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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SEVERAL libraries in the United States report a decrease in the reading of fiction by the young of from fifty-five to fifty-eight per cent. This decrease is said to be due chiefly to the efforts of teachers and librarians to give school children better taste in reading.

ELEVEN chaplains accompany the English army to Egypt. Of these four belong to the Church of England, three are Roman Catholics, two are Presbyterians, and two Wesleyans. During the campaign in the Crimea, there were but two chaplains for all the troops engaged, and these were both of the English Church.

THE New South Wales Presbyterian Church Extension Committee recently passed the following resolution: "That it be a recommendation to the Home Churches that in future persons applying to be sent to this colony be required, as a rule, to finish the full curriculum of study demanded by their several Churches."

THE London Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Smoking has offered two prizes, one of £10 and a second of £5, for the best two papers which shall set forth to the young the evil effects of their indulgence in the habit. Freedom of treatment is left to the writers, but the essays must be written in such a manner as to commend them to boys.

It was at Spire, Germany, that the famous *Protest* was laid before the Diet, held in that city by six princes and fourteen imperial towns, on the 19th of April, 1529, which gave to the followers of Luther the name of Protestants. A movement is now in progress to raise a fund for building a Protestant church at that place, as a memorial of the great event which took place 353 years ago.

THE London "Pall Mall Gazette" says that private telegrams received in London report that the troubles in Corea have culminated in a general insurrection, and that the King and Queen have been assassinated. A despatch to the Press Association says that the report is officially confirmed. A Japanese military officer in the Korean service is among the killed. The Japanese legation was attacked.

LAST year, a soldier, a native of Kilmarnock, died in Chelsea Hospital, and Mr. Dick-Peddie ascertained that although a Presbyterian he had, through the application of pressure by the officials, been buried with Church of England rites. Mr. Peddie brought the matter under the notice of the War Secretary, and an order has been issued from the War Office which will prevent undue pressure being used in such cases again.

THE third International Presbyterian Conference was held in Sydney in April last. While Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand were unrepresented, there was a good gathering of ministers and elders from the other colonies. The questions of the federation of the Australian Churches, a native ministry, a common standard of theological education, foreign missions, etc., were fully discussed. Harmony and brotherly feeling prevailed.

BISHOP IRELAND, in his address before the National Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Union, at St. Paul, said things which have stirred up the feelings of Irishmen considerably. The following sentence especially meets with disapprobation: "The woes of the people of Ireland are mostly brought about by intemperance, and if they could be made temperate and kept so fifteen years they could buy the entire island with the money they would otherwise spend for drink."

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Scotsman" says: "The music in most of our town and country churches is, as a rule, simply shameful. Many a time, in listening to the extraordinary performances to be heard every day in our churches, I have recalled the remark of honest

Davie Tait, when some of his acquaintances were passing their opinions about his musical feats at family worship—'Weel a weel,' said Davie, 'music's aye best in the distance, an' it's a lang way up to heaven. I've great faith in that.'"

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES would seem to have quite won the hearts of the ladies at Melbourne by recounting, as one of his most delightful reminiscences, the fact that in the United States he was engaged by a committee of ladies to lecture for a certain object. The chair was taken by a pretty lady president, who made a charming speech; the lady treasurer counted out his fee from the receipts with her dainty fingers; and he found the arrangement so business-like and satisfactory that he longs for an era of perpetual lady presidents.

THE following is the "prohibitory" amendment suggested for an article of the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania: "Sec. 1. The manufacture, sale and keeping for sale of alcoholic, brewed, distilled, fermented, vinous, and all other intoxicating liquors whatever, to be used as a beverage, are forever prohibited within this State; and the Assembly shall, without delay, pass all laws, with sufficient penalties, necessary to enforce this prohibition." "Sec. 2. The manufacture and sale of the aforesaid liquors for other purposes than as a beverage shall be regulated by law, under sufficient penalties and securities."

DR. ZIEMANN, the native lay evangelist, who has been carrying on Gospel missions in various parts of Germany, is still working, and now with more encouraging signs of success than ever before. Among those who have professed conversion recently are workmen, peasants, students, fashionable young ladies, and one young Roman Catholic artist. When Dr. Ziemann returned to Heidelberg from his campaign in Silesia he found many inquirers awaiting his return impatiently. The genuineness of the work wrought is evidenced by the number of converts who have organized themselves into societies for religious work.

