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IMPROVED GLASS ROLL

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Notes of the Week.

It is reported that Mr. Moody has decided to undertake work in connection with the Columbia Exposition, and that he is to have the assistance of the Rev. John McNeill, the evangelist, who is now working in Glasgow.

At the April meeting of the Board of the National Bible Society of Scotland, tributes were paid to the services rendered to the Society by the late Rev. Principal Cairns and Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., of Lochnow, both of whom were vice-presidents of long standing, and by the late Rev. Dr. Elder, who for many years presided over the Bute Auxiliary, and was at the time of his death a director.

The Rev. A. C. Macdonald of Inverness, at one time minister at Thainessford, Ont., had an interview with Arabi in Ceylon last month, and was able to salute him in Arabic, which at once brightened the exile's countenance. The political situation in Egypt was avoided, the pasha's conversation carried on through his son as interpreter, being, as usual, complaints about his health and a desire to go to Cyprus.

It is reported that the interest in Mr. McNeill's meetings in Glasgow shows no sign of abating. Large meetings are held every day at three o'clock in St. Andrew's Hall; while in the evenings the Circus is filled in every part with an attentive and appreciative audience. An excellent choir is singing as the people gather and leads the praise during the meeting. In addition to this, Mr. J. H. Burke always sings solos appropriate to the subjects of the addresses.

In Japan three Bible Societies—the National of Scotland, the British and Foreign, and the American—have for two years been working together under the guidance of a local representative committee, which reported the issue in 1891 of 2,561 Bibles, 10,337 Testaments, and 38,556 portions of Scripture, including 1,100 copies given to sufferers from the earthquake of last summer. The strong anti-foreign feeling among the Japanese is beginning to subside.

The question of Federal Union has been practically decided by the votes of the Classes of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in the United States. After the fullest presentation of the objections the vote stands twenty-four in favour to eight against; two Classes, Arcot and Rochester, alone being unreported. Over two-thirds, thus, of the Classes and fully nine-tenths of the Churches favour the federal union, and the General Synod will without doubt carry into effect this expressed sentiment of the Churches.

An exchange says: The death of Mr. William Thorburn deprives Grosvenor Square congregation, Manchester, and the English Presbyterian Church at large, of a distinguished and devoted servant. Mr. Thorburn was born in 1805 at his father's farm of Holy Lea, near Innerleithen. He took an honest pride in the successful careers of various nephews, among whom may be named Mr. Robert Turnbull of London, well-known for his work in Regent Square congregation; Sir Robert Thorburn, lately Prime Minister of Newfoundland; and Mr. Walter Thorburn, M.P. for his native county of Peebles.

The Christian Endeavour Societies are doing excellent work for Sunday closing of the World's Fair, by securing petitions to Congress and the State Legislatures that the national grant may be conditioned on Sunday closing and the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors on the grounds, and that the State exhibits in any case may be closed. The Chairman of the National Committee received in one package from Maine forty-nine petitions with nearly 4,000 signatures. The Societies in Canada are also sending petitions to the English Government in regard to the closing of the English exhibit.

The Russian Ministry of the Interior has now drawn up the projected measures against the Stundists. In the first paragraph the Stundists are categorically described as enemies of the Church and State, and any act of proselytism on their part which shall lead to the conversion or perversion of an Orthodox believer will be punished as a sacrilegious crime. Stundists holding any official position are to be deprived of such posts. An Orthodox believer is forbidden to employ in any domestic capacity a member of the Stundist sect. The rigorous observation of the latter "regulation" is committed more especially to the inquisitorial espionage of the local Orthodox clergy.

At Wallace Green Church, Berwick-on-Tweed, on a recent Sunday, the Rev. David Cairns, of Stichel U.P. Church, administered the Lord's Supper. In the forenoon he read a sermon of his brother's, the late Principal Cairns, on Phil. i. 23. The sermon was a fine example of the Principal's characteristic style, proceeding by a chain of irresistible argument to a triumphant climax. The divisions were: (1) The state of the departed believer—with Christ, immediately, Consciously, Christ's presence the essence of heaven. (2) The condition of the departed—far (more) better, In deliverance from all earthly evils, In multiplication of all good—intellectual, social devotional.

