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Notes of the Week.

The Young Women's Christian Association of the United States and Canada met in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, on the 18th ult. Delegates were present from all parts of the country, and when all had arrived over two hundred women, active and earnest in Christian work, were present.

The *British Weekly* is the authority for saying that, it is understood that Mr. Stead is negotiating for the purchase of one of the London half-penny evening papers. It hopes the negotiations will come to something. A fresh, vigorous, and independent voice like Mr. Stead's would be helpful in the present dimness and confusion.

Very lately in our columns was noticed the presentation of a copy of the New Testament to the Dowager Empress of China and, now, an excellent Christian Chinese woman has been called into the royal palace at Peking to the influential post of infant's nurse. Just at this time of the humiliation of her pride, perhaps there was never a more hopeful time for Christianity to get a welcome among the educated classes in China.

The course of the French in their quarrel with Madagascar will be watched with much interest. It may justly be feared by the unprovoked manner in which she has sought a quarrel that she will act in a very high-handed way. This was the case during a former occupation in 1883 when an English missionary was imprisoned under martial law who afterwards was paid \$5,000 by France for illegal detention during a period of two months.

Mrs. Blackie, widow of the late Professor Blackie, has written the following letter:—"I wish to express the deep gratitude I feel for the reverence and love which have followed him whom we have lost. To all those who on the 6th March filled St. Giles's Cathedral and the streets, to those who remembered him by flowers, letters and cards, and to the press I return loving thanks. It has all been beautiful to me and soothing.—Elizabeth Stuart Blackie."

The Rev. H. Wardlaw Thompson, foreign secretary to the London Missionary Society, speaking recently at the City Temple, London, on the subject of Madagascar, said: They were acting on the sound general principle that missionary societies should not be mixed up with politics, except as the very last resort. The Government had done its best to secure, as far as paper could secure, the safe-guarding of British missions among the Malagasy. This was very clear from the last Convention with France.

Five lines in the Washington dispatches on March 2nd told that the Hoar Anti-Lottery Bill, which passed the Senate at the last session of Congress, had finally passed the House, on which result congratulations are due Professor S. H. Woodbridge, of Boston, who has won this victory almost single-handed, at great cost of money and labor, in a campaign of education, which some union committee of the churches or some national anti-lottery league should have conducted, rather than leave such a burden to be carried individually.

Manitoba is not the only country troubled and vexed with the educational question. On the other side of the globe in New Zealand, at the twelfth annual meeting of the Congregational Union of the Island, held lately at Dunedin, a motion for introducing the Irish Bible Lesson Book into the state schools was negatived by the following amendment:—"That it is neither the duty nor the right of the State to teach or con-

trol religion, and that in view of the open designs and covert attempts to establish denominational education it is not desirable to alter the present educational system."

We have before referred to the case of the destitution and suffering among the farmers in Nebraska, both in the persons of themselves and their families and cattle. We mention the following late news: "Good rains throughout the State during week before last have greatly encouraged the people generally and the farmers in particular. Every effort is being made to get in a crop and take advantage of the favorable season. While the farmers of the Presbyterian Church have been helped very much to sow their wheat and oats, they are kept short on feed and not one-half of the entire need has been met."

The *Presbyterian Witness*, of Halifax, noticing civic affairs in Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, says a good word for this city: "Both in Montreal and in Toronto there has been a good deal of civic mismanagement and corruption. In Toronto there was a careful investigation followed by penalties. In Montreal there was an investigation which however was a farce. We have not heard of wrong doing in this city except in connection with the granting of licences and with the liquor traffic. We hope the election next week will add to the City Council men who will do their whole duty without fear and without reproach."

The commencement exercises of McMaster University began Monday evening with a public meeting of University alumni. They were continued by a variety of exercises until the evening of Wednesday. On the afternoon of that day a University collation took place at which the Hon. Mr. Dryden presided. The Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D., was also present and spoke. At 8 o'clock p. m., in the Main Audience Room of the Walmer Road Church, the public conferring of degrees by the University and the giving of the diplomas took place. His Honor Lieutenant Governor Kirkpatrick and other distinguished gentlemen were present, among whom was Sir Oliver Mowat who gave an address.

