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## Notes of the Week.

This piece of news from the *Indian Standard*, published at Rutlam, is very suggestive. It says, "This year for the first time on record, the Jaganath car at Serampore failed to find devotees enough to drag it over the usual route. On three successive days attempts were made which ended in failure. The persuasions and threats of the Brahmins were in vain. As fast as men were sent to the ropes they quietly slipped away, and the great car could not be moved."

A late Montreal *Witness* notices the large attendance of between two and three hundred at a Sunday afternoon class taught by Rev. Principal MacVicar, and his able handling of the important subject of the Relation of the Fourth Gospel to the Old Testament and Jewish Institutions. Its Johannine authorship was vindicated by the Doctor against those who assailed it, on the ground of its being hostile to the Jewish people and religion, that it betrays ignorance of the topography and religious customs of Palestine, and that the Galilean fisherman John could not have written the pure Greek which it contains. These assertions were met by an appeal to the record, and the citation of many passages and facts which established the very reverse.

The death lately of Oliver Wendell Holmes leads the *Chicago Standard* to make these somewhat sad, but we suspect very true reflections. "The death of Oliver Wendell Holmes, leaving scarcely one alive of the group of literary men among whom he held a place entirely his own, makes one realize the loneliness, in some sense, of the man who outlives his generation. The historian Froude, who just died, we find spoken of in a like way. Born in 1818, it is said of him that all the great men of the century who were his friends, are dead. Tennyson, Carlyle, Newman, Dickens, Arnold, Kingsley, Maurice. It is added that Ruskin and Gladstone are the only great men left in England "who shared the intellectual triumphs of the middle of the century."

The following is worth mentioning as an illustration of the manner in which Synods are attended, in some parts of the world at least, and as an example may stimulate some whose conscience may be smiting them for remissness in this matter. At the Synod of Columbia, U. S., which met last month with over six hundred miles to travel, only two of the active ministers of the Synod were absent. It is only when it is remembered that railroads there charge on an average five cents a mile, and what such attendance means to Home Missionaries, that the importance of this fact can be fully appreciated. The eldership however was not so well represented. Our missionaries in our far west especially, will be able to understand fully the expense and toil and time which attendance at Synods in such circumstances means.

At the opening of the Allegheny Theological Seminary, Pittsburg, the Rev. John A. Wilson, D.D., was installed as Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government, and delivered the Inaugural lecture, taking for his subject, "John Calvin." It is fully reported in the *United Presbyterian* of Pittsburg. After a long and very interesting historical sketch of the great Reformer's life, he mentions the following things as specially marking what Calvin did, and what Calvinism stands for: (1) The Supreme Authority of Holy Scripture. (2) The Church's Independence of the State. (3) Liberty. (4) Law. (5) Courage. (6) Education. (7) Charity. No wonder that the church and the men whose character is built upon these foundation stones, Christ, which is implied in the first, being the bed-rock of all, and into whose spirit these things have been infused, should be strong and powerful for good in the world.

A most important Presbyterian Conference has just been held in Belfast, Ireland. It was inaugurated by a most successful social meeting in Ulster Hall, which was richly decorated and adorned for the occasion. We shall have again to refer to the conference. In the meantime we may mention the names of Drs. Donald McLeod, Wells, Heron, Marcus Dods, Orr, Lindsay, Denney and Professor McAllister, of Cambridge, who all took part. Among some of the subjects discussed were Miracles, Christian Public Spirit, the Influence of the University on Modern Thought; Presbyterian Church Government, Presbyterianism, its Catholicity, and others of a like important nature.

The *Christian Leader*, speaking of the work of the Rev. John McNeill, in Melbourne, Australia, says: "It is apparent from the Melbourne papers to hand that Rev. John McNeill has been moving that city mightily. Not to speak of the enormous gatherings in the Exhibition hall, his mid-day services in the Town hall for business men have been the wonder of the religious and irreligious alike. In the galleries reserved for women, seats were occupied hours before the proceedings opened. And the attendance of great numbers of ministers has been a striking feature, the younger men of all the churches being specially noticeable. It is probable that through them, says the *Southern Cross*, echoes of Mr. McNeill's teaching and reflections of his intense earnestness will survive long after he himself has left Australia."

