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Notes of the Week.

The *New York Observer* says that Dr. Pentecost is preaching for Dr. Hall at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, every Sunday till September. He commenced by delivering a most interesting and powerful sermon on St. Paul's determination exclusively to preach the crucified Christ.

The last number of *Manitoba College Journal* contains eight or ten pages of interesting notes of the lectures on Hebrew poetry delivered to the students during the summer session by Dr. George Adam Smith. They are interesting for what they contain and still more for what they suggest. Speaking of Dr. Smith himself the journal says: "Those who were privileged to hear him were drawn in sympathy toward him and came away with souls enriched. His matter was splendid, his style was grand, but his personality was irresistible."

Prof. W. W. White, D.D., formerly of Xenia Theological Seminary and later of Chicago Bible Institute, will soon leave for India to give lectures and addresses on the Bible in the University of Calcutta. A building in the heart of the college quarters has been secured for £10,000 through the generosity of Lord Overton and others in England and America. An auditorium is being prepared to hold a thousand persons, and great interest is being shown among the students in the project. Prof. White enjoys great distinction as a Bible teacher.

Protests have been heard, or at least grumbings, in our General Assembly against receiving into the Church so many applicants from other bodies. At the recent meeting of the Synod of the U. P. Church of Scotland four ministers from other denominations were received into membership and the action has not been favourably received either by the students in the colleges or by the probationers of the Church. At the present time there are no fewer than seventy-three probationers, and only three bona-fide home vacancies, though in the foreign mission field men are wanted.

There is a rumour in Marylebone, says the *British Weekly*, "which we give for what it is worth, that Dr. Pentecost is anxious to spend the winter in India, and that a wealthy friend has offered £1,000 to recoup the congregation for the expense incurred in his absence. Possibly the foundation for this rumour is to be found in the fact that an Indian missionary, who preached some months ago in the church, said that no one had been more successful among the educated natives than Dr. Pentecost, and expressed the hope that the congregation would soon allow him to return to India for an evangelistic tour."

The 1st inst. was the anniversary of the massacre at Kucheng, by a fanatical band of Chinese, of the Rev. Robt. Stewart, Mrs. Stewart and the young ladies of the mission. In the little English Church burying-ground at Foo-chow their graves are placed side by side. The English community there have collected amongst themselves to place over these graves a beautiful marble monument. The device, it is now nearly agreed upon, is to be that of an angel with outstretched wings, protecting, as it were, these graves of martyrs. Formerly many of

the English colony felt and expressed anything but kindly sympathy with the missionaries and their work, but the awful fate of these young and pious girls has swept away every feeling but that of sorrow for their untimely end, and sympathy with the bereaved.

Last autumn an unofficial recess committee, representing all classes, of the Home Parliament, irrespective of party, was appointed to consider what could be done for the good of Ireland. This committee has just reported, and, while of course, England is blamed, it appears that one of the chief causes of Ireland's poverty is its wretched system of agriculture. "Ours," the committee declares, "is by common consent one of the simplest and most barbarous systems of agriculture of Western Europe, both as regards the want of variety in the crops and the scantiness of the produce." With more scientific methods Sir Robert Kane thinks the Irish agricultural yield might be made three times more valuable than it is now.

Lately the Hawarden and Buckley Horticultural Society held its annual show in the Hawarden Park, and there was a turnout to it of the whole Gladstone household. According to his custom Mr. Gladstone made a pleasant speech of a familiar kind to the people, in which, after speaking of the advantages dwellers in towns have now compared with former times, he added: "Yet it was a blessed thing to live in the eye of Nature and in the clear light of day. He had been a townsman most of his life, but he was a rural man, one of the country folk now, and it was a great enjoyment to be free from the foul rivers, and the masses of smoke and the darkness that overhang many of the great towns, and to enjoy the scenery that was around them, the light and the air God had given them."

The Methodist Conference in England has passed a resolution declaring "That in the judgment of the Conference the time has come when it is desirable to apply to Parliament for a private Bill to repeal those portions of Clause 11 of the Deed Poll which prohibit the appointment of ministers for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any chapel and premises." An amendment was moved, but was lost by 239 votes to 126. The above resolution was then carried by 248 to 119. This action of the Conference in England will undoubtedly lead in time to similar action of the Methodist body in Canada where it has been tried and hitherto failed. The itinerating system has its advantages, but churches once gathered, often require fostering care, which the shortness of the present system forbids.

At a public meeting of the Students' Foreign Missionary Society of Manitoba College an address by Dr. Beattie on "The Negro Problem in the Southern States," formed the main feature of the evening. He gave some startling information in regard to those who a few years ago were set free and given the rights of men. Not all brightness and blessing evidently has liberty proved to them. With intellects weakened by long years of servitude, the responsibilities of freedom have proved too much for numbers of them, and insanity has resulted to an almost alarming degree, and to moral natures weakened by the irresponsible life of the slave, the temptations of irresponsible citizenship have been all too strong and many have found their way into the jails and penitentiaries. With

many such facts the audience were enlightened by the instructive address of Dr. Beattie.

