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## Notes of the Week.

IN several places in Britain there are curious endowments for lectures and sermons. In the old church of St. Katharine Cree, London, there is preached once a year the "Lion Sermon," as it is called, under a bequest in 1643 by Sir John Gayer, a lord mayor, who had a marvellous escape from a lion in Arabia.

THE Fraternity of the Sea is the name of an association formed by two hundred captains of Norwegian vessels, who pledge themselves to arrange religious services regularly on board their ships, and, whether in port or at sea, to do their duty and direct those under them in the fear of God.

ABOUT 2,590 lbs. of "missionary" arrowroot is coming to the Church offices in Edinburgh soon, the proceeds of which will be applied to the preparation of native teachers in Aneityum and the building of a church in Futuna. Orders are being booked by Mr. R. F. Young at the Church offices.

THE Evangelical clergy of Alsace are taking steps for the celebration this year of the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Martin Bucer, the Alsace Reformer, who was born at Schlettstadt in 1491. It is expected that statues of the Reformer will also be set up in Strasbourg and Wissembourg, the chief centres of his activity in his native land.

AT the meeting of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, South, at Statesville, N.C., October 22, a report was presented from the Presbyteries in regard to the overture to repeal the rule against instrumental music in Church services. The Presbyterian vote stood eighty for and fifty-two against repeal, and the Synod affirmed the decision by a vote of fifty to twenty-two.

THE Old Catholics of France have begun the publication of an official organ, *Le Catholique Français*. Father Loyson strongly favours the new departure, but was not active in founding the paper. It is to be devoted to the interests of Gallicanism, and its motto is the famous saying of Vincent, of Lerin: "Catholic is that which has been always believed, and everywhere, and by all."

THE Second National Protestant Congress was held at Brighton, England, in the middle of October. The session lasted three days and the subjects discussed were: "The Genius of the Papacy as contrasted with the Spirit of the Gospel," "The Mass versus the Lord's Supper," "Romish Encroachments," and "The Confessional and its Perils." There were a number of prominent speakers, among them the Rev. Drs. H. Grattan Guinness and Thain Davidson, and Prof. Radford Thomson.

IN response to urgent requests from Australia and other foreign countries for a visit from the president of the American Christian Endeavour Society, the trustees, at their recent meeting, requested Dr. Clark to undertake a journey round the world, starting immediately after the International Convention in New York next July and taking a year for the tour, returning in season for the Montreal Convention of '93. He has not yet decided whether he can go.

ABBEY-CLOSE United Presbyterian Church, Paisley, celebrated its 125th anniversary recently. The pastor, Rev. Andrew Henderson, LL.D., Moderator of Synod, preached in the forenoon, and Prof. Orr in the afternoon. A praise service was held in the evening. The attendances were large, and the collections reached \$520. At a conversazione on Monday, Dr. Henderson gave a sketch of the early history of the congregation, and the other speakers included Dr. James Muir, Egremont, Birkenhead, Revs. R. S. Bruce, Wishaw, A. L. Henderson, Glasgow; and James Graham, Broughty-Ferry.

THE fortune of Baron Hirsch, the Hebrew philanthropist, is estimated variously at from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000. He is the son of a Bavarian banker, and the foundation of his wealth was a railway contract with the Turkish Government. Since then he has made enormous sums by railroad operations in eastern Europe and by fortunate speculations on the Paris Bourse. He has a magnificent house in Paris, a splendid estate in Moravia, where his entertainments have been on a scale of regal magnificence, and some of the finest shooting-preserves to be found in Great Britain. His only son died some time ago.

OUR Church, writes an Irish Presbyterian, is so much the poorer by the death of the Rev. Andrew Todd, Finvay, and the Rev. W. W. Brown, M.A., lately our missionary to India. The former was in the forty-eighth year of his ministry when he died. He was one of God's true Christian gentlemen, a faithful preacher, a beloved pastor, and a powerful influence for good in his neighbourhood. The latter was a man of great mental ability, fine scholarship, and earnest missionary spirit. For some years past he has retired from the foreign field owing to his feeble health, but not before the Church had learned to appreciate highly his noble services.

THE American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has turned aside from the traditional custom in securing a successor to its venerable secretary, Dr. Lowrie, who retired from active service last spring. Instead of taking a man from the ranks of the pastorate, it has selected a young man, a student in Princeton Theological Seminary. Mr. Robert E. Speers, is one of the most enthusiastic and able young men connected with the enlarging work of the Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance. He is in close touch with the class from which the Board must draw its re-enforcements for the foreign field, understands thoroughly their spirit and will prove invaluable in securing their co-operation.

