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Notes of the Week.

Professor Rentoul, of Melbourne, Australia, whose speeches at the meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance held in Toronto will be well remembered, has well shown in the *Argus* the Romanist teaching of a book called "The Catholic Religion," in regard to which there has been considerable controversy among Victorian Episcopalians. The work unchurches all the non-Episcopal Churches. Their members may be served in the "intermediate state."

Dr. John Sutton, a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church of Midway, Ky., lately made provision in his will for generous aid to the work of the Presbyterian Church (South). He left \$1,000 for the Kentucky Evangelistic work, \$5,000 for the Thornwell Orphanage, \$5,000 each to the Home and Foreign Mission Committees of the Church, \$5,000 to the Committee of Education, \$5,000 to the Invalid Fund, and \$3,500 to the Presbyterian Church at Midway, Ky.

Saturday, May 16th, was a memorable day in the history of Science and in the progress of the world's civilization. From New York a message was sent by telegraph at 8.34 p.m. across America, Europe, Africa and Asia, and through the Atlantic Ocean and returned at 9.24 p.m. The invention of the telegraph, the improvement in instruments, the laying of ocean cables and long land telegraph-lines have been the work of fifty years, and the most of it has been done in the last dozen of the fifty.

It will be an interesting item of information to many in Canada, who remember well the names and services of the Rev. Drs. Gibson and R. M. Thornton, to learn that, at the last meeting of the London Presbytery North, among others admitted into the ministry of the Church as a probationer was a son of Dr. Gibson, and a son of the Rev. Dr. Thornton was recognized as under the care of the Presbytery while studying with a view to the ministry as an under-graduate at Cambridge University.

The University of Calcutta is said to be the largest educational corporation in the world. Every year it examines over 10,000 students. Of these more than 6,000 are candidates for matriculation; nearly 3,000 have spent two years studying in one of the affiliated colleges; about 1,500, having completed the four years' college course, desire to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Arts. It is no exaggeration to say that this vast educational organization is operating every session in destroying the superstition and shaping anew the secular thought of at least 15,000 of the picked young men of the Province.

The Rev. Principal MacVicar has for a long time been a member, and for years chairman, of the Quebec Protestant Council of Public Instruction. His term of office has expired, and his intention to be absent in Europe for some length of time necessitates the appointment of a successor. Mr. John R. Dougall, of the Montreal Witness, is spoken of as a likely man. His prominence as a citizen of Montreal, his long experience as a journalist, and large knowledge of public men and of public affairs, educational among others, point

him out as a man well fitted for the vacant place, and one in whose hands the educational interests of the Protestant minority of Quebec will be safe.

At the annual meeting of the British Religious Tract Society, held lately in Exeter Hall, London, the total income reported was \$747,510. The number of publications sold or given away during the year was upwards of thirty-nine and a half millions; the number of new publications during the same period was six hundred and two, and the society had used two hundred and fifteen languages and dialects. It aims to encourage in every country to which its operations extend, the growth of a vernacular Christian literature, English modes of thought naturally being strange to people of other races. A grant had been made to the French Protestant Chaplain with the Madagascar expedition, which he reported had met with a favourable reception from both Protestants and Roman Catholics.

One of the saddest and most utterly distressing calamities, carrying death, orphanhood, and tears to so many homes is that reported last week from Vancouver, B.C. It reminds us of the Tay disaster and of that which happened in London, Ontario, a few years ago, only it appears to be more fatal than either of these. It adds another to the many warnings which have already been given, and which every now and then occur of the dangers which go hand in hand with holiday and merry-making, and of those always more or less connected with over-crowding public conveyances of all kinds. We most earnestly express our deep and sincere sympathy with all our friends and fellow-citizens in the grief stricken city whose homes have been darkened and hearts saddened by this terrible calamity.

We understand that the adoption of the Joint Hymnal for the Scottish Presbyterian Churches and our own Church, upon which so much time has been spent by the Committee in charge of it, and on account of which the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and the Rev. Alex. MacMillan, of St. Enoch's, Toronto, made a visit to Edinburgh to meet with the British Committee, after being adopted by the Free Church Assembly and the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, has been rejected by the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland by an adverse vote of forty. The rejected hymnal is spoken of in the highest terms by those most competent to judge of its merits. The new collection made for our own Church, failing the other, is ready to be presented to the Assembly and we presume there will be no doubt of its adoption for general use as soon as the final arrangements can be made.

