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## Notes of the Week.

The clerk of the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Established Church lately intimated to the members that all ministers attending a certain ordination were expected to appear in their robes. The clerk explained that the notice had been issued because there was a growing feeling in favor of robes being worn on such occasions. It is to be hoped that the fondness which is now seen in some quarters for clerical millinery, parade and show is not an indication of the loss of true spiritual power.

In the Municipal and Parliamentary Section of the Congress on Health, held lately in London, England, the Earl of Meath took up a progressive attitude on municipalities and recreation, advocating a larger number of small open spaces as being more accessible to densely-populated neighbourhoods than big parks. Cardinal Vaughan went boldly for municipal amusements, arguing in favour of rational entertainments during the winter months where a man could take his wife and children, and which would help to wean him from undesirable resorts.

The following was the reply of the Duke of York to an address of congratulation lately presented to him and the Duchess by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London and representatives of the City Corporation on the birth of their son—"The Duchess of York and myself thank you with all our hearts for the kind address of congratulation on the birth of our son which you have been good enough to present to us. We shall ever value this mark of your attachment to ourselves and to our family. We thank you also for the prayers and good wishes which you offer on behalf of our little child, and we trust that under the blessing of heaven they may be fulfilled."

A member of St. Cuthbert's congregation, Edinburgh, says that the services on the Sunday following the re-opening, were toned down to what they were in the old Kirk. "It was, perhaps, as well that it was so arranged," he says, "as rumour has it that the feeling was so strong that the offensive forms would have been publicly protested against at one or other of the services, and this would have been unpleasant and unseemly. Whoever is responsible for the introduction of such Episcopal forms into this dear old church, has done vastly more to alienate the feeling of reverence which Scotsmen have for their Kirk than would a score of Disestablishment sermons."

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop, the well-known English lady traveller, is just now in Corea. She is traveling alone, as is her habit, and from her letters it is gathered that she is finding her stay among the Coreans any thing but pleasant. As to the Coreans, they are, Mrs. Bishop reports, the most unattractive savages she has ever encountered, and their rudeness and curiosity surpass anything she has formerly experienced. They are entirely untrustworthy and lacking in backbone, so that altogether Mrs. Bishop does not give a very attractive account of the people over whose country China and Japan are quarrelling so vigorously.

Herculean efforts are being put forth to make Toronto's Industrial Fair this year surpass all previous similar exhibitions. Year after year it increases in popularity and adds to the record of its unbroken list of successes. The Fair which opens on the 3rd of September, will surpass any hitherto held in the number and variety of its exhibits, and the brilliancy and interest of its special attractions. Those desirous of familiarizing themselves with the progress of the world in mechanical inventions and improved processes of industry can learn more by a day's visit to the Industrial Exhibition than in a year spent at home. The attendance this year will be larger than ever, as in addition to the greatly reduced rates granted by the railways and steamboats, special excursions will be run from many distant points embracing the intermediate localities.

As an example of the liberal ideas and progressive tendencies of the present Ameer of Afghanistan, it may be interesting to mention that he has decided to introduce the electric light into his capital. A young Glasgow man, Mr. R. Jamieson Browne, electrician to the British India Steam Navigation Company at Calcutta, has been asked to proceed to Cabul to fit up the machinery. Mr. Browne received his first training in a Glasgow firm, and afterwards filled the position of assistant electrician at the Glasgow Exhibition of 1888, thereafter obtaining his present appointment. A Scotchman will thus have the honor of introducing the electric light into that little known country.

At a meeting of the Upper House of Convocation of the Church of England the Bishop of Rochester brought up the report of the joint committee of both Houses of Convocation on the Sunday Opening of Museums. In discussing it two preliminary resolutions were passed, the first urging on the clergy the duty of warning all classes, but especially the rich and leisured, against the increasing misuse of Sunday for purposes of mere amusement; and the second, that the foremost privilege of the Lord's Day is the privilege and responsibility of worship. But the principal resolution, founded definitely on the report, "that since it is evident that an increasing number of persons for whom Sunday is the only day of leisure find the reasonable use of libraries, picture galleries and museums to be wholesome and profitable, it is necessary, in the highest interests both of visitors and attendants, that such Sunday opening should be guarded against unfairness or misuse," was, after some discussion lost by a large majority.

