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Notes of the Week.

THE Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States consists of eleven Presbyteries, 119 congregations, 103 ministers, 508 elders, 329 deacons and 10,832 communicants. The net increase last year was 111. Their Sabbath school scholars number 12,102. The total contributions last year amounted to \$201,201.

ANOTHER meeting for missionaries of all denominations now sojourning in America is to be held at Thousand Island Park, on the St. Lawrence River, New York, August 10-17. The spot is one of the most beautiful in all that region, and the previous meetings of this International Missionary Union have been of great value to those who attended.

It is proven by statistics which Rev. W. G. Blaikie, D.D., of Edinburgh, has just compiled for the Presbyterian Alliance, that during the past half century the number of Presbyterian congregations in Scotland has doubled, and that, whilst in England and Wales fifty years ago Presbyterianism was "barely visible," to-day there are 300 congregations in England, and in Wales 500 with nearly half a million worshippers.

THERE is a rumour that several measures passed by the Quebec Legislature have been disallowed by the Dominion authorities. The exercise of the prerogative which the British North America Act allows is seldom regarded with favour. It is stated that the Jesuit Incorporation Bill is among the number to which the Governor-General is advised to withhold his assent. There are many, both Protestant and Catholic, who will not regard this at any rate as a matter for regret.

THE income of the Free Church of Scotland last year for Foreign Missions was \$486,145—the largest sum ever realized by the Church for that purpose. There are in the mission twenty-seven principal and 150 branch stations; forty ordained, four medical, twenty-two teachers and twenty-three female missionaries, besides thirty-one missionaries' wives; twenty-four native preachers, 310 native teachers, eleven European evangelists and artisans, 154 native helpers, 5,206 communicants, and 16,614 pupils in the schools.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of obtaining the admission of women to the degrees of the University of Cambridge. Two memorials are in circulation, one of which is addressed by the general public to the Senate of the University, the other addressed to the Council, and signed by members of the Senate only. Among those who have signed the memorials are Robert Browning, Lord Coleridge, Earl Granville, Sir John Lubbock, the Bishop of Manchester, Max Müller, Sir Lyon Playfair, the Bishop of Rochester, the Dean of Salisbury, Bishop Staley, Leslie Stephen, Professor Stuart and the Dean of Winchester.

A BILL was voted the other day by the Italian Chamber of Deputies for the abolition of tithes in Venetia and the Romagna, the only two provinces still subject to these mediæval burdens. This bill provides that from and after the date of its enactment the land shall be discharged from liability to tithes, except in favour of incumbents then already entitled thereto. The successors of such incumbents are to receive, instead of tithes, such annual payments from the Public Worship Fund as shall in the case of bishoprics bring up their respective revenue, if below that figure, to \$1,200. As regards ordinary cures of souls, the minimum benefice the State is to secure to the incumbent is fixed at \$160 per annum.

THE memorial stone of a Training Home for orphan girls, in connection with the Presbyterian Orphan Society, was laid recently at Belfast. The Moderator of the General Assembly presided at the

interesting ceremony. The Rev. Dr. Johnston gave a historical account of the movement which had led to the erection of this building. The other speakers were the Rev. R. J. Lynd and Mr. Thomas Sinclair, J.P., who stated that the name of the home was to be the Johnston Memorial Home. Dr. Johnston, however, with characteristic and genuine modesty, stated that while he and Mrs. Johnston were very grateful for the compliment thus proposed, they had made up their minds to decline it, as they could not and would not separate themselves from the band of noble workers all over the Church.

MR. CRUM EWING died recently at his residence on the Garelcolh in his eighty-fifth year. He was a staunch voluntary, as became the grandson of Ebenezer Erskine and of James Fisher. His sister, Miss Crum, was the second wife of Dr. John Brown, the father of the author of "Rab and his Friends." On his West Indian plantation Mr. Crum-Ewing maintained a missionary and took a warm interest in the religious and social well-being of the people. His wife, who died in 1883, was a daughter of Dr. Dick, of Greyfriars', Glasgow, whose theological lectures have not yet ceased to be read. Mrs. Ewing's surviving brother, Mr. Alexander Dick, of Queensmount, Helensburgh, is now upward of ninety, and is the oldest member of the Glasgow faculty of procurators. His brother, Mr. Coventry Dick, advocate, wrote a brilliant work in defence of the voluntary principle fifty years ago.

THERE are degrees in swindling, but the meanest possible form is when a heartless scoundrel professes to engage unemployed operatives in some distant silk or cotton mill, or similar industry. In all cases the wily rogue requests the applicant to make a deposit. When the money has with difficulty been procured, it is handed over by numbers of eager applicants to the smug swindler, who then disappears and all trace of him is lost. A case of this kind, by no means a rare one, has just occurred at Montreal. It is to be regretted that so many have been victimized, and that the scamp has, for the present, escaped the punishment he deserves. Whenever a stranger announces his purpose to hire labour, the police authorities should at once interview him, and deal with him as they find him. Another safeguard will be found in applicants refusing to pay any money whatever to such adventurers.

