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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. J. T. WOOD is engaged in endeavouring to raise a new subscription to carry out further excavations at Ephesus; and Mr. Dennis, H.M. consul at Smyrna, is busy with his researches at Sardis.

MR. COLLINS, the head of the firm of William Collins & Son, well-known in this country, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, in an examination before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, said: "There is a large district, inhabited entirely by working men, called Possil Park. There is a population of 6,000 people there, and there is one licensed grocer, and no public house, and no crime. There is one policeman, and no lock-up; but the Superintendent told me yesterday that if there was a public house they would require five police and a lock-up."

LIEUTENANT CONDER, who executed most of the survey of western Palestine, and Lieutenant Mantell, both of the Royal Engineers, left London for Beyrout on the 15th ult., to prosecute the survey of eastern Palestine under the auspices of the British Committee. The War Office has granted the services of these officers, who will be assisted by the two non-commissioned officers, Black and Armstrong, who first went out in 1871. They are to commence their work in the north—the land of Bashan—and will prosecute it vigorously at the cost of \$15,000 a year.

AFRICA is not likely to retain much longer its title of the Dark Continent, for its dark places and unknown regions are being rapidly opened to the light, and to the knowledge of the world. Stanley, following Livingstone, and a host of other explorers, are fast revealing its mysteries. We are assured there are not less than *forty expeditions*, including those which are scientific and commercial, as well as missionary, which are exploring Africa. They are penetrating it from every side—north, south, east, and west. If this geographical and exploring zeal is kept up, within a few years, probably before the end of this century, the interior of Africa will be as well known to the civilized world as the interior of Asia.

As every one of our readers is aware the Earl of Beaconsfield has passed away, and great lamentation is said to have been made over his departure. That he was an able man may go without saying, but that he was one of whom England may justly be proud is something very different and not so easily settled. His gospel of "getting on" was anything but elevated or elevating; while there was a ring of insincerity about all that he ever spoke or wrote, which must have sadly marred the worship of the most inveterate hero-maker that ever lived. We shall not, however, add another to the thousand and one critical estimates of his character and career, though the temptation is somewhat considerable.

As shewing what the natives themselves do towards the support of the Gospel on missionary ground, it is stated that in New Hebrides, in 1879, the native converts contributed about \$200; in Blytheswood, South Africa, the Fingoes gave \$15,000 for mission buildings; in South Ceylon the Church Missionary Society received \$3,500 from native Christians. Fifteen churches of the Madura Mission of the American Board in India are self-supporting, and in Central Turkey many of the churches meet all their own expenses. Many of the Karen churches in India, though very poor, are self-supporting. In fact, wherever Christianity gets much hold upon the hearts of the people self-support will be reached, or at least there will be a great effort to do this.

THE April number of the "Missionary Record" of the Church of Scotland, prints briefly the action of the Commission of the Assembly on the Blantyre Mission scandal, and adds: "All true friends of missions will deplore the events which have taken place and the necessary withdrawal

of the mission agents; and all the more that, as has been abundantly shewn from time to time in our columns, there has been much good work done in cultivating the ground acquired by the mission, training the natives to habits of industry, educating the children, making translations," etc. At present Dr. Peden, and Mr. Henderson, the pioneer agent, and Mr. Duncan, the gardener, remain. No change will be made till after the meeting of the General Assembly.

THE Oka Indian affairs are again creating considerable interest in Montreal. It was rumoured last week that negotiations were in progress between them and the Government. No satisfactory result seems to have been reached. Mr. McLaren, Q.C., has been instructed by the Department of Indian Affairs to submit a test case of the title of the Oka Indians to the lands they occupy to the Courts for adjudication. Thomas Carranty, brother of the late Oka Chief, Joseph, wrote to the "Witness" lately to say that the Oka Indians agreed with Mr. Gir, agent of the Government, to go to Ontario if they were given a township of good land, three years' provisions, a horse and a cow for each family, and farming implements to cultivate their land; the Government paying the cost of removing to the promised township.

THE "Christian at Work" puts it thus tersely: "An honest, straightforward, manly man, seeing something in his newspaper that he does not like, writes to the editor expressing his dissent—as it is his privilege to do, and as he would do to a friend. No true man gives up a friend because of a difference of opinion; neither does he, for a like reason, part with one of the best of friends, a good newspaper. On the other hand, no editor who is half an editor resents, but rather welcomes and respects, the hearty, pronounced expression of contrary opinion from a manly dissident. But for the one who reads, dissents, and flashes back an angry 'Stop my paper!'—well, we are sorry for such brethren. It is always a disappointment to meet with the weakness of childhood when you naturally look for the strength of maturity. The infrequency of the occurrence is what makes it a matter of less consequence than it otherwise might be."

