgeon as an exceedingly powerful as well as valorous defence of Presbyterianism. He does not know how it is to be answered by the Congregationalists; but he points out that other questions than those of ecclesiastical polity press upon us just now. So dark is the night, he says, that we dare not discuss the correct form for a lantern; for we are too much occupied with preserving a little light by which to find our way out of this miry land of dirt. Presbyterianism, with all its admirable arrangement for preserving sound doctrine, has once signally failed in Scotland and is now failing a second time, to the heart-sickness of all who love the Lord and His Word. This second departure takes place under circumstances which make its guilt sevenfold. It happens after a period of light and prosperity which should have bound the Free Church to her Lord with cords of love for ever.

MRS. J. C. THORNE, of Madagascar, daughter of Rev. R. Anderson, D.D., of Glasgow, and sister of Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, B.D., of St. Helen's, Ont., in a letter from Antananarivo to the Sabbath schools and Bible class of her father's congregation earnestly asks their union in prayer for the stability of the native Christians in the times of trial through which they are passing. "People say it is very probable we shall have war here within the next few months, as the French intend to try and force the Malagasy to recognize their supremacy. If war should break out it is impossible to say what would be the issue. The Protestant missionaries may have to leave the island, for it seems impossible that the Malagasy can successfully resist the French for any length of time." In the district in which Mrs. Thorne and her husband labour they have now in seven schools sewing classes which are supported by friends belonging to her father's Glasgow flock. Mr. Thorne has the superintendence of the palace school, at the examination of which the prizes were distributed in the palace church in the presence of the queen and her prime minister. The latter seemed to be looking out for lads of whom he could make secretaries, or use in some other way to his own advantage.

MISS BERTHA WRIGHT, the well-known Ottawa evangelist, is holding a series of meetings under the direction of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Toronto, with a view of creating more interest in the work of the union in the city. Meetings were held last week in the Christian Institute on Richmond Street. Miss Wright gave a Bible reading, and an address was delivered by Mrs. Faulding. Meetings were also held in the Mission Avenue Mission Hall, and in Leslieville Presbyterian Church. The Dominion Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which includes the provincial unions of Ontario, Quebec, Maritime Provinces, British Columbia and Manitoba, numbers 368 unions, with a membership of 9,000—forty-six young women's unions and 192 children's societies, the latter having a membership of 19,000. The object of the present meetings in Toronto is to

increase, if possible, the membership and extend the usefulness of the Society. They therefore beg to remind the public that the work of the union is thoroughly undenominational; members of every branch of the Church of Christ are to be found in it, all working together harmoniously without a word of creed or catechism, yet all on Bible lines. The work they have done and are doing speaks much for the energy and single-mindedness that guide them. To their efforts it is due that scientific temperance is taught in the public schools of Ontario, and in Toronto prizes are now given annually for the best essays written by public school pupils on temperance.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of the Young Woman's Christian Association was held in the lecture room of the Y. M. C. A. building last week, Mrs. Andrew Jeffrey presiding. The report of Miss Buchan, recording secretary, contained a review of the work done by the Association since it was first organized in 1873. The Haven, the Girls' Industrial Institute and the City Relief Society were the outgrowth of the Association. The expenditure for city relief during the past year had been larger than usual, more than 1,100 people being relieved by the officers of that branch. The business of the meeting was relieved by selections of vocal and instrumental music. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Andrew Jeffrey; vice-presidents, Mrs. J. C. Gilmore, Lady Gzowski, Mrs. D. Cowan, Mrs. J. H. Richardson, Mrs. J. K. Macdonald, and Mrs. Brett; recording secretary, Miss Buchan; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Thomas Moore; treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Clarke; hon. directresses, Mrs. Clarke-Gamble, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. James Campbell, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Boddy, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Harvie, and Mrs. Gregg; directresses, Miss Aikins, Miss Beard, Mrs. D. R. Brock, Mrs. Robert Baldwin, Mrs. Clapp, Mrs. R. S. T. Davidson, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. J. Eaves, Mrs. Flynn, Mrs. Gunther, Mrs. Wm. Gregg, Mrs. Joseph Henderson, Mrs. German, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. W. B. McMurrich, Mrs. Robert Parker, Mrs. Purkiss, Mrs. J. A. Paterson, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. St. Croix, Mrs. George H. Sandwell, Miss Sniveley, Mrs. George Scott, jun., Mrs. Torrington, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Robert Wilkes, Miss White, and Miss Whitmore.

By an oversight it was stated in our last number that Dr. Orr, of Hawick, Scotland, had been appointed Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod. Dr. Henderson, of Paisley, an older man and minister than the newly-appointed Professor of Church History, was the unanimous choice of the members. Of Dr. Henderson the *Christian Leader* says: He is a man whom his Church could not afford to overlook. Though he has never taken a prominent part in Synod debates, his high ability and influence have been long known and recognized, as witness the degree of LL.D. conferred on him by his alma mater, the university of St. Andrew's. Of a modest disposition, Dr. Henderson has never put himself forward, but has rather taken pleasure in doing his duty. An Orcadian by birth, he is one of those men from the north who by their steady character and application work out for themselves a position in the south. As a minister he has a long and a good record, extending over a period of forty-seven years, some thirty-five of which he has spent in Paisley. Besides meeting the responsibilities of a busy pastorate he has found time to do some effective work in other spheres. He had, for example, the heaviest part of the labour involved in getting up the hymn book, with music, of his denomination; and for the last six years he has done yeoman service in Paisley school board, where his scholarship and organizing power have been of great value. It would have been a graceful thing if no other name had been brought forward. But the United Presbyterians, like their neighbours, are not above being influenced by metropolitanism. The two capitals somehow cannot give up the assumption that they should lead. The radicalism of the country, however, fails not to check this weakness when it becomes too apparent; and this, fortunately, was done in the election of Dr. Henderson. In doing this the Synod has done itself honour.