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Notes of the Week.

A Presbyterian Church House is proposed for Belfast, which would be a rallying point for Presbyterians visiting the city.

The statement going the rounds of the press that Dr. Briggs is in favor of the Sunday newspaper, is contradicted by authority, and the words imputed to him are "a pure invention."

The McAll Mission in New York city was established twenty-one years ago. It now has 135 mission halls, 3,000 children in Sabbath school, and 23,000 meetings were held during the year.

Dr. Rainsford, of New York, some time ago, remarked that "it took God one hundred thousand years to make an ape." "It doesn't take you five minutes to make an ass of yourself," said some ill-bred wit in the audience. The Pittsburg Methodist Recorder says the remark is apropos in view of Dr. Rainsford's recent proposals that the churches shall run the saloons.

News has been received of the death of a Canadian lady missionary in Africa, Miss Clarke, daughter of the Rev. W. F. Clarke, the well known agricultural writer, of Guelph, Ont. The letter also contained the intelligence that a missionary at a neighboring station, Mr. Lynn, died on the same day. Miss Clarke was sent out by the Congregationalists of the Dominion and was a most estimable Christian lady.

Germany is still the paradise of the book-maker and the book-reader. The Leipzig Board of Trade reports that during the year 1891 no fewer than 21,279 books were published in Germany. The increase of the literary activity of the Fatherland can be judged from the fact that in 1871 the publishing houses reported only 10,664 books. Germany published more books than England, France and the United States together.

Financial disasters in Australia continue. The Bank of North Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, has suspended. Its capital stock is \$80,000,000, one-half of which is paid up. The deposits last December amounted to \$42,500,000. The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney has also suspended. This is one of the oldest banking institutions in Australasia, having been established in 1834. Its capital is \$3,000,000, and it is said to have a reserve of \$50,000.

The British Home Secretary, Mr. Asquith, has drafted a bill which adds another to the experiments in the care of drunkards. It empowers magistrates to order, that drunkards whose conduct shows that they are not responsible for their actions, shall be detained in curative asylums. The main difficulty, in the opinion of the N. Y. Independent, would be in finding out when they are cured, unless Dr. Keeley will take the job and agree to warrant a cure.

A dispatch from the Hague says that Wilhelmina, Queen of Holland, is developing rapidly symptoms of consumption and that the Queen Regent, who is now in the country with her and the royal physicians, fear the worst. In case of her death the Nassau-Orange dynasty would become extinct. This would lead to complications the Dutch statesmen apprehend, which might end in the annexation of the Netherlands by Germany or the accession of them to France as compensation for the loss of Alsace-Lorraine.

The argument in the Behring Sea Court has been continued through the week by Sir Charles Russell. He has held to his line that there could be no property in seals outside the territorial limit, and that the United States has no right to arrest British ships in the open sea, there being no crime of piracy. There have been a good many charges by Mr. Carter, of misrepresentation by Sir Charles of his argument, and of the position taken by the United States Government.

Scotland, Ireland and Wales have already the benefits of a law prohibiting, to a certain extent, the sale of strong drink on the Sabbath day. Legislation on this question is not so rigid as that to which we are accustomed in Canada. It is, however, effective and has proved of great value in curtailing the evil of Sunday drunkenness. Lately the Central Association for stopping the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday memorialized Mr. Gladstone in favor of a similar law for England. The reply given by the Prime Minister was that the subject is now engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

The New York Independent says: The difficulty in learning the exact facts in regard to the treatment of the Jews in Russia is illustrated by the contradictory telegrams that appear. Last week the statement was made that the government had decided to call a conference with the rabbis; this week the news comes that a new ukase has been issued, expelling them from the Asiatic provinces of the empire. The peculiar hardship of this last act is that it affects a large colony who fled for Russian protection from the persecutions of a neighbouring Moslem ruler. It is all very cruel; but taking all things into consideration, it does not appear that we can say much so long as the Geary (Chinese) Act is in force.

But for the efficiency of the Columbian secret service men, the world might have been startled by a stupendous robbery. A carefully planned and partially effected plot to loot the treasures exhibited by the watch manufacturers in the Swiss section was discovered just in time. Had the robbery been successful the booty would have been worth \$2,500,000. Under the floor occupied by the Swiss exhibition the thieves built a platform, and had actually begun cutting through the floor, when one of the secret service men made the discovery. For two nights armed officers lay in the back cellar beneath the great floor. They finally obtained sight of the robbers, and in the attempt to effect their capture several shots were fired, but the rascals managed to escape.

Francis Edward Smiley says in the Missionary Review: In the city of London, where are to be found the darkest spots in darkest England, the herculean efforts of the churches to rescue the perishing are as astounding as the gigantic evils to be grappled with. There are literally hundreds of organizations, employing thousands of missionaries, colporteurs, Bible women, nurses, Scripture readers, deaconesses and teachers, who are striving night and day, on the streets and in the tenements, to raise from the mire the souls and bodies of the "submerged tenth." In no city in the world is there exhibited a more aggressive Christianity, or are more evangelistic agencies effectively organized, or more money spent for philanthropic purposes, than in so-called "heathen London."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Religious Intelligencer: The members of a church all claim to be Christians. That is why they are banded together. They claim to take Christ as Lord and Master. They are working, they say, to honour Him and to extend His principles in the world.

