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Notes of the Week.

THE friends of Professor Blaikie, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, will be sorry to learn that owing to a local ailment there is some uncertainty as to whether he may be able to be present at the Pan Presbyterian Council in September.

It is a curious fact that a Protestant has the monopoly of manufacturing robes for the Roman Catholic cardinals. For 150 years the secret of making the peculiar red dyes for these garments has been in the possession of a firm in Belgium whose head is a Protestant merchant. The Pope may make cardinals, but a Protestant clothes them.

THE Marchioness of Dufferin, it will be remembered, interested herself in securing more and better medical treatment for women in India, while her husband was Viceroy of that country a few years ago. Now 460,000 of her sex get the benefit of attendance, and the staff which she was largely instrumental in establishing consists of nine women doctors and thirty-one assistants.

THE American Bible Society in its seventy-sixth annual report just issued gives an account of its work during the past year. It appears that it printed 1,298,196 copies of the Bible, of which 391,918 were issued in foreign lands. During the seventy-six years of its existence the Bible Society has issued 55,531,908 volumes. There were printed by the Chinese agency during the past year 189,398 volumes.

ACCORDING to Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, a specialist on Foreign Missions, the exact number of missionaries is 5,994. According to this it takes nearly 6,000 Protestant Church members to supply one missionary! At the same rate of supply we should have had a force of 8,000 to 10,000 to bring into the field in the late war of the rebellion. Is patriotism a stronger sentiment than fidelity to Christ?

THE Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church has now under its care 558 congregations and 82,000 families, being an increase of 3,000 families since 1882. Its revenue last year was \$1,160. It has 758 day schools, with 35,000 scholars; 1,084 Sunday schools, with 9,979 teachers; 103,665 scholars, and 60,739 members of Bands of Hope. It employs twelve missionaries in India, four in China, besides those in Hamburg, Spain and Syria. It has 640 ministers in Ireland and thirty-three colporteurs.

THE Presbyterian missionaries in the New Hebrides have decided to forward a protest to Lord Knutsford, Colonial Secretary in London, against the proposed renewal of the importation of Kanaka labour into Queensland. While recognizing the pledges for its strict regulation given by Sir Samuel Griffiths, they declare that it will be impossible to carry out those pledges and secure justice to the natives; and assert that the deportation of the young natives prevents the development of industries among the islanders, and hinders their advance in civilization and Christianity.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Mr. Ram Chunder Bose, a Christian Hindu, who attracted a great deal of attention in a visit to the United

States some years ago, and who was a convert of Dr. Duff, has recently passed away. For some years he was headmaster in the London Missionary Society College at Benares, then he was in the educational service of the Government in Oudh. While in Oudh he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but the last year of his life was spent as a member of the Church of England. He was a fine speaker, using excellent English, and was a vigorous writer. Most of his writings, however, were strongly controversial.

THE anniversary exercises of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen were held in Eastern Hall, London, recently. One night the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord George Hamilton, took the chair, and Princess Louise participated in the proceedings. As to the work itself there are ten mission vessels, of which five are admirable hospital ships, and a summary of the year's operations shows: 8,130 medical and surgical patients were treated, and 14,278 missionary visits were paid; 1,261 religious services were held, attended by 13,454, and 276,005 magazines, 176,272 tracts, and 7,941 books were given away, while 572 library bags were sent out, and 1,679 copies of the Scriptures were sold or given away.

THE Vatican library has recently received a valuable addition by the purchase of the famous library belonging to the family Borghese, the male line of which has become extinct. The price paid for the collection was 1,000,000 lire. It is an exceedingly valuable library, chiefly of historical manuscripts and books. Prussia made a bid for these literary treasures, but the family preferred to have them remain in Rome, as it has had one representative on the papal throne, namely Paul V. In the Vatican this rare collection will be accessible to scholars, probably even more so than it would be in Berlin. Specialists of all lands and creeds have free access to the Vatican library. The "study room" in the Vatican, with its sixty-two desks, is one of the finest in the world.

THE *Chicago Interior* says: The population of our country during the decade preceding 1890 increased twenty-five per cent., while Church membership increased twenty-eight per cent. This growth was experienced for the most part by the evangelical denominations. The fact that the Church of Rome gained but sixteen per cent.—nine per cent. less than the gain in population—reduces the average to such an extent that the statistics do not seem to be as favourable to Christianity as they really are. The Methodist communicants increased thirty per cent.; the Congregationalists, thirty-three per cent.; the Presbyterians, forty per cent.; the Lutherans, sixty per cent. The preponderance of immigration has been from Catholic countries, and the fact that the gain in the Roman Church has been only three-fifths of the gain in population, shows that the "only true Church" has something to learn from her rebellious but more aggressive offspring.