THE Presbytery of London, England, held a most interesting conference lately on lapsing from Church. At the close Dr. McGaw effectually summed up by presenting seven points, as emerging clearly from the discussion. The seven points were these: We have all need of getting more fully and deeply into sympathy with our divine Lord in our personal love for souls; revived family religion was necessary, revived pastoral fidelity, both on the part of ministers and elders; a warmer welcome should be accorded to strangers, great lack of pastoral care existed on the part of ministers in Scotland with regard to their members coming to England; more care was needed in England in the direction of an organization for finding out the people when they came and the absolute need of a good big Church Extension Fund.

IN the Roman Catholic University, in Washington, D. C., a speaker addressed the candidates for the priesthood in that institution in this refreshing fashion: This is no time to be thinking of the elegance of the vestments you are to wear, the respect you will inspire, the salaries you are likely to receive or the promotion to higher ecclesiastical dignities you are to earn. The time has come when Christianity to prevail must be real. History has not pages enough to record the absurdities committed by Christian priests and princes. This is God's lesson

to us. Why do Catholic writers seek to cover up the horrors of St. Bartholomew, the cruelties of the Inquisition, which burned the flesh of human beings, made in God's likeness, or the self-sufficient wisdom which refused to recognize the truths discovered by Galileo? Even to day in New York you wait in vain before Catholic altars for sermons commensurate with the subject, against corrupt city rule and the evils of unlimited drinking saloons, although they are Catholics who are chiefly responsible for both these evils.

THE *Presbyterian Messenger* says: The Rev. John C. Gibson, M.A., of Swatow, preached in St. John's Wood Church (Dr. Monro Gibson's) at both services recently. Having given graphic and deeply interesting accounts of the work of our China Mission, he made eloquent and powerful appeals for additional workers and larger funds. His addresses were the outcome of a rare combination of ability, culture, and zeal for the divine glory in the salvation of men. At the close of the evening service Mr. Gibson read a letter from a member of the congregation who had sent him, after the morning service, a cheque for \$1,250 which he regarded as a challenge to the whole Church to rise and wipe out the debit balance of \$16,000, which stood against the Foreign Missions account of December 31, last. He trusted the Church would at once accept the challenge, extinguish the debt, and provide for extending the Mission.

A BODY of Franciscans have been seeking tax-exemptions for valuable property they have been purchasing in Montreal. A French-Canadian paper, *La Patrie*, publishes a very strong article on the question of the holding of property exempt from taxation by religious communities. The writer begins by referring to the presence in our streets of bareheaded and barefooted Franciscans and says that he cannot see how a man can be deserving in the eye of God for thus exposing himself to sure death in such a climate as ours. If suicide is a crime, does it cease to be so when thus committed by degrees? One would think that these Franciscans were called here by a secret society of doctors and druggists with a view to induce the people to adopt a mode of dress that would multiply coughs and colds. But if the Franciscans do not care for dress their contempt for the things of this world does not extend to real estate. The article then refers to the purchase of the \$45,000 property at the corner of Sherbrooke and St. Denis Streets, and says that once one has made a vow of poverty he has a right to all the wealth of the world pending the acquisition of that of paradise. It is high time that a stop should be put to this exemption of real estate the moment it goes into the hands of religious communities. The more the number of the latter increases the higher the rate of taxation on other properties as a natural consequence. Neither does there seem to be any necessity that religious orders should get hold of the property in our best streets. When men are willing to go barefooted, they might try to save their souls and do good to the population without having a splendid residence on Sherbrooke Street. "We are not at all astonished," continues the writer, "that the Protestant population in our city protest against the exemption from taxes enjoyed by the real estate of religious communities. At the end of the year the aldermen must find the necessary funds to meet the civic expenses, and if a portion of real estate is free from taxes, the other portion suffers." He then asks that in the future no new property acquired by religious communities be exempted without special authorization from the City Council. History shows that in all the countries where the clergy lost their property and met with persecution, the thing only occurred after they had abused the privileges granted them. All the confiscations in France, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Columbia, and other Spanish republics were due to the monopolizing of property by the Church. There is no reason to hope that the same causes will not produce the same effects in Canada. It is then good advice to the clergy to tell them that they must place a limit upon their inclination for real estate.