The Rev. James Rennie, of St. Vincent Street U. P. Church, Glasgow, who was unanimously chosen Moderator of the U. P. Church Synod of Scotland, is a septuagenarian, having been born in Edinburgh in 1826, where he also was educated, first at the Edinburgh Institution, of which he was Dux in English classics, and mathematics; and afterwards at the University, where he studied under such Professors as Sir William Hamilton and "Christopher North," taking prizes in classics and natural philosophy. His theological education followed

at the U. P. Divinity Hall, and in 1849 he was duly licensed to preach the gospel. He had a main share in preparing, twenty-five years ago, the existing Presbyterian Hymnal—both words and music—and he has been one of the seven U. P. representatives who have assisted in drawing up the joint Hymnal for the three Presbyterian churches in Scotland, whose completed work is being laid before the Supreme Courts of the three churches this month.

Believing, as we do, that it is a matter of great importance, not only to Presbyterianism, but to the best interests in all respects of every country, that this form of church polity, and those religious doctrines and principles which have been usually associated with it, should prevail, the following information as to its standing at the Antipodes, taken from a series of articles by the Rev. A. H. Drysdale, M.A., in the *Presbyterian*, of London, England, is of much interest: "Including New Zealand, there are now in Australasia about 640 Presbyterian ministers and nearly 450,000 Presbyterian Church people. In Victoria itself, instead of fifty-nine ministers at the union in 1859, there are now 210, an average of one to every 750 of the 167,000 Presbyterians, who are themselves one in six of the entire population, and the General Assembly of that colony has now fourteen Presbyteries and an income £81,000. The Scotch College of Melbourne and the Presbyterian Ladies' College there and at Sydney are the finest institutions of the kind in Australia, while the noble Ormond College at the very heart of the whole University system is the rallying ground of higher Presbyterian education, lay and clerical."

For a magnificent success as a religious undertaking few if any surpass that presented by the history of the British and Foreign Bible Society, formed now almost a century ago. At its last annual meeting, the 92nd, the report presented a record of ever-increasing activity and success. Passing over European countries it said: "In Mohammedan lands an unaccustomed readiness to read the Scriptures was seen; Eastern wars had improved the prospects of Bible diffusion; Eastern martyrdoms had given a sacred impetus to a new translation; in Japan the circulation had more than doubled; and students of the Bible in Uganda increased by thousands. Four years of heavy deficits had now been followed by four years which had cancelled those deficits and left a surplus. The net increase and proceeds of sales had reached £213,962 (a decrease of £17,366), while payments stood at £197,756 (less by £17,024 than in the previous year). Measures had, however, been taken for developing the work in India, China, Malaysia, and other countries which would increase the charges of the current year. Though the payments had been reduced the year's issues were higher than those of last year by 133,217, and a circulation of nearly four million copies had been reached. For three successive years the wave of circulation had advanced, and the total issues of the Society, from its commencement in 1804, amounted to 147,366,669 copies. As to translation, six new versions had been added to the Society's list during the past year."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: No man can give his best service where he has not first given his heart.

Richard Newton, D.D.: If we are God's children, we need not fear the development of His providence.

Wm. Cochrane: To force the Remedial Bill upon Manitobans seems madness: serfs under Russian despotism may submit to such treatment—Canadians never will.

John Ruskin: Education is leading human souls to what is best and making what is best of them. The training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others.

Rev. Joseph Hogg: Say to the Roman Catholic Church as gently and lovingly as you can, but at the same time with a determination that cannot be mistaken, "You must be content in this country with the privileges that are accorded to other denominations."

James Russell Lowell: The only conclusive evidence of a man's sincerity is that he gives himself for a principle. Words, money, all things else, are comparatively easy to give away; but when a man makes a gift of his daily life and practice, it is plain that the truth, whatever it may be, has taken possession of him.

Ian Maclaren: No one has lived the inner life without seasons of early passions when the romance of Jesus has captured the soul, without seasons of later declension when the greenery of spring grew gray in the city dust. It is in such hours of coldness and weariness we ought to re-enforce our souls with the sacrament of the bread and wine.

United Presbyterian: Our appointed place of sacrifice is not in "the land of Moriah," as Abraham's was. It may be three days' journey away; it may be across the seas; but it is most likely to be at our doors. To reach our duty we do not have to climb into heaven, or descend into the deep, or wander through the countries. Our Moriah is probably our own congregation, our own home, our own heart.

Zion's Herald: Some Christians have an idea that they are on very safe ground if they can only quote plenty of Scripture in support of some favorite doctrine or theory. But they seem to be ignorant of the fact that simply quoting passages of Scripture, having some sort of reference to their subject, is by no means a divine defence of it. Some very absurd uses of Scripture have been made by those who have set out to prove a practice or demonstrate a theory. But, much worse, the true meanings of God's words have often been abused and dissipated by such a course. One can as truly make God a liar by wrongly quoting His word as he can by flatly misrepresenting His promises.