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Notes of the Week.

In the selection of school committees recently, women for the first time voted in Connecticut cities and towns. There were Protestant and Catholic tickets in the field, and the women of either creed vied with each other in their efforts on behalf of their respective candidates. This does not look as if the giving of votes to women on all questions would have that elevating effect on politics that is sometimes claimed. There is no place where an inferior demagogue has such advantage over a good man as in a contest for a public office conducted on sectarian lines.

Offers for free sites for the Columbian Methodist college were received from Victoria, Vancouver, Chilliwack, Burnaby, the best being from the Royal City. On the result of the fifth ballot, by a 15 to 10, the decision went in favour of Westminster. Principal Whittington said that it is hoped that the college may be able to occupy at least a portion of its own building by the beginning of the next collegiate year, and to that end the Board of Managers was instructed to perfect plans for the building, and for the securing of an endowment, with all convenient speed. Already very valuable promises of assistance towards the building have been received, both from within and without the Province.

Rev. Dr. Robertson, our Superintendent of Missions, on his return from the West, calls attention to the want of adequate supply of ministers in B.C. and the Presbytery of Calgary. The Province of British Columbia is suffering severely from the financial depression incident to its nearness to the States, and on account of the coast trade being interlocked on both sides. The salmon catch on the Fraser will amount to 20,500,000 pounds, and this will help New Westminster, but the population of the Province must increase before it is capable of supporting four such cities as New Westminster, Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo. Owing to the greater activity in coal mining, there is less depression at Nanaimo. The monthly wages paid at Nanaimo alone amount to \$60,000. It is said that fully \$750,000 have been spent this year by the C.P.R. west of the second crossing of the Columbia, in improving the track in various important ways.

Cardinal Gibbons has been interviewed upon the progress of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, and he professes to be greatly satisfied and full of hope, because it numbers ten million of adherents. His eminence must be easily satisfied. When it is remembered how many millions of Roman Catholic immigrants have come from the Old World to this country, the earnest efforts which that Church, rightly, has always made to keep hold of the young, and to gain others, the pompous and attractive displays it makes on public occasions, and despite of all, can only reckon less than one-sixth of the population, the ground for high hopes for the future are, we should say, not so bright as the Cardinal would have us believe they are. Because some Protestant bodies are organizing among them an order of deaconesses, he supposes they are in this borrowing from and coming nearer to the R. C. Church. We have never yet seen a single instance of any Protestant body quoting the example of the Church of

Rome as a reason for its conduct in this respect. It will also be news to most that it is getting many converts, but keeps quiet upon that subject. It has not been the habit hitherto for the Roman Catholic Church to do so.

A network of railways will soon be extended through Palestine from Egypt to Damascus, the trains passing en route the tomb of Rachel and the tower of Ramleh, flying through Joppa and along the coast to Jerusalem, where there is a neat little station. In the immediate vicinity of Joppa stands the new railroad depot, which was formally opened with imposing ceremonies by the Governor of Jerusalem, Ibrahim Hakki Pasha. As the train moved away with a shrill shriek of the whistle, the women and children put their hands over their ears and screamed, while the Arabs scampered away badly frightened. From Joppa to Jerusalem the distance is about thirty-six miles by cars, and the trip requires about three and one-half hours. The trains run from Joppa to Jerusalem twice a day, and in no place in the world can there be more of history crowded into three hours of travel. There is now a great railway system in the course of construction, which will girdle the Holy Land from one end to the other. A French company has secured a concession for a line from Beyrout to Damascus, and has already commenced work on a narrow-gauge road. An English syndicate is now building a railway from Haifa to Damascus, which will be about 140 miles long, starting from Haifa. This road will undoubtedly prove of the greatest interest to Syria in an agricultural and commercial way, furnishing means for placing upon the eastern market the rich products in which that section abounds.

An interview with the Rev. Dr. White is reported in the Christian Commonwealth, in which some interesting points are touched upon. It appears that the old Scotch custom of having the second Sunday service in the afternoon, is giving way to our plan of having it in the evening. While the full service was the morning one, he could not say that once a day hearing was on the increase. Neither does he think that the working classes are forsaking the church more than the upper classes. He could not go the length of saying that the working classes are alienated from the church. The fact is, if you plant down a man of great individuality and freshness and power among any working-class community in Edinburgh, he will soon gather a congregation. "Man!" Dr. White added earnestly, "it is the want of men in the pulpit that's the trouble." He spoke well of the progress that all three Presbyterian bodies are making, saying of the U.P. Church, that associated with it are some of the finest covenanting and evangelical traditions of Scotland, and it has a certain genius of its own that is very valuable in our Scottish life." The Doctor is justly proud of the F.C. Colleges and the scores of students, the ability and eminence of their professors draw from abroad. With regard to Calvinistic doctrines, he said that, although not preached, probably in the same way as once they were, they are just as dear as ever they were to both preacher and hearer when they are truly religious people, and unless they animate the preacher at bottom and pervade his preaching, he will not long hold the best people in Scotland. The greatest breadth and largeness of atmosphere can be brought in round about that. I think everything belongs to a evangelical Christianity—she is the queen.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Great Thoughts: God is not tied to means: for illumination of the mind, He often lights a great lamp of the sanctuary at a little wax-paper, as He did Paul by Ananias.

