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## Notes of the Week.

Mrs. John W. Sherwood, with a number of philanthropic women of New York, has organized a society in New York, having in view the removal to country homes of girls and women who have been employed in factories in the city. The present financial depression has forced many factory-women to consider some other mode of self-support than that offered by factories in the overcrowded cities. The proposed society, "Kind Words," asks the addresses of people in the country who are willing to take untrained servants and train them.

The new Dean of Lincoln, Dr. Wickham, is son-in-law of Mr. Gladstone, but not even the Tories have ventured to hint that this relationship has had anything to do with the appointment. It is notorious that the Premier has an almost morbid horror of anything even remotely resembling nepotism. Dr. Wickham, formerly headmaster of Wellington College, is a profound scholar, and is said to owe his new dignity to the personal suggestion of the Queen. He is a moderate High Churchman, and a good preacher. The deanery is worth £2,000 a year.

How far the devotees of a fad may go, was well illustrated in the annual national convention of the women suffragists of the United States, held two weeks ago at Washington, D.C. Among other proceedings, a resolution naming "Sunday" as a day for holding meetings of women suffragists throughout the country, was introduced. The report of the convention says that "after a long discussion" the resolution was negatived. This was well, but the wonder is that it should have required "a long discussion" in order to reach the conclusion that the holy Sabbath should not be used for the end proposed.

If there is a "Catholic crusade" in London, there has been a Protestant crusade covering England and Wales, carried out by the "Church Association" vans and colporteurs, during the six months of last year. What are called "scanty extracts from the voluminous reports" occupy a four-page supplement to the *English Churchman* of last week, and from which we sum up that the seven vans visited 589 villages, where the "captains" delivered 972 addresses, and the nine colporteurs visited 303 villages, delivering in the course of their mission 180 addresses. One van sold during the six months, 4,104 publications, and gave away 11,200. One colporteur sold 607 publications, and gave away 2,210. These may serve as specimens of the work done.

The news that the British Government had reduced the hours of labor in the Ordnance Department to eight hours a day has been received with great satisfaction by all the labour organizations in Britain as well as on this continent. For the present this reduction will apply to more than 20,000 employees who in addition to the concession made will continue to receive the same wages as when they worked nine hours. This action of the Government is all the more significant, coming as it did so shortly after the declaration by the same Government that no "sweaters" or middlemen would get any Government contracts, and that all tendering for Government supplies and work must pay standard or union wages to their work-people. The labor organizations regard this step as a preliminary one to the virtual adoption before long of eight hours as a standard day's labor in Britain, and which may be secured without strikes or legislation.

Messrs. Mc'Greevy and Connolly are again at liberty. It may be doubted whether, had the offenders been men of less note, the Government would have been equally solicitous about their health and have recommended their release to his Excellency the Governor-General, before one

quarter of the term of their imprisonment had elapsed. The effect which their release might tend to have upon wrong-doers in high quarters in leading them to conclude that similar immunity may in future be reckoned upon, has been greatly lessened by the care and caution of Lord Aberdeen fully to satisfy himself that the ground upon which their release was recommended, namely, the state of their health, was fully warranted. The gravity of their offence has not been lessened in the estimation of the public since the ground of their release has been fully sustained, and the fact made clear that they have not been set at liberty merely from their having powerful friends who have the ear of the Government.

A very influential and representative meeting of the clergy of the three leading Protestant churches of Belfast, convened by circular signed by the Very Rev. the Dean of Connor, Rev. Henry Montgomery, and Rev. Wesley Guard, vice-president of the Methodist Conference, was held a short time ago in the boardroom of the Irish Temperance League, Lombard Street, Belfast. The Dean of Connor (Dr. Seaver), who was called to the chair, read the circular convening the meeting, and fully set forth the objects contemplated. They proposed to hold a united conference of members of all evangelical churches in Belfast in the coming autumn and to which also certain well-known and accorded leaders of religious thought and life from other places might be invited. It was unanimously resolved—"That a Convention should be held in Belfast in the coming autumn. Dr. Williamson explained that they should keep three things before them, viz.—1, Deepening of the spiritual life; 2, the conversion of sinners; 3, the extension of the Gospel at home and abroad. The utmost harmony and brotherly feeling characterized the entire proceedings, which closed as they began with devotional exercises.