FROM some statistics published lately in Germany it appears that there were in Germany in 1890 more than fourteen times as many persons professing no religious faith as in 1871. Among the various religious bodies belonging to the Evangelical confession, the greatest increase has taken place in the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Quaker communities. These are from three to three and a-half times stronger than in 1871. The number of adherents of the Greek Church has fallen very much, a fact which may be ascribed to the great diminution in the number of Russian residents in Germany. A considerable increase has been registered in the number of Buddhists, Brahmins, and Mohammedans. This is greatly due to the augmented number of Chinese, Japanese and Turks, who come to Germany for scientific or technical studies.

MISS AMELIA B. EDWARDS, the well-known novelist and Egyptologist, died the other week at Weston-super-Mare. Miss Edwards was the daughter of a Peninsular officer, and was maternally descended from the family of Walpole. She will be remembered as the author of several successful novels. Miss Edwards also contributed articles on Egyptology to the Encyclopædia Britannica, and wrote for the American supplement to that work an account of "Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Egypt." The *Times* says that the foundation, in 1883, of the Egypt Exploration Fund was largely due to her efforts, and she has been for some years its honorary secretary. Miss Edwards was a contributing member of various Oriental congresses, a member of the Biblical Archaeological Society, and of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. At the beginning of the present year she was accorded a pension on the Civil List.

The question of the Theological Colleges evokes increasing interest among the members of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in Scotland.

It is understood that the name of the Rev. Dr. Andrew Thomson, of Broughton Place, Edinburgh, will be proposed for the Principalship of the United Presbyterian College; and it is believed that this will be carried unanimously. As to the vacant professorships, at a joint conference between the Free and United Presbyterian ministers of Greenock, the opinion was approved that the vacant chairs in the Halls of both Churches should not be filled up at the ensuing meetings of Assembly, but kept vacant for a year in the hope that during that time something may be done in the way of uniting the Halls. At the Free Presbytery of Irvine, Rev. Mr. Macaulay gave notice of an overture to delay the appointment of any one to fill the Chair of Evangelistic Theology in Edinburgh; and Rev. Dr. Easton gave notice of an overture for a union of the Free and United Presbyterian Theological Colleges.

The *British Weekly* says. Canadian political scandals have been prominent lately. While the litigation and excitement caused by them are still agitating those who take any interest in Colonial affairs, we are reminded of at least one singularly honest Canadian statesman, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. Unfortunately the reminder comes in the form of the news of his death. A Scotchman by birth, the best part of his life was spent in the Dominion, where he was successively a mason, a journalist, a member of Parliament, and Premier. In all these capacities his ability was recognized and he made his way by sheer force of character and brains. A strong and consistent Liberal, his straightforward and courageous Free Trade policy was the cause of his fall from office. As to the connection between the Dominion and the Mother Country his views were clear and clearly expressed. Almost sentimentally loyal, as are many Canadians, he yet held out for the complete control of Canadian affairs by Canadians, and the semi-Jingo dream of Imperial Federation he called the theme for "a holiday speech." His death is sincerely regretted, for such a straightforward, openminded politician leaves a gap that cannot easily be filled.

The barmaid is an "institution" happily unknown in Canada. There is a growing revolt against it where it exists. The *Christian Leader* says: In the colonies the bars are likely to follow the barmaids. Barmaids have been abolished in Victoria for some years, and a similar bill has just been introduced into the Legislature of New South Wales. This is right, both for the sake of the girls, who, though they may be all that is honest and respectable, will be better able to retain that virtue and respectability in another sphere and among other surroundings, and also for the sake of the false attraction which they exercise in bringing so many young fellows loafing about the drinking bars of our great railway stations. There are some railway directors who are preparing for themselves an exceedingly warm reception in the next world by their treatment of the young women who are stationed in their bars. We heard of one young lady the other day who was dismissed from her situation because she resented the tipsy familiarities of a "good and regular customer." This was a bar under the management of a railway company, but the same thing is constantly occurring in other bars, which are placed by some great firm of restaurateurs under a local manager. Girls are expected to smile at the foulest innuendoes, and ignore the most direct insults lest men should be driven from the bars or attracted to others where the barmaids have fewer scruples. "You must leave your [qualified] Puritan notions outside if you come to wait behind our bar, young lady," said a manager to an applicant the other day. But surely we will not long permit an institution to flourish in our midst which has been found too much for the colonies. In New South Wales the publicans are taking fright and prophesying that the bars will follow the barmaids into extinction. Strange as it may appear, we are able to contemplate even this dire possibility with equanimity.