IN his last monthly sermon to young men, Dr. Thain Davidson, of London, strongly condemned the practice of betting. He said. This evil is spreading, and it is time to speak out plainly on the subject. There is not a Christian merchant in London, there is not an astute business man, be he a Christian or not, who would not at once dismiss from his office a clerk who was addicted to this practice. I recollect reading a speech of the late Mr. Fawcett, the excellent Postmaster General, in which he stated that nearly all the young men in the post office who went wrong did so through betting. Even the *Times* newspaper, to whose columns we would not turn for instruction of a religious character, used these words in an article upon the subject: "Horse racing is an amusement to which is directly traceable more misery, more ruin, more demoralization, than to any lawful pastime." The late Mr. Greville, whose papers I dare say some of you have been reading, says in his journal in reference to attendance at the Epsom races: "This demoralizing drudgery reduces me to the level of all that is most disreputable and despicable, for my thoughts are eternally absorbed by it. Jockeys, trainers and blacklegs are my companions, and I cannot leave it off, though I am disgusted with the occupation all the time."

A SYNODICAL convention of Reformed Churches, free from the state organization of 1826, was held at Rotterdam on June 28 and three following days. Instead of forty Churches, as was expected, not less

than over eighty were represented, besides over eighty societies, or groups of professing Christians in whose Churches the work of reformation has only begun. About 250 delegates were present, of whom 180 had the right of voting. The convention was preceded by a prayer meeting, in one of the large halls used by the outed Church on Sabbaths, and was attended by nearly 2,000 persons. Prayer meetings held on a week evening in two halls were also numerously attended. The convention was formally opened on Tuesday at ten o'clock by the minister of the convening Church, viz., Voorthuzien, the first Church that has thrown off the synodical hierarchy. Rev. Professor Rutgers, D.D., of the Free University at Amsterdam, was elected Moderator; Rev. Lion Carbet and Ploos van Amstel were elected assessors, and Revs Hoekstra and T. Sikkel, clerks. The roll of business, consisting of fifty articles, was introduced by Professor Kuyper, D.D. The first part treated of the organization of the Churches, the second of Churches not yet or only partially freed from the state organization, the third of the connection of the Churches with the believers who in former times have broken with the state organization, and especially the question of the bearing toward the Secession Church of 1830-39, the fourth of the connection with Presbyterian Churches in other lands; fifth, missions to the heathen and among the Jews; sixth, of the ordinances: seventh, of the care of the poor, sick and otherwise afflicted, and of the instruction of youth in schools; eighth, of the temporal affairs of the Churches; ninth, of the bearing toward Churches still remaining under the state organization.

THE case of Miss Allcard is attracting attention in Great Britain. She was left considerable property by her father, and joined one of the Sisterhoods of the Church of England in 1868, attracted no doubt by the aspects of benevolence which such schemes generally wear. This body bore the name of "The Sisters of the Poor." At first she did not reside with the Sisters, but in course of time her career conformed itself to that ordinarily run by the unwary victims of these ecclesiastical trans. She passed in 1870 through the separate stages of postulant, novice and sister; took the required vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; handed over in 1874 to her Superior various sums of money, exceeding altogether \$35,000; and in 1879 appropriately passed from this shadow of Rome within the English pale to the reality itself in the Catholic Church. Five years later, in 1884, she tried to get her money back, but was in no wise assisted by the judge to whom she made the appeal, and who told her she must abide by the consequences of her own action in giving it away. Miss Allcard has carried her suit from him into a higher court; and as she has here nearly gained a victory, it is probable that she may be encouraged to carry it to the House of Lords. One of the judges of the Court of Appeal was distinctly in her favour, holding that she was entitled to a retransfer of railway stocks, whose nominal value is \$8,355, still in the hands of the Sisterhood; that the proof, required by law, of the free will of the donor in making the gift was not forthcoming; that she was absolutely under the control of the Sisterhood, and was prohibited from getting outside advice; that it was against public policy to keep her in the Sisterhood by the feeling that she would lose her property if she left it; and that the delay shown in asserting her rights was excusable on the ground of previous want of knowledge of their existence. The other judges did not take this view of it, but held that she had by long delay forfeited rights of recovery, which even they recognized as existing at the time of her departure from the Sisterhood. She has, therefore, the satisfaction of knowing that three judges think she had at one time a right to have her money returned, and that one of them thinks this right is hers still. But, says a contemporary, as far as the public is concerned it has only renewed cause to mourn over the fresh illustrations of the mental weakness of the gentler sex, the pressure of priests and the uncertainty of law.