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Notes of the Week.

It is announced from Panama that the Government of Columbia has entered into a convention with the Papal See by which the universities, colleges, schools and other educational establishments and all public and private education and instruction shall be organized and directed in conformity with the dogmas and principles of the Roman Catholic Church, that religious instruction in that creed should be obligatory.

PROFESSOR CHRISTLIED gives a most encouraging account of spiritual life and evangelical fervour among the rural population of Germany, especially in the Sieg country, the home of the Orangemen who freed Holland from the tyranny of Spain. Their Scripture and prayer meetings are largely attended, requiring the building of association halls, and their missionary meetings are so great that the gatherings are often of necessity held in the open air.

THE negotiations for the organic union of the Presbyterian, Reformed and Congregational mission churches of Japan have been brought to a conclusion and await only the certain approval of the separate bodies next November. The doctrinal basis is the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene, with which are associated the special historical Confessions of the three bodies, which are to be held in high veneration. The local Church is to be governed Congregationally, while the consolidated body is to be governed Presbyterially. The union thus on the eve of being consummated embraces most of the Protestant Christians of Japan.

A CONFERENCE on evangelical preaching is to be held in London about November 19 and following days. Persons desiring to take part are to communicate with Rev. Dr. Newth, New College, South Hampstead, London, N. W. The conference is to be open to all evangelical communions. Dr. Henry Allon will preside the first day and Dr. S. G. Green the second. Dr. Clifford, Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, B.A., E. E. Jenkins, M.A., R. F. Horton, M.A., Dr. Parker, H. Price Hughes, M.A., Dr. Monro Gibson, Professor Elmslie, and others have signified their intention to be present.

THE Bishops attending the Lambeth Conference were entertained at breakfast in the Westminster Town Hall by the Church Temperance Society. The Bishop of London, who presided, said he had always held fast by the principles of the Society, and had steadily refused to say one single word which might appear to condemn those whose Christianity did not lead them to take the Temperance side. Rev. Canon Ellison said they desired to see this movement extended to all branches of the Anglican Church throughout the world. Prelates present spoke of the evils resulting from the liquor traffic in Ireland and the Colonies.

THE union of the Presbyterians and Congregationalists in Japan under the proposed constitution will make the United Church practically Presbyterian. That this will very likely, but not certainly, be the case is the New York *Independent's* opinion. The local Church is left free to be governed either Congregationally or by a Session. Above the local Church the government is by Presbyteries, Synods and General Assembly. The natural outcome will be to complete Presbyterian government for the local churches, but the result will depend on which system has the most vitality, as both are allowed. As to the vitality there is little room for doubt.

THE Presbyterian Assembly of Queensland received no fewer than six petitions from ministers of other denominations desirous of entering its ministry. Only one applicant was received, Mr. Watkins, a Congregationalist, who had passed through a full curriculum in a Welsh Presbyterian College. Three

evangelists were raised to the status of ordained missionaries; a Primitive Methodist minister was received as a student-evangelist; and Mr. McQueen, a student from Aberdeen, was referred to the Presbytery to be taken on trial for license. The Queensland Presbyterians are determined to stand second to none in the scholarship of their ministers.

THE Presbytery of London, England, at its last ordinary meeting, agreed in the motion of the Rev. John Black to make certain important changes in the method of Presbyterial appointments. Hitherto the Moderator of Presbytery has been appointed simply by rotation, without any respect to special fitness for the office; in future he will be nominated by a widely representative Selection Committee. The same committee will also nominate suitable ministers to preside at ordinations and inductions, the old rule of rotation being abolished there also. The only point in which rotation, pure and simple, is preserved, is in appointments to preach at ordinations and inductions, it being assumed that every minister is fit for such work. Mr. Black's motion was carried with only four dissentients.

RELIGIOUS conventions on a large scale have lost their novelty. There is a possible danger that they may become quite common and thereby fail to awaken general interest and cease to be of much practical value. Arrangements are being already made for holding a World's Sabbath School Convention in London in June, 1889. Invitations are now extended to the Colonies and to America, to the Continent of Europe, to India, and to the several mission stations. Those in charge are desirous of obtaining statistics of Sunday schools in all parts of the world; and it is hoped that the figures may be obtained in time to enable them to be tabulated according to the several countries for presentation to the convention. It is probable that the International Lessons Committee of America will hold a session in London immediately after the meetings of the convention.

