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Notes of the Week.

Dr. Munro Gibson has taken up warmly the claims of the working class and East-end congregations in London, and is rousing his own people to fresh liberality and effort in the matter.

The papers state that Princess Marie of Edinburgh's contract of marriage contained a formal renunciation of her right of succession to the British throne. As a matter of fact, Princess Marie, by her marriage with a Roman Catholic, would "ipso facto" forfeit all such rights.

Rev. A. B. Simpson, for several years pastor of Knox Church, Hamilton, held a farewell service on Friday evening of last week, at the Gospel Tabernacle, Forty-fourth street and Eighth avenue, New York, before starting on a missionary tour through Palestine, India and China. He sailed on Saturday by the steamship Servia.

The Ulster opponents of Home Rule for Ireland held a meeting in Belfast last week, to express their continued opposition to the movement. The release of the Gwedore prisoners, by the present Government, could not be pardoned on any ground of justice or humanity. The marquis of Londonderry, Dr. Kane and others expressed their purpose to resist Home Rule to the last.

Remarks the Chicago Standard: Gladstone entered public life at twenty-three; Bismarck at thirty-two. It is an interesting coincidence, that each, at the beginning of his career, spoke in opposition to the civil emancipation of the Jews; while subsequently a Jew became Gladstone's chief rival, and another Bismarck's banker, without whose aid the military and ultra-constitutional movements of 1862-6 in Prussia could not have been carried through.

It is reported in the Journal de Jardin d'Acclimatation that eight or ten days before the appearance of cholera in Hamburg last summer, all the sparrows and other birds left the town and suburbs and did not return until the plague had completely disappeared. The same thing happened in Marseilles and Toulon in 1884 a day or two before the cholera visited those towns. Similar migrations have been noticed in different parts of Italy, Austria and Russia, always some days before the appearance of cholera.

It is stated that General Booth intends to make what he himself describes as a determined attempt to penetrate the Highlands. The Highlands and North Wales are two districts which have hitherto presented a considerable difficulty to the Salvationists — so considerable, in fact, that a commission of Army officials has been sitting with a view to discovering how best to make them amenable to the "General's" influence. The first effect of this commission will be the appointment of a special Highland expedition.

A large number of the Welsh people are named Jones. A gentleman who recently traveled through Wales found a whole village of Joneses. Nearly all the names of villages in Wales begin with the syllable "Llan," which means "saint" in Welsh. If this is so there must have been an astonishing number of Welsh saints. The greater part of these village names are words like the following, which are genuine names and can be found on any good map of Wales: Llanrhyddlad, Llanrhwyl, Llangadwaladr, Llandillllogo, Llanbwchallarn, Llan-bwdrnfyndd, Llangynvw.

In China there is no such thing as the periodic press. The only newspaper published in the empire, the Tzin Boo, is the imperial organ, and is devoted principally to the publishing of official nominations. It only incidentally prints any news, and this is wholly untrustworthy, being usually entirely false. Chinese journalism proper consists of posters, handbills, circulars and little political pamphlets, of which a number are printed from time to time, and the country is usually deluged with them on the eve of the sanguinary movements of which the Europeans are commonly the victims.

The world's submarine cables now measure about 143,011 nautical miles, in 1,168 sections. Different governments control 833 sections, or 13,383 miles, France claiming 3,269 miles, Great Britain 1,599, Germany 1,579, and Italy 1,027 miles. The remaining 335 cables, aggregating 129,628 miles are owned by private companies. This great length of cable has been nearly all made on the banks of the Thames, but Italy now has a cable factory, and France will soon have two. To lay and repair the cable requires the constant service of a specially equipped fleet of thirty-seven vessels of 56,955 tons.

Mr. Gladstone has just made a very bold announcement of his views on the terrible drink question. In a speech at Liverpool, he said: "Let us all carry with us, deeply stamped upon our hearts and minds, a sense of shame for the great plague of drunkenness which goes through the land, sapping and undermining character, breaking up the peace of families, oftentimes choosing for its victims, not the men or the women originally the worst, but persons of strong social susceptibility and open, in special respects, to temptation. This great plague and curse, gentlemen, let us all remember, is a national curse, calamity and scandal."

The Students' Missionary Society of the English Presbyterian Church has issued its report, from which we gather that the sum of £433 has been raised during the year, and handed over to the missionaries in Swatow for the purchase of buildings necessary for continuous work in Chinese towns, where at present there is no preaching station. During the year sixty-six congregations were visited by student deputies, and sixty-three of them gave collections. The society has resolved to raise funds during the coming year for the building of a hospital and other mission premises in the northern part of the mission-field in Formosa.

In an article on Choirs and Choir Singing in Toronto, in the Dominion Illustrated Magazine, Mrs. S. Frances Harrison speaks of all church bodies outside the Church of England as "dissenters." Had it been a person of less intelligence, the expression might be overlooked, as coming from a narrow-mindedness, far too prevalent, which seeks to unchurch all who do not worship at their Shibboleth. But Mrs. Harrison should know better. Where there is no state church there can be no dissenters; and we hope the day will never come when there will be either such in Canada. By the way, if Mrs. Harrison lived in Scotland would she not be a "dissenter?"

