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Notes of the Week.

What will they do with it? We mean the petition of 145,000 Ulster ladies to the Queen, against Home Rule. Mr. Asquith replied that it was against all precedent for the Queen to receive such petitions, and a departure from the practice would constitute a burdensome addition to the cares and duties of the sovereign. He offered, however, if they would send it to the Home Office, to take care that the petition is laid before Her Majesty in the ordinary way. The ordinary way! when they are thirsting to do something extraordinary. It is too cruel.

By the death of Herr Arthur Kube, in his thirty-eighth year, schoolmasters and schoolmistresses resident in the city of Berlin are made happy in their old age, by a legacy of from five to six millions of marks. Herr Kube, in leaving this amount of capital to the city, desires that an institution shall be founded for old schoolmasters and schoolmistresses whose pensions are not sufficient to maintain them as their positions demand. The recipients of this charity must be Protestants. The two sisters of the testator, with other relatives, receive legacies of the interest of this sum, and after their deaths their shares will go to swell the capital in the hands of the Berlin magnates.

The meetings of the brilliant leader of the Opposition throughout the country are being very largely attended. A feature of these meetings dwelt upon, and which it would be highly honorable to all our public men, whether politicians or not, to always observe, is the entire absence of bitterness on the part of the speakers towards their political opponents. It is much to be desired that the example of Mr. Laurier in this respect should be followed by men of all parties. On Sunday evening week he attended the Presbyterian church, St. Thomas, where he heard what is described as an unusually brilliant discourse by the pastor, Mr. Macdonald, who, by the way, is one of the rising men of the Presbyterian body. Among other places visited by him was Alma College, where he was very cordially received by Principal Austin and his staff. He made an address to the young ladies, which an auditor describes as one of the finest gems of oratory which he had ever heard.

The forty-seventh annual conference of the Evangelical Alliance will be held in Dublin, on September 25-28, the council having received an invitation from the United Service Committee, which has hitherto been responsible for the annual Christian Convention held in Dublin. The Evangelical Alliance Conference this year takes the place of that convention. Among those who have already accepted the invitation of the council to take part in the proceedings are: the Archbishop of Dublin, the Dean of Connor, Archdeacon Taylor, the Dean of Achonry, Viscount Bangor, General Noble, the Revs. Principal Culross, Canon Bell, Charles Spurgeon, John Bond, E. N. Thwaites, Dr. MacEwan, Principal Waller, Dr. Nicholas, W. Roberts, Dr. McCheyne Edgar, J. F. T. Holloway, Dr. Murray Mitchell, W. E. Burroughes, Pastor H. D. Brown, and others. The programme, and all other information regarding the conference, may be obtained of Mr. A. J. Arnold, General Secretary, 7 Adam Street, Strand, London.

By the time this issue can reach our readers Lord and Lady Aberdeen will have landed upon our shores, and entered upon the responsible and honorable duties that will devolve upon them for the next five years. Their good name has come to us in advance of themselves, and probably no Governor-General with his wife have ever come to us under more favourable auspices. He comes of an illustrious ancestry, and not only does he occupy a high place in the political world, having already held the high office of Viceroy of Ireland, but as leaders in every good cause both our prospective Governor-General and his Lady hold a place among the first. Although their position, as representatives of Her Majesty, our Queen, may to some extent preclude them from some special lines of Christian and philanthropic effort which would be congenial to them, it is pleasant to observe that they have never confined themselves to any narrow lines, and that the highest and best which they can do for Canada or the world at large, lies along a highway so broad as to reach and benefit all without distinction of race or creed, or political parties. We are sure they will be found worthy of a hearty reception by all parties and receive it wherever in our broad Dominion they may turn their steps. We join our fellow-subjects of all classes, and the press of all creeds and parties, in welcoming to their high position Lord and Lady Aberdeen, and in expressing the hope and wish that their tenure of office may be fraught with pleasure and satisfaction to themselves, and with such benefit, in the highest sense, to the country, as shall make their vice-regal rule memorable for good in the annals of the Dominion.

The very great, unprecedented depression in business and financial circles which for so long has prevailed in the United States has to some extent begun to pass away. The effects, however, of so great and widespread derangement of business cannot be got over immediately. It is to be feared, nay, it is certain, that very great suffering must be experienced during the coming winter by the working classes, and by many others usually considered to be in comfortable circumstances. There has not, in our times at least, occurred a more conspicuous illustration of the folly of a people attempting to become rich by selfish legislation, such as the McKinley Bill and the Sherman Silver Bill. It has recoiled upon the nation with prompt and disastrous retribution. The value of confidence in the honesty and practical wisdom of a people, as an element of national stability and wellbeing, has never been more strikingly and instructively displayed. No sooner did the nation, by its rulers, give evidence both of wisdom and integrity, by resolute dealing with a difficulty, than the tide of depression began to turn, because confidence began to return at home and abroad. There is much to be commended in the way in which Congress grappled with the difficulty it had created. It could only be temporary, because of the vast resources of the nation; but temporary although it could only be, the lesson has cost dear. We trust that we in this country may profit by what we have seen taking place before our eyes; and while we avoid falling into the same danger, rejoice in every sign of returning prosperity in the neighboring Republic, both because of our good feeling towards it and because of the benefit we ourselves may reap from it.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Geikie: God, like the sun, must be seen by His own light.

