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Notes of the Week.

In his late Encyclical on Labour, the Pope gives utterance to some very sound sentiments, and to some others which, though not so practicable, it may be hoped that time and wise counsels and kindlier feeling growing between employers and employed may bring about.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in declining an invitation to attend the "Parliament of Religions" to be held at Chicago, contends that "the Christian religion is the one religion," and that to rank it among other contending systems is to lower its authority by "assuming the equality of the other intended members, and the parity of their position and claims." It is quite the fashion in these days to put all religions on the one level. There is an Athenian eagerness to form a pantheon in which gods of all kinds shall be placed, and to bring about a confederacy in which all creeds shall be endorsed. The old story of Dagon's fall before the Ark is surely apropos to this design. The religion of Christ is truly the one religion based upon the word God has spoken, and as a Divine revelation abides supreme. It is not on its trial before men: rather, men are on their trial before it.

The postal authorities of Belgium have issued a special "Sunday stamp." It came first into use on June 1st. The new Belgian stamp is provided with a small label, on which is printed in French and Flemish, "N'est pas delivre le Dimanche"—"Niet bestellen op Zondag." That is to say, no letter provided with this stamp is to be delivered on Sunday. A letter thus stamped will be retained in the Post Office until early on Monday morning. This innovation was suggested by the Minister of Railways and Post, Van den Peerebom, who is a very strong Roman Catholic, and would gladly put a more extensive limit to postal labours on Sundays. Some time since he succeeded in carrying his motion for the Sunday closing of all local post offices after twelve o'clock at noon. As letters provided with the ordinary stamp will be delivered on Sundays as usual, the sale of the new Sunday stamp will serve as a kind of indirect popular referendum on Sunday posting.

Some time ago Captain Molony, an officer belonging to the garrison at Halifax, agreed at the rector's request to deliver a series of addresses upon the evidences of Christianity. Captain Molony had already given the first of the series, when his commanding officer forbade him to continue. We understand that leading people in Halifax made representations to the Home Office, which have led to an important decision bearing upon the subject. It has been decided that the liberty of an officer or soldier is not to be restricted in the matter of giving addresses, preaching, conducting classes, unless the individual enters upon controversial subjects. If the officer discusses controversial subjects, the general officer will then exercise his discretion in the matter. The authorities do not wish to restrict the liberty of those in the service, especially in the face of the splendid services of many of the brightest ornaments the army has ever possessed. Sir Henry Havelock, General Gordon, and Captain Hedley Vickers have shown to the world that a man can be a good soldier for his country and also a faithful soldier of Jesus Christ. We congratulate the rector of St. Paul's, Halifax, Rev. Dyson Hague and Captain Molony upon the result.

A deplorable condition of affairs among the labouring classes has been caused in Colorado and Denver, its capital, by the closing down of many silver mines, smelters and the reduction of the working forces of coal mines, railways and manufacturing in the State because of the reduction in price of silver. It is estimated that to-day there are 10,000 men in Denver unable to secure employment. There are 20,000 in outside towns in the same condition, one-half of whom are making their way to Denver, where they will become a public charge, if conditions do not speedily change. In order to avoid this all the commercial bodies in the city met with representatives of Eastern roads, and the latter were asked to make a \$5 rate from Denver to the Missouri river for this class of people. It is argued that these men are not paupers, but if they can get into the agricultural districts they will be able to secure employment in the harvest fields, where men will be in demand.

The new criminal code, which went into effect on Dominion Day, deals a heavy blow at the betting and pool-selling rooms. We give the clause in full. "Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to one year's imprisonment, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, who (a) uses or knowingly allows any part of any premises under his control to be used for the purpose of recording or registering any bet or wager, or selling any pool; or (b) keeps, exhibits, or employs, or knowingly allows to be kept exhibited or employed in any part of any premises under his control, and device or apparatus for the purpose of recording any bet or wager, or selling any pool; or (c) becomes the custodian or depository of any money, property, or valuable thing staked, wagered or pledged; or (d) records or registers any bet or wager, or sells any pool upon the result—(1) of any political or municipal election; (2) of any race; (3) of any contest or trial of skill or endurance of man or beast."

Society is not a human invention, but a divine inspiration, for the real social contract is not merely a right between man and man, but between man and God. When an individual fills his duty to God, he cannot fail in performing it to society. The divine law has declared property sacred and inviolable. Cursed be he who removeth his neighbour's land mark. But the poor man has, nevertheless, a right to be assisted by the rich, not by indiscriminate almsgiving, but by preparing such employment for him as will be useful. "If a man will not work, neither shall he eat," but if he hath no work, it is plainly the duty of those who can do so to provide it for him. This legitimates property: no so-called right has any sanction if not sanctioned by God, red and inviolable. Cursed be he who expects the blessing of Heaven. The masses allow themselves to be led by agitators who have no real interest in the case they so loudly uphold beyond a sordid or a selfish one, and this is why strikes are so unprofitable of beneficial results. Placed on a basis more social than economic, being more of a struggle than a pacification, more of aggression than defence, the strike loses its natural aspect and hides its essence. A strike can be justified only as a means of defence when an individual interest is attacked; never can it be justified as a collective arm of aggression. The right of protecting the operative, whether in factory or in the field, should be admitted, and for this purpose the maximum of labour as well as the minimum of salary should be fixed. The hours of labour should be arranged giving due attention to days of rest and abstention from labour.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Young Men's Era: The right of "free speech" often means that a man has the right to be about you, but you have to tell the truth about him.

