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Notes of the Week.

THE following are important benefactions to the English Presbyterian College Library: A selection from the library of the late Principal Willis, of Toronto, presented by his widow (since deceased); from Mr. J. M. Grant the copy of the ninth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which belonged to the late Professor of Hebrew; a selection of over 300 volumes, chiefly on Semitic languages and Old Testament literature, from the library of the late Dr. Elmslie, presented by his widow in memory of her husband.

OF late McGill University, Montreal, has been highly favoured by receiving munificent pecuniary gifts. Mr. W. C. Macdonald has resolved to donate some \$300,000 for the endowment of the law faculty and the appointment of an additional chair in connection with that department, and to make provision for the erection of a suitable building for the department of experimental physics. Such a disposition of wealth during a man's lifetime is highly creditable. There is a difference between the gift of a living man and a *post-mortem* endowment.

CONSIDERABLE feeling, says a contemporary, seems to be excited in the English Presbyterian Church over the election of the Hebrew professor to succeed the late Prof. Elmslie. It is believed that the majority of the younger ministers are in favour of Rev. George A. Smith, M.A., of Aberdeen, but a few of the older and more conservative members of Synod strongly object to the nomination of Mr. Smith because they think his book on Isaiah to be too rationalistic. Failing him, Rev. W. A. Walton, M.A., Berwick, would probably be appointed.

IT is stated that the recent Presbyterian Federal Assembly at Hobart was the best in every sense that has yet been held. One of its most interesting incidents was the formal appointment to be the missionary agent for all the federated churches of Rev. J. G. Paton. The Governor of Tasmania showed great kindness, and Lady Hamilton invited all the members of Assembly, with their wives and daughters, to afternoon tea. The executive government gave return tickets from Launceston to Hobart for all; and a few prominent ministers got free passes for every line of railway.

THE second congress of the Scotch-Irish Society will assemble at Pittsburg, Pa., on the 29th day of May. A cordial invitation is extended to all British subjects. Special low railway rates will be made to this congress, which promises to be the most important gathering of its kind of leading and prominent men ever assembled in America. Parties interested may address Mr. Thomas Kerr, Standard Life Assurance Co., Toronto, vice-president for the provinces of British North America, or Col. T. T. Wright, Nashville, Tenn., United States. Mr. Robert Bonner, of New York, is president of the congress.

THE English *Presbyterian Messenger* says: Our Church has been represented in Parliament by Sir Charles E. Lewis, Bart., on the Conservative side, and by Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. J. C. Stevenson, and Mr. Stephen Williamson among the Liberals. To this small band the Rev. Dr. Rentoul has now been added, as he has been elected without a contest for East Down in the Conservative interest. Irish Presbyterian ministers have had seats in three or four well-known instances; but Dr. Rentoul will enter the house as a barrister, to which profession he intends to devote himself in the future.

THE Rev. Dr. Boyd (A.K.H.B.), Moderator-elect of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, preached in Glasgow Cathedral on the occasion of the centenary of the Glasgow Society of the Sons of Ministers of the Church of Scotland. The capital of the Society has risen to \$70,000 or \$75,000; and its benefactions are distributed to the orphans and widows of the manse. The number of illustrious names among those who have received such benefit is simply marvellous; and includes men of

the highest rank in the army, the law and the church both at home and abroad. Lord Chancellor Campbell is among them, and so also is Dr. James Hamilton.

THE Rev. James Johnston, well known as the energetic secretary of the very successful Missionary Conference held in Exeter Hall, is in India at present, endeavouring to promote the diffusion of good and useful English literature, and to improve the condition of the vernacular literature of the country. Very few publications in the vernacular languages, according to Mr. Johnston's report, are of a really useful kind. Mr. Johnston is being influentially supported in Bombay. Lord Reay occupied the chair at a recent meeting, and among those who took part were Sir Raymond West, the Bishop of Bombay, the Hon. Mr. Justice Scott, and the Rev. Dr. Mackichan, besides some influential native gentlemen.

THE Rev. A. Cusin, of Free Glenorchy Church Edinburgh, died recently at the Bridge of Allan hydropathic establishment. A rather severe attack of influenza developed into pleurisy, which has cut him off at a little over fifty years of age. A native of Pathhead and a distinguished graduate of Edinburgh, his first charge was at Woolwich, whence he was translated over twenty-five years ago to Free Glenorchy as the colleague of Dr. Davidson, his father-in-law. He was lately appointed Cunningham lecturer, and only lately the subject he had selected was announced. He was the candidate run by the constitutional party against Dr. Dods at last Assembly, and had the largest number of votes, 165, next to the successful candidate. He translated Prof. Godet's commentaries of the New Testament, and also the charming "Iris" of the late Prof. Delitzsch.

