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Notes of the Week.

An article in the new *Contemporary* on "Marriage in East London," gives a somewhat dismal picture of the social conditions prevailing there. The writer, after describing the scene near an East-end church on Bank Holiday, the wedding day for the East-end, says: "One wonders, watching them, at the light-hearted way in which they take this step. For the girls especially, it means burdens which seem almost too heavy to be borne. By the time they are twenty-five, all the elasticity and vigour of youth are crushed out of them, and those who maintain their self-respect have nothing to look forward to but drudgery. These early marriages are the curse of the poor, yet the causes which lead to them are often almost inconceivably slight—a fit of pique, a taunt from some companion, the desire for a lark, or a bet.

Mr. W. T. Stead, the well-known editor of the *Review of Reviews*, has been making a special study of Chicago, and he makes revelations which may well cause readers everywhere to open their eyes. "The sovereign people," he says, "may govern Chicago in theory; as a matter of fact, King Boodle is monarch of all he surveys. His domination is practically undisputed, and the recognition of its existence is the basis of the limitations which are placed upon the taxing powers of the City Council. It being expected as a fundamental principle that the aldermen will steal, the longer-headed, well-to-do citizens, acting under the guidance of Mr. Medill, the editor and proprietor of the *Tribune*, then Mayor of Chicago, limited the taxing powers of the city to two percent of the assessed value of realty and personalty of the city."

The summer school plan, which owes its origin to the United States, and of which our post-graduate course is a modification, has also taken root in the Old Country. It has been resolved by the Council of Mansfield College to have a second summer school in July of this year. From the circular there is every prospect that the scheme will prove as successful as when first devised and carried out. It is to extend from the 16th to the 28th of the month, and the uniform charge will be \$12, which admits to all lectures and meetings, and dinner in hall, which will be provided daily at 7 p.m. Among the lecturers who are expected to take part are Dr. Fairbairn, Professor Ryle, Dr. George R. Smith, Dr. Sanday, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Orr, Dr. McKendrick, Canon Cheyne, and others, and the subjects chosen are admirably varied and well selected.

The Established Church of Scotland has had a committee at work upon the important subject of public worship. Of this the *Belfast Tribune* says that "in many parishes of Scotland, as well as in Ulster, it has become dreich and dreary instead of being uplifting and refreshing. The recommendations of this committee have been sent down to Presbyteries with the result that so far their voice may be said to be in favor of wise and useful reforms, and against needless change and innovation. The better conduct of praise and prayer, the more devout observance of the communion, a more reverent treatment of the house of God, and a general increase in the devotional spirit amongst the worshippers. Such are the chief points which have been approved, while the use of the so-called Apostles' creed and the inclusion of the Nicene creed appear to be rejected.

Chicago had the eyes of all the world turned upon it last summer, and great is Chicago was the proud boast not only of its citizens, but of vast numbers besides, who, although they had heard much and expected much of it, had yet to confess that the half had not been told them. The eyes of the English-speaking world at least are now by Mr. Stead's book being turned to it under quite another aspect. In another chapter of the book we have referred to, he says: "Leading citizens of Chicago have repeat-

edly assured me that there is no hope and no future for the city of Chicago under the system of popular government. To abolish the whole system of administration, stock, lock and barrel, and to place the city under a federal triumvirate, appointed from Washington, who would govern Chicago as Washington is governed, is one of the favorite specifics. To make the mayor a Democratic Caesar is another proposal. Universal suffrage is roundly declared to be a failure, and the whole hope of improvement is said to be the abandonment of the Democratic principle and the adoption of some form or other of one-man power."

As Canadians we are always glad to know of the discovery of hitherto undiscovered sources of wealth in any part of the Dominion, and especially where their existence was hardly believed possible. It turns out that inland, behind the bleak and barren coast of Labrador, there is a country which may yet become very valuable because of its great natural resources. Mr. A. P. Low, one of the most energetic engineers of the Geological Survey, has been exploring the interior of this country, and in a report very recently received from him he tells a story which will cause astonishment in scientific and geographical circles. It is to the effect that the climate in the interior, where there are many large sheltered valleys, is far milder than was supposed. The vast district, he says, is thickly wooded with spruce trees, interspersed with poplar. There are many thousand square miles of spruce trees, sufficient to last for many years, after other Canadian forests have been exhausted. Most of the spruce trees, he says, would make timber 18 inches square. Throughout the country, he says, there are indications of vast deposits of the richest iron ore.

