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Notes of the Week.

Write to the Presbyterian Printing and Publishing Co., 5 Jordan Street, Toronto, enclosing \$1 and receive THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN till 31st December, 1894. For the family circle a better investment could not be made.

The ministry at Egremont of the Rev. Dr. Muir, the Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, has extended to twenty-nine years. The attendance at the Synod this year is the largest ever known. Nearly the whole of the congregations are represented, the elders present numbering no fewer than 291 out of a possible 295.

A paper on Nyassaland has been read to the Glasgow Philosophical Society by Captain McAuslan of the African Lakes Company's steamer *Dontira* in which he stated, that while the hard things said of missionaries might be true of some, they had no application to those of the region he described. He advocated a railway as the one thing required for the development of Africa.

We are pleased to notice that our predecessor in the editor's chair for so many years, and whose work was so much appreciated that his services were sought for that widely and well-known and influential journal, *The Interior*, has been sent by that paper to Saratoga to attend and report for it the proceedings of the General Assembly now in session there. "He is," says the paragraphist for *The Interior*, "an old hand at the bellows, and being a Scotchman he will get more solace out of the doings than a peaceable back-woodsman could."

A comprehensive report was presented to the General Assembly of the United States Presbyterian Church, North on Sabbath Observance, noting the chief hindrances to the proper observance of the sacred day. It recommends the reaffirmation by the Assembly of its "belief in the divine authority and obligation of the Sabbath. The individual conscience ought to decide against all that impinges on the sanctity of the day, such as Sunday newspapers unnecessary travelling, etc.; that the members of the churches should exert the power of individual example in the matter and help to uphold all legislation bearing on the subject. The attention of the young people should be directed to the importance of Sabbath keeping. The American Sunday Union deserves the strong support of the members of the church.

Another instance of the enlarged and enlightened public spirit which is growing among the men of wealth of Toronto is the offer of Mr. W. J. Gage, publisher, to give \$25,000 to establish in the city a hospital for the treatment of consumptive patients, provided the city will make a grant of a site for that purpose in High Park and \$25,000 besides. Not only every medical man, but every clergyman as well, and many thousands of Canadian homes know how common and how deadly are the ravages of this disease. If by such means as Mr. Gage generously proposes they can be lessened, an incalculable boon will be conferred not upon the city only, but upon the whole country. We trust that nothing will prevent the acceptance by the city of this offer, designed as it is to promote an object of so purely philanthropic a character.

At the Metropolitan Anniversary services of the Methodist church in this city the Sabbath before last, the Rev. Dr. Bashford of Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, preached. In the evening his subject was "The Providential Place of Religious Education in American Civilization." He referred to four important problems now confronting thoughtful men in the States. To a smaller but in a growing degree they are also confronting ourselves. The first is the problem of wealth. Two hundred thousand people own 70 per cent. of the wealth. There are 303 mil-

lionaires in New York alone. The second is the problem of the great cities; third, the problem of intemperance. The United States pay more yearly for intemperance than for any single year of the Civil War. Last is the problem of the salvation of the heathen. The remedy he considered is education, but education having in it a due share of Christian morals.

It is interesting to notice the similarity in the question coming up for considerations in the American Presbyterian General Assembly, already referred to and those which arise in our own Supreme Court. It is also very natural that there should be such similarity. Amongst others of this kind the question of co-operation in church work of Presbyterians and other evangelical bodies has been engaging its attention. Quite a lively discussion for and against arose out of the report presented on this subject. One motion was, to "discharge the committee with thanks leaving to the Synodical Home Mission Board the carrying out of the work of the church in the manner which in their estimation seem best." Finally the report with its recommendations was remitted to the standing committee on church polity, there to receive further consideration.

The retirement from office as President of the Board of Trade of Mr. Mundella, because of questionable connection with certain shady business transactions is instructive and significant of the high standard of public life and good conduct to which public men in Britain, and especially those closely identified with the Government of the day, must conform. Not a few similar instances which have occurred within recent years might be pointed out. While they are instructive by way of contrast to that which unhappily prevails to too great an extent amongst ourselves, it may be well to point out that the British political conscience, if we may use such an expression, has not always been so sensitive. It has been the growth of years and the gradual raising of the standard of public and even of private life in the country at large. There is every reason to hope that there will also be a steady and gradual improvement amongst ourselves in the standard of public life, so that things which would once have been over-looked will not be attempted, or if attempted will be frowned down and the perpetrator consigned to obscurity.