Says the Christian Guardian: The case for the Manitoba Separate Schools was argued before the Ottawa Cabinet last week, by Mr. John S. Ewart, Q.C. The Manitoba Government does not acknowledge the right of the Ottawa Government to interfere, and therefore sent no representative. The decision of the Privy Council is now accepted as binding; and the

continuance of Separate Schools is claimed on the ground that such schools were established by the Province after Confederation. This is a weak position. As in any case, the matter must come before the Dominion Parliament, before anything could be done, there is little probability of any change being made, or any attempt to upset the decision of the Manitoba Legislature against Separate Schools.

In his "Geography of Canada," Professor Dawson remarks that while many Indian names have been preserved they have undergone a change in pronunciation. In general the Indian names are descriptive of the locality; thus Quebec means "a strait or an obstruction;" Toronto, "a tree in the water;" Winnipeg, "muddy water;" Saskatchewan, "rapid current." Niagara was originally Oniagahra, "thunder of the waters;" hence Professor Forbes and his colleagues of the Cataract Construction Company for utilizing the Falls by electricity have agreed to speak of Niagahra, a prettier word, which may again become the vogue in a generation which does not regard brevity as more important than euphony. Many of the Canadian towns have also risen on the site of old Indian villages, partly because the whites first called there for trade, and partly because the Indians chose their sites where lines of travel converged, or at portages and sheltered havens.

Mr. John R. Dougall, the well known journalist of Montreal, gave evidence before the Prohibition Commission in Montreal on Friday last. In reply to Sir Joseph Hickson's question as to how he, Mr. Dougall, would propose to make up the loss of revenue which would result to the Dominion government from the passing of a Prohibitory Act, Mr. Dougall said that, as he was not and did not expect to be finance minister, he had not taken that task upon himself, but he was prepared to give the opinions of certain men who had had that responsibility. Sir Leonard Tilley had said that he would be very happy to provide for any losses caused by such legislation. Sir Alex. Galt had said that the injury to the community was so much greater than the loss to the revenue that, from the point of view simply of a national financier, he was forced to take a stand in favor of prohibition. Mr. Gladstone had said he viewed with the greatest satisfaction a reduction in the revenue from liquor. Speaking in the abstract Mr. Dougall was in favour of direct taxation. There seemed to be among economists almost a consensus of opinion on this subject.

In a recent issue of the Western Missionary we find the following reference to our indefatigable "Bishop" of Manitoba and the great West: "The Superintendent of missions had a new experience on his way to Yorkton lately. When the train reached Saltcoats, a man boarded it in a somewhat excited manner, and asked if Dr. Robertson was there. The doctor rose to speak to the man, when the stranger took hold of him and told him he must leave the train to marry a couple. The unfortunate man was told that that could not be done unless the conductor would consent to delay the train. The conductor was seen, and since there was no other stop till Yorkton was reached, agreed to wait. But the bride was innocent of what was going on, and when the hotel was reached, she was in the kitchen attending to domestic duties. She was hurried upstairs, and a trice prepared for the altar. Gaelic being her mother tongue, the Superintendent had to muster enough of the language of Edin to make the twain "aoin sheoil." After the ceremony was over, the bride looked as if she thought it all a dream. But she has doubtless found it to be a sober reality."

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Northern Christian Advocate: The pastor who can help to put reading of a better quality into a home may thereby change the life of every member of the family. All pastors should realize the truthfulness and value of this statement.

The Interior: Experience, common sense and morality teach that there is no hope for the overthrow of the city saloon by high license. Hope for its downfall exists only in the education of the people up to total abstinence and temperance; to a destitution of the saloon as the hot-bed of all crimes; and to belief in the efficacy of prohibition as a remedy; and in absolute and efficient prohibition.

United Presbyterian: We are not as generous as we ought to be in our prayers. We pray for our own congregations, for the sick, the afflicted, and for missionaries; but there are many other classes for whom prayer should be offered. Some of the neglected ones are the rich, the tempted, school teachers and scholars, our rulers, our young people away from home, editors, magistrates and judges of our courts.

We are indebted to Mr. J. Bruce, photographic artist, 132 King street West, Toronto, for a copy of his group picture of the delegates to the Fifth General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance, held in this city last September. There are between two and three hundred portraits, all excellent likenesses, in the picture; and the grouping is effectively as well as artistically done. We feel assured that many of our readers will desire to receive a copy of this tasteful souvenir of the most representative gathering ever held in Canada; and the low price places it within the reach of everyone.

Christian Work: Not long ago a New York religious paper invited its readers to send lists containing what, in their judgment, were the best one hundred hymns in the English language. More than 3,400 lists were received. The first hymn upon the larger number of lists was Toplady's "Rock of Ages," having received 3,215 votes. The second in point of popularity was Lyte's "Abide With Me"; the third Wesley's "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." A hymn greatly liked and widely sung, "My Faith Looks up to Thee," occupied only the sixty-ninth place on the list. The list contained hymns from fifty-five different authors, and among these Dr. Watts and Charles Wesley stood at the head, each contributing seven hymns. Strangely enough, in the summary given, Newman's hymn, "Lead Kindly Light," was not found.

London Advertiser: Canada has already won a proud pre-eminence among Christian nations by her achievements in the line of church union. In no other country, as yet, have the scattered fragments of Presbyterianism and Methodism been consolidated into greater units. The success of these movements has been marked, and the march of these two mighty denominations through our land is like the tread of two vast battalions in the "one army of the living God." Who knows but that one part of Canada's mission among the nations may be to lead the van in the great work of Christian union? A nobler mission could not be fulfilled. We wish "Godspeed" to the project for union between Presbyterians and Congregationalists which is now in its incipency and trust that the good work may go on until all existing divisions among Christians shall be healed.