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## Notes of the Week.

Professor Thoumalan, the Armenian minister, whose life was saved on condition that he left Turkey, lately made a very pathetic remark in a brief address to the South London Presbytery. He said that, while he could not but feel grateful for the saving of his life after he was condemned to death by the Turkish tribunal, he was almost sorry his life had been spared, seeing that the effect of this had been to diminish the interest in the other prisoners, who were still kept in strict confinement and exposed to ill-usage and torture. Professor Thoumalan wishes to stir up the churches of this country to support the hands of the British Government in their efforts on behalf of the victims of Turkish injustice and cruelty.

Owing to the pressure of the anti-opium agitation, the British Government has appointed a Royal Commission to make what they call a full inquiry; but the value of that inquiry depends upon the amount of knowledge already possessed, and the lines upon which the inquiry is proposed to be conducted. Tried by this standard, the remit to the Commission is found to be very wide regarding points already fully investigated, and correspondingly narrow upon those requiring elucidation. Accordingly some think and speak of this Commission much as our Prohibition Commission is by many spoken and written of, as meant to stave off a settlement of the matter, and that there is an imminent risk of its accomplishing that purpose.

Mr. D. L. Moody has sent to the press the following interesting notice of his work during the great Fair at Chicago: "During my six months' labours in the World's Fair evangelistic movement in Chicago, I have been greatly cheered by the sympathy and co-operation of the various Christian Churches. As the work enlarged upon our hands, and new doors opened, I felt constrained to call upon the Churches for financial help to meet the increasing expenses which it involved. I desire herewith gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of an aggregate of \$1,264.90 from all the Churches that responded, and would assure the givers that the money has been well invested in a work which God has greatly blessed with immediate results, and which gives promise of a hundredfold increase as the days go by."

In the closing weeks of the Exposition at Chicago, Congresses on all lines of moral and religious work were held at the Art Institute. Social purity, public health, kindergartens, deaconesses and trained nurses, walf saving, the humane congress, and others held sessions in the various rooms. Anthony Comstock gave a vigorous speech to the social purity assemblage, Miss Grace Dodge and Miss Jane Adams, among others, discussed theories, presented at the local settlements and working girls' clubs congresses. The Evangelical Alliance held interesting meetings, having for speakers William E. Dodge, Prof. Henry Drummond, Lord Kinnaird, Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, Secretary Clark, of the Home Missionary Society, Rev. A. T. Pierson and others. The address of welcome was given by Rev. Dr. McPherson. Essential unity of all believers was emphasized and strong words were spoken looking to greater harmony and combination in all Christian work.

Statements have been going the rounds of the press respecting the demand and sale at a great reduction of the Revised Version of the Scriptures, which require some explanation. While it may be true that the sale of the Revised Bible has not been all that its publishers hoped, it is a fact that for several years past its sale has been steadily increasing, and that no English author could be pointed to for whose works there is so large a demand. It is also a fact that, with the exception of the British and Foreign Bible Society (whose constitution forbids it) all the great Bible-distributing societies have circulated and still circulate the Revised Version. The report seems to be based upon a misrepresentation of a special offer to institutions or persons known to be engaged in charitable distribution of religious literature, which offer has resulted in the immediate sale of no less than 150,000 copies of the New Testament. There has never been any intention of offering the special terms to the public generally, and we understand that the limitation has, in fact, been strictly observed.

Mr. Walter Q. Gresham, Secretary of State for the United States, has made an elaborate report to the President on the annexation of Hawaii, based upon the results of Mr. Blount's investigation. The report says: "A careful consideration of the facts, will, I think, convince you that the treaty which was withdrawn from the Senate for further consideration, should not be resubmitted for its action thereon. Should not the great wrong done to a feeble but independent State by the abuse of an authority of the United States, be undone by restoring the legitimate government? Anything short of that will not, I respectfully submit, satisfy the demands of justice. Can the United States consistently insist that other nations shall respect the independence of Hawaii, while not respecting it themselves? Our government was the first to recognize the independence of the islands, and should be the last to acquire sovereignty over them by force or fraud." The President is said to be in hearty accord with his Secretary of State and he will doubtless take speedy action in accordance with these suggestions.

A conference of a semi-private nature was held lately in Cleveland, Ohio, of those calling themselves "Liberals" of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, to which were personally invited some fifty ministers by a committee appointed for that purpose. The object of the conference can be judged by a portion of the call to it which is as follows: "The present condition of the Presbyterian Church occasions deep solicitude, and calls for immediate and serious consideration. Many ministers and elders view with apprehension the tendency to assumption and centralization of power, and the disposition both to impose practically new dogma without due constitutional process, and to treat the formal action and overtures of Presbyteries with small respect. They fear lest reasonable tolerance and liberty of opinion hitherto enjoyed under the standards shall be abridged, and not a few devoted office bearers crowded out of good ecclesiastical standing, or even out of the Church." The results of the conference were embodied in a series of resolutions in the line which this portion of the call naturally suggests.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Westcott: Sin, suffering, sorrow, are not the ultimate facts of life; they are the work of an enemy; the work of our God and Saviour goes deeper.

