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Notes of the Week.

The Russian Navy still continues to be increased. It will soon have added to its active list three new ships—the Oslabya and Peresweit, steel battle-ships of about 11,000 tons displacement, and the protected cruiser Sveitlanda. All three names were a few years ago borne by large screw wooden frigates in the Baltic fleet.

Utah has entered the Union under the most auspicious circumstances. It has a greater population than the states of Delaware, or Nevada, or Montana, or Idaho, or Wyoming, or North Dakota. Its industrial wealth is greater than any of its surrounding sisters. The total export value of its mineral product in 1895 at the seaboard valuation was \$14,519,000. Heber M. Wells is the first governor of the State of Utah, and took his seat on Monday, Jan. 6th, at noon.

The following statistics from the report of the Postmaster-General, for the year ending June 30th, 1895, just to hand, will be read with interest:—Offices in operation July 1st, 1895, 8,832; number of miles of post route 65,325; annual travel thereon 30,351,115; letters 107,565,000; post cards 24,025,000; registered letters, 3,183,200; free letters, 4,441,000; transient newspapers and periodicals, book packets, packets, circulars, samples and patterns, etc., 22,730,000; packages of printers copy, photographs, deeds, insurance policies etc., 1,908,000; packets of fifth class matter, ordinary merchandise open to examination 945,000; parcels by parcel-post, 342,900; closed parcels for the United Kingdom and other countries 14,860.

Henry M. Stanley, in an article on the "Development of Africa," which is to appear in the February *Century*, recalls the fact that troubles with the Boers in Southern Africa first induced David Livingstone to travel to the north, and so led the way to the opening of Equatorial Africa. Livingstone, who was a missionary at Kolobeng, accused his Boer neighbors of cruelty to the natives. They resented his interference, and threatened to drive him from the country. He published their misdeeds in the Cape newspapers, and his house was burned in revenge. This led to his leaving southern Africa and going to a region where he could follow in peace his vocation as a missionary, unmolested by the Boer farmers.

We often hear the drinking of the light wines of France and other continental countries favorably spoken of and quoted as an evidence that they do not tend to drunkenness, and that the custom might be followed in this country. The action of the French Academy of Medicine does not sustain that favourable opinion. It recently adopted a series of resolutions declaring that the drink evil has become a permanent danger attacking "the very life and force of the country" and laying stress on the fact that even the purest alcohol is "always and fundamentally a poison." Speaking of legal restrictions M. Rochard, a member of the illustrious scientific body, said: "I know that this is difficult to accomplish. Alcohol is a terrible power. The professional hierarchy [the manufacturers and dealers] hold the country enlaced in the meshes of a net of unavoidable self-interest without pity."

Rev. Dr. Storrs, Brooklyn, New York, occupies a unique place in that city from his long pastorate of his church there, from his commanding position in the country, in the Congregational Church to which he belongs, and in his relation to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and as an author and public speaker. Though now well-advanced in years Editor McElway of the Brooklyn *Eagle* bears this testimony to an address which he recently heard him deliver: "I have heard Mr. Gladstone and other great English as well as American orators, but Dr. Storrs is to me the greatest living master of the English language on either side of the ocean."

The extent and urgency of the need for relief in Armenia are shown by the statement made by the *London Daily News* that satisfactory reports have been received of the relief work in thirteen centres of Anatolia. In the districts covered from these centres there are 120,000 persons depending upon the Anglo-American fund for their daily bread. *The Chronicle* advocates that, seeing the great powers owing to mutual jealousies and suspicions are powerless to do anything, at least are doing nothing, the United States be invited to send a fleet to force the passage of the Hellespont and compel the Sultan to stop the barbarism prevailing in Anatolia. The paper says it does not suppose that fighting would be necessary, but if it were it urges that a British fleet should co-operate with the American war ships.

A call to prayer has been issued, the *Presbyterian* of London, England, tells us, on behalf of the Armenians and is signed by, amongst other eminent ministers, the Bishops of Rochester, Hereford, and Southwark, Revs. J. Oswald Dykes, D.D., and J. Monro Gibson, D.D.:—"Christmas has gone," it says, "the New Year has come, and still the dreadful tragedy proceeds. An ancient Christian people is being plundered, starved, murdered, and martyred. This is happening in the sight of all Christendom; with its full knowledge; within the range of its public responsibility. Men are tortured, women are outraged, children are violated, homes are burnt. No one can doubt it; Consuls have reported it; Ambassadors have known it; eye-witnesses have placarded it; photographers have recorded the terrible proofs."

