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## Notes of the Week.

Volume one, number one, of a new church paper, the Pittsburg Messenger, has appeared. The Rev. J. T. Gibson is the editor, and Messrs. Axtell and Orr the publishers. It is a handsome, well-edited paper of twenty-four pages. The general make-up is like that of the Mid-Continent. The editor's salutatory tells why the paper was born, and marks out its course as pledged to maintain the doctrines of the Christian religion as set forth in the Standards of the Presbyterian Church, and as aiming to be a medium of communication between pastor and people and between the boards and the churches.

The Synod at Truro, says the Presbyterian Witness, of Halifax, was, taking all in all, a very pleasant and profitable assemblage of fathers and brethren. Two "cases" were dealt with in such a way that all parties were satisfied. The business was transacted with earnestness and courtesy, and with care. There were no unseemly outbreaks of temper—none. Brethren spoke and acted as if self were effaced, and each aimed at doing his duty worthily. When time is short and business is pressing, a feeling of impatience prevails, with any speaking that is not brief, clear and to the point. This is quite excusable.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen, after doing the World's Fair at Chicago, have returned to Canada and have been tendered enthusiastic public receptions at London, Hamilton and in Toronto, at all which places they have shown their deep interest in whatever affects the well-being of the people and country by visiting public institutions of all kinds designed to promote the public good. At Chicago, Lady Aberdeen gave a very interesting address in connection with Irish industries, especially that of lace-making. The average takings, it may be mentioned, at the Irish village during the Fair, have been about \$10,000 per week, and from \$50,000 to \$60,000 of goods from Irish homes have been sold which means very much to many of the poor people from whom the work has come.

All our exchanges in the early part of last week were filled with details of the late terrible railway disaster, and each one as they gradually come to light, more pitiful and heart-rending than the last. No similar calamity for a long time past has been so fatal and carried such grief and life-long sorrow to so many homes. While there will no doubt be a searching investigation to discover where the blame lies, that can do nothing to make up to the hearts bleeding for their dead ones the losses that have come to so many homes under circumstances of such unwonted sadness. It is impossible not to notice what a number of such accidents, but happily, on a smaller scale, have happened within a few weeks. Had the railway companies adopted a liberal policy earlier in the Fair, there would have been less crowding now and less liability to accident in almost every one of which someone loses life or limb.

The Baptist body has been holding its annual convention at Waterford. The total receipts for Home Missions has been \$22,821, and the expenditure \$24,359, which includes a deficit of last year, and leaves for the whole year an actual deficit of \$587.00. The year upon the

whole, however, has been a good one. For Foreign Missions the total receipts have been \$29,568; the disbursements \$35,508, leaving an actual deficit in the fund of \$4,394, but the subscriptions for the year have been the best yet received. The Baptist body is doing a large educational work within itself. At McMaster University there are 100 students, being an increase of 38; in Woodstock, 131, a decrease of 31; at Moulton Ladies' College, 138 students, being an increase of 19, and making a total of 369 students, leaving, however, a deficit upon all their educational work of \$8,716, caused by a decline in the rate of interest and an increase in working expenses.

The immense expenditure of the nations for intoxicating liquor and tobacco, is illustrated by certain propositions which the United States Government is said to be entertaining for increased taxes on those articles for the purpose of increasing its revenue. The tax on distilled spirits of 90 cents per gallon now yields a yearly revenue of \$95,000,000. A tax on fermented liquors of \$2 per barrel, instead of \$1, as at present, would yield a revenue from that source of \$64,000,000. To restore the taxes on tobacco to what they were prior to 1883, would give \$60,000,000 revenue. It is also proposed to make some change in the customs duty on these articles amounting to \$4,000,000, thus making a total addition to the revenue from these sources of \$64,000,000. With this increase the total annual revenue from distilled and fermented liquors and tobacco would amount to the enormous sum of \$245,000,000, which, it is said, would be sufficient to pay all expenses of government as now being incurred, aside from pensions, and leave a surplus of nearly \$50,000,000.

Two important matters have been up before Presbyterian Church courts in the neighbouring country and decided upon. The decision in each case was the same, but the end is not yet. The first is the appeal of Dr. Henry P. Smith to the Synod of Ohio against the decision of the Presbytery of Cincinnati suspending him from the ministry. It has declared by this decision, that it will not tolerate in its ministers any difference of opinion in the matter of the inspiration of the Scriptures. "It has virtually affirmed," so the New York Evangelist puts it, "that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church has the right to establish new tests of orthodoxy, or in other words, that the General Assembly can virtually make additions to the Confession of Faith at the pleasure of a majority." The other matter is that of the Rev. Professor Briggs, D.D., as it has been dealt with in the Synod of New York, which met in Rochester in the third week of October. It was attempted by Dr. Briggs and some of his friends to get his case again before the Synod and probably before the Assembly also, on five grounds of complaint made by them against the procedure of the Presbytery of New York in its dealing with this matter. The main part of the report of the Judicial Committee which dealt with the case, is as follows: "The above mentioned five complaints all relate to occurrences on the two trials of Dr. Briggs by the Presbytery of New York. The merits of that case have all been heard on appeal in two General Assemblies. In the General Assembly of 1893 the whole case was heard at great length, and a final judgment was rendered at that time by that Assembly covering the whole case. This, in our opinion, clearly and finally disposes of all interjectory questions in those cases, no matter when those cases were pending." The adoption of the Committee's report was carried by a large majority.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: No man will want to have anything to do with Christ as long as he is satisfied with himself.