In the report for the year 1829, the directors of the London Missionary Society had to announce a deficiency of nearly £7,000, on a total revenue of £42,000. Their conduct on this occasion may be followed by ourselves. In their report that year the directors said, "We beg most respectfully, but earnestly, to press on the attention of all the members of the society, viz., the necessity of fervent and importunate prayer for the blessing of God on the great work in which they are engaged." The great obstacles in the way of our success are such as no measures, however wisely formed, can obviate, and no labors, however resolutely prosecuted, can subdue. These obstacles are to be found, not so much in the political circumstances of heathen countries, or in the diversified forms of idolatry, though in themselves powerful obstructions, as in the inveterate depravity of the human heart, and the power of the god of this world over that depravity. These nothing can subdue but the force of Divine truth, and the omnipotent influence of the Holy Spirit. This combined operation we know, both from scripture and experience, nothing can effectually resist. The next year's report showed a balance of £10,000 to the good.

At the annual meeting of the Belfast Branch of the Evangelical Alliance the report stated that, early in the year the community was much agitated, and the minds of many of God's people were filled with apprehension as to the probable results of threatened legislation for this country. Under these circumstances of disquiet and alarm, a suggestion was made during the week of prayer that the meetings for united prayer should be continued for some time. Accordingly from January until the end of June a weekly gathering took place under the auspices of the Alliance, at which earnest supplication was made that the Almighty would so guide and control national affairs that the interests of His kingdom would be advanced in Ireland, and that civil and religious liberty might be preserved in our midst. We believe these meetings did something to calm public feeling at what may be felt to be a national crisis, and we thankfully recognize how truly God has again proved Himself the Hearer and Answerer of prayer. The Dean of Connor, in moving the adoption of the report, said it appeared to him that the Evangelical

Alliance met in a very efficient manner the great want of the age, which was the union of orthodox Christians for the purpose of meeting and overthrowing the efforts of those who attacked their common Christianity.

Senator Frye, of Maine, has introduced in the United States Senate, and Mr. Morse, of Massachusetts, in the House, a joint resolution proposing to insert in the preamble of the National Constitution, after the clause, "We the people of the United States," the following: "Devoutly acknowledging the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, grateful to him for our civil and religious liberties, and encouraged by the assurance of his Word to invoke his guidance as a Christian nation, according to his appointed way by Jesus Christ our Lord." Mr. T. P. Stevenson, editor of the *Christian State*, Philadelphia, says in a circular just received: "The language of the proposed amendment is taken from the religious acknowledgments in State Constitutions, from the late decision of the Supreme Court 'that this is a Christian nation,' and from the Senate resolution of 1863 urging President Lincoln to proclaim a national fast. With regard to this movement the *Pittsburg Messenger* says: 'Over 100 friends of the Christian amendment left this city and vicinity March 5 for Washington, D. C., to be present at the hearing to be given by the house judiciary committee, to which was referred the bill recently introduced by Mr. Morse, of Massachusetts, looking to a formal recognition of God and his authority in the federal Constitution. A similar hearing will be given to the friends of the bill on March 7 by the sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee. The delegation included a large number of ladies.'

This is certainly an age of conventions of all kinds, and it is gratifying to observe that not a few of them are held in immediate connection with Christian life, and for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. The one recently held in Detroit in connection with the students' volunteer movement appears to have been of remarkable interest and power. A contemporary, speaking of the Sabbath over which it extended, says: "A peculiar and impressive solemnity attended all the Sabbath meetings. The power of which some indications had been seen during the preceding days, was manifested in its fulness. Many who had formerly lived only a passive Christian life were brought to a deep realization of that fact, and led to see the need of and to express a desire for activity in the Master's service. At the consecration meeting at 8.45 Miss Guinness was the principal speaker. She drew a parallel, illustrating it from her own experience, between the steps taken by an unbeliever in accepting Christ as his Saviour and the believer in receiving the Holy Spirit for service. The best testimony to the reality of such a power was that of her own shining face and convincing words."

The same contemporary gives an account of the farewell meeting of the convention, of which we can form so faint an idea as to make us say, "What must it have been to be there." The farewell meeting began at 7.30. All available room was occupied. A classified report of the delegates present was read, showing that 35 institutions from Canada were represented, 72 from New England and the East, 41 from the South, and 146 from the West. Total, 294. The 1,187 students present added to 170 missionaries, secretaries and officers of other organizations made a total attendance of 1,357 at the convention. Then followed a number of brief addresses from various prominent speakers. A cable-gram from missionaries in India to the convention was read: "India needs now 1,000 Spirit-filled volunteers." More than 52 delegates who expect to sail within a year stood up and gave their reasons for going to the foreign field. The sight made a profound impression. Over 31 others arose who have said, since coming to the convention: "It is my purpose, if God permit, to become a foreign missionary."