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Notes of the Week.

IN the recent matriculation examination of the London University there were 1,620 candidates. Out of these 849 have passed, twenty-seven gaining honours. 315 of the candidates were ladies, and of these 180 have passed, three obtaining honours; but no lady carries off a prize or scholarship, age being in one case a disqualification.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Many Presbyterians in New South Wales are advocating a pastorate of five years; others think ministers should be called for that period and that at the end of it, if desired, a second call should be given. The controversy on the subject indicates restiveness and discontent among the laity, and is the reverse of flattering to the occupants of the pulpit. The curious thing is that while these antipodal Presbyterians are seeking to transform the steady old coach of John Knox into a church on wheels, the children of John Wesley, both in Australasia and in the old country, are agitating for a modification of their three years' tenure of the pastorate.

DR. ANDREW THOMSON, of Edinburgh, and Rev. David Forrest, the pastor, conducted the services at the celebration of the centenary of Moffat United Presbyterian Church; the collections amounted to \$500. On the following Monday night a public meeting was held, at which addresses were delivered by Dr. Drummond, of Glasgow, on "The Fathers of the United Presbyterian Church, and their Principles"; Dr. Corbett, on "Our Work Abroad"; Mr. Ballantyne, of Langholm, on "Secession Life in the South of Scotland"; Prof. Paterson on "Our Future"; and Mr. Hutton, of Birkenhead, a former minister of the congregation. The celebration awakened much interest throughout the district.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD has, it is said, written comparatively little for his newspaper while in Japan. All his leisure has been spent on his new epic of Christianity, which has been turning over in his mind for the last twelve years. He conceived it before he wrote "The Light of Asia," and subsequently he travelled through the Holy Land, visiting all the places memorable in sacred story. He has seen all the places which he describes in his poem. This poem consists of 60,000 lines. It is written in blank verse, and is relieved by excellent little lyrics. His study of Mary Magdalen is said to be a fine piece of work. The poem will be published first in the United States; but what publisher will issue it is not yet settled. He has received an offer of \$100,000 from a syndicate for it.

At the conference on union recently held in Shanghai by representatives of seven Presbyterian churches labouring in China, organic union was declared to be impossible by two of these bodies on account of the diversity of language and the difficulties of travel, but the other five decided to take steps to form such a union and a plan was adopted similar to the one used by the churches in India. The Synod is to meet once in five years. The uniting bodies are the two Presbyterian churches of America, the Scottish United Presbyterian, the Irish Presbyterian and the Canadian. The two declining to unite are the English Presbyterian and the Reformed Dutch. The statistics given at the conference show a total of 1,295 foreign missionaries, 1,649 native helpers, 520 churches and 37,287 communicants.

A DEMONSTRATION, promoted by the Rev. Jacob Primmer and the Rev. Robert Thomson, was held on a recent Sunday evening in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh, for the purpose of protesting against Popish innovations in the worship of the Church of Scotland. About 15,000 people were present. The proceedings were opened with prayer and praise, during which a constant interruption was sustained by a portion of the crowd. This was continued during the addresses subsequently delivered by the reverend gentlemen, and the disorder culminated when, on a resolution in accordance with the views of the

promoters being proposed, another reverend gentleman claimed the right to move an amendment. The waggon which served as a platform was stormed by the rougher element in the assemblage, and finally the police charged with batons drawn. Order was soon restored, and the meeting quietly dispersed.

A CONTEMPORARY says: The gross injustice inflicted upon the Presbyterians of Magherafelt and neighbourhood by the alienation of the Rainy Endowment and its appropriation by the Episcopalians was the subject in the General Assembly of a protest; and in the report on university education it was pointed out that although in Queen's College, Belfast, the Presbyterians are in a large majority, they have no such preference in office as is accorded to the Roman Catholics at Cork, only seven of the eighteen professors being Presbyterians. At Galway only two professors are Presbyterians; at Cork there are none; and in Magee College, Londonderry, the fellows of the Royal University have a most unfair preponderance on the Board. It is indeed high time that a vigilance committee should be appointed to remove these relics of that arrogant and persecuting spirit which has disgraced Episcopacy in Ireland.

HUMAN nature is much the same wherever found. An Anglican paper, *Church Bells*, thus complains of the scandalous scene in Westminster Abbey at Mr. Stanley's marriage with Miss Tennant: Conversation was carried on with no attempts at concealment, and when the proceedings became very interesting the people in front clambered on the seats and chairs! Of course they shut out all those behind from seeing anything; but it is not our intention to dwell upon the selfishness displayed, but upon the gross irreverence and lack of decorum. Had the occurrence taken place in the East End, or in some other part of London where the poor most do congregate, such a thing might have caused less surprise, and would certainly have been more easily excusable; but that it should have taken place with a congregation of the character of that on Saturday last is scandalous in the extreme, and absolutely unpardonable.

