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Notes of the Week.

The receipts of the Monte Carlo gambling den were much reduced last year, but now comes the news that the Communal Council of Ostend has granted facilities for gambling in the Kursaal there on certain conditions, involving a yearly disbursement of £25,000 a season. The devil dies hard. If he cannot keep up the pace in one place in his work of destruction, he will seek a new field of labor.

Over twenty-five members of Congress, it is said, have writtento the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, asking that their mileage for this session be forwarded to them, as they do not wish to come to Washington this winter. Replies have been sent that no mileage can be paid to members, except to those who actually attend the session of Congress. In nearly every instance this request has been preferred by a defeated member, and it indicates a small attendance of that class at the short session.

Rev. Dr. N. D. Hillis, of Evanston, Ill., who has been called to succeed the late Professor Swing, of Chicago, has been for some time a prominent member of the liberal wing of the Presbyterian Church. He makes the following statement of his views. "I shall not endeavor—provided I go to the church—to lead the Central Church toward Presbyterianism. The congregation is composed of Baptists, Methodists, Jews, Episcopalians and representatives of all sects, so that orthodoxy has no basis there. I shall try to keep my work along the lines of extending the organization's influence as a Christian church. Character construction, the betterment of humanity, and the dissemination of all good principles of religion are the chief things an institution like the Central Church ought to consider."

The terrible atrocities perpetrated upon the Armenians have aroused the civilized world, and it may well be hoped that the civilized nations will visit these murderers with speedy and deserved punishment and the government under which it is possible for such deeds to be done. The European powers, under the treaty of Berlin, have the right to see good government maintained throughout the Turkish empire, and even if that right did not exist, the claims of humanity upon them would establish the right. The American Board of Foreign Missions more than other missionary organization in America is interested in this matter, because it has centralized its work in the behalf of the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey. Its western, eastern and central Turkish missions comprise fifteen stations, one hundred and eighty-eight out stations, forty-six missionaries, forty-two married women, seventy-eight unmarried, together with seven hundred and ninety-one native laborers.

Mr. Norwood, one of the best known of the agents of the American Bible Society in Central and South America, and who has spent many years in traveling through these countries distributing Bibles, was last summer appointed by the Society to go to Venezuela, to engage in his work there. On October 8th last, while pursuing his calling in the station of Mendoza, he was arrested by one of the officers of police, and was placed in a cell, the prison being one of the foulest and most unwholesome he has ever seen. Mr. Norwood was able to communicate with the United States Minister at Caraca, who demanded the American's immediate release from the authorities of the State Department of the Republic, the detention of the prisoner being in direct violation of the Constitution of Venezuela, which guarantees religious liberty both to natives and foreigners. As soon as the Government heard of the outrage, the Minister of the Interior di-patched an official telegram marked urgent, ordering his release.

Rev. Dr. Schaufler, at the meeting of the Presbyterian Union held in New York city last week, referring to the large number of eminent citizens who belong to the Presbyterian communion, brought to notice the interesting fact that as many as seventeen of the great banking institutions of the city have chosen Presbyterians for their presidents. There are in the city about seventy Presbyterian Churches, which gives one bank president for every four churches. Dr. Schaufler also gave another interesting fact, namely, that "thirty of the most important city institutions also have Presbyterians for their presidents." That is something for Presbyterians to be proud of. How is it in the city government? That is quite another matter. An armless man, it is believed, could count them all on his fingers and thumbs! How many Roman Catholic office-holders are there? It would take the fingers and thumbs of a man with as many hands as Argus had eyes to designate them. But bide a wee: a few weeks will tell a different story.

In the Armenian massacres it is told how, while Gorgo led his troops out on a sortie for food, the women defended AnJakh for twenty-four hours against the Turkish seige, but finally yielded to numbers. Gorgo's wife, finding escape impossible, stepped on a rock and cried. "Sisters, you must choose between falling into the hands of the Turks and forgetting your husbands, home, religion and honor, or follow my example." With these words, holding her babe in her arms, the woman dashed herself from a rock into the abyss. Other women and children followed her example, until the ravine was filled with corpses. The last woman, who threw herself down, fell unhurt upon the bodies of their companions. The scene struck the enemy with horror. About fifty women and 100 children were taken prisoners and endured torture rather than betray Gorgo and his brave followers. Gorgo's heroic wife was called Schakhe, and it is declared that the name deserves to be known throughout Europe. Yes, and the world.

