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## INTERNATIONAL LESSON SCHEMES

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## Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. J. G. Train, of Hull, was one of the leading speakers at the Dublin Christian Convention. He spoke on "Lack of Consecration," on "Life, Love, Light;" and at the concluding meeting he delivered an address specially directed to men on certain conditions of success in life. He strongly exhorted his listeners not to let business, pleasure, or earthly trouble to interfere with them in their duties to God. Among the after speakers at the Convention were Rev. Samuel Prenter, Rev. H. Montgomery, Rev. George Hanson, Rev. J. Hudson Taylor.

It is stated that a thousand persons attended the opening of the new Y. M. C. A. hall last week. The building, on the corner of Princess and Barrie Streets, Kingston, is handsome and well arranged. It cost \$22,500, with \$2,000 of a debt. Mr. H. A. Calvin, M.P., President of the local Association, occupied the chair. There were congratulatory addresses delivered by Messrs. T. S. Cole, Toronto; F. M. Pratt, Hamilton; D. A. Budge, Montreal; Revs. Messrs. Laing, Houston and Mackie, of Kingston. Choir music was rendered. On the two following evenings there were receptions to the young ladies and young men of the city.

THERE is some talk of repeating the Grindelwald Conferences in the autumn of next year. The success which attended the meeting, the friendships which were made on the spot, and the interesting correspondence which has appeared in the press on the subject, have encouraged the promoters of this year's gathering to continue their efforts for the reunion of the Churches. In some quarters there is a strong feeling that it would be advisable to hold the next conference in England rather than on the Continent. The organizers of the Grindelwald gathering, on the other hand, are of opinion that, as so many clergymen take a holiday abroad during the autumn, there is much to be said for combining the picnic with the more serious business of a religious conference.

A DEPUTATION from the Church Missionary Society waited on Lord Rosebery, the Foreign Secretary, recently, urging the danger to their mission in Uganda should the proposed withdrawal of the British East Africa Company take place without some other British influence being substituted. He expressed a wish that the Society had laid some definite proposal before him, but promised to lay their statements before his colleagues. Sir John Kennaway, who introduced the deputation, said that the Society had spent nearly two and a-half millions in Uganda, and that their bishop and thirteen missionaries are determined to remain, come what may. It seems that there are only between 200 and 300 baptized Protestant converts, whilst the Roman Catholic adherents number 8,000.

THE London *Presbyterian* says: Alderman Knill has returned very straightforward answers to the questions addressed to him by the Lord Mayor in view of the fact that the alderman comes the next in turn for the honour of being elevated to the civic chair. Alderman Knill says plainly that he will appoint a Roman Catholic as his private chaplain, and that he will not attend the service of the Church of England on ceremonial occasions. A clergyman of the Church of England would, however, be asked to perform the public functions of the Lord Mayor's chaplain, and a *locum tenens* would take the Lord Mayor's place on occasions of State attendance at church. Whatever be the issue of the November

election, Alderman Knill's letter has dealt a severe blow to "official religion."

A CAPE TOWN correspondent of the *Music Herald* writes: You will be glad to learn that I am teaching a lot of Fingoes Tonic Sol-fa. They cannot understand a word of English, and I have to teach them with an interpreter. You will hardly believe it, but in one lesson everyone of them could sing the scale to the proper sounds, even though I dodged them about and gave them difficult intervals. I tried them all singly. Some of them have wonderful voices, and I hope to be able to do something with them. I must say that up till now I have been rather prejudiced against the system, but now I am more than a believer in it. Just consider the fact of a lot of raw natives being able in less than an hour to sing anything pointed out to them on the modulator. These natives have been obtained from up-country for Coolie purposes, and they live in a Compound, a kind of barracks. We have a nice room, where some of them are being taught to read and write, but I am told mine will be the favourite class.

It is the perilous tendency of Churches, remarks the *Christian Leader*, that predominate in one locality or in one country to regard themselves as the Church: "The temple of the Lord are we." A larger survey of Christendom would correct this evil, for the muster rolls of the different sects of English-speaking Protestants show that each regiment is large enough to make itself a power in the population of the world. It has been computed by an eager Methodist that even the Church of England with all its prestige cannot claim to form the largest wing, much less the preponderating one. There are, according to this authority, twenty-five millions of Methodists, twenty millions of Anglicans, while Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Baptists make sixty millions amongst them. Unhappily the effective force of an army never equals that upon paper. Many on the roll never answer the call. If they did do so their combined enthusiasm might be used of the Divine Spirit to repeat Pentecostal days, and add daily to the Churches at the rate of five for every hundred.