J. R. Miller, D.D.: The Indians say that when a man kills a foe, the strength of the slain enemy passes into the victor's arm. In the weird fancy lies a truth. Each defeat leaves us weaker for the next battle, but each conquest makes us stronger.

Carey: "My secret was, I could plod." In all departments of Christian work, persevering industry wins the honours from brilliant genius. Therefore, humanly speaking, success is within any man's reach. The old fable has many illustrations—the turtle often outruns the fox.

Philip Schaff, D.D.: The existence of two or more schools in one church, is a sign of strength rather than weakness: it shows vitality, encourages a noble rivalry, and ensures progress. Controversy is preferable to stagnation if it is conducted not for private interests, but for victory of the truth.

Great Thoughts: Infinite toil would not enable you to sweep away a mist: but by ascending a little, you may often look over it altogether. So it is with our moral improvements: we wrestle fiercely with a vicious habit, which would have no hold on us, if we ascended into a higher moral atmosphere.

Southern Presbyterian Assembly: The General Assembly, having in a former deliverance, condemned in most unequivocal terms, the publication and reading of Sunday papers, and having earnestly advised all our people not to read newspapers of Sunday editions, this Assembly reaffirms the former deliverance.

New York Advocate: Ministers' sons seem now coming to the front. Within twelve years, two of them have been Presidents of the United States, one of them twice, and another takes his seat upon the highest judicial bench that the great Republic has in its power to create: in one aspect, a co-ordinate branch, in another a supreme branch, to which both the President and Congress must in critical emergencies bow.

Evangelist: When Napoleon ordered his drummer boy to beat a retreat, he received the reply, "Oh Sire! Desaix never taught me that; but I can beat a charge—I can beat a charge that would make the dead fall into line!" We want less talk about "retrenching," "discouragement," "failure," and more of something that is like the drummer boy's "charge," that will stir every heart, making the dead within the Church and the dead without fall into line.

Dr. G. Wilson: In many respects, the organ of touch, as embraced in the hand, is the most wonderful of the senses. The organs of the other senses are passive; the organ of touch alone is active. The eye, the ear, and the nostril, stand simply open; light, sound, and fragrance enter, and we are compelled to see, to hear, and to smell; but the hand selects what it shall touch, and touches what it pleases. It puts away from it the things which it hates, and beckons towards it the things which it desires.

Church at Home and Abroad: The Orphans' and Widows' Home at Fredericksburg, Va., with an endowment of \$10,000, has been presented to the Southern Presbyterian General Assembly, to be used as a school and home for the children of deceased missionaries.

V. Richard Foss: The three golden links in our chain of mottoes are loyalty to Christ, duty to the Church of which we are members, and fellowship one for another. Such loyalty for our Master as is faintly represented by the sacrament which was taken by the Roman soldier when he said he was willing to die for Rome. Not simply members of the Church are we, but we are owned by the Church; and, above all creeds and sects, we recognize each other as brothers and sisters, with one Shepherd, one pasture, and one fold.

Rev. John Thompson, D.D.: In the original constitution, which God gave His Church, infant children were included among its members, and this membership of children has never been withdrawn; there is no law of repeal anywhere to be found in subsequent legislation, or any change in this direction, so much as hinted at. The rights then granted have never been abrogated. Therefore, infants have a right to membership still, and if to membership, then surely to baptism, as the sign and seal of the covenant which secures this right.

Ram's Horn: Some one has said: "Once in a while when a great fortress is to be taken, God will bring out a great field-piece and rake all with the fiery hall of destruction. But common muskets do most of the hard fighting. It took only one Joshua, and the thousands of common troops under him, to break down the walls of cities, and, under the wrathful strokes, to make nations fly like sparks from the anvil. It took only one Luther for Germany, one Zwingli for Switzerland, one John Knox for Scotland, one Calvin for France, and one John Wesley for England."

Ladies' Home Journal: When choosing flowers to send to an invalid, select those that have a very delicate perfume, and that are as suggestive of life and health as possible. White flowers, although most beautiful, lend neither colour nor brightness to the sick-room, and to a mind weakened by sickness, are apt to be suggestive of death, while those of a bright crimson, or a deep yellow, will almost always please and gratify the convalescent. When ordering the flowers, ask your florist to send long-stemmed ones, they arrange so much more prettily than those that are cut with short stems.

Horton's Yale Lectures: The preacher must have some independent bent in his study. Mere desultory reading, followed by a rapid decline into anecdote, is the bane of preachers. Too often the preacher becomes an indolent reader, and even in the study of the Bible follows any commentator at hand. The man who hears the Word of God to-day must be on the alert, knowing something of all things and all of something. All his faculties must be full of activity. When God wishes an instrument to play some high music, He does not want to find the best stops out of use and the organ swell and pedals never finished.