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Notes of the Week.

One whose name has long been prominent in the politics of Greece has just passed away, Tricoupias. He was many times prime minister, but never succeeded in holding the office for a long time. His last effort was to improve the financial system, but in this he failed.

The annual budget statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain last week shows that the past year has been an unusually prosperous one for the United Kingdom. The statement shows a surplus of \$21,000,000. Judging from the consumption of tea, tobacco and sugar, the chancellor reports that the condition of the working classes has materially improved. He recommends a reduction of certain land taxes, which, however, affects only the large proprietors.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Theodore Cuyler, he preached at the Lafayette Avenue Church, Brooklyn. His subject was the "Angels at the Sepulchra." In the course of the sermon he told of his experience as a minister of the Gospel, and told it so that his audience was fascinated. His testimony is that "the highest glory of the minister is to exalt the Cross of Calvary; and the highest joy of life is to save the souls of his fellow creatures."

A recent decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, declares that business buildings erected by any religious, educational or charitable society, from the rent of which a revenue is received, are not exempt from taxation. This decision will affect injuriously the income of all those corporations which have put up buildings intended in part for their own use, and portions of which are let for stores and such like purposes, and from which in many cases no inconsiderable part of their revenue is derived.

The death is announced at Alderley, Cheshire, lately, of Richard Weaver, the well-known evangelist. Weaver was a converted collier who in the earlier seventies made a great stir as a revival preacher. He travelled all over the country, and was a good deal in Scotland, and being possessed of a wonderful flow of natural oratory he met with a remarkable reception. A hymn book was compiled and still bears his name. Latterly he got under a cloud, and has not been heard of for a good many years past. He was sixty-nine years of age.

Princeton College, New Jersey, is to receive the gift of a new library building. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held lately, the offer of a new library building was made from a generous donor whose name, for the present, is withheld. He proposes to erect a fine stone edifice, which will cost from \$300,000 to \$500,000, and to bear the entire expense of the erection himself. The gifts to the College in this memorial year are likely to be large. Judging from what has already been promised, it is thought that more than \$1,000,000 will be added to the endowment of the College.

A remarkable conference is to be held this week in Washington in the interest of a permanent system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain. The members of the conference include some of the most prominent men in the country, judges, college presidents, statesmen, clergymen and business men. It is expected that the chief justice of the United States will open the conference, and that Ex-Senator Edmunds will preside. Of all the meetings called to help forward this great cause, this is likely to be the most important, and the result of it will be looked for with great interest.

It will be remembered that the late Leland Stanford, of California, made most munificent provision in his will for the endowment of a university in the State which was to be called by his name. The will was contested by certain parties in a suit against the estate which, had it been successful, would have defeated the aims of the testator and his wife, Mrs. Stanford. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided the case against the Leland Stanford estate for \$15,000,000 in favor of Mrs. Stanford, Judge Harlan delivering the opinion. This decision will enable Mrs. Stanford to carry out her husband's and her own generous aims for Stanford University.

The last *Belfast Witness* to hand gives full accounts of the closing exercises at the beginning of this month of Magee College, Derry, and the Assembly's College, Belfast. Both were occasions of great interest. In the former Professor Petticrew, D.D., delivered the closing address, taking for his subject, "'Back to the Gospels,'—Calvinism taught in them." The lately appointed Rev. Professor Herron, D.D., gave the closing lecture in the latter college, and took for his subject, "The title 'The Church of Ireland,' and the claim involved in it historically regarded." It is needless to say that both addresses were able. The demand for brevity can hardly be so strong in Ireland as amongst ourselves, for both addresses were not only able, but long as well.

An experiment which might perhaps be tried with good effect in some of the most northern parts of our Dominion has been successfully made in Alaska, through the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson. It is the introducing of reindeer into the country. Its possibility has been tested and their utility has been clearly established. They are swifter than dogs, traveling ninety miles a day, whereas the former can average but thirty-five, thus making swift communication between scattered settlements feasible. Their natural increase is rapid—estimated at fifty per cent.—so that in a brief time large herds may be expected, thus affording a new and higher employment for the contiguous native populations, in transforming them by degrees from the precarious pursuits of hunting and fishing to the more profitable and steady condition of herdsmen. The skins and meat of the reindeer are valuable for clothing and food. The natives are finding them a veritable godsend. At present nearly 1,000 head are herded at Port Clarence, near Behring Strait.

