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Notes of the Week.

THE Prussian Government is exceedingly liberal to its universities. These all possess rich endowments, yet each year the Government grants them large sums for running expenses. The budget for 1890-91 contains the following items for new buildings alone: Königsburg, 119,734 marks; Berlin, 537,500; Greifswald, 159,500; Breslau, 926,416; Halle, 315,000; Kiel, 75,600; Göttingen, 450,550; Marburg, 175,650; Bonn, 185,250.

THE Rev. Alexander Martin, M.A., of Edinburgh, in a recent address to the Aberdeen Free Church Students' Association, referred to the remarkable change which had taken place in the religious life of the universities within recent years, and declared that the new movement was largely due to the services of Professor Henry Drummond. The students should consider how best to present the arguments for Christianity to meet the wants of this age. They must consider the age they lived in, and be broader and larger in their faith and more catholic in their sympathies than their fathers were.

THE vexed question of Amusements is to be taken up by the South London Presbytery at its next meeting, after half an hour's special prayer. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy Moore has given notice that he will move: That money for the support of the spiritual work of the Church ought not to be raised by means of entertainments; that both indoor and outdoor amusements of a rational, healthful and innocent nature may be encouraged in organizations connected with our churches; that, in regard to ordinary public entertainments, it is a wiser policy to countenance the better forms than to condemn them altogether.

BELFAST, says the correspondent in that city of the *British Weekly*, is perhaps one of the most rapidly growing towns in the Empire, and the various denominations have difficulty in keeping their church accommodation abreast of the necessities of newly-settled districts. Of the denominations most forward, because most increasing, in keeping abreast of the needs of the people in this respect is the Presbyterian. It has added within the past year two new churches to the already long list of its Presbytery—and both are "memorial" structures, one is called the Magean Church, and the other the Cooke Church—the latter in memory of Dr. Cooke. Both are in outskirts of the city that are rapidly rising into the position of suburban towns.

THE M.P.'s connected with the English Presbyterian Church are the following: Conservatives—Sir Charles E. Lewis, Bart.; Mr. Gainsford Bruce, O.C., and Dr. Rentoul; Liberals (Gladstonians)—Messrs. Samuel Smith, Stephen Williamson, and J.

C Stevenson; Liberal Unionists—Mr. W. P. Sinclair and Sir Donald Currie. The last-named gentleman is also connected with Perthshire. Of the others, three reside in London, three in Liverpool, and one in South Shields. The London men are all Conservatives. Mr. Sinclair is son-in-law to the late Rev. Dr. Crichton, of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Liverpool. Between Provincial Legislatures and the Dominion House of Commons we could present a goodly array of Presbyterian Parliamentarians.

THE Mexican Congress seeks the expulsion from the Republic of all foreign priests. Mexico has suffered terribly from the Romish Church, especially in connection with the allegiance that Church gives to a foreign power. It was the Church that invited an Austrian prince to establish an empire in Mexico, and that supported the horrible decree declaring every Mexican who resisted the Government a traitor to be shot wherever found. At every step the higher clergy have sought to destroy the free institutions of Mexico. The last device of the Papacy is the importation of foreign priests, chiefly Spaniards, Jesuits in disguise it is believed, who go through the country fleeing the people, preaching against the reform laws, and instigating their congregations to disobey these laws.

IN the Synod of Otago a considerable part of the session was occupied with matter relating to the Confession of Faith. The committee appointed to explain its difficulties, and to watch the revision movement in other churches, had nothing to report; and after Dr. Macgregor had been heard by a paper in defence of the ancient standard, a motion for the continuance of the committee was carried by the narrow majority of fifty to forty-nine. An overture from the Southland Presbytery, requesting the Synod to affirm the Calvinistic system contained in the Confession, was carried by fifty-five to forty-nine. Two memorials from elders were laid before the Synod, which indicated the interest everywhere excited by this question. One entire sitting was occupied with the Gibb case, which came up on appeal and complaint from Mr. Begg and other members of Dunedin Presbytery against the decision of that body, which was considered not to have sufficiently vindicated the Confession and the Church's constitution. The appeal and complaint were sustained and the Presbytery's judgment reversed by forty-three to twenty.

