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Notes of the Week.

AT the commencement of Union Theological Seminary, New York, last week, it was announced that Mr. Charles Butler has given the seminary \$100,000 for the endowment of an Edward Robinson Chair of Biblical Theology. At the same time Mr. Butler announced his purpose to give \$100,000 to the University of the city of New York. Thirty-eight graduates of the seminary received diplomas.

THE *Pittsburg United Presbyterian* says: The famous missionary, A. M. Mackay, has died at Uganda of fever. He was a Scotchman, possessing many of the best characteristics of his noble race, having, also, experienced many of the severest vicissitudes that fall to the lot even of a missionary. Such a life as his assures us that heroism of the highest type is possible now as it has been heretofore, and further, that it is to be looked for in the field of the Gospel, and amongst those that are doing its work.

THE *New York Independent* says. Madame Tschelikova has not been released but has been transported into exile in Siberia, and placed there under strict police surveillance. The transportation of the high-spirited lady who dared to tell Alexander III. the truth about the condition of his Empire seems to have been accomplished under every conceivable condition of hardship. It may be that the Czar intended to release Madame Tschelikova, but autocrats have but little effective power over the bureaucrats who govern in their names.

THE meeting of the English Presbyterian Synod recently held at Liverpool was one of great interest. Dr. Alexander Macleod, of Birkenhead, the retiring Moderator, preached a sermon from Proverbs xviii. 16, which, according to reports, made a deep impression on his most sympathetic hearers who broke out again and again into hearty rounds of applause. The various reports presented showed that substantial progress had been made in congregational prosperity, home and foreign mission work, and in Christian effort generally. Presbyterianism is taking root in England.

A PRESBYTERIAN minister, after a prolonged visit to the mission agencies of the islands of the New Hebrides group, writes that some of the islands are now wholly Christian in sentiment and practice. The work of the missionaries is described as being varied and arduous. It embraces school and church, the training of native teachers, the preparation of school and hymn books, and the translating of Scripture, and sometimes the printing of what they prepare for the instruction of the natives. Besides all this they have much travel on foot and by boat, as some of them have several islands to attend to.

AN evidence of the steady progress of temperance sentiment in Great Britain is seen in the deep interest taken in all legislation designed to restrict the sale of liquor. In Ireland and in Wales Sunday closing has been strongly sustained by popular sentiment. The second reading of the Liquor License Bill in the House of Commons has been a matter of deep concern to those engaged in the trade, to the friends of temperance and to the people generally. It is not so very long since a measure of this kind would have received but scant attention from the average members of the House of Commons. Now it is hinted that Mr. Goschen's political future depends to some extent on the acceptance or defeat of his pet clause for compensation of dealers deprived of license.

THE *British Weekly* says: Although vicious attacks are being made on Lord Reay and his conduct in India, there is abundant evidence that he has pursued a Christian policy. From all classes in Bombay outbursts of affection and respect are coming. The editor of the *Times of India*, who was enraged because Lord Reay's new Police Bill deals with some of the wealthiest criminals of the country, thinks these testimonies "very childish and simple"; but, as the *Bombay Guardian* says, because Lord Reay has had compassion on the poor and miserable, and dared the enmity of the powerful he has roused

the rage and hate of those who have large control of the press. He returns to this country with larger claims than ever on the respect, confidence, and admiration of the community, and there is even reason to hope that he will take a prominent part in distinctly Christian work.

A CONTEMPORARY states that a hitherto unpublished letter of Carlyle gives an interesting account of a conversation between the Queen and the philosopher in Westminster Deanery. Carlyle was telling Her Majesty, whose interest he keenly excited, about Nithsdale and Annandale, and of old ways of human life there in the days of his youth. Among other things, he told her that his father once had occasion to go to Glasgow on some urgent business, and that, arriving about eight in the morning he found every door shut. Neither himself nor his horse could have entrance anywhere, "for 'twas the hour of family worship, your Majesty, and every family was at morning prayer." The Queen had never heard anything so astonishing. "But it was the case," went on Carlyle, "and that explains why your Scottish subjects have the place and trust and honour they occupy to-day in every portion of your Majesty's dominions."

THE English Presbyterian Synod resolved, by a majority of 170 votes against 160, that the Synod should hold a conference on the appointment of a successor to Professor Elmslie before proceeding to the election. The Rev. W. A. Walton, B.D., of Berwick, was nominated by the Rev. Dr. Alex. Macleod, and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Robert Whyte. The Rev. John Skinner, M.A., of Kelso, was proposed by the Rev. Robert Taylor, his seconder being the Rev. John McNeill. The name of the Rev. George A. Smith, M.A., of Aberdeen, was also brought forward, but after an explanation from the Rev. Dr. Robertson Nicoll was withdrawn. The vote was then taken by ballot, with the following result:—For Mr. Skinner, 229 votes; for Mr. Walton, 152; majority for Mr. Skinner, 77; thereupon Dr. Macleod moved, and Mr. Whyte seconded, that the election of Mr. Skinner should be made unanimously. This was agreed to, and amid much excitement the Synod adjourned.

