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Notes of the Week.

Very deep and general sympathy is felt throughout the Presbyterian Church in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as in the States and among ourselves, at the loss of the *Dayspring*. Referring to the subject, the *Christian Leader* says "that the blow must be a heavy trial to Dr. Paton, and for his sake, as well as for the sake of the work he loves, we have no doubt many will hasten to cheer him in this disaster."

In the course of his lecture on a recent Sunday night in the Barony Church, Glasgow, on "The City and its Citizens," Dr. Marshall Lang spoke on the coming election of their local parliament—that is, their City Council—in language which may, at this time, be very aptly applied to our cities and towns here in Canada. "We don't want," he said, "small men and small ideas, we want men who fear God and nobody else." "If I can interpret your minds," he continued, "you would wish three things—temperance, protection of the rest-day, and the proper housing of the poor." He also remarked that there was "no need for the prodigious number of cars that run on Sundays, and the shops opening on the Sabbath day" were increasing every year. "We want councillors who will protect this day as far as in their power, and who will do something for the early closing of shops on Saturday evenings."

A meeting of the Presbytery of Chicago, recently held at the village of St. Anne's, sixty miles south of the city, recalls some interesting incidents respecting the Church there. Forty-four years ago, Father Chiniquy was appointed priest to a small colony of French Canadians who had established themselves there. In 1858 Chiniquy and his people renounced Romanism, and formed themselves into a Protestant church, and in 1861 it was regularly organized as a Presbyterian church. Father Chiniquy remained its pastor for several years, resigning his office that he might give himself to evangelising among the French Canadians. The Church at St. Anne's has a membership of four hundred, and is ministered to by the Rev. M. Boudreau, who, as a boy of ten years, followed his parents out of Popery into Protestantism, and has now been twenty-six years pastor. Dr. Chiniquy is now in Britain, and, though he has attained the venerable age of eighty-seven, he is actively pleading for the work to which he has devoted his life. The great work he has done and the sufferings he has borne for the Saviour should open the hearts and pockets of Presbyterians in Britain on his behalf.

The terms of settlement of the Manitoba School question, so far as definitely made known, ought to be satisfactory to all reasonably-minded people. Fortunately they constitute an immense majority of the people and the unreasonable will have perforce to be content. The arrangement appears to us to be eminently wise and conciliatory in spirit. The thoroughly national character of the schools is maintained as respects qualifications of teachers, subjects to be taught and text-books to be used. We do not see how, in the circumstances, the crucial difficulty of religious instruction could be otherwise or better got over than it is: by making it optional with the parents of the children who are to receive it whether or not they shall avail them-

selves of it. This guards the rights of Protestant parents in Roman Catholic districts and of Roman Catholic parents in Protestant school sections; and in sections prevaillingly Roman Catholic and French their susceptibilities are respected, and yet such provision made as will secure their being raised up through the school system a people instructed in and loyal to those institutions which, as being all British subjects, they must live under.

The general aspect of international affairs at the present moment is interesting. The great struggle which has been waged in the United States is safely settled for the present at least, and if the people's leaders act wisely so fierce a struggle may not occur again for a long time. A serious internal difficulty amongst ourselves has been safely got over, and there is the promise of the rapid development of new sources of wealth in our mines. The Venezuelan trouble is also so settled as to increase the mutual respect, and lay a solid foundation for lasting peace, between the two great English-speaking nations. Italy and Abyssinia have come to terms. Russia, France and England are drawing together in a way which bodes well for Europe, and promises to at last compel that crowned savage at Constantinople to stay his bloody hands from murder. And Spain, at the prospect of being still further stripped of what little she still holds of foreign possessions that once were more extensive than those of any other power, has burst forth into a display of patriotism and national life and vigor which no one would expect. Happily the outlook upon the whole is bright with promises of peace. But who knows!

The Rev. Dr. Storrs, pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn, has long been a very conspicuous figure in religious circles, and in many other ways in the United States, and the broad outlines of his career and work are well known in Canada. His eloquence, learning and activity in Christian work have been recognized in many ways and by the bestowal upon him of many honours. There is no way, however, in which he is better or more honourably known amongst us than as President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a position which he has occupied since 1878, and in the eloquent and powerful appeals and addresses which, as president of that great missionary organization, he has made on behalf of the cause of missions. A life and work such as has been that of Dr. Storrs are a blessing of untold value to the Church and the nation, felt even to distant lands and down through distant ages. Fortunate are the people who have such men and many of them.