PROFESSOR CALDERWOOD presided at the recent distribution of prizes at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women. Among the recipients of medals was a Hindu lady who had rendered most valuable services as demonstrator of anatomy. Professor Calderwood said that it gave him great satisfaction to find how large was the missionary element in the school, as he knew how essential medical women were to the success of missions and how great and widespread an interest was felt in the school on that account. He was much interested to find that two of the students hoped very shortly to place their names on the medical register as practitioners, and he trusted that women would markedly show the remarkable combination of qualities needed for a successful doctor—sympathy, coolness, reserve and frankness, with zeal for the honour of their profession.

SEVERAL objections having been made to the article dealing with Holy Scripture in the proposed creed of the English Presbyterian Church, the sub-committee to whom the subject was remitted are said to have unanimously proposed the following as Article XIX.: We believe that God, who manifests Himself in creation and providence, and especially in the spirit of man, has been pleased to reveal His mind and will for our salvation at successive periods and in various ways, and that this Revelation has been, so far as needful, committed to writing by men inspired of the Holy Spirit, in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which are therefore to be devoutly studied by all as God's written word or message to mankind; and we reverently acknowledge the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures to be the Supreme Judge in questions of faith and duty.

IN Protestant communities, says the *Christian Leader*, Roman Catholic authorities have astuteness enough to wear the mask of liberality. They do not do so in such a country as Austria-Hungary. Recent attempts to do honour to Huss and others have met with severe censure. Quite on a par with this—and we commend it to those who favour the public support of private denominational schools—is the report which threatens a ministerial crisis in Austria. This document demands that Catholic children shall not be "contaminated" by inter-

course with children of other confessions; teachers shall be Catholics and approved by priests; there shall be no word in the public school books to offend the Catholic faith—history, therefore, must be expurgated and poetry worse than Bowdlerised; and the schools shall everywhere in everything be subject to the Catholic Church.

THE following circular, which fully explains the commendable object proposed, has just been issued: At the last Convention of the Quebec Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers, the following resolution was unanimously carried: Whereas this Convention believes that any text book of Canadian history ought to give every province such recognition as shall unite the interests of all Canadians and conduce towards the creation of oneness of patriotic sentiment; and whereas, in the opinion of this Convention, the text books of history in use are unsuited for this purpose, be it resolved: That the teachers of the Provincial Association in convention assembled, do hereby record their desire to see such a work authorized for use in our schools, and that a committee be appointed to correspond with other Provincial Associations, and with other parties regarding this matter, said committee to report at the next annual Convention. The fact that there are many excellent works, giving the history of the several provinces separately, is recognized. A text book is sought which shall give the history of the different sections of the Dominion as nearly as possible concurrently, there being many points of historical contact between the provinces from their earliest periods. It is believed that a suitable text can be written by one man assisted by a committee of authors provided it is submitted before publication to the various Ministers of Education in order to have them eliminate, amend or add such passages as they think desirable, and that the book thus prepared might be authorized for use in all Canadian schools, irrespective of creed or nationality. Our desire is to have this question discussed in all Provincial Associations, and subsequently at a Dominion Conference of teachers.

IN a recent sermon in Derry Cathedral, Bishop Alexander, referring to the death of Professor Witherow, said: When we look out on the great fields of Christian labour at home and abroad, we see Protestants who differ from us in matters of more or less consequence gathering sheaves into the Master's garner, and we have not the evil eye which would grudge them one single sheaf. The immortal masters of human thought in theology, in whose presence I, for one, am but a grey-haired schoolboy, have taught me to be tolerant and respectful. The Presbyterian communion in this city has lost within the last few days one of its athletes—a man strong, wise and learned. When he thought it his duty to criticize—I speak of that which I know—he did it with a courtesy which was as large as his knowledge, and that is saying much. Men like Professor Witherow are too rare in any community not to be missed and mourned. My friends, as we grow in years, let us try to see something of the breadth of truth, something of the effects of prejudice on our minds, and, therefore, on the minds of others. Let us be brave enough to confess faults—faults of temper, of knowledge, of our forefathers, of ourselves, and in our mode of presenting that which we deeply believe to be true. Still, as we become older, and, if so be, a little wiser—still, as we rise from the level strand of thought and knowledge, and gradually ascend, until at last we find that we have scaled an Alp—the great ocean of the truth of God seems to spread beneath. And still, as we gaze, the breakers, which at the outset made a tumultuous music in our ears, and seemed to rise to an enormous height, are "dwarfed into ripples" in the distance, and their murmur scarcely reaches us, or does so with the effect of a strange, faint unison in the distance. Therefore, let us not exaggerate our differences. In presence of the mystery of death, in presence of those not of our own communion who are laid to rest in honoured graves, let us in heart and spirit use the words of large tolerance, of noble truth, of solemn warning—"that when we shall depart this life we may rest in Him, as our hope is this our brother doth."