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## Notes of the Week.

It is quite the thing amongst our rushing American cousins to vote the British slow in everything. They are not so very slow. It is by the British War Department that for the first time in the history of warfare a typewriter is to be brought into play on the battlefield. It has ordered a Remington for the use of the Ashantee expedition now about setting out. The value of the machine for such purposes was first demonstrated some two years ago at the Royal Military Tournament, at the Agricultural Hall in London.

Boundary disputes on this side the Atlantic are not confined to Venezuela and Britain. A dispute between France and Brazil over the boundary of French Guiana has many features similar to those of the Venezuela dispute. If the Monroe doctrine is involved in the one case, many journals think, it is inevitably involved in the other, and that the United States must lay down the law not to England alone but to France as well. The territory in dispute contains some 155,000 square miles, or about equal to all New England. In this case it is the French who have demanded arbitration, which the Brazilians refuse. As France is a European power and Brazil an American republic, Mr. Olney's doctrine will compel the States, it would seem, to take Brazil's side and fight France to prevent arbitration at the same time that they are fighting England to compel it.

In England, Presbyterians are joining very heartily in the protests now being made against further grants of money for Denominational as against Board schools, that is, undenominational schools, equivalent in the main to our commonschools, and against any disturbance of the compromise of 1870. At a meeting of Presbytery of Carlisle Rev. J. Christie denounced the attempt to destroy, or impair, the efficiency of Board schools and supply their place with denominational schools as a "gigantic conspiracy against light, liberty and progress, and he trusted ministers, elders and people in their several districts would hurry up to the front." In this connection attention may be drawn to the fact that Dr. Monro Gibson has accepted the Presidency of the Council of the English Free Churches, that is the non-established, which has been formed, among other objects, to watch, and, if necessary, take action on the education question.

The International Missionary Alliance of New York City was founded and is superintended by Rev. A. B. Simpson, formerly a minister of our Church in Hamilton. It is carried on on the same principle as the China Inland Mission, and was founded eight years ago. Three hundred missionaries have now gone out under its auspices, of whom one hundred are in China. Work is carried on in Africa, on the Congo and in the Soudan. Seventy are to be found in India, and it has representatives in Brazil, Venezuela, the West Indies, Bulgaria and Palestine. In connection with the Alliance a series of meetings were held in this city last week and on Monday of this week in connection with the leaving for South China of Mr. Robert Jaffray, a son of our own Church, and of Mr. George Shield to go to Tibet. The home work of this organization is known as the Christian Alliance and its branches are scattered throughout the United States and this country.

On January 14th here in Canada we had our snow, and sleighing, our frozen rivers and lakes, skating and curling, our ice-harvest and go wrapped up in furs. In Sydney, New South Wales, the weather on the self-same day was the hottest on record and there were many deaths from sunstroke.

The visit two years ago to this city of Dr. Grenfel, the modest, but active and efficient superintendent of the Labrador branch of the Deep Sea Mission will be well remembered. He lately arrived at Montreal from Newfoundland and gave some most interesting statistics of his most useful work. Two hospitals are kept up for the treatment of diseases and accidents at Battle Harbor and Indian Harbor in winter removed to Rigolette. Cases of all kinds to the number 4,860 had been treated, a real blessing to the inhabitants of those bleak and desolate shores. Among the good work done by the Deep Sea Mission is the distributing of clothes, etc., to the scantily clad and poor fisher folk. This has been supplied through the efforts of some kind ladies in Montreal, and Sir Donald Smith, of that city, presented the mission with a steam vessel which has been of great service. Dr. Grenfel gives the Eskimos a good character, saying that "they are an honest, lovable people."

President Baker, of the Civic Federation of Chicago, has been criticising the administration of Mayor Swift. The latter has replied in a speech charging a large share of municipal corruption upon the wealthier and more "respectable" classes. We fancy the same thing is not unknown here. The Mayor said some things which will bear repeating: "The remedy is to send men to the city council who will not pass corrupt ordinances. Who are responsible for the present state of affairs? Not the common people. Who tempt assessors? Not the small property owners on the North, South, or West sides. Who knock at the door of the council, asking for illegal franchises? The representative citizens—the high-toned people. Go among the business people and teach them their duty. Not until you do your duty should you criticize an administration that does its best. It won't do to go to your clubs or churches and talk about matters. If you love the city and are interested in its progress and future you will elect good men to manage its affairs."

Cuba has been so often in revolt against Spain that the outside world is slow to attach much importance to such things. But the present one is longer continued than many previous ones have been and has apparently better prospect of final success. The country has been oppressively taxed and should Spain fail to hold it, it will only add another to the already long list of her losses in the New World of lands she has been unable and it also seems unworthy to hold. Should the island establish its independence it will take considerable time to replace the havoc and losses of war, but it may be hoped that it will inaugurate a new and prosperous era under a firm, well-established, and self-governing independent republic. It is thought that should it come to the worst with Spain, France and Italy will unite to help her. This would be a condition of things, in which the Monroe doctrine would come into play. The rebels hold more than half the island, and are well established in the southern part of the province of Matanzas. Both the Spanish and insurgent generals are confident of a successful issue in six months, but of an entirely opposite kind. Time only can tell.