AT the English Presbyterian Synod, Dr. Macleod read the copy of a letter which, by order of last Synod, was prepared by a small committee, including Principal Dykes, Dr. Donald Fraser, and the then Moderator, and forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury in reply to the Primate's letter on the basis of a closer union between the churches. The letter, which was one of great length, and was signed by Dr. Macleod on behalf of the Synod, went on to state that the Presbyterians rejoiced to find themselves in accord with their Episcopalian brethren in everything which they deemed essential in regard to faith and worship. But to their way of thinking the suggested basis of union did not go so far in the definition of doctrine as they could wish, while it contained one article—that dealing with the "historic episcopate"—which called for fuller explanation. To this letter the Archbishop replied through his secretary, thanking the Presbyterians for the "friendly and earnest spirit" in which the Encyclical letter had been considered, and promising to lay the Synod's letter before the English bishops at their next meeting.

THERE was a large gathering at Prince's Hall, London, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission. H. R. H. Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck, President of the Society, was present. Lord Kinnaird presided. The income for 1889 was \$65,270, being an increase of \$7,500 over the previous year. The lady missionaries have now access to 2,569 zenanas and private houses in India; 2,379 pupils are being instructed in the sixty-three schools of the Society, and in the four Normal Schools 130 students are being trained for mission work amongst their own people, whilst 405 villages are visited from time to time. The medical work is being extended also. The foundation stone of a new hospital was laid at Benares last year; the Lady Kinnaird Memorial Hospital at Lucknow will soon be started; a Patna hospital is being arranged for, and towards a hos-

pital for North Ceylon \$10,000 has been raised. A special effort is being made to increase the income to \$100,000, so that twenty more lady missionaries may be sent to India. Lord Kinnaird, the Rev. W. Gray, C.M.S., Miss Cornelia Sorabji, B.A. (who appeared in native costume), and Miss M. Leitch gave addresses, and the collection at the close amounted to about \$5,500.

THE following interesting particulars concerning the new German Reichstag, recently assembled in Berlin, in its personal makeup, says a contemporary, presents a strange contrast to the average legislative bodies in America. Of the 397 members just 100 are so-called "grosgrundbesitzer," i.e., landlords on a large scale; manufacturers, merchants and bankers constitute the second element in number, having seventy-four representatives; of political officials, such as city mayors, aldermen, etc., there are fifty-three; lawyers and jurists also fifty-three, clergymen, twenty-four, all of whom, with the exception of two, belong to the Centre or Catholic party; the army and the navy have each only one representative. The nobility furnishes no fewer than 125 members, of whom eight are of royal rank. The other professions, such as medicine, literature, journalism, etc., appear forty strong. Of the jurists proper, the Centre has as many as eighteen. The landlords belong almost to a man to the Conservative and Catholic parties; about one-half of the editors are "advanced" men. The only "chimney-sweep master" in the Parliament of course belongs to the "black" party, i.e., is an Ultramontane. The majority of the Social Democrats are cigar makers, although six of them claim to be *litterateurs*, and three editors. The religious profession of 215 members is Protestantism, of 147 Roman Catholicism, of five Judaism, while 20, all of them Socialists, declare they have no religion. The oldest member is Moltke, now ninety; the youngest is Count von Münch, who is twenty-six years of age.

DR. ROSEBRUGH, Secretary of the Prisoners' Aid Association, writes: About twelve months ago the church courts of this Province were invited to co-operate with the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada in asking the Ontario Government to appoint a Prison Reform Commission to investigate and report upon our penal institutions. This was done with a view to the adoption of the best methods of dealing with the criminal classes. A hearty response was made to the appeal on the part of nearly all the churches applied to. Favourable resolutions were adopted, petitions were signed and standing committees appointed, with a view of securing the appointment of the commission asked for. As a result of this united effort, the Attorney-General has intimated that it is the intention of the Ontario Government to appoint a commission on prison reform. This is so far satisfactory; but the Prisoners' Aid Association now desires to go a step further. We are now memorializing the Government to the effect that it is most desirable that the proposed prison reform commission shall spare neither time nor expense in examining into the working of the best penal systems in other countries. Also in the interests of temperance, morality and religion we desire the co-operation of all organized associations of the Province in asking the proposed commission to enquire into and report upon the following, viz.: The cause of crime, such as drink, over-crowding, immoral literature, Sabbath-breaking, truants from school, etc.; the best means of rescuing destitute children from a criminal career; the best means of providing and conducting industrial schools; the propriety of the Government assuming larger control of county jails; industrial employment of prisoners; indeterminate sentences; the best method of dealing with tramps and habitual drunkards. We desire action not only in the higher courts of the churches but in the lower courts as well. Blank petitions and resolutions can be obtained on application, but we do not wish the churches to be limited to the use of such forms. We simply desire an endorsement of the action we are taking in our efforts for reform in the prison system of the country. As this prison reform commission is issued largely through the influence of the press and the church courts, we trust that its usefulness may not be in the least impaired by any apparent lack of interest now.