A Royal Commission which has had under its consideration the conditions under which the city and county of London could be amalgamated, has just issued its report. The subject is one bristling with difficulties, but its report commends itself to many as wise and statesmanlike. It is full, as one would expect, of elaborate details, but its main lines are easily grasped. The outstanding feature of it is a Central Corporation with a Lord Mayor at the head to administer the whole metropolitan area, with local corporations presided over by local mayors to undertake the details of their several districts. London, the report contends, cannot be adequately dealt with as a county. It must have a machinery which can lift it to the dignity and completeness of the highest form of municipal life. The great difficulty in the way of unification lies in the privileges and immunities attached to the City proper, as distinguished from outer London, but it is pointed out that a precisely similar difficulty has been dealt with in the case of other municipalities, such as Liverpool and Bristol, with perfect success, and may also in that of London.

It is likely, we are glad to learn, that a memorial volume will be published in connection with the Jubilee of Knox College. This is a step in the right direction. Very much might be incorporated in such a volume that all the alumni and friends of the college could not but feel much interest in. Besides a record of the proceedings which took place at the Jubilee celebration, there are not a few items of interest which might be well gathered together and possessed in such a volume for future use. The needs of the college, what is still desirable for it that it may be put in such a position to do its work as the altered circumstances and higher demands of the time require, could be briefly and pointedly set before the church and its sympathy enlisted in securing for it these additional aids. Such a statement also of the services which Knox College has rendered the church during the fifty years of its existence could be presented, as would deepen greatly in the minds of the generation growing up and not familiar with its story, the sense of obligation and gratitude for its past services, and the claims which it has for generous support in the future. We may just add, the more promptly, consistently with doing the work well, that the work can be got ready and issued, the greater is the likelihood of its being a success.

Queen's University, Kingston, is a thoroughly live and wide-awake institution. This was made very apparent in the addresses and other statements made on University day in connection with the opening of the university last week for the winter's work. Professor Shortt during the summer had been in the far west delivering lectures on popular subjects in connection with a university extension movement, thus bringing Kingston University into touch with the people, and helping doubtless by this means to add to the number of its students. Professor Dupuis, who has been in Europe specially with a view to the subject, detailed the steps taken to establish a course of training in practical science, and indicated in a way which intimated that he expected the means needed would be ready when required, that soon they would need more room and that the university would undertake to do all the work needed if \$100,000 were spent upon suitable buildings and other things. Principal Grant also, with a confidence which is prophetic of success, referred to the "fund which was slowly rolling up" to endow a Sir John A. Macdonald chair of political science. To very many there is sufficient attractive force in the name to draw money out of their pockets. He had himself become personally responsible for \$1,000, "to provide additional apparatus for microscopical research;" but, he added, "he could depend on them;" and how could a university suffer a Principal so devoted to its interests as to do this, to be disappointed in his confidence. And finally the Registrar, Rev. Dr. Bell, announced just what might be expected, that the freshman class is larger this year than ever. Queen's is doing a good work, and our wish, which we fully expect to be realized, is that it may go on and prosper.

One of the most notable events of the week in this city has been the unveiling of a statue erected in the Queen's Park to the memory of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. For the season of the year the weather was as auspicious as could fairly be expected. There was the assemblage of dignitaries, especially of those belonging to the State, natural and appropriate to such an occasion, the usual parade, bands playing, speechifying and eulogizing. The crowd that gathered was large and enthusiastic. The likeness, in the opinion of those best able to pronounce a judgment, is said to be good and worthy of the artist and of those who have carried out the undertaking. The place given to it in the park is the best that could possibly have been chosen by the most admiring friends of the deceased. It stands guard at the very entrance to the park, on the way to the University and Parliament buildings, and in full view of the latter, so that the thousands whom business or pleasure calls every year to these public places cannot fail to see the statue to Sir John. Whatever differences of opinion there may be as to the public policy of Sir John Macdonald, no one will deny that he was a devotedly loyal Canadian. Canada first, and British connection for Canada were the keystones of his public policy. Whatever changes the lapse of time and the unfolding of events may call for in our relations amongst ourselves, or to the Mother Country, these for the present are the fixed policy of all our public men and are likely to remain so for a good while to come. The unveiling and setting up of this statue and of similar ones in other cities, is another one of the thousand things that go to make up a distinctly Canadian national spirit and life. As long as these monuments shall stand and be looked upon by our youth, the story will be told of him who, born in humble life, rose step by step in the service of his country until he became her first citizen, imprinted his name indelibly upon her annals, and, after a life of devotion, dying in her service, these monuments were erected to commemorate his name and fame, and it may be hoped that they will act as an inspiration to coming generations of Canadians to serve their country, to earn a place in its history and the grateful remembrance of long succeeding ages.