Rev. Dr. Newman Smyth in a sermon preached on a recent Sunday in New Haven took a position which all sensible and humane people will readily support. He declared that "the Venezuela question ought to be postponed for the Armonian question, and that it is the clear and paramount duty of Americans to support England in any action that she may take for the purpose of restoring order throughout Turkey. The question of an unsettled boundary is of small importance compared with the lives of two and a half millions of Christian people who will be exterminated unless they are protected by the Christian world." The two things can easily be carried on at the same time, and nothing would help the speedy and amicable settlement of the boundary question more than England and the United States working hand in hand, and side by side in the cause of a people oppressed and slaughtered for their Christian faith, against a government whose characteristics have always been hypocrisy, falsehood and fanatic cruelty and intolerance.

An enlargement of the scope of the Evangelical Alliance is proposed through its corresponding secretary, Dr. Josiah Strong, consisting chiefly in the Church recognizing and accepting to a larger degree than formerly its mission as a social reformer and benefactor. The salvation of Christ is not only for the individual but for society, and the object of this new movement of the Alliance is to aid in every possible way all organizations laboring for this end. At the same time, to quote from a circular on the subject, "the Alliance shall stand in the name of Christ on the side of practical religion, good citizenship, the enforcement of law, the promotion of sobriety, the prevention of cruelty, the alleviation of suffering, the correction of injustice, the rescue of the unfortunate, the reformation of the depraved, and for such kindred ends as pertain to the true social mission of the Church; it being understood that all activities of the Alliance shall be subservient to spiritual results, which must always be the supreme object of the Churches." This proposal meets with the approval of such well-known public men as Bishop Vincent, Dr. Francis E. Clark, Dr. Barrows and Dr. Parkhurst.

The municipal affairs of Philadelphia have been discovered to be in scarcely any better condition than those of New York city. At a reform mass meeting held in the Quaker city, attended in large number, it is said, by representative business men, Mr. Roosevelt made an address. He narrated how a Congressman, a State Senator, and two assemblymen tried to influence a police court in New York city to let off saloon-keeper Callahan, arrested for knocking down a policeman who tried to make him keep his saloon closed on Sunday according to law. "You would be astonished," he said, "if I should tell you the names of men, standing high in New York city, who came to me for some of the worst people that there were in the police department because it was a department in which money could accomplish almost anything; any man who had money, whether he was a law-abiding citizen or criminal, could buy protection and the services of the police if it was necessary for him to have them, and naturally he got efficient services for which he paid, and he was not willing to receive merely the protection that would be meted out to him exactly as to other citizens, rich or poor. He did not want the change which would deprive him of the advantage his money gave him in getting police protection."

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Ram's Horn: There is joy in heaven over the sinner that repents, even though he may have been a member of the Church for years.

Luthardt. Heathenism was the seeking religion; Judaism the hoping religion; Christianity is what heathenism sought and Judaism hoped for.

Cumberland Presbyterian: A prayerless pew is nearly always either a careless or a carping pew, and either is as undesirable as an empty pew.

Rev. J. Cumming Smith, M.A.: This age lies in the atmosphere of sociology and sociology is deeper, manlier, more heroic than socialism. Brainless benevolence and dishwater almsgiving are almost back numbers. It is the duty of the Church to bend its best thought to the problem of poverty.

Presbyterian Witness: Amusements, entertainments,—what are they in this very earnest and awful life of ours, with its tragedies, rebellious, wars, disasters, cruelties! It becomes us to clothe ourselves with the whole armor of faith; with perfect loyalty to God and to our highest convictions. God should be in all our thoughts.

Hamilton Spectator: If Ian MacLaren can lecture as well as he writes, his appearance as a lecturer in Canada and the United States will be something good to look forward to. Ian MacLaren (or, to give him his real name and title, the Rev. John Watson) is one of the very few persons of genuine genius who are using the English language as a vehicle of expression.

Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.: Keep your heart's window always open toward heaven. Let the blessed light of Jesus' countenance shine in. It will turn tears to rainbows. This last receipt is the best one. It is all very well to say, "Do right, and you'll be happy;" but there is something more than that needed. We must let the spring of our lives be in Christ, letting His Spirit guide us in all we do.

Advance: Teaching the Gospel narrative without earnest spiritual effort, or without keeping prominent its tremendous truths in regard to sin and redemption, and the destiny of the soul, is to leave out that which most of all gives reality and reason to the miraculous element. The Divine purpose was that the Church itself should be a continuous miracle, an ever living reason for faith in the past and hope in the promises of the future.

Philadelphia Presbyterian: There is much lamentation in many churches, not that their pastors are unfaithful in their work, or that they are unworthy in character, but that they "do not draw." They will not stoop to the use of carnal methods to fill the pews and to enrich the church coffers. It is not their business to popularize the house of God. They are to work for spiritual results. Applauding crowds are for the platform, not for the pulpit. The Church is for the edification of saints and the salvation of sinners. He who is faithful to his God-given mission deserves the approval, not the criticism, of his people.