THE *Sydney Presbyterian* thus writes of Professor Drummond: If the people of New South Wales are disappointed at not hearing this distinguished scientist, traveller and evangelist, they may console themselves with the fact that they are no worse off than their neighbours in Victoria and South Australia. Professor Drummond has lived long enough to know his mission, and to shape a policy. Each evangelist has his special gift and Mr. Drummond thinks that his sphere is among young men, especially those of some culture. It is often remarked that young men are sparingly present in our churches, and are hard to reach. If so, the field that the Professor sets himself to cultivate is very large and very needy, and, at the same time, it is one that will yield a great harvest. As to methods Mr. Drummond is *sui generis*. His hall doors are jealously guarded. The newspaper interviewer, who can generally draw blood from a stone, can get nothing for a notice. Secrecy, not publicity, is sought, and anything out of doors, or in the meetings, like excitement, is eschewed.

Only a few weeks have elapsed, says the *Christian Leader*, since we made his fellow-countrymen aware, on Dr. Pierson's authority, of the unparalleled act of self-sacrifice by Mr. David Paton of Tillicoultry, in giving his entire fortune, \$1,000,000, to the missionary cause, while he contented himself with a small annuity. When Dr. Pierson spoke at Alloa Mr. Paton was so profoundly moved on learning that Mr. M'All's work in Paris was likely to be diminished for want of funds, that he made a still further pecuniary sacrifice. That was destined, probably, to be the last characteristic act of this great giver. On Sunday night he entered into rest, in his eighty-seventh year. A native of Alloa, he was the last surviving original partner of the firm of J. and D. Paton, manufacturers, and for fully sixty years he took a leading part in the affairs of Clackmannanshire, being especially active in connection with its religious and charitable institutions. A liberal

supporter of home as well as foreign missions, he bore the entire expense of settled missionaries in poor districts at Alloa and several neighbouring communities. The ministers of the United Presbyterian Church, of which he was an office-bearer, had no more thoughtful friend; he entertained free of charge at Crieff Hydropathic, of which he was a large shareholder, as many of them as chose to visit that establishment and accept of his hospitality.

THE annual meeting for 1890 of the Council of the Dominion Alliance, will be held in the St. James' Lecture Room, corner of St. Catharine and City Councillor Streets, Montreal, on Thursday and Friday, August 14 and 15, commencing at ten a.m. on Thursday. The Alliance Council is a representative body composed of delegates appointed by Synods, Conferences, Unions, and other religious bodies of the Provinces of the Dominion, representatives of the different Provincial Temperance Organizations and representatives of the Provincial Branches of the Alliance. It is a National Body, thoroughly representative of every section of Temperance and Prohibition workers in Canada, and its annual meetings are of the deepest interest and importance, both in their character and in the influence they exert in the promotion of moral reform. Among the subjects that will be presented for consideration will be "Political Action," to be introduced by W. H. Howland, of Toronto; "Parliamentary Action," by J. H. Carson, of Montreal; and "Local Option," by W. W. Buchanan, of Hamilton. Other similar questions will be dealt with. Very many Canadian Prohibition leaders have expressed their intention of taking part in these discussions. Special excursions at reduced rates by both Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways, will be run to Montreal, good for all trips beginning on Wednesday, August 13. Tickets will be good to return up to August 20. Besides the regularly appointed delegates, all friends of the Temperance cause are cordially invited to attend as visitors. Visitors may secure the same reduced fare as delegates.

THE Rev. William Park, in his closing address from the chair of the Irish Presbyterian Assembly, dealt largely with the question of union amongst the Presbyterian Churches of the world. He said: Already the Scottish Churches are working nobly together in Africa and elsewhere, and their Committees meet at home and take united action on foreign mission questions; there is a general agreement that small home difficulties must not be perpetuated in heathen lands; and surely the question must force itself on thoughtful men with ever-increasing power. If we can thus unite so heartily in the great missionary work of the Church, what difference is there between us great enough to keep us separate? And what a Church will this one Presbyterian Church of Scotland be, with its scholarly ministry, its sensible and thoughtful people, so carefully trained in Bible doctrines, its pure creed, and its simple, hearty worship—what a power for good in this kingdom, with an influence extending to every land of earth! The Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches of America are drawing together in a spirit that shows old misunderstandings are buried, and that union must speedily come. All the Australian Churches are already united in a federal union—their Federal Assembly met last year in Hobart, Tasmania—and the day, perhaps, is near when there will be one united Presbyterian Church for all Australia, with a General Assembly meeting alternately in Melbourne and Sydney. In India and in China there are already proposals for union, and there will very probably be ere many years, but one Presbyterian Church in each of these lands, with various Synods representing the divisions of race or language. Perhaps as this spirit grows some great federal union, such as our Pan-Presbyterian Alliance dimly foreshadows, shall at last grow up, enabling all the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain—perhaps of Great Britain and its colonies—perhaps even of the world—to meet for deliberation and decision on subjects in which all alike are interested. The Jubilee Assembly was one of the most largely attended Assemblies of the Church ever held, and throughout everything passed off most successfully.