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## Notes of the Week.

A DESPATCH from Rome says: The Vatican notifies former sovereigns of Italian States, that the Pope cannot longer prevent Catholics from taking part in elections. At a Conference of the Sacred College, at which the Pope presided, it was decided to allow Catholics entire liberty of action.

THE announcement was made a few days ago, of the death of Mrs. Henning, wife of Mr. Thomas Henning, who was for years cashier of the *Globe* Printing Company. Mrs. Henning was a sister of Mr. Gordon Brown and the late Hon. George Brown. For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Henning resided in Europe.

A PAN-CONGREGATIONAL Conference, to meet in London, is likely to be one result of the visit to Australia of the Rev. Dr. Hannay and Mr. Henry Lee. The project has been taken up with enthusiasm by a number of the Australasian Churches, and it is known that such a proposal would be sympathetically considered in the United States and Canada.

SIR LEPEL GRIFFIN, whose eccentricities have gained him an unenviable notoriety, is the man who took such a hostile attitude to our missionaries at Indore. He said that among so-called civilized lands the United States was the least desirable place of residence, with the exception of Russia. He has just been appointed to the Residency of Hyderabad, and the Bengal editors are angry. One paper says: His appointment is a misfit. He belittles Bengalis for the Merriment of Mahrattas, applauds caste, and is said to have punished princes who accepted Christianity. His manœuvres in Central India, his exaltation of cleverness at the expense of truth in his educational addresses, have given him a notoriety that is most unsavoury.

THOUGH some missionary societies refuse, if they can, to send out men who will not abstain from marriage for such time as will enable them to prove they are worth their salt, and though among the Methodists, probationers are precluded from wedlock for a time, or if they marry must do so at their own cost on a single man's stipend, there has always prevailed among Protestants a sentiment that, of the two, a married minister was better than a bachelor. The Hungarian Reformed Church has, however, determined that, as the clergy all died poor and their families had to be supported, something must be done to relieve the funds of the Church. So, after violent debate, it has been carried in the convention, that "chaplains" who marry shall not be appointed as clergymen.

A CONTEMPORARY states that the Tappan Presbyterian Hall project at Ann Arbor is growing. The Presbyterians have now established a lecture course in which it is expected some of the best talent of the land will be heard on the "Vita Questions of Religion." Henry McCracken, D.D., LL.D., vice-chancellor of the University of New York, spoke in connection with the course, on a recent Sabbath, morning and evening in the Presbyterian Church. His subject in the morning was "The Pillar and Ground of Truth," and in the evening, "John Calvin." Both discourses were listened to by crowded audiences with great interest. A "Training Course" is also announced, covering a series of four lectures each on the "English Bible," "Church History," "The Church," "Applied Christianity" and an occasional lecture on "The Christian Life."

THE Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society, met Tuesday night. Special grants of tracts were made to the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other societies. Five hundred tracts per month have been given during the continuance of the free breakfasts to the poor. Mr. Miller, one of the colporteurs in Western Ontario, sold last month 255 Bibles and 109 religious

books. Mr. Irvine, in Eastern Ontario, sold forty-eight Bibles and 122 religious books. A grant of the best tracts was most cheerfully given to ladies of the Church of England to send with boxes of clothing to the North-West. An excellent financial report was presented by Mr. John Young, the depository. Mr. Bone is still busy with his Welland Canal work; so is Mr. Humpman in Muskoka; and so, also, is Mr. McLeod in Manitoba. The Report of the Rev. Dr. Moffat the secretary, was the best he had yet given in.

EVEN cautious Scotchmen are evidently not sufficiently on their guard against plausible impostors, as they should be. The following instance of welcoming to a pulpit one who in more than a merely figurative sense may be denominated a tramp, shows that there is need for vigilance. Canon R. H. Baynes was given into custody in Glasgow lately, for defrauding ho-el-keepers in that city, but as they ultimately refused to prosecute he was discharged. A message had come, however, from Oxford, where he was outlawed at the last-quarter sessions; and he has been sent thither. Among the articles found on him by the Glasgow police was a bottle containing whisky. While sojourning in Glasgow, he introduced himself one Sunday morning to Mr. Brown, of Free St. Peter's, William Arnot's old church, and expressing a desire to address the congregation was actually taken into the pulpit by the pastor and preached a remarkably eloquent sermon!

THE *Belfast News Letter* says. Our Maghera correspondent records the death under sad circumstances of one of the oldest and most respected merchants of that place, Mr. Alexander Kerr, senior member of the firm of A. & M. Kerr. The deceased rose in the morning at eight o'clock, apparently in his usual health, and about an hour afterward proceeded to the market for the purpose of doing some business. While standing at a cart he suddenly fell. Dr. McGowan, who resides convenient, was in immediate attendance, but on arrival found that Mr. Kerr had breathed his last. Mr. Kerr was a kind-hearted and inoffensive gentleman, and was respected by persons of all classes and creeds. His death is much lamented. The deceased, who was about fifty years of age, was unmarried. He was a ruling elder and Sabbath school teacher in the Maghera congregation for over twenty-five years. He was a brother of Walter and Thomas Kerr, of Toronto.

