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Notes of the Week.

Florence Nightingale, who is quite an invalid and confined to her couch, still takes an active part in the work of the world. She has been lately organising a health-crusade among the cottagers of Buckinghamshire, where she lives, for the purpose of instructing them in questions of ventilation, drainage, and the like sanitary matters.

Reports from Rome say that the Pope's coming Encyclical letter will contain an appeal for unity of the faith. One section will be addressed to the Greek Church, another to the Protestants. It is said also that he will denounce the Free Masons as the enemies of religious unity, and will call upon Italy and France to throw off their despotism.

Reports from different parts of the United States indicate an improvement in industrial affairs. There is reason to believe that the miners' strike is about ended, and that work in the different mines will be resumed shortly. A number of industrial institutions employing a large number of men in different parts of the country started up last week. The Pullman strike, may however, largely undo all this.

The attention of Sir G. S. White, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's forces in India, having been called by the Protestant Alliance to the fact that in February last an English regiment took part in the celebration of Mass in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Madras, and at the elevation presented arms while the band played the "salute," the Adjutant-General in India has replied that suitable notice of the irregularities complained of has been taken, and their recurrence prohibited.

The latest advices from Yokohama, via Victoria, B.C., report 577 deaths from the plague in Hong Kong from May 1st to June 7th. The total number of cases since the outbreak is about twelve hundred. The new cases in Hong Kong average about thirty per day. The sanitary authorities attribute the plague not to bad sewerage but to filth in the houses. One British officer and three men are reported as attacked by the disease. In Canton the plague is also claiming a large number of victims.

The following is the estimate of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of funds required for the coming year:

Home Missions.....	\$1,238,341.40
Foreign Missions.....	1,250,000.00
Education.....	150,000.00
Publication and S. S. Work.....	200,000.00
Church Erection.....	150,000.00
Ministerial Relief.....	150,000.00
Freedmen.....	250,000.00
Aid for Colleges and Academies.....	150,000.00
	\$3,538,341.40

Miss Frances Willard's leaving for New York, was much regretted by her many London friends and associates, who look forward hopefully to her speedy return. Perhaps there is no more fervent advocate for Woman's Rights and Woman's Work than Miss Willard. She has received hundreds of farewell letters and many presents, the most noteworthy being that presented by the British Women's Temperance Association. This is an ancient illuminated missal of the seventeenth century, its pages being adorned with copies of the best specimens of mediæval art.

Census returns recently issued show that there are in New Zealand 1,197 churches and chapels, being an increase of 134 in five years. Two hundred and forty-one schoolhouses are used for Sabbath services, and 161 dwellings and public buildings. These various edifices have accommodations for 278,114 persons (or less than half the population of the colony), and are actually attended by 197,055, or about a third of the population. Presbyterians report 40,785 church-goers; Episcopalians 37,252;

Roman Catholics 30,525, Wesleyans 27,106; Salvationists 14,442. There are 450 Jews, 200 Free-thinkers, and 3,803 of no denomination at all.

Friends and upholders of Dr. Charles A. Briggs and Dr. Henry Preserved Smith have organized a society called the Presbyterian League, with which they hope to antagonize the conservative element in the Presbyterian church, which has rendered decisions adverse to the two ministers. The leaders in the movement are prominent ministers and laymen. The main idea in organizing the Presbyterian League is that the conservative element in the church must be met with a compact body. This will be said to bode well or ill for the peace and well-being of that church according as one's sympathies are on one side or the other.

The meeting of the Welsh General Assembly was made the occasion of a "preaching festival." The number of sermons preached during the week in Cardiff district by Presbyterian ministers was about 150. Of these, 30 were delivered in Pontypridd on Thursday, which was observed as a holiday, the shops and offices being closed, and the people pouring into the town in hundreds from seven o'clock in the morning. The Town Hall (which accommodates 1,500) and four large churches (Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist) were crowded all day by most attentive and devout congregations. Three services were held in each of them, and two sermons were preached at each service. Conspicuous among the ministers who preached in English were Drs. Lundie, Gibson, and McGaw.

A Sunday School Convention has just been held in the Province of Manitoba, which is said to have been undoubtedly the most important in the history of the association. The three great thoughts that appear to have been emphasized were: the need of further organization, the need of clearer aims, the need of better methods. The report of the general superintendent was most encouraging, showing how much it is possible for an energetic organizer to do in bringing together the scattered forces of the Province. The appeal of the Organizing Committee for aid to continue the work so nobly begun was met by a response that indicates how thoroughly the schools in rural districts recognize their need of directing power. It is to be hoped that an organizer can be kept in the field until the work of organization is completed.