THE *Interior* says: An order issued at the request of vessel-owners who hail from the United States, directs that the Welland Canal be kept open up to eight o'clock in the morning and after nine o'clock at night, on the Sabbath. It is inspiring to hear the protests against this partial desecration of the Lord's Day, which come from Canadian newspaper offices and the people themselves. The order is roundly denounced as a clear violation of law and an outrage on the feelings of a Christian community. As similar orders have been made before, only to be withdrawn in deference to public opinion, this one may not stand many days. The prevailing sentiment in the country through which the canal runs is in favour of Sabbath observance. Although Chicago has a notably large foreign element in her population, it might be a wholesome scheme to import a mayor and a board of councilmen from the neck of the woods. The "neck of the woods" could supply a fine race of mayors and none of them basswood either, for American cities.

THE Chicago *Interior* has a habit of saying good things in every issue. Here are three specimens from the last number: It is rather remarkable that, in his celebrated work on "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," Drummond failed to make a chapter on the law of natural depravity as manifested in ecclesiastical affairs. In many cases the natural law is about the only one that seems to work. "Are you not very glad she has been able to pay out," we said to a rich man whose mortgage on a widow's home was paid off. "Oh, no—it was perfectly good for what she owed us," was the reply. This rich man is too everlastingly pious for anything—one of the kind of men whom Solomon thought was too good. That man will stick fast in the needle's eye, sure, and have to be pulled out by the legs. "Look not upon the right hand nor upon the left." We are trying to follow this Scriptural injunction in these political times—and when we do we are sure to see some pious

patriot standing ready for us with a club. But you haven't any idea how we would like to let loose. We would like leave to write just one red-hot column! The text would be, "All men are liars"—whether David ought to have taken that remark back.

THE *Christian Leader* justly remarks. It is easy to realize the deep grounds for the address recently presented to Dr. Martineau being subscribed by representatives of the Evangelical Churches when we read the remarkable confession he has made, that he finds all that most appeals to his spiritual nature in the lives any writings of men who found all their inspiration in a living Christ. There are few autobiographical passages in our language that can be said to match in interest and significance the frank account which he has given of his own experience. Ebionites, Arians, Socinians, says Dr. Martineau, all seem to me to contrast unfavourably with their opponents, and to exhibit a type of thought and character far less worthy, on the whole, of the true genius of Christianity. I am conscious that my deepest obligations, as a learner from others, are in almost every department to writers not of my own creed. In philosophy I have had to unlearn most that I had imbibed from my early text books, and the authors in chief favour with them. In biblical interpretation I derive from Calvin and Whitby the help that fails me in Crell and Belsham. In devotional literature and religious thought I find nothing of ours that does not pale before Augustine, Tauler and Pascal. And in the poetry of the Church it is the Latin or the German hymns, or the lines of Charles Wesley or of Keble, that fasten on my memory and heart, and make all else seem poor and cold.

A CONGREGATIONAL society was recently held in the Free Church of Hillside, Unst., Shetland to celebrate the jubilee of the senior pastor, Rev. John Ingram, M.A. The church was filled, and many members of Presbytery took part in the proceedings. Two presentations were made to Mr. Ingram, the first a large photographic portrait of himself, handsomely mounted and framed, by his brethren of the Presbytery; the second an illuminated address on vellum, framed in plush and antique gold, together with a purse of 100 guineas, from the Hillside and Nyasound congregations and many friends throughout Scotland. The following is an excerpt from the address; "The fourteenth of this month marks the completion of the fiftieth year of your ministry. To few men is it given to proclaim the Master's message so long, and to fewer still to do so in one place. Right faithfully and well have you kept watch and ward over this outpost of Zion. With a zeal which never flagged you have striven to lift up the crucified Christ to the men of your generation, teaching by life as well as by lip, while to our homes you have been a frequent and ever-welcome visitor, rejoicing with those who rejoiced, weeping with those who wept, and bringing to many a sad and weary heart the solace of the Gospel of Grace. Not only in spiritual matters but in everything that concerns the educational and social well-being of the place, you have taken a foremost part, proving yourself to be a wise citizen as well as an able minister. The people who have gathered round you have been many. Not a few of these are your children in the Faith, and have looked up to you as their spiritual guide from the cradle to the grave; and, while some are scattered far and near there still remain a numerous and attached flock, each and all of whom regard you, not only with admiration, but with simple reverence and filial love. Your name has travelled far beyond these Shetland Isles, and wherever it has gone it is known as that of a true, gentle, faithful servant of the Lord." This ministerial jubilee is the more remarkable that in 1876 the late Dr. Ingram, father of the present minister, celebrated his 100th birthday and the seventy-third year of his ministry. Dr. Ingram, who was the father of the Free Church, died at the age of 103. The joint labours of father and son extend over the long period of eighty-five years.