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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE English Presbyterians are about to get a new hymn-book. It is said that about 200 of the hymns in the present collection will be replaced by others; that about sixty suited to children and youth will be added; and that there will be an edition containing the unmetred Psalter spaced for chanting.

THE famous Mackonochie case in the Church of England is up again. The Lord Chancellor has just delivered a judgment advising the Queen to reverse the judgment of the 5th of June, and remit the case to the court below to decree against Mr. Mackonochie such lawful canonical censure or punishment as to that court should seem best.

It was stated in a public meeting in London, a few days since, that there are now upwards of one hundred ministers in the Church of England who were converted Jews, and that there are several thousand Jews in London at this moment who have embraced Christianity, and who are leading lives according to the profession they have made.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH, speaking of the present condition of the Irish Church in his latest charge, says: "We can scarcely fail to thank God that in some matters we are not as English Churchmen are: that if all our church arrangements are not to our liking, yet, at any rate, what we dislike is not imposed upon us from without, but is the work of our own hands."

A PETITION, originating at Seaforth, and addressed to the House of Commons, against the running of railway trains on the Lord's day, has been sent to congregations for signature. It is very desirable that it should be as largely signed as possible, and transmitted to the members of the House of Commons representing the respective constituencies without delay.

THE Salvation Army recently held a "demonstration" of reclaimed drunkards in City Hall, Glasgow. The chairman said the Army had 30,000 men and women in the United Kingdom who neither tasted, touched nor handled the cursed drink. Several captains, male and female, delivered addresses, relating their personal experiences, "three volleys," or cheers, being occasionally fired.

A NOVEL tea party recently took place in connection with the Baptist Church at Cloughfold, Lancashire, England. The male members got up the tea, and for once the women only occupied the place of onlookers and recipients. The ladies took the matter as a good joke, and mustered in even greater force than usual, while the rumour of the strange proceedings brought visitors from far and near. The object, to clear off a debt, was happily achieved, and everybody confessed that a better tea had never been served, not even in Lancashire, famous for its "tea fights."

DR. SOMERVILLE'S evangelistic work in Germany grows in strength as time passes. At Heidelberg, Dr. Somerville held special services for the university students; and these meetings were fruitful in strengthening the hands of the evangelical Christians of the city and the university. On his departure from Heidelberg, Dr. Somerville received pressing invitations to return from persons who were sure that much permanent good would be effected by a second visit. The services held at Mayence resulted in the formation of a United Evangelistic Association, which starts out with a good prospect of success.

DR. BEGG, in seconding a motion that the Edinburgh Free Presbytery petition for local option, said some of the modes in which men sought to promote temperance seemed to him useless. He did not think the singing of glees and other amusements carried on at some temperance gatherings had the slightest

effect in reclaiming drunkards. When he saw a number of old fools sitting listening to nigger songs, he thought it would have an opposite tendency. The doctor also expressed the opinion that drunkenness, in its plainer form, should be made a criminal offence. The man who deprived himself of his reason ought to be deprived of his standing as a citizen.

FROM the report read at the first annual meeting of the Hamilton Coffee Tavern Company, held on the 14th inst., it appears that the success of the institution is already almost certain. The stock subscribed amounts to \$1,940, and twenty per cent. has been called in. The business so far has been very satisfactory, the first two months wiping out preliminary expenses; or if the preliminary expenses were spread over a year, as is customary, the profits on the two months amount to \$196. The reading-room seems to be much appreciated. The directors express the hope that the coffee tavern movement will be so encouraged that new houses may be opened in other parts of the city.

THE first part of Inspector Langmuir's Report, dealing with Asylums for the Insane, was very briefly noticed last week. Part II. is occupied with "Prisons, Common Gaols and Reformatories." It opens with the pleasing announcement that "a very large decrease has taken place in the number of prisoners committed to the common gaols . . . as compared with the commitments in the preceding seven years." The number committed in 1881, or rather in the year ending 30th September 1881, was 9,229; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 11,300, and for 1877—in which year the highest number was reached—13,481. Comparing these numbers with the census returns of 1881 and 1871, crime has apparently increased in a somewhat greater ratio than the population, but this increase took place altogether in the first six years of the decade, the last four exhibiting a steady diminution. Of the number committed in 1881, only 5,848 were found guilty, as against 8,630 in the previous year. The religious denominations of those committed are given as follows: Roman Catholics, 3,268; Church of England, 2,993; Presbyterian, 1,200; Methodist, 1,184; other denominations, 584.