One more brilliant young life has gone to swell the British death tribute to Africa. Sir Gerald Portal has died of typhoid fever, following an outbreak of malarial fever that developed itself on his return to England from his mission to Uganda. He was only thirty-six, but was already a K.C.M.G. and C.B. In 1882 Sir Gerald was attached to the staff of Sir Evelyn Baring—now Lord Cromer—in Egypt. He distinguished himself in the war with Arabi, but it was as diplomat that he rapidly rose to the front rank, and was so trusted that he was left *charge d'affaires* during his chief's furloughs, and was generally regarded as his successor. He was sent on a difficult mission to King John of Abyssinia at the beginning of that potentate's troubles with the Italians, and subsequently went to Zanzibar as Consul-General—really as the watchful guardian of British East Central African interests. He was sent to Uganda by the present Government to report on the state of the country, and make recommendations for its future settlement. When the Chartered Company threw up its undertaking he settled the country temporarily, and the Government is now considering his report. Captain Portal, Sir Gerald's elder brother, accompanied him, and died in Uganda. Sir Gerald leaves a widow. A memorial service was held in the English Cathedral at Zanzibar.

The annual International Convention of the Christian Endeavor Society has become a matter of world-wide interest and importance in all religious circles. Before us lies a press notice of that which is to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, next July. Already ten thousand applications have been made for accommodation, and provision is being made for anywhere from 25,000 to 40,000 delegates. Cleveland Endeavorers are hard at work laying plans for the proper care and entertainment of the expected thousands. Most of the delegates will be cared for in the delightful homes of Cleveland, the hotels being able to accommodate comparatively few. Every house where delegates are quartered

will display in the window a large C. E. monogram, the name of the state from where the person comes being hung below it. Norman E. Hills, 372 Sibley Street, Cleveland, O., is chairman of the Entertainment Committee, and the only person who may be written to for all particulars in this line. The Endeavorers of San Francisco, where the convention is to be held in 1895, are already at work, and have appointed Rulto V. Watts chairman of the committee of arrangements for that city. He was one of the delegates to the International Convention the past year at Montreal, where he was largely, if not chiefly, instrumental in securing the convention of '95 for San Francisco.

Political affairs in the Mother Country are at the present moment in a particularly mixed up state, so much so that it would be impossible for anyone to say what great changes may be brought about within a few days or hours, or may result from the movements of the next few days or hours. The man whose personality has been such a mighty factor in all political movements for such a lengthened period, according to all appearances and rumours is about to withdraw from the place he has so long filled with such commanding ability. The Liberals are not very united among themselves except in confidence in and devotion to their leader, who is about to lay down his sceptre, the Radicals are fractious, the Irish party cares only for Home Rule. The Lords and Commons are antagonized to a degree which they have not been for a long time, the very overthrow of the former being clamoured for by an indignant Radicalism. Among the Conservatives, Lord Salisbury's power is giving signs of weakening and that of the Duke of Devonshire is growing. All these things indicate the near approach of a very possible important modification of political parties. As it has again and again been demonstrated, however, in even the greatest national crises, that no one man is indispensable, so no doubt it will in this, and even when Mr. Gladstone steps down and out, the British Government and people, and the world's great affairs will go on, and in its mighty movements the blank made by the removal of the greatest man is soon filled up, and in a few short years or months even the place he occupied can hardly be known.

*The Week*, in its last issue, referring to the difference of opinion which has arisen in the ranks of the Patrons of Industry, and of the P. P. A., on the question of the "obligation of members of these organizations to vote in every case, and in spite of any personal opinions or convictions for the nominee of the Society," gives utterance to views so wise and sound, so important to be known and acted upon that we have pleasure in quoting them. "The solid vote of even a few thousands is a tremendous force in politics. But it is sure to become sooner or later a blind, unscrupulous force, wielded by wire-pullers, self-seekers, or fanatics. The worst of it is that the citizen who submits to such a condition of membership in any society, thereby surrenders his manhood and sells his birthright of free citizenship in a free state. We can think of no patriotic end which could justify the use of a means so objectionable and mischievous. The decay of manliness and true patriotism in any state may be dated from the time when any considerable number of its citizens can thus put aside their individuality and voluntarily become parts of a lifeless machine to be run by those who cannot be infallible at the best, and who may at any time become the tools of politicians, or the slaves of their own suspicions and prejudices. In fact, it would hardly be going too far to say that the man who pledges himself to vote as another or any number of others may direct, in the very act proves himself unworthy of the rights and responsibilities of a free citizen in a free state. We are not sure that the state, that is, his fellow-citizens, would not be fully justified in enacting that the man against whom such a selling of the franchise could be proved, should be deprived of it."