S. H. Calhoun: To see the hand of God in all things and events, and calmly to leave the results with Him, this is the glory of Christianity.

John Newton: I am not what I was; I am not what I would be; I am not what I should be; I am not what I shall be; but by the grace of God, I am what I am.

Hooker: Their thoughts are vain who think their watching can keep the city. And are not theirs as vain, who think that God will keep the city for which they do not watch?

Dr. Reade: The Sabbath is the green oasis, the little grassy meadow in the wilderness, where, after the week-days' journey, the pilgrim halts for refreshment and repose.

The Altruistic: Twelve hundred beds at a penny a night each are offered to London's homeless poor, in a new Salvation Army shelter erected on the banks of the Thames, near Blackfriar's bridge.

MacLaren: The Christ who prayed on earth teaches us to pray; and the Christ who intercedes in Heaven helps us to pray, and presents our poor cries, acceptable through His sacrifice, and fragrant with the incense from His own golden censer.

Spurgeon: Nearness of life to the Saviour will necessarily involve greatness of love to Him. As nearness to the sun increases the temperature of the various planets, so near and intimate communion with Jesus raises the heat of the soul's affections towards Him.

President Patton: He wished it known from Maine to California, and from the Lakes to the Gulf, that "while the teaching of the Institution would not be in any degree of a sectarian character, it would always be distinctly upon the lines of Evangelical Christianity."

Cumming: As the fountain finds its expression in overflowing, as a river in rushing to the infinite main, as trees bursting into life and blossom in the springtide, so God feels it His joy to give liberally, and to give above all we can ask or think or desire for Christ's sake.

Rev. Samuel H. Virgin, D.D.: The life of any person is more important than his speech. The speech is an essential part of the life but the greater includes the less. The one often contradicts the other. Then the life is trusted and the speech is discounted. It is always a calamity when this occurs, for much harm is sure to follow.

Dr. Broadus: Preaching to children is a characteristic of our time. In every age preachers have sometimes addressed certain portions of a discourse especially to children, and on rare occasions have even made them a formal address. But only within our century and chiefly within half a century, has such a practice been common.

Mrs. C. R. Lowell: My view is that public systems of relief are to protect the community, while the duty of private organization and of all men and

women who love God and their neighbour, is to guide and care for every one of their fellow-beings who is degraded, and save him, body and soul, because he is a son of God and has an eternal future.

President Gates, LL.D.: Upon the Christian Church of to-day rests a profound responsibility for the reception and the true interpretation of this mighty idea of the brotherhood of all men. Mutual confidence in each other's moral convictions must be maintained. This must be developed through institutions that insist upon duties and obligations toward others as strongly as upon rights and privileges for oneself.

Lutheran Observer: No teacher who is irregular in his or her attendance, or who comes late on Sunday morning after the class has gathered, can hope to have any considerable success in Sunday-school work. There is no day-school in the whole country which would not be speedily despoiled of all its usefulness and so lose all its scholars, if the teacher should absent himself at pleasure and leave the scholars or those in charge to secure occasional visitors, or choose from among the number of the older scholars those who would consent to occupy the place of instructor.

Westminster Teacher: More and more are Christian people learning that true religion must have adequate and fitting expression in the life. A good creed, taking part in meetings, and activity in many forms of Christian work and general philanthropy, important as these are, are not the ripest fruits of faith in the individual. It is in Christian character, in the exercise of the spiritual graces in the contact of life with life, and in the outgivings of helpfulness in personal relations, man towards his fellows, that the final testing and measure of religion must be sought. Or, to put it more simply, love is the true measure of Christian life.

Boston Watchman: Behind all the clamour for pulpit oratory, there lies the notion that somehow the preacher is to do it all. There is a Protestant sacerdotalism only less injurious than the Roman Catholic type. The preacher is not to do it at all. If Christianity is to prevail in any community, it must be by each Christian exercising his gifts for the cause of Christ. The people who long for an "eloquent" preacher could probably make their minister, if he is a good man, adapted to his place, eloquent enough for all practical purposes, by rallying about his ministry, and not depending on him to "draw" them as well as those who care nothing for religion.

The Presbyterian: "Bread funds," are, we fear, to be the order of the coming winter in our great cities. The great army of the poor, whose ranks are growing so rapidly, must be fed. Humanity urges us to this. The best and truest policy demands it. The religion of Jesus Christ sanctions it—yea, makes it imperative. No matter whether the poor are improvident; no matter whether they revile the rich and say bitter things against the homes where luxury reigns; no matter whether secret plots are hatched, and hatred boils in many a breast that is lightly covered—the command still is, "If thine enemy hunger, feed him." It is getting to be the duty of the hour.