Jonathan Hayseeds: You must either dissolve in God's love, or be petrified by it.

Ram's Horn: The man who serves Christ for gain will betray Him as soon as he can get a better price.

Phillips Brooks: In every age there have stood forth the Church's ministers, now with one sort of ordination, now with another; but all successors of the apostles in the nature and spirit of the work they had to do.

Rev. E. D. McLaren: He is a spiritual being, with limitless capabilities, and infinite appetites; and, therefore, if the Sabbath was made for him, it must contemplate him in his higher aspects and relations, and make provision for his nobler, diviner longings.

N.Y. Observer: "If we cannot have Christian unity, let us have religious amity," says somebody. We certainly cannot have the unity, except in name, unless we have the amity. The worst ill that could come to the Church of Christ on earth, would be the establishment of a formal unity that apart from the name would be nothing but a counterfeit.

Dr. H. D. Jenkins: The taprooms of an English tavern breed more disputers of the Bible than the Association for the Advancement of Science. A lad who has first begun to taste the pleasures of a lawless passion, breaks the commandments of Exodus, and then has his doubts about Genesis. It is an old story, but every generation writes it for itself anew.

Governor McKinley: Religion and morality are no longer scoffed at, no longer the badge of weaklings and enthusiasts, but of distinction, enforcing respect even from those who do not believe in the Christian religion. They are the most priceless possessions which any young man can have. They constitute a coin which always passes current, which neither depreciates nor corrodes, which cannot be discredited and which always is in demand.

The Occident: Perhaps you are not exactly suited with the position in life you occupy. You think you are made for better things, and that you are not appreciated along the line in which you have been working. Then join God; consecrate your life to His service; and commit your way to Him. There is no latent possibility in your nature which He will not develop. No hidden talent that He will not expand. The best and highest gifts of the present life come through disinterested service.

Rev. Wm. Secker: Our most golden conditions in this life are set in brazen frames. There is no gathering a rose without a thorn till we come to Immanuel's land. If there were nothing but showers, we should conclude the world would be drowned; if nothing but shine, we should fear the earth would be burned. Our worldly comforts would be a sea to drown us if our crosses were not a plank to save us. By the fairest gales a sinner may sail to destruction, and by the fiercest winds a saint may sail to glory.

The Presbyterian: Men differ in their capacity to hear. Some can take in the whole sermon and others only fragments of it. Yet all who will may gather from it their "portion." But let the hearing be spiritual as well as intellectual. Get the most you can out of every discourse for your soul; have more regard to nourishment than to entertainment.

Mid-Continent: The law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but it cannot keep us in Christ. That is the office of grace. The law shows us that we are sinners, but it cannot remove the guilt of sin, or heal any of the wounds which sin has made. The blood of Jesus Christ alone has power to cleanse the soul from sin. It is grace which makes one a Christian, and it is grace which keeps him in the way to eternal glory.

Henry Drummond: The soul, in its highest sense, is a vast capacity for God. It is like a curious chamber added on to being—a chamber with elastic and contractile walls, which can be expanded, with God as its guest, illimitably; but which, without God, shrinks and shrivels until every vestige of the divine is gone, and God's image is left without God's Spirit. Nature has her revenge upon neglect as well as upon extravagance. Misuse, with her, is as mortal a sin as abuse.

Zion's Herald: We live to-day, as it were, in a great social university. Aids to knowledge are all about us. The plowman has better opportunities than the student in the middle ages, or even in our colonial times. There is an unconscious absorption of service into the circulation of social life. It touches us on every side. More people could be educated if they would only set themselves about it. Knowledge is no longer in the heavens nor in the deep; it is nigh every one who has an open and eager mind.

Horton: Prayerless study may make an erudite or an eloquent man, but it cannot make a preacher. Much reading may make a popular preacher, but much prayer will make a powerful preacher. The Word of God is not a collection of written truths, or of principles to be applied as new cases arise, but a vital energy passing from God to men at a given time in a given place. For its reception the soul must pass up to God like the great feeder of a plant reaching out for nutriment. True prayer is arduous, and few will attempt it, but the men who find God are those who pray.

Rev. Allan Simpson: We have no right to call ourselves our own either in life or death. We have no right to dispose of our lives in any other way than by working for Christ. Christian men and women are not their own: First, because we are not self-created; we did not determine of ourselves to come into existence. Man is God's workmanship. Second, because we do not preserve ourselves in life: self-creation and self-preservation are an impossibility. In Him we live, move and have our being. The third and chief reason why we are not our own is because we are bought with a price, unique in character, and of such immense value, that the mind of man cannot grasp: bought by the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore we have no right to waste our talents or injure our bodies, but whatsoever we do we must do all to the glory of God.