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## Notes of the Week.

THE *Journalist* contains a short notice of Mr. Cooper, of the *Scotsman*, by Mr. Arnot Reid, in which it is stated that Mr. Cooper is a Roman Catholic. We have reason to believe, says the *British Weekly*, that this statement, though very widely believed, is an entire mistake. Mr. Cooper has no connection with the Roman Catholic Church.

DR. JAMES A. GRANT, of Ottawa, has been made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Dr. Grant, originally from Inverness-shire, Scotland, has risen to eminence in the practice of the healing art, and is a member of several distinguished scientific and medical societies. The honour has been conferred on him because of the high place he has attained in his profession.

EFFORTS up to the present to find a successor to the late Henry Ward Beecher have not been successful. It is stated that Plymouth Church will be closed for the summer. No such thing ever happened to it before. There are those who predict that it will not be opened again by its old congregation. There are serious dissensions in the congregation concerning the selection of a pastor to succeed Beecher, which may disrupt the organization.

THE Canadian press of all shades of politics, with rare exceptions, has expressed admiration for the personal character, the eminent abilities of the Hon. Edward Blake, and sympathy for him in his retirement, caused by enfeebled health. *L'Aurore* the French-Protestant journal published in Montreal, says: His withdrawal from parliamentary life is a loss for the country as well as for his party that will be difficult to repair. His talents, his integrity and his impartiality in the discussion of national questions apparently rendered his presence at Ottawa indispensable.

DESPITE the legal proceedings taken by Rev. D. D. Currie, of the Methodist Church, who was called upon to answer a grave charge of immorality, to restrain further action, the New Brunswick Methodist Conference, after a full investigation, have taken the only course open to them. The Ministerial Conference committee, satisfied that proof was conclusive, recommended the deposition of Mr. Currie. The recommendation was adopted by a large majority, and the president of the Conference pronounced the sentence of deposition. The authorities claim that no court can replace Mr. Currie in his status as a Methodist preacher.

PRINCIPAL ROBERTSON, who succeeds the late Dr. Binnie in the chair of Church History and Pastoral Theology at Aberdeen, is a graduate of Aberdeen University, where he carried off the highest honours. When he entered the theological hall in the granite city in 1867 he stood first bursar, and on concluding his course was awarded the highest scholarship. Ordained as missionary in 1871, by Turriff Presbytery, he was appointed principal of the missionary college at Calcutta. In 1883 he received the thanks of the Indian Government for his services in connection with European education in that country. He was at home on furlough recruiting his health when he was appointed interim professor on Dr. Binnie's lamented death in October last.

INDICATIONS of progress in many directions during the lengthened period of her Majesty's reign are being recorded as *apropos* of the Jubilee week. Here is a good specimen: More than fifty islands in the Pacific have been reclaimed from idolatry and superstition. On the island of Hawaii alone have been recovered 4,500 souls from a savage type of false religion. Over 90,000 Fijians now gather regularly for Christian worship, who fifty years ago feasted on

human flesh. Less than fifty years ago, missionaries were persecuted cruelly, and the Bible was destroyed in the island of Madagascar. To day the Queen of that island and 200,000 of her subjects are ranged on the side of the Cross. Fifty years ago there was not a native Christian in the Friendly Islands. Now there are 30,000. On the Western Coast of Africa there are over 100 organized congregations, whereas all was heathen darkness fifty years ago. In Sierra Leone 50,000 civilized Africans worship the God of our fathers. Two thousand miles of seacoast have been wrested from the slave trade, and the Bible and the school have been substituted for the slave pen. And so the same good work may be said to be going on in Persia, Hindustan, Japan and China.

LONDON ROAD Church, Glasgow, has lost a faithful pastor and an able minister of the New Testament, and the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland has lost one of her ablest men in the death of Dr. George Jeffrey. He had been pastor of the same Church for nearly half a century. He possessed strong individuality of character, sound judgment, a vigorous intellect, and a kindly heart. His ministry was strongly Evangelical in tone. As a public-spirited citizen he was till of late years always in the front. When the Temperance cause was not so popular as now he was its unflinching advocate. When the underground railway was the route taken by the fugitive slave, those who reached Glasgow were taken by the hand by Dr. Jeffrey, who was closely identified with the Anti-Slavery Society. He was for many years the efficient Clerk of the Glasgow Presbytery, and a few years since was Moderator of the Synod. On a visit to this continent over twenty years ago, Dr. Jeffrey made many friends in Canada and the United States. He received a call to Jane Street congregation, New York, but he elected to remain with the Church whose existence began with his own ministry. He was widely respected, warmly loved and his memory will long be cherished.

