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## Notes of the Week.

A writer in the *Christian World* says: "We have been permitted to see a private letter from one of the members of the American Venezuelan Commission to a personal friend in London in which the writer says: 'As to Venezuela, unless the two parties directly involved shall settle it soon, we shall, I doubt not, present a line on which both can agree, without the slightest sacrifice of justice or of dignity.'" Of course, but for the jingoism it might have been done before this, and if they will now keep their hands off and tongues quiet the end will be becoming both to justice and dignity.

It is disappointing that after the most elaborate and expensive preparations made to observe at different points the late eclipse of the sun, they were in two or three cases either a partial or complete failure, because of unfavorable conditions of weather. It is some consolation and mitigation of the disappointment that most excellent observations of the sun were obtained by Mr. Shackleton, an astronomer, who was conveyed on Sir George Baden-Powell's yacht, the *Otaria*, to Nova Zembla. He obtained a number of photographs which will go far to neutralize the failures of the astronomical expeditions to Norway and Japan.

The death of Sir David Macpherson was one in its circumstances and surroundings that appeals to the heart and sympathy of all. Sick, feeble, dying indeed one might say, yet anxious to reach his home in Canada, his end came in mid-ocean. His passing away cuts another of the few remaining links that now exist in the survival of the men who were leaders in public affairs in a bygone day. How many does his death recall of the names of men who took an active part in those struggles amid which and by which the foundations of the Dominion were laid, and upon which it now remains for the present and future generations to build.

Lord Russell in his famous address at Saratoga, speaking of the power for good which Britain and America together could wield, said: "If they have great power they have also great responsibility. No cause they espouse can fail: no cause they oppose can triumph." If that is so, one cannot help asking: How did it come about that two such peoples, who are really one, and who have such power and such responsibility did not espouse the cause of the Armenians, and say to the Sultan in such a way as he dared not disobey, "Hands Off"? Upon which of all the nations does the chief responsibility lie for that bloodiest chapter, if not of all history, at least of modern European history?

Our gracious and well-beloved Queen has this month entered upon the sixtieth year of a reign which will be ever memorable in the annals of English history. As it is in several respects now more memorable than any which has preceded it, it may well be that another millennium or more will elapse before another equally to be remembered will be seen. There has been shown a very general desire in Britain to anticipate the close of the sixtieth year, and as soon as possible commemorate in some suitable way so unusual an event. Her Majesty with her usual good sense, and with the moderation natural to her years, has expressed a desire, which will be at once acceded to,

that the sixtieth year of her reign should be closed before any celebration of it take place. Her subjects everywhere will pray and desire that her life may be spared so that when its celebration takes place, it may, in every part of her great empire, be one of joy and gladness and thanksgiving.

The statue of Highland Mary lately unveiled with much ceremony at Dunoon, so far as the cuts seen in the papers enable us to judge, appears to be one of singular grace and beauty. To Lady Kelvin fell the honour of unveiling the statue and on the occasion many beautiful, pathetic and patriotic sentiments were uttered. Men were present from widely scattered lands, all admirers of Scotland's immortal bard. The Hon. Wm. MacCallough, of Auckland, New Zealand, in his remarks pointed out a purpose served by Burns not often referred to, namely, the potent influence of Burns clubs in keeping alive the sentiment of nationality in the colonies of the British Crown, which he describes as silver bands which help to bind the British Empire together.

Our parliamentarians are now hard at work. Judging from indications so far, the Government will have to fight to hold every inch of ground, and every advantage gained. The Opposition is both alert, vigilant and determined, and will faithfully watch the Government and keep it to a strict account. Let it by all means. Very weighty responsibilities lie upon it, and an honest and capable Government will not shrink from but court the freest investigation and enquiry. In every honest transaction the fuller, the more public, the stronger the search-light cast upon it so much the better for it. All that either side should ask or expect of the other is fair play; so long as that is given neither Conservative nor Liberal has any reason to complain.

We do not profess to be scientific enough to understand the process as it is given in detail of a recent most notable discovery, but we realize to some extent the vast importance of the results which it is claimed will follow from it, if the claim should be found upon full investigation and sufficient test to be well founded. The discoverer is Dr. William N. Jacques, of Boston, who has found a practical method of converting the energy of coal directly into electricity. He claims to have secured by this method 82 per cent. of the theoretical efficiency of burning coal, and his experiments and figures are vouched for by Prof. Charles R. Cross. If this process can be made of practical commercial value it represents the greatest single advance in the development of power since the introduction of steam. At the present time the finest of compound or triple expansion engines only realize something like 15 per cent. of the potential energy of the coal consumed. At a bound Dr. Jacques proposes to increase this several hundredfold. That is, he makes one pound of coal do what, under the most favourable conditions, takes now five and a half pounds.