The report of the Ottawa Government's Liquor Commission was promised a good while ago to be forthcoming at an early day, but Parliament has prorogued and there is no word yet of this report. The mountain has laboured long and it has not yet brought forth even so much as a mouse. When it does bring forth, nobody expects to see anything more than a mouse. A more masterly illustration of how not to do a thing could hardly be found. It is some time since Sir John Thompson stated that the expenses of the commission were upwards of \$100,000. It will cost a great deal more than this before all is over. That is, the people of this country are asked to pay this amount and whatever more will yet be needed, to hear what this precious commission thinks, some other people think of the character and effects of the liquor traffic, and of its suppression by law, after a majority of the provinces have said by a direct vote what they think of it and want done with it. A more huge, outrageous, screaming farce than this has not been perpetrated amongst us. As a specimen farce it is a magnificent proof of the skill of its inventors in this line.

The action which the Southern Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States was led to take on the proposal of a fraternal conference in regard to union with the North, does not represent all the brethren of that church. Many expressions of the dissenting sentiment have been made since the adjournment of the two Assemblies. An expression of this kind has been lately spoken by Dr. Murkland, of Baltimore, pastor of one of the largest churches in the Southern Presbyterian connection. He has been writing on the subject in the *Christian Observer* and the *Central Presbyterian*, leading papers of the Southern church. In reference to difficulties, from the southern standpoint, at present in the way of organic union, while not forgetting them he yet thinks "there ought to be no difficulties in committees of kindred and affiliated churches conferring together as to its possibility, and if such a union is impossible, in stating clearly and honestly that the reasons why separation is the best are neither sectional nor historical, but conscientious differences in the interpretation of the Scriptures, our Confessional Standards and of the providence of God."

One of the most striking evidences of the comparatively new sense of social compunction is the increased anxiety felt for, the interest taken in, and the attention paid to the public health. The British Institute of Public Health has been holding its third congress in London during the past week. A formal reception of delegates, to the number of 2,000, was held at King's College, where many models, inventions and drawings having reference to the latest discoveries in public hygiene were on view. A general meeting of the Congress also discussed the housing of the working classes, Cardinal Vaughan and Rev. Fleming Williams taking part, the former arguing for the horizontal as opposed to the vertical distribution of London workers. Sewage, sanitary legislation and diphtheria were other subjects dealt with by different sections. Archdeacon Farrar preached to the members of the Congress on Sunday morning in St. Paul's Cathedral. Pure air, pure water, and pure earth, said he, these were the three material things by which man lived, and the Congress set itself to secure these for the vast and suffering multitude, its chief enemies being, not disease only, but vice and pauperism.

By means of systematic giving, Dr. Pentecost of London, has cleared off a heavy debt and raised the finances of Marylebone Presbyterian Church to great prosperity. It has not been done by theatrical entertainments, nor even by bazaars. He has fallen on a new plan, which, like all devices of genius, is remarkable for its simplicity. "Since its adoption," he says, "I have never had to say 'money,' and in a short time we have managed to pay off £2,000 debt." Cards are issued to all church members and regular attendants. On one side there is a table of optional sums from 1d to 40s a week, on the other a place for donor's name and address. Those who accept the cards pledge themselves to give the sum per week against which they have affixed a cross. They return the cards, which is of course confidential, and receive small envelopes, numbered and dated for every week in the year. Each Sunday these are given in at the collections, and every quarter a numbered but nameless list in detail is printed, enabling donors to identify receipts. Dr. Pentecost urges that, as "all make regular provision for their houses and families, so should they make systematic provision for the church, which is their spiritual home."

The ancient Church of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, was opened lately, after being re-modelled to such an extent that it may be considered to have been rebuilt. The rigid Presbyterian look of the interior is gone, and in its place there is an appearance of ecclesiastical elegance which, says an exchange, "savours to our Scotch minds of Episcopacy." After the immense audience had assembled, and during the singing of the opening Psalm, there filed into the church a lengthy procession of begowned and hooded clergymen, followed by deacons, elders, and other office-bearers. As in the Episcopal Church the offertory was taken during the service, and after the office-bearers had handed the collection to the officiating clergyman who laid it upon the communion table—thought by some to be an altar—prayer and thanksgiving were engaged in. The whole ceremony was of such a nature that the question put by one of the audience while leaving as to whether St. Cuthbert's was a Presbyterian or an Episcopalian Church, was highly excusable. It was observed that that bulwark of the Protestant faith, the Rev. Jacob Primmer, was present at the service, and taking copious notes of the whole proceedings. During the entrance of the procession of church dignitaries, and while the rest of the congregation were on their feet, Mr. Primmer had the solid common sense to keep his seat. When he raises his voice in protest against all this uncalled-for, unauthorised, unprecedented pomp and show in connection with a religious service in a State Church, he will have the support of all those who have been trained in the simple ways and unadorned faith of John Knox and the Covenanters.