Canon Farrar: Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

Dr. Alex. Whyte: O patient mother! what peace she keeps in the house, just by having peace always within herself. Paul can find no better figure wherewith to set forth God's marvellous patience with Israel during her fretful childhood in the wilderness, than just that of such a nurse among her provoking children.

The Interior: Creation's height: A Christian gentleman; a man who keeps his body pure as for the indwelling of his Maker, whose Christ-heart and father-heart make him the delight of children, whose strength and tenderness make him the refuge and admiration of women, whose power and comprehension are the glory of God.

Mark Hopkins: Everywhere the tendency has been to separate religion from morality, to set them in opposition even. But a religion without morality is a superstition and a curse, and anything like an adequate and complete morality without religion is impossible. The only salvation for man is in the union of the two as Christianity unites them.

Christian Observer: When a country deliberately repudiates a national debt, it brings upon itself a stigma which may not be effaced for a generation. While there may be in some cases apologies for repudiation, there can be no possible excuse for this deliberate violation of contract, which reflects so seriously upon the integrity of the representative men of Chicago, who are responsible for this action.

Canon Wilberforce: In the old days total abstinents were scoffed at, and we almost had to apologize for drinking water; now we find constantly people murmuring something like an apology for drinking wine in our presence. The change is coming slowly and steadily, and when we are beginning to be disheartened in our individual efforts, we must look to the change that is taking place all over the world, take courage, and thank God.

United Presbyterian: Man's first need is knowledge of God, of Christ, of sin, of salvation. The Gospel meets this need, for Christ "was made unto us wisdom." But more than knowledge is necessary. It reveals sin, but it does not deliver from its power. So Christ was made unto us "righteousness." But the atonement does not make us holy. So Christ was made unto us "sanctification." But there are trials, infirmities and death before us, and from them all we must be redeemed. And so Christ was made unto us "redemption."

Mid-Continent: The revision project has been defeated. We cannot refrain from saying that the result is, personally, very gratifying to us. In point of fact, there never was a popular demand for revision. The interest in the movement was

largely manufactured. The old Confession stands as the symbol of our faith, and we sincerely trust it will continue to occupy that proud position. The revision and new creed business is buried; let each be locked in its tomb, and the key given to the Sadducees, who believe there is no resurrection of the dead.

Sunday School Times: Character will show itself in the outer man. If the character be deteriorating, it will gradually give signs of this in the expression and features. If the character be making progress Christward, it will steadily suffuse the face, and glow in the very form and bearing. A man may deceive himself as to the direction of his moral movement, but God has so ordered nature, that a man cannot permanently deceive his fellows on this point. The light or the shade of his inner character will, sooner or later, be manifest in a man's exterior.

The Interior: The age of chivalry is not yet passed. Braver far than plumed knight of song or story, is he who cheerfully denies himself the love of a true woman, the joys of fatherhood and the cheer of his own fireside, that he may comfort and support a widowed mother or dependent sister; or, he who faithfully remains in the old home, to lift the burdens of debt from an aged father's shoulders, while others find fortune in distant fields; or, he who abides "until death," the gentle, tender lover of youthful days toward the invalid wife through years of suffering.

Christian Leader: It is the fate of every theological school to educate men for a particular service, and then see them enlist for a different, sometimes for a hostile, service! In all such cases, what is equitable? In case the student finds, as he approaches the end of his course, that he cannot honestly work for the people whose money has educated him, he has no option—he must seek affiliations where he can preach and toil with a self-approving conscience. But in case he becomes able to refund the money, that has been given for a purpose which he cannot make good, what is his duty? Well, ask self-respecting business man.

Christ's teachings are full of blessings upon the peace-makers. Christ's last prayer was for the unity of His disciples. "Follow after peace" is the formal injunction and the constant spirit of the Bible. And yet there are churches that are distracted by differences which threaten to tear them in pieces, and which make religion the merriment of the ungodly. The disgrace of such a state of things is evident and most sad. Members who ought to be brothers avoid speaking to each other, but are most free in speaking of each other. The prayer-meetings are ruined, and the work of Christ not merely is at a standstill, but goes backward.

Dr. T. L. Cuyler: Perhaps there is now a "shy, solitary, serious thought" in your heart about becoming a Christian. If you let it alone, it may fly away like a bird through a cage door left open, and may never come back. Or else a crowd of business cares and plans, or perhaps a host of social invitations will flock in, and the good thoughts be smothered to death. You have smothered just such blessed thoughts before. The thought in your heart is to become a Christian now, and the great bells ring out, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." No soul was ever yet saved, and no good deed was ever done, to-morrow. Be careful, dear friend, lest to-morrow shall find you beyond the world of probation!