There is something quite inspiring in the enthusiastic reception which our noble Queen received at Manchester upon the opening of the new ship canal. All along the eight miles of streets through which the Queen was driven the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Hundreds of thousands of people lined the way. Banners, flags, floral arches, Venetian masts were visible everywhere, and the air resounded with cheers. Of course some will say that there are always plenty of people who will hurrah for royalty of any kind. To a certain extent that is true, but it is not by any means the full explanation of the enthusiasm with which she is greeted on every public occasion. That after a reign of well-nigh sixty years public interest in her and enthusiastic devotion to her person does not weaken, but grow deeper and more cordial, is something both to be proud of and grateful for. Perhaps no better explanation of it could be given in a few words than that of Ambassador Bayard of the United States at the public banquet given in London on the Queen's Birthday to Rear-Admiral Erben and other officers of the United States cruiser *Chicago*, and this testimony is all the more valuable coming from such a source. "This banquet is certainly a happy omen, coming as it does upon the birthday of the gracious lady whose devotion to public duty and clear, beautiful, private life have endeared her not only to those living under her benignant sway, but also to all right-minded and right-thinking men and women in America, even as fully as in England. (Loud applause.) Well, may the British subject congratulate himself as he contemplates with affectionate admiration the home life of the true mother of her country."

It is an indication of the growing importance and influence of the Dominion among the colonial dependencies of the empire and with the parent country that the second Intercolonial Conference is to meet in Ottawa next month. The federation of the empire may be only a magnificent dream, but should it ever materialize, it will be by such beginnings as that which was made in London first in 1887 and is so soon to be repeated in the capital of the Dominion. Questions of vital interest to all the more important colonies and to Britain itself will pass under review, and action upon them or steps towards action be taken whose influence will be felt upon the other side of the globe, and it may be for ages to come, for the very feeling after the closer and broader union which such a conference expresses cannot end in nothing. Nay more, since everything which affects the unity, stability and progress of the British empire, affects every civilized country in the world, it may not be too much to say that the effect of the doings which may take place at Ottawa at the coming conference, will be felt wherever the commerce, the language, the religion and civilization of Britain are felt. May justice, and wisdom, and patriotism prevail in all its deliberations.

While we write, the one hundred and sixth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, North, in the United States is being held. It is a very large and influential body, gathering its members from Puget Sound, San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles in the west to Maine in the east. The ex-Moderator is the Rev. Dr. Craig, whose theme in his opening sermon was "The Integrity and Authority of Holy Scripture," founded upon Acts xx: 26, 27. He closed with an appeal for the re-union of the church North and South so eloquent and fervent that when he ceased to speak, a hearty outburst of applause testified to the interest and appreciation of the whole discourse by the audience. Four names were proposed for the Moderatorship and the voting and other preliminaries occupied almost the whole of the first session. The Rev. Dr. Mutchmore, of Philadelphia, was finally elected and took the chair. "The evening of Thursday was devoted," *The Interior* says, "to a blessed and profitable service," the observance by the members of the Assembly of the Lord's Supper. The ex-Moderator presided and gave an address. "Elders from far distant parts of the land dispensed the elements. It was a season of rare exaltation; like an old-time communion season, and is certain to have a marked influence on the after proceedings of the Assembly."

The question of the extent of the General Assembly's control over the theological seminaries of the church is deeply engaging just now the attention of our brethren in the United States of the Presbyterian Church North. The subject is much more complicated with them than it is amongst us. The subject aimed at is stated as (1) "That the connection with or control over the theological seminaries desired by the church is a direct one; (2) that such connection or control should be in fact as well as in name, direct control over teaching and property." In accordance with this aim two resolutions were adopted by the committee in charge of the subject and recommended to the Assembly, to the effect that "The instruction given in the theological seminaries should be under the direction and control of the church; and that all funds and property held for the purposes of theological education should be under the control and direction of the church." A minority report was presented looking towards greater freedom, to the effect that "(1) Seminaries be advised to fill their chairs with ministers who are under the control of and subject to the discipline of the courts of the church and who will submit to such control. (2) That if there is any lack in the charter of any seminary by which its property might be alienated from the purpose of giving Presbyterian theological education, it be advised so to strengthen its charter at that point that such alienation shall be forever impossible." It may also be mentioned that, speaking generally, a uniform plan of control over the colleges was sought for which would give the "minimum of effective control, and the maximum of liberty in the management of affairs."