ON the 29th ult., on the occasion of the ministerial jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Bonar, of Finnieston Free Church, Glasgow, a social gathering was held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, which were crowded. Mr. J. Campbell White presided, and there was a large number of ministers of different denominations present. The chairman, after referring to the Rev. Dr. Bonar's work in the ministry, presented him with a silver salver and 4,000 sovereigns. An illuminated address was then presented by the congregation, and addresses were also presented from the Glasgow Presbytery, and from ministers formerly connected with the congregation, and there was also a Mildmay Conference Hall greeting. The Rev. Dr. Bonar having replied, addresses were afterwards given by Rev. Dr. T. Brown, Rev. J. H. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, Professor Simpson, Rev. Dr. Melville, Sir Thomas Clark, Rev. Dr. Adam, Rev. Dr. Elder Cumming, ex-Baillie Dickson and Mr. John Muir.

AT the last meeting of the Montreal Ministerial Association, Lr. Macvicar read a paper upon "Testifying for Christ" of which the following is a summary: First—It is necessary, in order to testify for Christ, that the witness must know Him. Second—Faith in Christ is necessary for testifying. If faith be weak, our testimony will be defective. If we are to testify much we must believe much. A man full of faith and the Holy Ghost will of necessity honour the Master. He will speak out for Christ, and confound a whole synagogue of sceptics. This was illustrated by reference to the apostles and the early Christians, who

gave prominence to the divinity, the character and teachings of Christ. Third—who should testify for Christ? Ministers should stand in the front ranks. Next to these are the true followers of Christ. The ministers should educate them in this direction. Of Christians, Christ said: "Ye are my witnesses." If we have been enlightened we shall let our "light shine." Christ's followers should testify even in discouraging circumstances. Fourth—In what manner and places must we testify for Christ? Answer—In public and in private, on the railway train, by personal dealings. Fifth—What are the special advantages of testifying for Christ, practical and apologetic? It will help ourselves and others. We render the highest services to the world by such testimony. Sixth—There is great danger to truth in persons who are ignorant and vain, and of questionable morality, attempting or being pushed forward to testify on religious matters.

THE *Christian Leader*, unusually well informed on Canadian matters, does make an occasional slip as the following will clearly show. The system of sin licensing is creeping into Canada. A health bill has been quietly slipped through the Parliament at Ottawa, with a clause which authorises the establishment of state harlotry. The party of impurity in the Dominion have achieved their design by a trick, just as the wicked acts were passed in the dark at Westminster. When and by whom was this surreptitious piece of legislation "slipped through the Parliament at Ottawa" and where did the *Leader* get its information? *Hansard* contains no trace of such a measure. John Charlton, M.P., who fought for several sessions to pass what is now popularly known as the Charlton Act, for the protection of young women, and who at length succeeded, was present during the whole of last session, would not have been silent if an attempt of the kind described by our contemporary had been made. There were many members on both sides of the House who would have strenuously opposed any such proposal, and directed public attention to the abuse. Direct inquiries addressed to an M.P., possessing strong moral and religious convictions, replies that no such proposal was made, and no health bill was even proposed during the session. Canada may not be perfect in its method of suppressing social evil, but it will bear favourable comparison with any country on the globe. At all events the streets of Canadian cities present a pleasing contrast to those of any British city of any size. Vice is not permitted to obtrude itself to the public gaze.

DR. PARKER'S Conference on Evangelical Preaching has not come up to his expectations. Why, is not altogether apparent. The attendance was good, and the various sections of the Protestant Church were well represented. The discussions were interesting and animated, but still the pastor of the Temple was not entirely satisfied. He says it was the first Conference of the kind, and he intimates that it will be the last. Still even he should not forget the truism that a man should not prophesy unless he knows. Dr. J. Munro Gibson delivered an excellent address at the Conference, concluding with the following words: The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, and such power is what is needed most of all—not advice, not the urging over and over again of the Ten Commandments: not the constant repetition of the Golden Rule; not mere words, however wise; not even money, however carefully applied; not any or all of these nearly so much as power from on high to reach the people's hearts, to inspire them with hope, to infuse into them moral earnestness, to stir them to all practical energy. Such power is found in the Gospel, and there alone; and to complain of those who preach it as unpractical is as unreasonable as it would be to find fault with the engine-driver for getting up steam when what was wanted was to set the train going. But it must be the very Gospel of Christ—no mere system of doctrine, but a mighty force—directed, not to allaying fear of punishment or exciting hopes of unmerited reward, but to making men pure in heart, strong to resist evil, earnest in following after all that is good, lofty in aspiration, ambitious to walk in the steps of Christ, and to serve their generation according to the will of God.