No one who has read "A Window in Thrums" can ever forget "Jess." A correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* writes: "Death has darkened the little window at Thrums. 'Jess,' the loatheless heroine of Mr. Barrie's memorable story is dead. To-day, on a newly-turfed grave in the cemetery of Kirrmuir, there lies a beautiful wreath of fading flowers, bearing on a card the inscription, 'To the memory of my oldest friend,' and signed, 'J. M. Barrie.' She had been intimately known to the novelist from his boyhood, and esteemed by his parents, who not infrequently committed him in his childhood to her charge. Little they dreamed that the laddie was one day, man unlooked-for fashion, to immortalize his kindly custodian. For years she was an invalid, and the little window of the 'house on the brae' proved her only outlook on the world. That Jess received many a kindness at the hands of the novelist, and many a little reminder that fame and fortune had not intruded between him and 'his oldest friend,' goes without saying."

Ottawa is full of the new and old members of Parliament, men on business with the new Government, and sightseers drawn to witness the unusual sight of the opening of a Liberal Parliament under a Liberal Government. Those of all parties, for the country's sake, we can well believe, will join in good wishes for the success of the new Government in all that can tend to advance in any way the public good. The Manitoba School question which for so long has been such a fruitful source of contention, irritation and danger, it is hinted is now in a fair way for a peaceful settlement which, should it turn out to be so, will be welcomed by all fair, moderate-minded people. Any settlement of it will necessarily cause disappointment to some extremists on the side both of the advocates of a purely secular system and of separate schools; but if it is settled in such a way, as we have no doubt it will be, as to promote in the highest degree the general intelligence and education of all classes, and so as to satisfy the great body of the people of Manitoba, it will be a cause for general thanksgiving and rejoicing.

Li Hung Chang, the real ruler of China, has already been feted and feasted in the chief continental capitals, and has last of all been lionized in London, where he has been taken to see every thing which one holding his high position desires to see. One paper tells us he is to be known as Li Chung Tang, meaning Grand Secretary Li. In addition to his eldest and youngest sons who accompany him, he takes with him a wicker sedan chair in which he is carried when not driven in a carriage. He has also his own cooks who serve up his favorite dishes. Passing from the House of Commons to the House of Lords he was very respectfully saluted by members who formed a lane of spectators in the lobby. One of the objects of his visit, he says, is to strengthen the good feeling between England and China, and to promote the peace and prosperity of both countries. Success in this may be devoutly wished because of the many and great interests involved. It would be interesting to know just what his private thoughts about the places, the customs and people he has seen are, and what the future results of this visit may be. It is not without interest to us that on his way home he will make Canada a flying visit, taking in Toronto.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

John Ruskin: The training which makes men happiest in themselves also makes them most serviceable to others.

President B. L. Whitman, D.D.: What men usually need is not possession, but quickening; not knowledge, but power.

Rev. James L. Hill, D.D.: What anyone has received by way of native endowment or by way of acquisition he holds in trust for all others.

Lutheran Observer: The most pitiable of all people are the aimless, purposeless, miserable mortals found alike among rich and poor.

Rev. R. S. MacArthur, D.D.: Patriotism and piety are twin flowers, growing on one stem, whose root is obedience to and love of God and man.

The Gospel Banner: The carnal mind is not removed in conversion—or in the new birth. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." 1 Cor. 3:1.

Bishop Walters: An important factor in the formation of Christian citizens is a live and patriotic church, aglow with the spirit of Christ. It is the light of the church that is to dispel the darkness of ignorance, superstition, and doubt.

Exchange: Good form and true politeness require the graceful acknowledgment of any favor, however small, either by word or speech, and the more promptly this is done the better. A delayed note of gratitude or a tardy word of thanks always misses its opportunity.

Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D.D.: The making of the to-morrow is in the hands of the young people. And that future shall be safe for home, church, country, for all high advance, for all ennobling civilization, as that future shall pass more capitulatingly than any yesterday or today has done, beneath the sceptre of Jesus Christ.

Rev. W. H. York: Our personal influence will be measured by our public confession of Christ. There is a vast difference between a guide board standing by the roadside, with its mute utterance, and an intelligent, communicative guide that can answer our questions. Justice to our Master demands that we give testimony for Him.

The Endeavor Herald: One of the strongest religious influences exerted by reason of the great conventions is not sufficiently recognized. We refer to the place given by the secular press to reports of the proceedings. Not only the press of the city in which the convention was held, but the leading newspapers throughout the country gave a generous amount of space to the transactions.

Central Presbyterian, Richmond: The Presbyterian member ought to be sufficiently well-informed to conscientiously recommend the system he approves to others. This is not bigotry, but faithfulness to God. Let him be able to show that it is both closely conformed to the Bible, and at the same time eminently catholic and charitable. In this way, he can hope to advance the great cause for which the Saviour died.