W. E. Channing: God be thanked for books! They are the voice of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages.

Bishop Hall: Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate.

Ruskin: All knowledge is lost which ends in knowing, for every truth we know is a candle given us to work by. Gain all the knowledge you can—and then use it for the highest purpose.

Sunday School Times: Living or dead, they who are in Christ are sharing Christ's work, for they who are in Christ can never die; and where He is they are sharers of his labor and influence.

The Phrenological Journal: Happiness comes from the true adjustment and the right use of faculty. Running water is pure water. There may be a sort of dull content in stagnation, but never joy.

Jonathan Hayseeds: Not how many years, but how many souls reached, is the true measure of a life. If you're a lover of truth you'll court her. If you're only an intellectual coxcomb, you'll expect her to come and court you.

The Interior: It would oftentimes help us to bear our trials were we to reflect that we all are God's servants rather than His guests. This does not degrade us, for the work of all the world is carried forward by underlings. No monarch saves a state, no commander wins a battle, no captain sails a ship, no trader amasses a fortune, but by the fidelity of his servants. To be God's servants, faithful, is to be the world's co-redeemers.

Rev. Alex. McLaren, D. D.: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." That saying takes heaven's point of view in regard to what makes true blessedness. The world says the exact opposite, because the world is based on self-regard. God is himself the great example of the higher truth, because God is love. He is "the giving God," therefore He is "the blessed God." Love ever delights to bestow. In the measure in which we drink in Christ's spirit, we shall know the blessedness which filled His heart, and find in imparting a purer joy than in acquiring. Unless we have begun to know and feel this, what token do we show of being Christ's?

J. E. Rankin, Pres. Howard University: It has always been my practice to take a sponge or shower bath every morning before dressing. I have used a saw-horse, a saddle horse, a bicycle. I have tried the gymnasium. At present I rise at 6 a.m., take my market basket and make the current purchases of the day. I always wait upon myself, whether in the case of my steam heater, or in the case of my shoes. I think the gospel of self-help a very important consideration, when you look at health. Many of the miseries that flesh is heir to come from sedentary habits, and from being waited on by others, when you should wait upon yourself.

The Interior: We are confident, not from prepossessions but from observation of trials in many lands, that more can be accomplished in six days' labor and one day's rest, than in seven continuous days of toil indefinitely repeated. No law ever placed upon a statute book has done more for progress and for the conservation of the physical forces upon which progress depends, than the Fourth Commandment. The civil-Sunday laws, the only ones in force in any part of America, will by and by be as urgently demanded in the interests of the physical man, as the enforcement of a national quarantine. Before there was a science of hygiene there was a divine wisdom guiding the legislation of Moses.

Evangelical Churchman: It is certain, as men accustomed to missions and evangelistic services bear witness, that conversions are more numerous in early than in later life. In the same way, the greatest reforms and work accomplished may be traced to youthful energy and enthusiasm. Luther had won the battle of the Reformation at thirty-five. Melancthon was defending the truth and had gained the Greek chair at Wittenberg when only twenty-one. Wesley and Whitefield began the revival with which their names will be forever associated when they were students at Oxford. Calvin published his "Institutes" at twenty-six. What would the Christian world do to-day, in every department of Christian effort, without the strength and seal of consecrated youth?

The Rev. A. T. Pierson, D. D.: Hear the testimony of the Word: "Let every man in that calling wherein he is found, therein abide with God." The presumption is, that where the converting grace of God finds me, there I am to abide, if my calling be honest and honorable; but I am to take a new Partner into my business, and "therein abide with God." For the carpenter to do good work and use well-dried lumber and make close joints; for the mason to do, as Balaam, the son of Zabbai, did, when he "earnestly repaired the piece" of wall, and to put his conscience and piety into brick and mortar; for the tailor to put good cloth and not shoddy into the coat, and sew it well; for the shoemaker to have his job done when he promises, and not use paste instead of wax thread; for the servant-maid to sweep the corners, and wash the pots and kettles thoroughly, and not fret—that is service. In a word, for any one of us to be just where God has put us, and to do just what He bids us, and be content—that is service.

New York Evangelist: Whatever be the issue of present controversies, as to the future we have no fear. We believe in the Bible as in harmony with all truth wherever found, and therefore we would encourage the fullest investigation. No power can stop the progress of science. The Catholic Church may bring Galileo to his knees, but cannot stop the motion of the earth, any more than the Pope's bull against the comet could scare it away from its place in the heavens. Neither could any vote of an Assembly stop the course of historical and Biblical investigation. The critical study of the Bible by eminent scholars of England, Germany and America, with all the light thrown upon ancient history by modern discoveries, will only bring forth treasures new and old, to enlarge our knowledge and strengthen our faith. Strong in this assurance, we are not troubled by occasional setbacks. Truth has all ages for its own; and if now and then there be temporary reverses, we have only to wait patiently, doing the duty of the hour, and leaving the result to God and to time.