ON the oath question, the "Christian Leader" reaches a sensible conclusion as follows:—"Mr. Bradlaugh administering the oath to himself was a spectacle the reverse of edifying. The majority, who forbade him taking the oath in the ordinary manner, and who yet refused to declare the seat vacant which he was not suffered to occupy, is composed of a considerable variety of elements; but it is to be feared that the number who really feel shocked at profaning the name of the Most High is comparatively small. Men sharing the same deplorable opinions as those which Mr. Bradlaugh does not conceal, have taken the oath; and we do not see any reason why it should be passed over in silence in the case of a John Stuart Mill, and so much made of it in the case of a Bradlaugh. The Lords' Committee on the Irish Land Act is to have for its chairman, it is said, a peer who has published an infidel book; but no remarks have been made about the profanity involved in oath-taking by that nobleman. Those who really desire that the name of God shall not be taken in vain will be glad when a representative of the people is allowed to affirm, if he elects to do so, instead of taking an oath that is meaningless to him."

IN a recent "Princeton Review" article, Principal Dawson, of Montreal, thus points out the reasonableness of prayer, and its accordance with the general course of nature:—"A naturalist should be the last man in the world to object to the efficacy of prayer, since prayer itself is one of the most potent of natural forces. The cry of the young raven brings its food from afar without any exertion on its part, for that cry has power to move the emotions and the muscles of the parent bird and to overcome her own selfish appetite. The bleat of the lamb not only brings its

dam to its side, but causes the secretion of milk in her udder. The cry of distress nerves men to all exertions, and to brave all dangers, and to struggle against all or any of the laws of nature that may be causing suffering or death. Nor in the case of prayer are the objects attained at all mechanically commensurate with the activities set in motion. We have all seen how the prayer of a few captives, wrongfully held in durance by some barbarous potentate, may move mighty nations and cause them to pour out millions of their treasure to send men and material of war over land and sea, to sacrifice hundreds of lives, in order that a just and proper prayer may be answered. In such a case we see how the higher law overrides the lower, and may cause even frightful suffering and loss of life, in order that a moral or spiritual end may be gained. Are we to suppose, then, that the only Being in the universe who cannot answer prayer is that One who alone has all power at His command? The weak theology which professes to believe that prayer has merely a subjective benefit is infinitely less scientific than the action of the child who confidently appeals to a Father in heaven."

IN their reports for 1880, the High School Inspectors—the late Mr. Marling, M.A., and Dr. McLellan—plainly pointed out the defects of the Entrance and Intermediate Examinations, and we are not quite sure that these same defects have even yet been completely remedied. On the Entrance Examinations Dr. McLellan reported as follows:—"(1) Has the time come when something more may be fairly demanded at the Entrance Examination? This Examination fixes the point at which the High School course begins; but more, it determines the superior limit for our Public School work. I think it may be pertinently asked whether children are to be obliged to enter the High Schools in order to learn 'simple interest.' (2) Is it wise to have the control of these Examinations so largely in the hands of masters of High Schools? There are evidences of a disposition to lower the standard of examination, to the manifest injury of the Public Schools. This is perhaps due in some measure to the fact next stated. (3) Too large a money grant is made to depend on this Examination. The amount paid per unit of average attendance in the Lower School, proves a temptation to laxity in the examination for entrance into the High Schools. The old and evil tendency to deplete the Public School for the benefit of the High School is decidedly reviving." Regarding the Intermediate Examination he said: "(1) The effect of this Examination has on the whole been highly beneficial. (2) Any evil tendencies that have appeared are not a necessary outcome of the Examination, but are due to causes which may be entirely removed. (3) Amongst the evils referred to is the attempt on the part of many candidates for the teaching profession to prepare in a few months for the Intermediate Examination. This evil is fostered by those who have been accustomed to proclaim their success in the work of 'rapid preparation,' and to raise an outcry about the 'difficulty of the Examination papers,' when their promises largely fail to be verified. (4) But as there is no 'royal road' to learning, so there is no patent process for the instantaneous production of teachers. Time is a necessary element in producing culture. The Intermediate Examination was established on this condition; it represents at least two years' study from the time of passing the Entrance Examination. (5) It would seem necessary, therefore, to take steps to compel candidates for the teacher's profession to devote a reasonable amount of time to preparation for their work, rather than to lower the standard of examination to the needs of illiteracy. (6) Would it not then be well in the Intermediate Examination to make a distinction between those, on the one hand, who are merely examined for promotion to the Upper School with a view to continuing their studies; and those, on the other hand, who are examined with a view (in most cases) to terminate their studies by an examination which is to give them a life-long right to teach in the schools of the country?"