A MEETING was recently held in Chicago under the auspices of the American Sabbath Union and the Columbian Sunday Association, for the purpose of commending the action of Congress in closing the World's Fair on Sunday. An audience of about five thousand persons was in attendance, and listened with interest to the exercises. Colonel Elliott F. Shepard, of New York, presided. He called attention to the work of the bodies represented in creating a public sentiment that Congress dare not ignore, and expressed his pleasure that the Fair had been placed on a high moral level. Petitions had been circulated and 25,800,000 signatures had been obtained to an appeal for national aid to a Sunday-closed Exposition, the one result being the act of Congress appropriating \$2,500,000, with the Sunday-closing condition. Other addresses were by Mr. Joseph Cook, Dr. Herrick Johnson, Dr. Henson and Mr. George Royal, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Mr. Royal, in a brief speech, expressed the satisfaction of the locomotive engineers that the Fair is to be closed on Sunday. The occasion was characterized throughout by great enthusiasm.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The Czar in his orthodox crusade has gone so far as to dismiss from the railway service of the more important government railways all servants who do not belong to the orthodox Greek Church, and in future none other will be employed in these systems. In Russia this is put down to the machinations of M. Pobedonotsieff, the new Minister of Public Worship, and Procurator-General of the Holy Synod, through whom the Czar does most of his dirty work. Despatches from Russia tell us that the Russians have withdrawn from the Pamirs, but only because the approach of winter was blocking up the passes,

and neither the Afghans nor the Chinese could be induced to sell the Russians provisions. The alarm in this country with regard to the Russian invasion of the Pamirs was chiefly one of ignorance. China never gives up ground which she has once claimed, and she will move troops on the Pamirs which, though they may take years to converge, will ultimately sweep out any possible Russian force; but so well does Russia know this that she will never attempt a settlement there so long as these high tablelands, the "roof of the world," are claimed by the Celestial kingdom, and its pig-tailed, almond-eyed mandarins.

FOR the first time in its history the Evangelical Alliance held its annual conference in Dundee. Elaborate preparations for the reception of the guests were made, and a hearty welcome was accorded them on Monday evening in the Kinnaird Hall. Lord Provost Mathewson and Revs. A. Inglis, J. Reid and J. E. Houston delivered brief addresses on behalf of the inhabitants of the city, the former declaring that the Alliance had widened the sympathies of Christian people as to the wants of humanity, and had given an impetus to Christian influence in carrying on good work of every kind. The welcome was acknowledged by Lord Kinnaird, in the absence of the President, Lord Polwarth. Dr. Boedeker, who claimed to speak in the name of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bohemia and Russia, stated that notwithstanding all the persecution and imprisonment in Russia, the Stundists were filling the land. In his annual statement, the Secretary, Mr. A. J. Arnold, reported that within the past few months the power of the Alliance had been felt at Constantinople, and an order issued by the Government to close all Protestant schools had now been suspended. Last year they had added 430 members. Tuesday was devoted chiefly to the consideration of two papers, one by Rev. J. Fox, of Durham, on "True Catholicity," and the other by Rev. J. Urquhart on "The Postulates of the so called Higher Criticism." Mr. Urquhart asserted that our forefathers destroying the infallible popes of Romish superstition was of little use if we were now to put in their place infallible popes of the higher criticism. He contended for the Divine authorship of the various books of the Old Testament, and said it was for the Evangelical Alliance to uphold that view.

CONCERNING the trouble in the Metropolitan Tabernacle over the appointment of a successor to Mr. Spurgeon, the *British Weekly* says: Our readers will deplore the somewhat unseemly proceedings taking place at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. So far as we can see, Dr. Pierson's friends are entirely to blame. The trouble comes from the source of trouble in most English Nonconformist Churches, the attempt by a few to lord it over the many, and to prevent the general feeling from having free and full expression and authority. There is surely nothing unreasonable in many members of the Metropolitan Tabernacle wishing that the son of the late eminent pastor—a minister who has already proved himself an acceptable preacher, and whose experience is considerable—should succeed his father. They are entitled to have this put to the body of the members, and decided by them. As to Dr. Pierson, they have a perfect right to know what his communications with the deacons have been. It is certain that Dr. Pierson at one period said that he was not a Baptist, and never would become a Baptist, but it is now said that he has retreated from this position. He may be assured that in England no quality is better liked than perfect straightforwardness and frankness, and no good will be done by him or his friends in seeking to parry fair questions. We are requested from various sources to correct the statement of last week that the deacons were standing out for Dr. Pierson against the congregation. We are assured, on the best authority, that several deacons are favourable to Mr. Thomas Spurgeon. A Church meeting should be held without delay, and all in authority at the Tabernacle should understand that the time for privacy has come to an end. What they do now is practically done in the hearing of the world.