The ceremonies in connection with the removal, on board the *Blenheim* of the remains of the late Sir John Thompson were simple and impressive and attended with marks of very high respect and sympathy on the part of Her Majesty, the Queen, and the Imperial Government. "Blood is thicker than water," and, as Canadians, such attentions to and marked appreciation of the services of a Canadian statesman cannot but strengthen the bond which unites us to the Mother Country and draw us still closer together, for, in the person of the deceased, they are a tribute to the whole Canadian people. As we write the body is on its way across the Atlantic, to be laid, as is meet, to its final rest in the land of his birth, which he served and in whose interests, it may be said, that he died. Since the Mother country has been so deeply moved by this tragic event, and shown such regard to the departed Premier, it is doubly more meet that our own government and country should show its respect and appreciation by the public funeral which will take place in Halifax, the native city of the distinguished public servant, where he was best known and among those who loved him best and longest.

The Presbyteries of the English Presbyterian Church are now discussing with great interest a proposal felt to be of very vital importance to that Church's wellbeing, namely, that of the removal of its Theological College from London to Cambridge, on behalf of which two wealthy lady members have made a very liberal offer. The South London Presbytery has been the first to open the discussion. At a late meeting it was moved, "That, upon the whole, the removal of the college from London would not be in the interest of the Church." It was moved in amendment, "That, considering the case as now submitted, the Presby-

tery is of opinion that it would be advantageous to remove the college to Cambridge." In further amendment it was moved, "That, in view of the many uncertainties and serious difficulties connected with removing the college, the Presbytery deems it *inexpedient at present* to accept the generous offer made on that condition; and expresses the hope that, trusting to the judgment of the Church, the liberal donors will graciously remove this condition, so that, unbiased, the Church may be left free to consider, on its own merits, the question of the future seat of the college." The discussion was eventually adjourned until next meeting of Presbytery.

The *Quebec Telegraph*, referring to the flood of petitions which has been poured into the provincial Legislature of late, asking for the separation of the liquor and grocery trades, says: "These documents chiefly emanate from Montreal, the Eastern Townships and Ottawa Districts, and are evidently the work of a concerted movement originating with the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The day when the broad moral demands of these ladies were sneered at as visionary is over. In this country and in England such demands have come to be an important part of practical politics, and the weighty influences behind them steadily gather force. Twenty years ago the great mass of respectable people believed in their heart of hearts that liquor selling could not be controlled in a great city, that certain streets must be surrendered to a vile traffic, that society would always enforce one code of morals for men and another for women, and that legislation intended to protect girls and women was of little practical value. All this is over. The public conscience is bestirring itself about demoralizing exhibitions. Lotteries have been suppressed. Gambling and pool-selling will go the same way. The moral horizon is incalculably brighter than twenty years ago. This has been the work of Christian women more than all other causes combined, and there never has been a time when it more behooved such women to make no social compromises with evil in all its forms than at the close of a period in which the moral crusade of women is so visibly arousing the moral forces of society.

Nothing of its kind could be more interesting than the notices which have appeared in all the leading daily papers of our cities and larger towns of the bounties and good cheer dispensed on Christmas Day so plentifully as it was in all our charitable establishments, and to all classes of the destitute and needy, and those suffering from bodily ills, to the undeserving we may truly say, as well as to the undeserving. The charity which for the time over-looks ill-desert, is only that which is being constantly extended to ourselves by Him who opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. It has a good influence upon the heart which exercises it, and for the time being it cannot also but for the day at least, and in some cases it may be permanently, awaken good and helpful thoughts and upward desires among some who may have become hopeless of better things. If we ask for the source of all these kindly impulses and that gracious helpful conduct toward those from whom the dispensers of this kindness hope for nothing again, there is in reality only one answer. It is the practical outcome of Christianity and the precepts and teaching of that gospel which was heralded into our world by "peace on earth and good-will to men." Selfish and unworthy as individual professors are to be found in all our churches may be, the continually extending range of this and other forms of practical benevolence testify in a manner which no one can gain-say to the humanizing ennobling, in a word, to the Christianizing effect, making more Christlike, of the spirit and action of society at large, moulding it more and more after the pattern of Him Who gives rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons filling our hearts with food and gladness."