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Notes of the Week.

It is stated that when Rev. Dr. Paton was on a visit to Liverpool a friend, who forbade the mention of his name, gave him \$5,000 of the amount needed to purchase and maintain a new missionary ship to be used in his work among the New Hebrides Islands. This was generous indeed and worthy of imitation.

The Government of China has taken very decisive action in the case of the murderers of the Rev. James Wylie, the Scottish Presbyterian missionary, and has ordered that they be beheaded. It also has been ordered that all property belonging to missionaries or other foreigners, which has been destroyed, shall be made good.

A new Roman Catholic college for the training of female teachers is to be inaugurated soon in Glasgow. It is to be under the care of the Notre Dame sisterhood, which is largely composed of Roman Catholic ladies of distinction, and one of our exchanges suggests that this may indicate a sphere for Protestant ladies, in practical educational pursuits.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church North, reports receipts from April 1st to August 31st of \$242,150, against \$159,998 for the corresponding period of last year. The gain is divided as follows: Woman's Executive Committee \$22,259, legacies \$59,996, miscellaneous \$4,173. In the church collections there has been a loss of \$4,276, leaving a net gain of \$82,152.

"Decent people," says the *Presbyterian Banner* of Pittsburgh, "throughout the country will rejoice at the defeat of Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge at the primary elections, last Saturday, for member of Congress from the Ashland district, Kentucky, however much they may deplore his sad fate, and however deeply they may sympathize with the distinguished family upon which he has brought shame."

The Hon. Cecil Rhodes, Premier of Cape Colony, has given to the Baptist Church of South Africa 9,000 acres of land in Mashonaland and Matabeleland for missionary purposes. It is to be divided into three farms of 3,000 acres each, with two sites for churches and parsonages connected with each farm. One of the farms is to be worked, it is said, with American capital and by American missionaries under the auspices of the Baptist Union of South Africa.

Some time ago Principal Brown, D.D., gave a short but characteristic address to a phonograph belonging to his friend Professor McKendrick, of Glasgow, and the instrument caught the tone and inflections of the principal's voice with remarkable accuracy. It is Professor McKendrick's intention to present the cylinder to the Free Church College of Aberdeen, and it will thus be possible for coming generations, and, for that matter, during hundreds of years, to listen to the voice of the venerable principal.

From the census reports in Britain it appears that since 1851 there has been a steady decline in the proportionate numbers of the population occupied in agriculture, and since 1861 the textile trades have been falling behind; the machinery and tool-making trades have made advances; the professions and services are being more crowded up, and women are becoming stronger in their competition with men. "The tendency of the movements described is to suggest that just as England passed at the close of last century from the rank of an agricultural country to that of a manufacturing and trading country, she is now shedding the manufacturing character, and is becoming more and more what she has been often prematurely dubbed, 'a nation of shopkeepers.'"

Despatches from Heart's Content, Newfoundland, state that on July 27th, the final splice of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company's new cable was made at 11 a.m., thus completing the largest cable across the Atlantic. It is a noteworthy coincidence that the final splice was made on the anniversary of the day on which the first successful cable was landed at Heart's Content in 1866, twenty-eight years ago, being not only on the same day but on the same day of the week. That was accomplished after repeated failures; this last cable was laid within a little less than two weeks.

The Women's Missionary Society of the Canada Methodist Church reports to the General Conference a remarkable growth. Its auxiliaries and increased in four years from 300 to 537. The membership nearly doubled, and the income more than doubled. The income of the last year was \$37,974, and during the twelve years of its existence its receipts were \$219,309. In diffusing missionary information and awakening missionary interest the persistent, pious and practical methods of these zealous women deserve the highest praise. They have thirty-two women missionaries now in the field.

So far the *Interior* is quite correct in saying that, "Canada's great Fair at Toronto annually brings thousands of visitors to that pleasant and stirring northern city. This year the attendance has been unusually large and the Fair is said to be the best that has ever been held in the Dominion. The Fair was formally opened the first week of September by Canada's Premier, Sir John Thompson. It will, however, be news to most Canadians to be informed that it was principally due to Sir John Macdonald that the Fair at Toronto has grown to its present magnitude and achieves its annual success.