THE New York *Independent* says: Col. Robert G. Ingersoll has not the reputation of being a devout, religious man, but there was an important religious service held at his house, in this city, the other day, at which there was a large attendance, and at which Colonel Ingersoll was an interested and apparently a devout listener. When Colonel Ingersoll's daughter married, some time ago, we believe he called in Judge Somebody to perform the service; but on this occasion his niece, the daughter of the brother at whose funeral the Colonel pronounced his famous eloquent oration, was to be married to a Cleveland, O., Presbyterian, and out of deference, we presume, to his desires and those of his family, a Christian minister was asked by Colonel Ingersoll to perform the ceremony. To whom should he go except to his courteous antagonist, Dr. Field, whose polite and able criticisms in *The North American Review*, some time ago, attracted so much attention. Dr. Field consented, and a distinguished party was present and the marriage was performed with religious solemnity and Christian prayer and worship. So, when a man will not go to church the church will sometimes come to him.

FOR two hours the call of Gorbals congregation, Glasgow, to the Rev. John Robertson, M'Crie-Roxburgh Church, was under consideration by the Edinburgh Free Church Presbytery. Parties having been heard, Mr. Robertson, addressing the Presbytery, said the congestion in M'Crie-Roxburgh from the membership, the largest ever on the roll, being already beyond the sitting capacity of the church, and the continued desire of the multitude to hear the Word of God made imperative a large expansion.

This expansion with the present equipment he felt impossible. Therefore, though he hereby left as loyal and loving a people as ever a minister ministered to, he must ask the Presbytery to put this Glasgow call into his hands for acceptance. With a heavy heart Principal Rainy moved that the call be placed in Mr. Robertson's hands. He was sorry to send from Edinburgh a man whose services were so much needed. In view of the withdrawals of Mr. McNeill and Mr. Robertson from their midst, he was really disposed to think that some of them must be to blame. He was sure they wished Mr. Robertson very great comfort and success in the field of labour to which he was going. Professor Laidlaw, maintaining that there was in Edinburgh a large field of work for such a man as Mr. Robertson, moved that the Presbytery decline to place the call in his hands. Further discussion took place, and in the end Dr. Rainy's motion was carried, but only by twelve votes against eight for the amendment proposed by Dr. Laidlaw.

THE Dominion Council of the Royal Templars of Temperance have just sent throughout the country a petition praying that the Commons of Canada make general amendments to the criminal law. The wording of the petition, to be signed by all persons over fifteen years of age, is as follows: That there are in certain portions of the criminal law of our land very grave defects; to wit, in chapter 162 of the Revised Statutes. In opinion of your petitioners the law as it now stands is radically wrong in the following particulars: It makes a wholly unjust distinction between women and girls who have property or expectations, and those who have not; An equally unjust distinction between women and girls who have legal protectors as parents, legal guardians, etc., and those who have not, protecting those who are least in need of such protection, and abandoning those who are without protectors, An equally unjust distinction is found in sections 4, 5, 8 and 9, which relate to "attempts" as against males or females—males protected, females unprotected. In respect to procreation there is an unjust distinction between "principal" and "intermediate." Crimes against girls of tender years are not punishable with sufficient severity. Dependent girls are not sufficiently protected. Wherefore your petitioners pray that in the respects mentioned above the law may be so amended as to give equal protection to all women; that punishment may be made to apply equally to male and female; and that in all cases the age of consent may be raised to seventeen years.

BY the death of the Rev. Dr. Alex. Macleod, of Birkenhead, who passed away at an early hour on the morning of the 13th ult., the Presbyterian Church of England has lost one of the most widely known and most highly esteemed of its ministers. That Church possesses, in proportion to its size, an unusually large number of successful preachers to the young, and amongst these Dr. Macleod held, far and away, the foremost place. His contributions to the *Sunday Magazine* and other periodicals, as well as his volumes, "Talking to the Children," "The Gentle Heart," and "The Children's Promise," made his name familiar far beyond the limits of his own denomination. As a pastor and preacher, but especially as a preacher, he was held in high esteem, not only in Liverpool, but throughout England and Scotland. Dr. Macleod was a native of Nairn, but in early life moved with his family to Glasgow, where he prosecuted his classical studies. His first charge was at Strathaven, thence he was called as colleague to Dr. William Anderson, in John Street Church, Glasgow. This he left for Birkenhead. Dr. Macleod, along with Dr. Edmond, of London, Rev. William Arnot and Dr. W. G. Blaikie as representatives of British Churches, visited the Canadian and American Presbyterian General Assemblies in 1874. Dr. Macleod was a man of fine literary taste and robust thought. While in his first charge he contributed a series of interesting papers to *Hogg's Instructor*, long since defunct. He was the author of "Christus Consolator," and "Days of Heaven upon Earth." He was a man highly respected for his work's sake and beloved for his personal excellencies.