Those who for over an hour listened to Hon. Clifford Sifton, in Massey Hall in this city, while he unfolded and expounded the Manitoba school case at an acute stage of the crisis, will have no manner of doubt that, in taking him into his Cabinet, the Leader of the Government has made an addition to it of strength, wisdom, ability and fairness. No more clear, calm, dispassionate and honest statement of the whole case could be made than the Minister of the Interior made on that occasion. In the whole discussion we have never heard or read anything better. It was such a clear and comprehensive statement of the whole case as to give a very high idea of the intellectual power and acumen of the man; his stand was patriotic, and his

language was not seldom of that order of eloquence which comes from a strong case, high character, and a man of strong and honest convictions. The whole country, and Manitoba especially, may be congratulated on having such a man at this juncture to put into a place which requires just such qualities as we believe from our own observation Mr. Sifton possesses and where he will find ample scope for their exercise. Every lover of his country will hope that in his hands the West may enter upon an era of rapid, peaceful and solid development.

The gaunt and terrible spectre of famine threatening large portions of India must awaken concern and pity in every heart, and, so far as the occasion may call for it, will surely be met with assistance from other portions of the empire. It is something of which fortunately, in Canada, we do not even have the smallest idea by actual experience; but anything which is more to be shrunk from than the ravages and multiplied miseries of famine we can hardly conceive. We stand aghast at the thought of the numbers that might have perished from absolute want of food, and the horrible sights connected with such a death. It is fortunate for India now that the resources of the British Empire in skill and money to avert as far as maybe that awful calamity will be employed. Such arrangements have already been made during British occupation of the country to anticipate and lessen mortality by famine, and such additional measures are being now taken as, by the blessing of God, will reduce to a minimum evils and suffering which cannot wholly be averted. Now will be another opportunity for the Christian Church to show the people its benignant spirit, and open hearts for the reception of the gospel which might otherwise be closed against it; and now also will be an opportunity for Britain to win favor and willing acceptance of her rule by people who might, but for its willing and effectual aid in time of need, be inclined to resent it.

No one knows better than Lord Dufferin how to say or do a thing gracefully. Having last October given a piece of ground in a fine situation free of rent for ever to the Presbyterian congregation of St. Helen's Bay on which to build a church, the Marchioness of Dufferin recently laid the first of five memorial stones, four being laid by other ladies, to be placed in the building. Replying on behalf of these ladies to a vote of thanks given them on the occasion, the Marquis among other things said: "It is impossible to conceive any pleasanter auspices to have attended our new arrival in our old home than the duty of assisting at the foundation of a church—a church which I trust will long remain as a centre of light and religious teaching, and of harmony and every Christian grace and virtue to the population which is gradually accumulating in this neighborhood. The Moderator of the General Assembly has been good enough to refer to the fact that it has been my good fortune to place a few rods of land at the disposal of the trustees of this building, but on the contrary I wish him to understand that I have esteemed it a very great privilege on my part to be able to place this slight testimony of my sympathy and reverence for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in the hands of this congregation. Those who will gather here are my personal friends, and all of them, I trust, will in some way consider me as one of their most affectionate and warm-hearted neighbours."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

The Religious Herald: Theosophy is the scotched serpent of Buddhist theology trying to squirm into life in the light cast by Jesus the Christ.

London Christian: To differentiate between the authority of the words of the Lord and the writings of His Apostles, is to differentiate between God at one time and God at another.

Gospel Banner: Do not deceive yourself with the thought that because you are better than some other Christian professor, therefore you must be right. As long as you think that way you are surely all wrong.

Bible Reader: The fact that every man with an impossible theory goes to the Bible to prove it is no evidence that the Bible is visionary. It only goes to prove that whatever men may think of the Book they always want it on their side.

James McCosh: It is not the motive, properly speaking, that determines the working of the will; but it is the will that imparts strength to the motive. As Coleridge says: "It is the man that makes the motive, and not the motive the man."

Presbyterian: Christ had His transfiguration, but it was preceded and succeeded by work and trial. Elevated moods, spiritual uplifts and rapt visions are the cordials given us by the way, but as abiding experiences they belong to the heavenly state.

United Presbyterian: There are "dead languages;" they are no longer spoken by the people. The language of the gospel never becomes dead. It never ceases to speak to the heart, to awaken conscience, and inspire hope through the gracious love of God.

President Cleveland: A Government resting upon the will and universal suffrage of the people has no anchorage except in the people's intelligence. Education tends to an elevation of political conditions, especially when consideration is given to it by the young men of the country.

Hall Caine: I know my Bible as few literary men know it. There is no book in the world like it, and the finest words ever written fall far short in interest of the stories it tells. Whatever strong situations I have in my books are not of my creation, but are taken from the Bible.

Smiles: Truth is the very bond of society, without which it must dissolve into anarchy and chaos. A household cannot be governed by lying, nor can a nation. Sir Thomas Browne was once asked: "Do the devils lie?" "No," was his answer; "for then even hell could not subsist!"

Central Presbyterian: The religious influence of colleges and boarding schools should be the object of much solicitude and prayer just now in many homes, that the son and the daughter may come back unspotted, uncontaminated by evil, refined and quickened into the safety and purity and blessing of a regenerated heart and a converted life.