The Sunday question has been raised in a forcible manner in Brooklyn. The Germans of the city planned for a big parade of societies in connection with the laying of the corner stone of the new German Hospital, on Sunday, October 21st, and applied to Mayor Schieren for the necessary permit. This, however, he refused, making the following statement in the *Staats Zeitung*: "Neither Germans, Irish nor Bohemians should ask for special privileges. I am not the Mayor of the Germans alone. I believe in churches and I am a churchman. I cannot license anything which the law prohibits." Now the Sunday Observance Association of Brooklyn, have decided to appeal to the mayor to have all Sunday ball-playing stopped within the city limits, against a recent judgment of Judge Gaynor upholding it.

The University Mission to Central Africa has issued a report of work done through its agency in its principal stations in the Dark Continent. Since the beginning of the mission over twenty Cambridge men have joined the movement, including Bishops Mackenzie and Smythies. Five have died at their posts in Africa, and now the staff of Cambridge men is seven. Oxford has sent some thirty-six into the field, among them Bishops Tozer and Hornby. Of these thirteen are still working, and ten have died in the field. Durham has sent two men, London three, Edinburgh one and Dublin one. This, of course, does not represent the total number of graduates at present laboring in Africa, for on the other hand the Church Missionary Society has over a score of university men in active service in Africa, besides many native clergy who have taken their degrees at Durham University.

An Edinburgh doctor has won laurels by his successful efforts to diminish the unhealthiness of Sierra Leone. Dr. Ross, the gentleman in question, was 30 years ago a pupil of Professor Spence, and commenced life as an army doctor. Leaving that service he spent 20 years in Jamaica, where he did wonders in improving the sanitary conditions of the

island. Nine years ago he was transferred to Sierra Leone, and there his record has been even more brilliant. Since he took medical charge of the colony, which formerly fully deserved its title of "White Man's Grave," he has materially reduced the death rate, that of the European population, which numbers about 300, having since been only about two per annum from climatic causes. He has also practically banished berri-berri from the prison, that curious disease which is as fatal to the natives, and whose victims used to be numerous.

At Swanly, England, is a Horticultural College in which there is a woman's branch. From its second report, just issued, it appears that, "Women gardeners are in great demand, and no difficulty is ever found in obtaining profitable employment to the graduates; in fact, the number of applications is greatly in excess of the number of women who could fill the positions. Many tempting offers come in, such as that for a woman gardener to take charge of the grounds of a villa at Cannes; and another to superintend the care of large grounds near London with greenhouses and conservatories. No arduous manual work is necessary during the college course, and laborers are engaged to do all the heavier work in the practical side of their training. Several professors attend regularly, and the class-room work includes, besides horticulture and agriculture, chemistry, geology, entomology, botany, bee-keeping, and poultry-keeping.

The 124th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott was celebrated in Glasgow, August 15, with a considerable amount of display. Through the efforts of the local Scott Club, the Scott statue in George Square was wreathed and festooned with a wealth of floral decorations. On the pedestal panel facing the Municipal Buildings was a magnificent wreath sent by Lord Rosebery from Dalmeny. Two floral shields contributed by Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollok, and bearing the dates of Scott's birth and death, occupied the panels on the north and south sides, and a heart-shaped wreath, the gift of Mrs. Glen of Carlibar, and emblematic of the "Heart of Mid Lothian," covered the remaining panel. Floral decorations were also sent from Drumlanrig Gardens, Inverary Castle, Haddo House, Tulliechewan Castle, Deanston House, Keir, and The Loaning, Peebles. In the evening selections of music and songs appropriate to the occasion were played and sung by the band of the Gordon Highlanders and the Waverley Choir from a platform erected at the base of the monument. At one of the intervals of the programme the Rev. Thomas Somerville briefly addressed the gathering, which was a large one.

A private correspondent, writing of the last Keswick Convention, speaks as follows, "As we who have been attending the convention are about to separate, the question naturally arises: Has it been such as to accomplish the ends for which it was designed, and for which it is held every year? The answer is a most decided Yes. God has been honored in all that has been done. Very important truth from His word regarding the way to walk and to please God, and the all-sufficiency of Christ as a Saviour from the power as well as from the guilt of sin has been taught and emphasized by many able and devoted men. No extravagant and ill-balanced notions on the subject of holiness, such as are held by some, were taught from the platform of this convention. All the teaching was sober and well-proportioned, and calculated to result in wholesome practical action. Daily prayer-meetings were very largely attended and very helpful, so also were numerous missionary meetings. The lovely mountain scenery all around, and the beautiful Lake (Derwentwater) were very inspiring. Altogether we have had a most refreshing time, physically and spiritually, and are most thankful that we have had the privilege of being here."