THE London "Record" of March 30th, in speaking of the date fixed upon for the issue of the Revised Version of the New Testament—May 17th—says: "The literary part of the work has now for some time been complete. The Preface, originally written by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, has been itself 'revised,' after having been submitted to each member of the Company of Revisers. A gratifying valedictory address to the Bishop, as their President, richly emblazoned, has received the names of all his colleagues. The British and Foreign Bible Society are said to have issued forty millions of copies of the Authorized Version since the institution of the Society in 1804, but cannot, in accordance with their fundamental laws, circulate any other English version. Their Annual General Meeting takes place on the 4th of May, just a fortnight before the day fixed for the issue of the revised, but as yet unauthorized version of the New Testament. The Bible Society cannot be expected to come to any decision as to the measures to be adopted with reference to the New Version until it has been submitted to public examination, and we understand that this is the resolution at which the Committee have arrived."

THE Rev. E. Forbes Winslow, Vicar of St. Paul's, St. Leonards-on-the-Sea, in a recent address uses some very plain words to his pew-holders, reminding them not only of church-work marred, but of the injury done to their non-spiritual life. He says: "You come to our church with all the airs and graces of fashionable life; you thrust yourselves into the best seats, bitterly upbraiding the vergers and churchwardens unless immediate attention is paid to your wants, and then you seat yourselves down to enjoy the service. At the close of the service the offerings

of the people are collected. The church is dependent upon free-will offerings—a fact which is brought under your attention by the notices at the door. 'A change comes over the spirit of the scene' when the alms-bag is passed to you; you look at it as unwelcome and impertinent intrusion upon your devotions as an object rather of speculative curiosity than of practical import, and you pass it, with an air of languid, supercilious indifference, down a row of equally well-dressed and equally languid fellow-worshippers, who do not contribute so much as one farthing apiece to the service of Almighty God. Shame upon you! Would to God that I could raise the blush of humiliation to your cheeks; that I could goad you out of your indifference; that I could sting you to a proper sense of your indescribable and contemptible meanness! And then, having obtained as much as you wish, you go your way, congratulating yourselves that your religion has cost you nothing. Cost you nothing, indeed! It has cost you *your own soul*. Your religion is vain, your faith a delusion, your zeal for God and His Church a wretched sham, to be abhorred of all true and honest men. The clergy are wronged. The Church is wronged, the poor are wronged, but, above and beyond all, such conduct inflicts a grievous dishonour upon the Lord, and well may unbelievers doubt whether there can be any reality in a religion which produces such miserable fruits as this." Things are not so bad in this country; still a good many might do well to note, mark, and inwardly digest Mr. Winslow's very intelligible remarks.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, who has had more than thirty years of experience in all parts of India as the secretary of Lord Lawrence, the governor of Nagpore, Bengal and Bombay, finance minister of the Indian Empire, etc., in a large volume on India lately published thus speaks of the Free Church missionaries in that country: "In effective zeal and ability, and in devotion to the cause of missions, no religious community in Christendom has surpassed the Free Church of Scotland." Of missionaries in general, he says: "The missionaries themselves display an example, the brightness of which is reflected on the nation to which they belong. They are to be heard preaching in every city and almost in every large town throughout the Empire. They are considerably attentive to every inquirer and listener. They are held to be among the best teachers and schoolmasters in the country, even at a time when the educational staff of the Government affords a model of organization. They receive heathen children in the mission schools, not withholding Christian instruction, and yet they retain the unabated confidence of heathen parents. They are trusted as benevolent advisers by their native neighbours. They are known as friends in need and trouble, and as being ready to advocate temperately the redress of wrongs or the removal of oppression. In seasons of pestilence and famine they have been vigilant in forecasting evil consequences and instant in dispensing aid. They have contributed greatly to the culture of the vernacular languages. Many of them—as scholars, historians, sociologists or lexicographers—have held a high place in Oriental literature, and have written books of lasting fame and utility. They have, with the co-operation of their wives and daughters, accomplished much towards establishing and promoting female education. They have enabled the natives to note the beauty of British homes which shed abroad the light of charitable ministration and diffuse the genial warmth of practical philanthropy." And yet there are still men who profess to have seen and known India, and who are ready to declare that Christian missionaries are idle frauds, and that the first genuine conversion to Christianity in India has yet to be made! Such testimony as the above of Sir Richard Temple or that of his old chief, Lord Lawrence, and of many others of the highest and best of the civil servants in India, both past and present, will, with every candid person, outweigh any amount of that anti-missionary talk which was once popular and has not even yet altogether disappeared.