Dr. Chalmers: Enthusiasm is a noble virtue, rarely to be found in calm and unruffled times of prosperity. It flourishes in the hour of adversity; it kindles in the hour of danger.

Ottawa Evening Journal: A large number of women in Ottawa are on the voters' lists and these the W.C.T.U. will take charge of. That is sufficient to guarantee that nearly every woman voter in the city will cast a ballot in the coming election, and cast it on the right side, too.

Cumberland Presbyterian: An institution of learning was being established by the Cumberland Presbyterians of Kentucky. A friend of the cause early suggests this bit of advice, which would be a fit motto for every worthy enterprise, religious and secular, "Talk it up, pray it up, pay it up."

Dr. Carpenter: In the average man the habitual use of alcoholic liquors, in moderate or even in small quantities, is not only unnecessary for the maintenance of bodily and mental vigour, but is unfavourable to the permanent enjoyment of health, even though it may for a time appear to contribute to it.

Maine Temperance Record: The Canadian Liquor Commission, while in Maine, at least found a very prosperous old State, and where there was the most prosperity there were the least saloons. It is pretty safe to say Canada would make no mistake in following our example in the matter of law, and then, if possible, improve on our method of enforcement.

Forward: Public opinion is being roused as never before to the prohibition question. The tidal wave of interest is rising, the floodgates of repression are yielding to it, the concretion of partisanship, indifference and hostility, so long effective as a dam, are being overwhelmed by it; and, finding vent, with irresistible impulse it excites the apprehension of those who would stem the torrent's flow.

Mrs. Cavers: The Government has given the people an opportunity of declaring their opinion regarding prohibition, and it is the duty of the temperance people to see to it that an answer is made in no uncertain tones. A careful canvass must be made, the pulpit and the press must be enlisted, literature must be distributed. United and earnest work must fully occupy the first two months, and a majority larger than that recorded by Manitoba, must be rolled up.

Bishop of Liverpool: A clever, learned man, I see, may spend his life in reading tame and tasteless Christian essays, full of sound divinity, without a spark of fire in the whole discourse, and see no results among his hearers. On the other hand, I see less intellectual men, without University degrees, like Spurgeon, Moody, John McNeill, filling places of worship to the doors, arresting attention, and affecting lives. We want more simplicity of language, more plain speaking, more directness of style, more boldness of fire in the delivery. It would be well if most of the old sermons were burned.

Atlantic Monthly: The essence of good breeding is simplicity—not the simplicity of the peasant, although that is good in its way, but the simplicity of the really civilized man who has arrived at a kind of artificial naturalness. To be vulgar is to adopt other people's language, to use their cant phrases, to copy the inflections of their voices, to espouse their ideas—in fine, to think and do and say, not what comes naturally to one, but what is supposed to be considered proper by other people. Thus, to be vulgar is to lack simplicity.

Belfast Witness: But is it not a tactful insult to the Church of Rome to say that we are called to the evangelization of the members of her communion? We have heard even ministers ask that question. What answer would the Apostle Paul have given to such a question? What answer did the leaders of the great Protestant Reformation give to it? What answer to-day are the Waldenses of Italy giving to it? Consider the case, Rome has taken the Bible out of the hands of the so-called laity. Her answer to the awakened soul's question—What must I do to be saved?—is not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but believe in our infallible Church. Her whole system of salvation is not one of works; not even moral works, but empty ceremonial observances.

Christian Leader: One of the most hopeful features in the fight against the insidious power of liquor, is the fact that almost if not all the labour members of Parliament are on the side of sobriety, and vote for empowering the people with a veto over the issue and renewal of licenses in whatever locality the people care to exercise it. The most important of trades unions and friendly societies are also not now afraid of showing leanings towards temperance and sobriety. There is much sympathy, for instance, on the part of the members of trades unions and societies in the agitation against holding these meetings on premises licensed to sell intoxicating drinks; and there is no doubt that that step on the part of the worker means the recognition that the interests of the publican are not his interests.

Mr. J. J. Kelso: It is very important that the general public should fully understand what is implied in the term, "neglected." The duly appointed officer of the Children's Aid Society may apprehend without warrant and bring before the judge as neglected any child apparently under the age of 14 years who comes within any of the following descriptions, namely: Who is found begging or receiving alms, or thieving in any street, thoroughfare, tavern or place of public resort, or sleeping at night in the open air; who is found wandering about at late hours and not having any home or settled place of abode, or proper guardianship; who is found associating or dwelling with a thief, drunkard, or vagrant, or who by reason of the neglect or drunkenness or other vices of the parents is suffered to be growing up without parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing such child to an idle and dissolute life. There are many other excellent provisions in the new law, which was very carefully drawn up by Hon. J. M. Gibson, after a study of the laws of other countries, and if the work is taken up as it should be by charitably disposed people, untold good will doubtless result from a much neglected class of little ones.