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Notes of the Week.

Prof. Edmund Caird, the newly elected Master of Balliol, is a Glasgow educationist of the very first rank. To carry on the work of the late Prof. Green, he has literary and philosophical powers rarely enjoyed by men even at the ripe age of fifty-eight. Unlike his predecessor, Prof. Caird is not the kind of man to seek the applause of the fashionable world. He will, however, be one of the most advanced thinkers in modern Oxford.

Great Britain has been stretching her wings over India. In 1842 she laid claim to 626,000 square miles of that country. She made additions to this every year except 1843, 1845 and 1852, down to 1856, when her possessions aggregated 856,000 square miles. Advances were made in 1866, and now the area of India under British rule is 927,887 square miles. British India is larger than all that part of the United States lying east of the Mississippi River, and its population five times as great as the present population of the United States.

An investigation of the liquor problem is to be made by fifty American scientists, who are members of what is known as the Sociological Group, which was organized in 1888 for the study of modern social questions. They are inquiring into the physiological, legislative and ethical aspects of the subject, and committees for this purpose have already been appointed. They include such names as President Eliot and Prof. H. P. Bowditch, of Harvard; Prof. Farnham and Prof. Chittenden, of Yale; Frederick H. Wines, Carroll D. Wright, Bishop E. G. Andrews, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ireland, Washington Gladden and Charles Dudley Warner.

A great Nonconformist Unionist demonstration has just been held at Hull, England, the first of its kind held in that city. Four thousand persons were present. Dr. Rentoul, M.P., was the chief speaker. The sole qualification for membership was Nonconformists and Unionism. They wanted to show thousands of Nonconformists would not desert their Irish co-religionists. Dr. Rentoul was enthusiastically received. He showed how Ireland now suffered nothing which Home Rule could remedy. Mr. Gladstone, he said, is a pronounced High Churchman, and as such must hate Dissent. Every man of you was against Home Rule till one High Churchman told you it was right. All Irish Nonconformists tell you Home Rule is ruinous.

Bishop Coxe, says the *Interior*, is writing a series of open letters to Mgr. Satolli which appear to make our Catholic contemporaries furious. We can see no reason why they should not write to anybody as many courteous public letters as he pleases. Whether his letters to Mgr. Satolli are courteous may be judged from the following extract:

"We can discuss our differences as friends. . . . But I am writing these letters to you, Monsignor, as an American citizen to a political emissary, the instrument of Jesuitism to subordinate our entire Government to Jesuit supremacy in these States. You are put forward while they are kept out of sight. To 'devour widows' houses' and drain our national and local treasures into their own channels and insatiable jaws—this is Jesuitism. I have no quarrel with you. I aim to unmask your masters."

The Australian papers give full details of the eventful life of the late Rev. Dr. Steel, of Sydney, Australia. The *Presbyterian*, published in Sydney, writes: "We shall not look upon his like again." His temper was genial, his manner courteous, and his disposition most amiable. He had hosts of friends, and left not an enemy behind. As a preacher, a platform orator, a scholar, and a writer he was alike distinguished. For missions to the heathen Dr. Steel ever showed a notable zeal, and in many ways he greatly advanced the mission cause. Few knew more about missions than he did. For a quarter of a century he acted as agent of the New

Hebrides Mission on behalf of the churches in Scotland and Canada having missionaries in the group, and gradually the Australian, Tasmanian, and New Zealand Churches added their agencies, and so increased his labours.

The Hawaiian business still continues to give no little trouble to the Government of the United States, and the action of President Cleveland in the case, as might be expected, calls forth a good deal of criticism both hostile and friendly. The President, as his manner is, uses very plain language in speaking of the conduct of the previous administration in annexing these islands. He says that Hawaii "was taken possession of by the United States forces without the consent or wish of the Government of the Islands, or of anybody else so far as shown, except the United States Minister;" that this military occupation was "without justification," and that when our Minister recognized the Provisional Government, "it was neither a government *de facto* nor *de jure*." The end of this matter has not yet been reached, however, and time only can tell what the ultimate result may be.

The Southern Presbyterian General Assembly is to have a rather interesting case on its hands when it meets, in that of Miss Sadie Means. This young lady has some hours of telephone duty on the Sabbath-day. For this she was disciplined and her name dropped from the roll of the Second Presbyterian Church in Columbus, S. C. She appealed to the Presbytery which sustained the church, and from there to the Synod, which reversed the decision of the Presbytery. On a recent Sabbath, the Rev. Dr. Law, a newly appointed professor at the Seminary of the city, took occasion to rebuke the church for allowing others to remain in it without discipline who were engaged in secular work on the Sabbath, while Miss Means was excommunicated; whereupon the elders rose in church and told him "to stop right there." If "coming events cast their shadows before," we may expect a warm debate in the Assembly upon this case.