WE are glad, says the *New York Independent*, to report that Dr. Schaff is decidedly better, and the attack of paralysis seems to be a very light one. He had been working hard during his vacation on that portion of his Church History which deals with the case of Servetus and Calvin. This involved the reading of a very large amount of not the easiest Latin, Servetus' style being obscure and perplexing. He had also been revising a history of Biblical Criticism. A visit to New York during the oppressive heat had wearied him, and the result was a stroke of paralysis affecting his right arm. His speech was only slightly affected, his mind being perfectly clear. He walks about and is cheerful and hopeful, and the prospect is fair that he will be able to resume his work in a short time, although he is more than seventy years old. The doctors report him as "improved beyond expectation, and a good prospect that he will soon be able to resume his work"; and he is somewhat impatient to be at work again.

THE *British Weekly* has the following note of a recent sermon. Rev. Mark Guy Pearse preached in Gravel Lane Chapel, Manchester. His subject was Peter's mistake, Matt. xvii. 4, Luke ix. 33. He said it is never safe to throw stones at Peter, because we might be throwing them at ourselves. "Peter wanted to build in the wrong place. It would be easy to be a saint if I were somebody else. If I were only a minister how easy it would be. If I could always be in a chapel hearing lively sermons and singing beautiful hymns and crying over them, what a saint I could be. That is the great mistake. That religion is of no use to me that doesn't suit all the circumstances of my life. Some men live in hallelujah raptures, and then come down in their grumbings and dark places. Are you where God means you to be? If not, come out, if you are, thank God. Unless my religion comes down to the lowest level of life it is of no use to me: a religion that goes to market, that goes in the train, in the office, that is the religion of Christ. God does not pitch men in the world haphazard; don't cry out so much against your circumstances, it is half blasphemy; what you have to do is to find Christ. He will be a match for your circumstances."

It is stated that Professor A. H. Sayce, in the course of his annual visit of exploration to the Valley of the Nile, has, during the last winter, newly examined the geographical lists of Rameses II. and Rameses III. in reference to Palestinian localities. In both of them he finds the names of Salem or Jerusalem, Carmel of Judah, Hadashah or "Newlands," Rosh-Qadesh, Gaza and Yaqb-acl, or Jacob-el. The last-named Rameses III. places between the district of Sela (supposed to be Petra by interpreters of 2 Kings xvii. 7) and Gaza. The names of Hebron does not occur. Both Pharaohs mention "the district of Tabara," called "the upper district" by Rameses III., who inserts it between Carmel of Judah and Ir-shemesh; this appears to refer to Debir on Kirjath-sepher, inasmuch as the dental corresponds to a Semitic *d* in such names as Damascus and Megiddo. Still more interesting is the supposed discovery of the Egyptian name for the Dead Sea in the two lists; between the names of Salem and Yarduna (the river Jordan) appears "the Lake of Rethpana." Inasmuch as the Dead Sea is the only inland body of water in that part of the country, the identification seems to be certain. According to Professor Sayce, Rethpana may correspond with a Canaanite Keshpon, a derivative from Reshpu, the sun god who was wont to reveal himself in the flames of fire.

A COMMITTEE, composed of distinguished and prominent Christian men of England, lay and clerical, has been formed for the purpose of raising a fund whereby the memory of Mr. Spurgeon "may be honoured and his Master glorified." The fund will be used, more specifically 1. To aid the institutions founded by Mr. Spurgeon, and for the continued support of which, after his decease, he often expressed his deep concern. 2. To place a fit memorial over his resting place in Norwood Cemetery. 3. To erect a worthy monument in the grounds of the Stockwell Orphanage. Among the institutions which it is proposed to help are the Spurgeons Orphanage, the Paters College, the Colportage Association and the Society of Evangelists. Of the first mentioned the committee says: "We seek not so much to endow, as to aid this institution by the judicious investment of a part of the memorial fund; but no gift of money can make good the loss sustained by the death of the beloved founder and president. The support of the 500 fatherless children who find here a home requires \$50,000 per annum in voluntary contributions." The circular of appeal closes as follows: "All the above mentioned institutions were, by long association, dear to Mr. Spurgeon's heart. We appeal for this memorial fund with confidence that there will be a generous response; and that so we shall perpetuate the work and memory of one who 'served his own generation by the will of God,' and died as he had lived, in the esteem and love of disciples of the Lord, of whatever name."