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## Notes of the Week.

In spite of the many testimonies borne by all classes of men to the beneficent labors and unselfish character of missionaries, many are still ready to believe and give currency to the grossest slanders against both. The New York *World* lately published, and many other newspapers helped to circulate, an interview with a Persian named Dr. Ruel B. Karib, in which the most damaging statements were made regarding the work and expensiveness of the Presbyterian missionaries in Persia. The Rev. F. F. Ellinwood, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, writes to the *World* and fully refutes every slander and exposes the slanderer. Yet, probably the next time a character of the same kind comes round with similar statements he will find some one ready to believe and spread his slanders.

Thursday, the 25th of this month, is the day appointed for prayer for colleges and other institutions of learning. The day is not so widely observed as the Week of Prayer, and yet it is older in date, having been observed forty years ago, since which time prayers have gone up on this day from the burdened hearts of fathers and mothers for their sons and daughters. When we think what important issues for themselves, for the families connected with them and for the nation, are wrapped up in the training of our students, we may well make them, their teachers and all colleges subjects of the most fervent prayer. In a few years they will be shaping the destiny of the country, and what that destiny shall be is being decided by the training, moral intellectual and spiritual, which they are receiving now.

The name of the Rev. Newman Hall, D.D., is dear and honored among all Christians. He is now seventy-eight and has retired from active pastoral work, but like the Rev. T. L. Cuyler, on this side the Atlantic, has few unoccupied Sabbaths. Many will remember his visit to this country some years ago. He was an ardent friend and defender of the truth in the American war, and his advocacy of this cause when it was not universally popular in Britain was gratefully recognized. His successor, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, has met with an amount of success which has well justified the choice; although a man of refined manners and scholarly habits, he is very popular among working men and women, which arises from the genuineness of his sympathy with them. Working people believe in him because they know his heart beats true to them.

A remarkable revival is in progress in Detroit. The work is, under God, the result of a union of churches. The pastor of all the Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, after consultation and personal conference with Dr. Chapman, of Philadelphia, invited him to conduct a series of evangelistic services. The general feeling there is that no such powerful revival has ever been witnessed in that city. From the first, the largest churches have been crowded to overflowing. Denominational lines have been lost sight of, and all have labored together in loving harmony. The preaching has been the full gospel, without sensational additions. "Man's guilt, sin's exceeding hatefulness in God's sight, the fulness of the provision in the atonement, the person, office and work of the Holy Ghost, are his themes from day to day. Thousands have signed the inquirer's cards and hundreds have been converted. The city pastors have not been in the background in the work. As in Samaria of old, "there is great joy in that city."

The only thing more disgusting and humiliating than that of two human animals meeting to pound and maul and maim each other as far as possible, and hundreds of like degraded bestial animals assembling from all parts of the country to feast themselves upon the brutal and brutalizing spectacle

is, that so many newspapers all over the continent should have been found willing to give up so many columns to the publication and spreading broadcast into so many pure and refined homes the hideous details of such an abomination. We had hoped better of a great number at least of our confederates of the secular press. If it is true that this was done because it paid to do it, because of the generally low, degraded taste, by so much more were they bound by regard for the public good, of which they are expected to be the guardians and promoters, not to pander to such an appetite for what is debasing. We hope the day is not far distant when such contamination being found in any journal will be sufficient to banish it from every respectable and reputable household.

The recent biographer of Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Collingwood, gives us this incident of his life, which occurred in 1872. Mr. Collingwood says:

It was an open secret—his attachment to a lady who had been his pupil, and was now generally understood to be his fiancée. She was far younger than he; but at fifty-three he was not an old man, and the friends who fully knew and understood the affair favored his intentions, and joined in the hope and in auguries for the happiness which he had been so long waiting for and so richly deserved. But now that it came to the point, the lady finally decided that it was impossible. He was not at one with her in religious matters. He could speak lightly of her evangelical creed—it seemed he scoffed in "Fors" at her faith. She could not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever. To her the alternative was plain, the choice terrible, yet, having once seen her path, she turned resolutely away.

Did she not do right? Can the woman who loves, and honors her Saviour stand up and promise to love, honor and obey the man who thus scoffs at him? Say not that it cost her nothing. It cost her life. Three years later, she died. But she died with the consciousness of having been faithful to her Redeemer.