As we write these notes Toronto is being visited by a no less distinguished visitor than the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Russell of Killowen. His visit has led to the giving to the public in a brief form the main facts of his life and rise from humble beginnings, and the salient events in his eminent career, the great cases which he has been connected with and upon which his fame rests. They are full of profit as well as of interest, showing that in addition to great

ability, the road to such eminence as he now enjoys is by honest hard work. His address at Saratoga before the American Bar Association on "International Arbitration," given to a great audience of over 4,000 people, reminds one in its tact, as speaking to Americans, in its weighty sentence, its calmness and felicity of expression, of some of the utterances of his distinguished fellow-countryman, Lord Dufferin. Read as it will be by thousands of the most intelligent English-speaking people over the world, it will, we believe, have a great and abiding influence in promoting the great object so ably elucidated and supported in it: International Arbitration of national differences.

Although for the moment a block has been put in the movement for street cars on Sabbath, there is no reason to expect it will be allowed to stay the agitation. It will not if by any possibility the advocates of street cars can help it. The papers in the city have ranged themselves on the one side or the other, or are taking as far as possible a strictly impartial and independent course, or are laboriously and determinedly keeping aloof altogether from the whole question. The latter either have no convictions upon the subject, or if they have any, have not the courage of their convictions. We cannot but think it an unworthy course for one of our great dailies which will contend might and main for one alderman rather than another as a member for the city council, not to be able to make up its mind, or not to think it worth its while to express an opinion upon a subject being keenly debated in the city, and in which an interest is felt by thousands of its subscribers all over the Province. It was not always thus. Why is it that the organ which lately did such valiant service for one political party, which has not been wont to shrink from having convictions on all public and municipal questions and expressing them, appears to have none on this matter?

The *Saturday Review*, referring to the treatment of Dr. Jameson and his fellow-raiders, says: "What an extraordinary country is England, and how strange its laws and customs! We hailed Clive before a committee of the House of Commons, as we are going to hale Mr. Rhodes, and we censured the conqueror of India as we shall censure the conqueror of Rhodesia. We persecuted Warren Hastings for twenty years, and left him to die in obscurity and embarrassment. Dr. Jameson has added Matabeleland to the Empire—away with him to Wormwood Scrubs! Mr. Rhodes has added Bechuanaland, Mashonaland, Pondoland, and Gazaland to the Empire—put him in Pentonville! How we have ever got our Empire together is a mystery, seeing how we treat our Imperial adventurers." The *Review* evidently does not think very much of this kind of treatment. Of the Imperial Commission appointed to investigate this whole business it says: "There will be no peace so long as this muddy pool is being stirred by Parliamentary agitators and bitter partisans. The Select Committee can find out nothing that is not already known, and can do nothing but mischief. Let us have an amnesty all round. A jail is not the proper residence for those who give us provinces." A good many will say, "That is so!" Restitution is the proper logical or at least Christian sequence of wrong-doing. Are those who are loudest in condemnation of Clive, Hastings *et al.* ready to advise that course? It would be the cruellest kindness. Fancy what India would be if handed back to the management of its diverse and antagonistic people.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Jean Ingelow: I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered.

Scots Proverb: True love's the waft o' life; but whiles it comes through a sorrowfu' shuttle.

Earl of Eglinton: God keep ill gear out o' my hands; for if my hands anco get it, my heart winna pairt wi't.

John Ruskin: If you do not wish for His kingdom, don't pray for it. But if you do, you must do more than pray for it; you must work for it.

Rev. R. S. MacArthur, D.D.: Great Britain and the United States are the two great nations that march side by side to the music of Christ's name for the conquest of the world for God.

The Gospel Banner: The Corinthian babes were fed with milk; that proves that they were *living babes*—nor were they backslidden because they were carnal, but they were not sanctified.

The Christian Index: Too much stress cannot be laid on the power of habit in church and prayer meeting attendance. A habit of dropping in when it is convenient, or when nothing prevents, greatly multiplies occasions for remaining away.

The Sun: The principle of Protectionism, that is, of taxing the community at large for the benefit of the capital invested in particular industries, whether under its own name, or under the alias of National Policy, has, we rejoice to think, gone to its long home.

Bystander: By the conviction and sentence of Dr. Jameson and his associates, notwithstanding the sympathy which their irregular daring had evoked, England has given welcome proof that she does not countenance filibustering and that her Empire, to whatever region it is extended, is to be an Empire of law.

Duke of Argyll: Christian argument has been far too apologetic in its tone of late as if it had a very uphill work to do to defend the rationality of Christian belief. Of course, much has been taught as Christianity which really forms no part of it, and this has damaged the credit of the whole. Christ Himself seems to have tried to commend His teaching to the reason and consciences of all men.

Dr. Parkhurst: Your power will be according to your experience, but your experience must be your experience and not somebody's else. Faith in your father's faith is not faith in God. Intimacy with your mother is not knowing your mother's Saviour. Reading the Bible is not necessarily walking with Christ. Knowing a good deal about Him is not the same thing as knowing Him.

A. T. Pierson: He who lives near God, and keeps there, catches God's own spirit, which is simply Love; and love is unselfish and self-imparting life. It gives—gives all it has, and gives to all that need. Foreign missions simply represent the farthest off and most needy, and a man who loves as God loves, cannot limit his own love, and say, "I will love the souls near by, but not afar off," any more than the streams flowing down the mountain can determine only to go so far.