THE conflict between Church and State in Germany, says the "Daily Review," threatens to break out afresh. The Romish Church is not content with toleration; it claims and loves to exercise the right of denunciation. The Prince Bishop of Breslau, who was supposed to be a mild and conciliatory ecclesiastic, has issued a judgment under which Catholic parish priests, who, in spite of the conflict between Church and State, have remained faithful to the laws of the country, and been entrusted by the State with parochial functions, are required to immediately lay down their offices under pain of anathema. This action is certain to be resisted.

THE floating Bethel at Naples was flooded on Saturday, 22nd of July. It was found that there were two leaks below water-mark, and it requires a new zinc bottom. The Bethel is the property of the Free Church, and the committee who control it are composed of Church of England, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan friends. The ministers of the English-speaking congregations come to the Bethel once a month and conduct a service. About 70,000 English-speaking seamen passed through this port since the establishment of the mission more than four years ago. The missionary, Mr. Stephen Burrowes, appeals for assistance to repair the Bethel.

PROFESSOR JOHN STUART BLACKIE, the eccentric professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, has resigned his chair at the recommendation of his physician. Dr. Blackie is as much interested in Gaelic as in Greek, and sometimes when he had a Highland student "up," the Greek was forgotten, and the Greek class had to be content to listen to a spirited conversation in Gaelic between the professor and the Highlander. The cruellest of the many stories told about Professor Blackie is that once, while travelling down the Firth of Clyde, he made several ineffectual attempts to engage a brawny Highlander in a Gaelic

conversation, and only desisted when the other observed grandly, "Her nainsel [that is, I myself] speaks only ta English an' ta Gaelic."

A DEPUTATION of Bengalee Christians lately addressed a letter to the Bishop of Calcutta (Dr. Johnson), asking to be enlightened as to the exact relation which the Church of England, as indicated by her articles and formularies, ought to have with Churches of Bengalee Christians gathered by Nonconformist bodies. The bishop's answer and subsequent explanation, closing with the words, "She endeavours to keep the unity of the Spirit, adoring the one Lord, holding the one faith in the one Body," did not satisfy the Bengalees, who held more than one public meeting, and passed this among other resolutions: "That the time has come for Bengalee Christians to make an emphatic declaration against ritualism and sacerdotalism, and to take active steps for maintaining and strengthening the unity which now obtains among them."

DR. BEGG has again been giving utterance to his peculiar views regarding postures in public worship. According to him, uniformity in worship consists in sitting at praise and standing during prayer. It would not do, he said, simply to glide out of the difficulty by telling the people to determine it by voting papers. They were just practically slipping away from Presbyterianism, or rather, they were making a jumble in the Church of Prelacy, Independency, and Ritualism. Whenever they sent him (Dr. Begg) to a church where the people bobbed up at the singing, he told them to keep their seats, and they obeyed him. Principal Rainy held that Dr. Begg's views were entirely out of the question, and he could not sufficiently express his surprise that a man of Dr. Begg's practical sagacity should take up a ground of that kind. And Mr. McMicking, Helensburgh, said it did not do for old elders or ministers to take their notions from Dr. Begg, as if he was infalible in the Free Church.

REFERRING to the successful telephone experiment of Mr. Hutcheson, of Greenock, the Rev. David Macrae, of Dundee, remarked at the monthly social gathering of his congregation that they would have nothing to do by-and-by but spring the signal to the Central Office and say, "Connect me with this or that church." They could without leaving their homes listen in the morning to Spurgeon preaching a sermon in the Tabernacle, and in the evening to Beecher preaching in Plymouth Church. They could choose their minister and denomination any Sunday, and hear what was being preached in any church, without going to it. It would give splendid facilities to the heresy-hunters. A man could also, if he found the sermon he was listening to dry, say to the Central Office, "Enough of that; turn on some other preacher!" The system is only developing; but Mr. Hutcheson lying in his bed listening every Sunday to a sermon preached in a distant church is a distinct pledge and foretaste of it.

THE "Christian Leader" says: "When the American Presbyterian missionaries and others who have had to flee from Egypt on account of the chaos produced by Arabi's revolt narrate their individual experience to the world, we shall, no doubt, hear many a woful story. Profound sympathy will be felt with the illustrious traveller, Dr. Schweinfurth, who made a very narrow escape with his life at Alexandria, but who had to leave behind him—and has therefore lost—his herbarium, manuscripts, drawings, maps of the desert of Egypt, the latter alone representing the labour of the last eight years—an immense work, and not yet published! Indeed, his total losses include the result of twenty years' fatigue and incessant labour. It may be remembered that this indomitable traveller formerly lost by fire all the data and observations made during the great journey which he has recorded in 'The Heart of Africa,' and it was only by his unexampled perseverance in counting his steps on his return from the Niam country that he was able in part to make good that great loss."