Correspondence from Bombay, India, speaking of the work of Rev. John McNeill in that city, says: "Great interest has been stirred in nearly every section of the European community, while a number of Parsees and Hindus have regularly attended the services. Many of the circumstances of life in Bombay, the habits of the people, the widely scattered European population, make such work as Mr. McNeill's difficult, but this fact has only made Christian workers in the city more thankful for the success which by God's blessing has followed the meetings. During his stay in the city he has also been addressing the students of the Wilson College, and making good use of the splendid opportunity which through the work of that college lay to his hand."

Still they come! Conventions are now and for some time will be the order of the day. That of the Y.P.S.C.E. has already sent out several bulletins, and expectations are being worked up. Now comes the announcement of the Thirty-first International Convention of the Y.M.C.A., to be held at Springfield, Mass., from May 8-12th, and that of the Twenty-fifth Annual Conference of General Secretaries from May 13-16th, at Hartford, Conn. Many men well known in Y.M.C.A. circles will take part in its convention. Among the more important subjects to be discussed are "Work for the Young Men of This Continent"; "Association Work in the South and South-west, in the West and North-west, and Among Colored Men"; "Spiritual, Educational and Physical Work"; "The Opportunity of the Railroad De-

partment"; "The Relation of the Association to the Foreign Mission Cause"; "Christian Work in the Army."

The Rev. Dr. Maclaren, the famous Baptist preacher of Manchester, England, who has been spending some time in the East recruiting his health, returned lately much improved, and received a warm welcome from his congregation at Union Chapel. His able colleague, Mr. Roberts, has received an invitation to a church in Edinburgh, but as yet has not accepted it. It is felt that if Mr. Roberts were to accept the call to Edinburgh, it is quite within the range of possibility that Dr. Maclaren would not see his way clear to remain as pastor, considering his advanced age and the uncertainty of his health. Manchester can ill afford to let go the greatest preacher in the North of England, and it is to be hoped that matters will be arranged for both to still work at Union Chapel.

At the closing of the Irish Presbyterian College an interesting feature of the proceedings in Belfast was the conferring by the joint Theological Faculty of Degrees in Divinity. Dr. M. Morris, of Manorcunningham, who has many a story to tell of the renowned Prof. Archer Butler, whose college living lay in Donegal, was the senior recipient of the degree; and his faithful services in connection with the Derry College Committee amply entitle him to the honor. Dr. Taylor, an admirable and erudite Indian missionary, who had obtained his B.D. by examination in Edinburgh, was the second to receive the degree. Dr. Knype, the third of the doctors, has been out for the last thirty years in Queensland, and has there done a larger work than he would likely have had the opportunity of performing at home.

The feeling appears to be growing in Scotland that the question of disestablishment, which has so long been agitating the country and which has been also long in the Government's programme, may yet get the go-by, at least for some time to come. For this change some papers are disposed to blame the ministers of the Free Church, who after having induced the Gladstonians to include Disestablishment in the party programme, decline to come out and assist the candidates. Principal Hutton, of the U.P. Theological College, writing on the subject, says: "The conclusion we regretfully reach is not that the case has lost aught of its intrinsic force or popular interest or urgency; but that we are ill served collectively by our Scotch members, and by the Government who, in choosing what they can most safely sacrifice at the pinch, have been led to believe that they may venture once more on taxing the inexhaustible patience of meek Scottish Dissent."

The war between China and Japan appears to have come to a termination by a treaty of peace. Although there are some mutterings of discontent at the terms of the treaty among some of the great European powers, it does not appear very probable there will be any active interference on the part of any of them. The Japanese by reason of their having profited so by the adoption of Western weapons and tactics, in which they have proved themselves very apt scholars, have walked over the course. The whole conduct of the war has resembled strikingly that of the last Franco-German war, in which the Germans went straight on their way to Paris without a single reverse. Should the result of this war be to wake up China as Japan has been waked up, and should the Chinese shew themselves to be as apt scholars as the Japanese have proved themselves to be, it would not be surprising if, with their great numbers and vast resources, this should in time prove itself to be one of the most epoch-making wars in the world's history, and call into play forces which will yet work wonderful changes not only in all the East, but also powerfully affect Western nations as well.