The death of the late Rev. Dr. W. S. Swanson, has come with sudden shock on the English Presbyterian Church and to a great many in all Christian lands, so well known was he as a veteran and successful missionary at Swatow, China, and so little was the sad event expected. There was hardly a minister or leading elder of the Presbyterian Church in England of whom he was not a personal friend. The suddenness of Dr. Swanson's death, which took place at Euston, necessitated the holding of an inquest; and it is with deep regret we have learned that the evidence given was such that the jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind. The funeral took place at Hampstead Cemetery; and among those present were Mr. Hugh M. Matheson, Mr. R. T. Turnbull, Mr. Thomas Bell, Rev. Dr. McGaw, Mr. J. Leggat, etc. Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson conducted the funeral service at the house and at the cemetery, assisted at the latter by Rev. Dr. Mathews. Rev. Dr. McGaw took the service at the grave.

At the fifth anniversary of the American Sabbath Union, held at New York in the beginning of this month, Dr. J. H. Knowles, the General Secretary of the Union, gave a synopsis of the reports of work accomplished during the past year by the thirty State associations and Sabbath committees that are in affiliation with the Union. He declared the single object of the American Sabbath Union to be "the preservation of the weekly rest-day."

"The Union aims to unite the Sabbath-loving citizens of our Republic in concentrated movements for the protection of the Sunday which was incorporated in the civil structure at the beginning by our patriotic forefathers. The Union now embraces fourteen Christian denominations. It has the hearty indorsements of many statesmen, civilians and wage earners. The masses now, irrespective of race or creed, are studying as never before the Sabbath question in its social and economic bearings. The laxity of many Christians in reference to the sacred observance of the Sabbath is, to the

best leaders of Christian thought, an alarming fact; and the Church is becoming aroused to a sense of her obligation."

"The weekly rest-day will be saved only through organized effort, national in scope, wisely directed and conscientiously supported. The Sabbath is the one chief pillar of the Republic; and every consideration of citizenship, humanity and religion urges us to encourage the national movement."

The *Biblical World* for this month mentions that a new phase of University extension work seems to be coming into prominence, namely, Biblical lecture courses. It warns against the danger in such a course of one-sidedness and shallowness in this working to too great eagerness in rival organizations. "A spirit of generous rivalry," it adds, "between the different extension organizations working in the same field is undoubtedly productive of good, as it stimulates interest and action where perhaps a single organization would die out, but too great a rivalry is attended with evil." To guard against overstocking the field with second-rate lectures the American Institute of Sacred Literature propose unifying and strengthening all Extension Societies in this department by becoming a central council to which all Extension Societies may refer for the suggestion of the names of the best lecturers in all biblical lines, for choice in regard to subjects of lectures and whatever else may properly come under the head of this kind of work which we can easily suppose might be of great advantage to many ministers and be largely taken advantage of by them.

When the Rev. Dr. Paton entered the meeting of the Belfast Presbytery he was received with great applause, the members rising to their feet. Rev. Dr. Williamson introduced Dr. Paton, and at the request of the Moderator the venerable missionary addressed the Presbytery. He said he was quite overwhelmed by the kindness they had manifested on his entering their meeting. As Dr. Williamson had said, he was a very humble follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, and he praised God that he had been instrumental in advancing God's cause in the salvation of the poor perishing heathen. When he first went to the South Sea Islands the inhabitants were without clothing, and not one of their languages had been reduced to written form. He could not have conceived of men and women being so sunken. Now, however, there were 3,500 cannibals brought to the feet of Jesus, and these people had paid £1,200 for the printing of the Scriptures in their own tongue. He concluded by intimating that the object of his visit to this country was to secure five or six more missionaries and an additional sum of £1,000 annually for the support of a mission vessel. A very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Paton for his able, admirable and touching address.

At a late meeting of the Belfast Presbytery a deputation from the Board of the Royal Hospital addressed the court on behalf of the hospital. After paying a tribute to the services of the late Dr. Hanna in connection with the hospital it was added that of the 80,000 Presbyterians in Belfast belonging to the 45 congregations in the Presbytery, they had received last year only £109 4s. 6d. This sum was contributed by some 14 congregations. The members of the deputation appeared before the court to solicit their aid in having this sum greatly increased in the coming years. Though there was no such thing as religion or politics in the hospital, yet a special appeal was made to Presbyterians. Every man was received there without any inquiry as to who he was or what he was. It was sufficient for his admission that he was sick or met with an accident. Belfast, it was stated, had almost doubled its population since 1867, yet the contributions of the churches had greatly fallen off without any feeling that there was anything wrong in the management of the institution, for in the same time the contributions of the working classes had risen from £100 to £2,000. The deputation urged the establishing of a Hospital Sabbath in addition to a Hospital Saturday. The Moderator said he was sure they were very pleased to hear the clear and powerful statements of the deputation, and they would take into earnest consideration the suggestions they had made.