CANADIAN people are law-abiding and orderly. It would be a gross libel to represent them as otherwise. It happens, however, now and again that deplorable exhibitions of lawlessness do occur. There are reports that in some localities energetic temperance men are made the victims of vengeful hate. Last week it was stated that a gentleman who, in his own neighbourhood, was a zealous promoter of the Scott Act, had a number of his cows poisoned with Paris green. Last week it was chronicled that in Quebec City one of the most cowardly, unprovoked and murderous attacks ever reported in that city occurred in St. Rochs on a recent Saturday afternoon. While the members of the Salvation Army to the number of twelve or fourteen were parading through St. Rochs, a well-dressed mob of young men attacked them, showering a fusillade of rocks and other missiles at them. They followed up the attack until St. John's Gate, Upper Town, was reached. Captain Simcoe, of the Salvationists, received a large cut on the back of her head. Captain Lang, who fainted when the attack commenced, was trampled upon and received internal injuries. Captain Chapondand had her arm dislocated. The Misses Wilson, Copeman, Lark, Coal and Lenaten are badly bruised about the head and body. Miss McHarg, also a member, was very severely injured, and it is rumoured that her life is in danger. The back part of her head was split open. Dr. Russell was called and had to put in nine stitches. All the other members were more or less badly cut up. The detectives set to work at once, and have since arrested three of the mob. Some people in Quebec may not like the Salvation Army, but such barbaric brutality is simply a disgrace to humanity; and those who are guilty of it should be brought to justice and receive the punishment they deserve.

THE *Christian Leader* remarks that the debates in the two Assemblies on Church interests and Church and State do not leave the situation as it was a year ago. The Establishment definitely ceases from

piping to other children in the market-place, and the Free Church as definitely informs Mr. Bannatyne, Mr. Balfour and the rest of the faithful seventy that if Disruption principles really mean a Church of Scotland free, independent, spiritualized, the way now to be taken toward that object is by rejection of all State patronage and State preferment. The Assembly has not even consented vaguely to leave this whole matter to "electors"; it has given an unmistakable utterance. Dr. Adam's manifesto was as clear as words could be and he swept the court into one lobby. That there will be any secession after this we do not believe; appeals will avail and Free Church cohesion will save the minority from any divisive action. Or, as it may be otherwise expressed, the *esprit de corps* will keep even Major Macleod under the old flag and among the old comrades; there are ties which may not be broken for the sake of an interpretation which has little hope of establishing itself. At the Disruption there was a great spiritual movement, the judgment pronounced was from the Christian soul and conscience; but even the most determined "constitutionalist" could hardly say that his return to the Establishment would have the same divide reason now—and therefore he will not seek to tread the somewhat arid path of return. The spiritual energy of the Free Church to-day is hearty enough, and if, somehow, it does not advance in the direction the constitutionalists could wish, they are too much animated by it in other respects to insist upon an interpretation of their own. The Establishment, for its part, closes the door, and sits down comfortably to make plans for keeping the house well in order. A deal of time has been wasted in "haivers" that have come to nothing. To care for the household and keep the estates in good order; that is the business of the new year, the new period.

A SPECIAL correspondent of the *Montreal Witness*, giving an account of the recent meeting of the General Assembly, remarks that the financial strength of the Church keeps pace with the numerical growth. Four years ago the Augmentation Scheme was launched, which provides for every settled pastor a minimum stipend of \$750 per annum and a manse. Its success was somewhat problematical. During the first year a reserve fund was fortunately secured, and though this is now exhausted, the amount contributed by the Church is annually on the increase, so that the minimum stipend has every year been paid in full, and there remains a balance of \$1,364 in the treasury. Since the Scheme was launched nearly 150 congregations have become self-supporting, and at present 177 are receiving grants from the fund to aid in supporting their ministers. The minimum stipend in the Presbyterian Church in Canada is greatly in excess of that of any other Protestant Church in the Dominion. While looking after the comfort of its hard-worked ministers, the Church has not lost sight of other interests. With commendable zeal and energy it is pushing its Home and French Missions, and doing a marvellous work among the heathen, as is evinced by the following table of expenditures for the past year. Home Missions, \$52,000; Augmentation of Stipends, \$37,685; French Evangelization, \$34,000; Foreign Missions, \$70,500; other Church Schemes, about \$40,000, total, \$234,785. This does not include the colleges of the Church, the receipts of which last year (including Endowment Fund receipts), exceeded \$120,000. In other words, the Presbyterian Church in Canada last year raised for missionary and collegiate purposes upward of \$350,000. The Church, however, is not only growing in numbers and in liberality, but in spiritual power. Last year 12,562 conversions were reported, and special attention is being given to evangelistic services in nearly all the Presbyteries of the Church. A conference of ministers and elders was held during the meeting of the Assembly for the furtherance of special evangelistic work, and it was resolved to hold similar conferences next fall in Winnipeg, Toronto and other points, with a view to arrange a systematic plan for the conduct of special services throughout the Church during the winter.