The following according to the *New York Journal of Commerce*, an independent paper, indicates the comfortable little bill which President Cleveland's Venezuela message may impose upon the United States; and let it be noticed that this is only a first instalment, it is merely the entering upon a course of which no one can see the end. Could there be any folly more infatuated than for that country to enter upon the path which is crushing with taxation the great powers of Europe, turning their countries more and more into armed camps, diverting the minds of the people from the peaceful pursuits of industry, and creating a spirit of militarism which looks to and craves for war as its justification, and the opportunity to show what it can do. "Increased appropriations by Congress for the army, the navy, and coast defenses of the United States may be expected as one result of the stir over Venezuela. Senator Chandler's bill calling for \$100,000 to strengthen the military armament, Senator Hale's bill for six battle-ships at \$4,000,000 each and 25 torpedo-boats at \$175,000 each, Senator Cullom's

bill for revenue cutters on the Pacific coast and the Great Lakes, Senator Squire's bill for \$87,000,000 for coast armament, Senator Sherman's bills for recognizing the army, Senator Hawley's bill for issuing Springfield rifles to the National Guard of the several States in exchange for the weapons now in use, and Representative Cummings's bill for the enrolment and further organization of the naval reserve, indicate that the question of national defenses is to occupy considerable attention at Washington this session."

In its last issue the *Manitoba College Journal* says, and in this we doubt not it expresses the opinion of Manitobans generally: "As we go to press the authorities at Ottawa are about to introduce into the Federal Parliament, their scheme for presenting a better school system to a province which is thoroughly satisfied with the system which it already possesses. The result of the local elections has made the issue certain. The people of Manitoba will not accept any system of schools forced upon them by the partizan votes of the East, and the Provincial Government, with the full approval of the electors, will oppose federal legislation by all the constitutional means within their grasp. It is extremely doubtful if the Dominion Parliament can enforce or even frame an educational act, in all points *intra vires* under the British North America Act."

The Church at Home and Abroad, speaking of Madagascar, says:—"Recent authentic letters indicate that the French are intent not merely on establishing a protectorate, but upon an entire subjection of the island to the imperial domain of France." As to matters of religion it says: "If the tactics which have been followed in Tahiti and Ogowé are repeated in Madagascar it would look as if the London Missionary Society would have to withdraw. The English language so far as used must give place to the French, and French influence brought to a thorough dominion. The grand missionary history of the island will pass under an eclipse. It may well be a subject of prayer to all who love the cause of the world's evangelization, that the churches in Madagascar, which stood so firmly under the persecution of a heathen queen, may be equally faithful to their high trust under this new misfortune."

In view of the college interests of our Church in Manitoba the state and prospects of the University of the Province are of deep concern to us. The last *Journal* of Manitoba College says of it: "The University of Manitoba has already performed a noble work, a work out of all proportion to the means of a new and struggling Province. But the ideals of 1886 will not suffice for 1896. The Province is advancing by leaps and bounds and the higher education of our people must advance with the times. If the national school system is to endure and to fulfil the expectations of the people, the University must be strengthened. Weakness there means weakness throughout the entire system, and grave danger to the educational future of the West. The University and Colleges are doing good work, but their means are inadequate. The demands made upon them are constantly increasing. The burden is steadily growing heavier, and unless the Legislature and the people of the Province come to their assistance, they must fail under it. The safety of the schools depends upon the efficiency of the University."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Disraeli: The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity.

Moody: It is a great deal better to live holy than to talk about it.

Carlyle. Religion cannot pass away. The burning of a little straw may hide the stars of the sky; but the stars are there, and will reappear.

Christian Leader: Poor Armenia has been lost sight of in our own troubles, and no other Power feels impelled to take the place of "selfish" Great Britain! If we forget this suffering people, it is plain that they have few friends besides.

United Presbyterian: Christian parents ought to patronize distinctively Christian institutions. A complete education takes in every part of man's being—body, soul, and spirit. If the spirit is left without culture, the development is unsymmetrical—the man is incomplete.

Joseph Chamberlain. The prospect of our discomfiture was regarded with hardly disguised satisfaction by our competitors, who must be forced to admit that we alone hold our possessions throughout the world in trust for them all and admit them to our markets as freely as our own selves.

Prof. Bonney: I have frequently found on coming intimate with scientists, who are not usually regarded as men of faith, that their religious convictions are nearly as deep as my own. In fact, I should say the bulk of the scientific men I know were religious-minded and very many of them are sincere Christians.

The Presbyterian: There is a sense in which the Bible, as God's message to the soul, should belong to us as if there were no other but ourselves in the universe. The greatest things of all are universal property—air and light, truth and mercy, Divine life and eternity. And the Word of God belongs to these grand universals.

Evangelical Churchman: The defalcations of trusted employees, about which the daily press is constantly giving information, afford food for serious thought. The pressure of "fast living" seems to sap high traditions of commercial honour. Honesty must become to men something more than "the best policy"; it must be a principle.

The Christian Instructor: It is no work of piety to be faithless to one's trust or turn his back upon his profession in whole or in part. An honest man may be compelled to suffer, but never to worship contrary to the duties of his conscience. The three children could stand the fiery furnace, but they could not bear the worship of the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

The Presbyterian: In all cases where any territory belongs to Great Britain, the Government should be carried on by agents of the Crown, receiving instructions direct from home, and not by companies of private adventurers. Had Jameson been in the service of the British Government, instead of a trading company, it is difficult to see how the late trouble would have occurred.