The Salvation Army recently made quite a sensation in Glasgow by some of its investigations. They reported that on a Saturday evening there were eight saloons watched and the number of visitors counted. There were 2,308 men and 365 women who entered in the course of an hour. These saloons were all situated in an area of five hundred yards. They examined the records of the criminal courts, and found that more than 67,000 women had been brought before them charged with drunkenness, disorderly conduct, or personal assaults, and more than 13,000 were convicted. Their report of the number and character of immoral haunts made a shocking record, which could not be published, but was handed over to the city police that they might take proper measures for their suppression. The result has been that the churches of the city have been roused and are planning to work unitedly, increasing the number of workers. It would be well, if in Canada all our churches would study their respective fields, and to the utmost extent possible, moved by a spirit of true Christianity, co-operate to guard against the city vices in all their various forms, which are found flourishing to such a frightful extent in the Old World and in some American cities, and will assuredly in our own also, unless perpetual Christian vigilance is exercised in a spirit of Christ-like activity and compassion. "Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God."

Sir George Grey, speaking at the National Liberal Club, asked how was this mighty empire to be governed. He thought a form of government could be readily devised to secure the happiness of the people of all parts of these dominions, and the hour and opportunity for it had come. The task was easy. It was to leave in the main to every portion of the empire power of local self-government, and let the whole body be bound by one great agreement to stand together for all common objects. The colonies already had local self-government. In the case of Great Britain they could break the country up into proper divisions, constituting States, giving them powers of government necessary for their existence. This would infuse new life and new energy into every part of the British dominions. He would like to see the United States of Great Britain and Ireland, but as to Ireland he did not see why it should be insisted that it should be one State. Why not let Ulster govern itself, and other large parts of Ireland govern themselves, working together in generous rivalry?

The British people do not take very kindly and are not willing lightly to regard Lord Rosebery's horse-racing inclinations. Although he has affected a great deal of indifference as to what his fellow-countrymen may think on that subject, we suspect he will find out that the British nation cannot be sat upon even by Lord Rosebery. The Methodist New Connexion Conference has expressed its deep regret that in any way countenance should be given to the turf and its inalienable evils by the Prime Minister. It respectfully urged him, in the interests of national morality and virtue, to sever his connection entirely with such a provocative of vice. A meeting of the East Midland Baptist Association at Peterborough has condemned the pronounced connection of Lord Rosbery with horse-racing. They did this on the ground of the prevalence of "betting and other vicious amusements connected with horse-racing, and the wide-spread evil among all classes, and the special peril to young people resulting therefrom." Dr. Thain Davidson, while preaching at Warrender Park Free Church, Edinburgh, on a recent Sunday evening, took for his subject "Playing the Fool." The biggest fool was the gambling fool. He was grieved that the most prominent Scotsman of the day encouraged gambling. Other prominent clergymen have spoken out with equal plainness. "The world do move," and it is quite possible that his lordship may have yet to make the choice of giving up the turf or of holding the reins of government of the British Empire.

The birth of a son to the Duke and Duchess of York has been welcomed with more than usual interest throughout the empire. We often hear it said or see it stated, that the feeling of interest in or regard for royalty is passing away, and that it would not take much to cause the setting aside altogether of crowned heads, even in Britain, where, because of strict regard to the constitution, there is less reason for this than in any other country. But the interest everywhere displayed in the arrival of this little royal stranger, lends no support, but the opposite to the statement above referred to. In any case, such a birth would be of much interest, but as in the event of anything befalling the Prince of Wales, or his son, failing any issue to Prince George, complications might possibly have arisen in the line of succession, it is felt to be a matter for congratulation that another life is placed in the way of such a danger. We see nothing, as yet, in the government of any nation, so manifestly superior to that of a limited constitutional monarchy such as we live under, to make us long for a change, and accordingly we rejoice with others that the prospects of the British throne suffering for want of legitimate heirs is a distant one. If those who shall succeed our gracious Queen will walk in her footsteps, there is no reason why, when the royal babe just born shall come to the throne, should his life be spared, the prospect before the Royal Family of long retaining their place should not be as bright as it is to-day. We both hope and pray that it may be even so.