It is a hopeful sign to see the appeal of Rev. Dr. Robertson on behalf of our work and our missionaries in Manitoba and the North-west Territories being so widely noticed and quoted from in the secular press. It is even more so to observe that here and there in different parts of the church earnest men are taking practical measures on their own part to meet the present emergency, but suggesting methods whereby means may be taken throughout the church to secure our work and workers against suffering. We have already been favoured with one suggestion from an Elder in Hastings County, and this week we gladly publish "An earnest appeal to the young men of our church," with a view to the same end. If the young men of the church will act upon the suggestion contained in this appeal, the work will be done, but in order that it be done the minister of each congregation should see that some step be taken, such as putting it into the hands of the Christian Endeavor, or some other way to have it carried out at once. The young men of our church could hardly set themselves to a more worthy object.

Strong a man as President Cleveland is and able, his management of the Hawaiian business does not compare very favorably with that of Lord Rosebery's in the case of Egypt just the other day. The Khedive was brought to his senses in very short order by his lordship's vigorous treatment. In diplomacy, like most other things, practice and experience will do for one what even the best ability and good intentions will not do without. The New York *Evangelist*, in a late issue, gives some information respecting the whole Hawaii matter, which puts in a more favorable and more justifiable light the conduct of the Provisional Government. Its informant was the Rev. Thomas Gulick, one of a family of distinguished missionaries whose names have been for half a century identified with Hawaii. Without any political object to serve, his account of the late queen's past conduct and what she threatened to do in case of being reinstated, are sufficient to justify keeping her in retirement for the rest of her life, and the wisdom of the course Congress has taken in allowing the Hawaiians to manage their own government in their own way.

An accident which caused the loss of nine lives occurred recently on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad. It is the first which has happened on this road which is an old one. It took place in a fog so dense that a man could not see twenty-yards ahead. This railroad runs no trains on the Sabbath day. In this connection we simply quote the language of a railroad manager, as found in the last *Christian Statesman*. "Among the railroads the Lackawanna has been conspicuous as a Sabbath-keeping railroad, and it has also been noted for the very high character of its men. Is it not worthy of remark that these three things—the observance of the Sabbath, the high character and excellent discipline of the men, and large net earnings—should go together? Railroad superintendents have frequently wondered why the Lackawanna, with no block system, should have had so few accidents, and it has been accounted for by the strict discipline which has been maintained. The fact that men entering the company's employ have known that they would not be required to do Sunday work has, no doubt, attracted to its service many men of established Christian character who have found Sunday work on other roads galling and demoralizing to them.

It is a hopeful sign that the question of good municipal government is coming so much to the front. Good government here means eventually good government in every department of civil and national life. On Thursday and Friday the twenty-fifth and sixth of last month, a National Conference for good city government was held in Philadelphia. It was largely attended and full of interest. Able addresses were made by representative men, and all the leading cities of the land sent delegates. The municipal conditions of New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and Philadelphia were ably and graphically presented. Some of the topics discussed were: "Municipal Government as It Should Be and May Be," "The Relations of Women to Municipal Reform," "The Separation of Municipal from Other Elections," "Influence Upon Officials in Office," "How to arouse Public Sentiment in Favor of Good City Government (1) by Means of Education, and (2) by Means of the Church," and "How to Bring Public Sentiment to Bear Upon the Choice of Good Public Officials." The list of topics discussed shows that the whole subject was covered, and in a practical way. Many valuable thoughts were thrown out, and much that was stimulating and instructive was presented.

Some months ago we drew attention to the fact that steps were being taken to establish a religious daily paper in France. The Protestants of that land are vigorously pushing the scheme. The enterprise is fast maturing. About eighty men of position and standing are pledged to the scheme; but to ensure the success of a one-cent daily of this high class, a larger financial backing is necessary than the condition of the Protestants of France enables them to assure to it. For this reason an appeal is made to the American public, on the just grounds of a community of interest. Because we have all our lives been accustomed to a pure religious press, and secular we may also say, for, to our honor be it said, no other kind of press could maintain itself in this country, we know not how much we owe to it. How imperative the need for such a press in France is, may be seen by the reasons urged for it. "The continually increasing immorality of the daily press, now sunk almost to the lowest ebb; the undoubted fact that those papers which are not avowedly atheistic are controlled by the Church of Rome, and the insidious libels and caricatures of Protestantism which the press of both these parties continually utters." The desire of Protestant France is to set itself right before the public, for the sake, not of Protestantism, but of the State. The Protestant churches are now powerless to defend themselves against calumny, for their religious organs are not read by the public. More than this, as it is the genius of Protestantism to advance toward the light, it is the wish of French Protestants to make a newspaper which shall be a fountain of illumination, not only in politics, but in matters of foreign affairs, in which the French press is notoriously weak.