The Hymnal Committee of the General Assembly at a large meeting held here lately concluded a series of meetings which have extended over a period of three years. The hymnal to be presented to the next General Assembly for adoption will be of about the same size as that heretofore used. The Executive Committee will continue to work in connection with the Scottish committees and report results. It is not probable, however, that a common hymnal in Canada and Scotland will be arranged. The Scottish Assembly meets in May, and it is understood that their hymnal is not likely to be completed by that time, and the matter will have to be deferred for another year. The presence was much missed, as in everything else in which he took part, of the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and a suitable resolution was passed by the committee expressive of its sense of the loss sustained by his death.

A writer in the *Church at Home and Abroad*, which corresponds in the Presbyterian Church in the United States North to our *Record*, gives the following encouraging statement, showing the growth of Presbyterianism in California between the years named:—

	1884.	1895.
Presbyteries.....	5	7
Ministers.....	161	271
Churches.....	141	227
Added on examination	710	1687
Added by letter.....	806	1,705
Whole membership.....	9,592	21,392
Sunday School membership.....	13,510	23,895
Contributions for benevolent work.....	\$21,155	\$56,786
Contributions for congregational work.....	201,027	323,222
Miscellaneous.....	10,852	17,021

By this showing the gain in Church membership has been in these eleven years more than three times as fast the population.

Perhaps no home subject is at present absorbing more of the public attention in England than the school question. There the fight is that of the non-established bodies against the aim and effort of the Anglican State Church to use the day schools, and get public money wherewith to pay for the propagation of the system and doctrines of the Anglican Church, just as Roman Catholics are seeking to do in Manitoba, aided by the whole strength of the Hierarchy in the Dominion. The following remarks of a Congregational minister set forth the position taken on this subject by the dissenting churches which is substantially that of Protestants in Canada: "They could not seek to strengthen their churches by an appeal to the State for subsidies or patronage in any form, not even for the education of the young for the purpose of furthering their peculiar religious tenets. They claimed to be as zealous for the education of the children, both of a secular and a religious kind, as any of their fellow-subjects, but they would scorn to seek to strengthen their churches by any such means. Moreover, they were prepared to resist the unrighteousness of those who would do so. They dominated no man's faith, but would have him take what was, as they believed, the only undenominational book in the world—the Bible—as it was the only infallible guide for all Divine knowledge and life."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Tennessee Methodist: The best abused man that ever lived was Jesus Christ, and those that abused Him have had lineal descendants all along the ages, even down to this day.

Ram's Horn: When we go from one room into another, we do not become different persons. When we pass into the other world we shall take with us the character and the recollections which we had here.

Bismarck: A people that gives up God is like a people that gives up a territory; it is a lost people. There is only one greater folly than that of the fool who says in his heart, "There is no God," and that is the folly of a people that says in its heart that it does not know whether there is a God or not.

Central Presbyterian: God often makes use of afflictions, as a means to reduce those to himself, who have wandered from Him. Sanctified afflictions humble us for sin, and show us the vanity of the world, they soften the heart, and open the ear to discipline. The prodigal's distress brought him to himself first, and then to his father.

The Observer: Religious pessimism is the deadliest blight that can fall on the spirit of any man who calls himself by the name of Christian, smiting his activity into spiritual barrenness, and pushing the ardors of enthusiasm out of his life. Its fruit is the cynicism which mars the beauty and blessedness of religion. We should beware of its insidious leaven. We should leave fault-finding to the enemy, and banish doubt and despair by the expulsive power of the passion of an optimism founded on the promises of God.

Canon Du Moulin: If every workman will remember that the Lord of heaven and earth—the almighty Saviour of Mankind, the Prince of the Kings of the earth—bent His back and lent His hand to daily toil, then they would scorn everything dishonourable, the mean scamping, the mere hiring spirit that puts in the hour and the day; the grasping spirit; the uprising and violent spirit; the discontented spirit; the war-making spirit, and the agitating spirit. If every workman follows the leadership of this one model workman, Christ; then labor and the laboring man must always and forever command the respect and admiration of all people of this world.

Zions Herald: Why not be out and out for God? What good is there in the half-and-half? Is it not better to settle some question once for all? Most surely the question of our allegiance to the Lord ought to be settled that it shall never again be counted open. He whose loyalty is in any way left doubtful gives encouragement to the enemy, and prepares for himself endless trouble. It is better to have it out with Satan in a pitched battle wherein all the forces of both sides are brought on to the field, and where the adversary gets so overwhelmingly crushed that he loses all desire for a repetition of that sort of thing. A resolute life is in every way a gain; it is the admiration of angels and the reproDUCTION of Christ.