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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE nationality of Bunyan has been discussed in a number of letters to the "Times." Some hold that he was of Spanish descent; and a Carmarthen man maintains that he must have been Welsh. "Bunyan, Bonyon, Benyon, Beynon Ap Eynon. Is it not clear?"

"SOME man in England," says the "Churchman," "is said to carry twenty shillings in his pocket whenever a charity sermon is to be preached. After the sermon has continued twenty minutes, he deducts a shilling for every additional five minutes, and often makes a great deal of money by the operation."

BISHOP IRELAND, of Minnesota, it is said, has laboured so successfully in behalf of total abstinence that it is very rare now to find an Irish saloon-keeper in St. Paul, and there are proportionately fewer patrons of the saloons among the Irish Catholics than among the rest of the population. His example should be worth something in other sections.

ACCORDING to a telegram of Sept. 8th, the damage to the Isthmus of Panama by the earthquake is over \$100,000. One man at Aspinwall was killed, and several injured. Ten miles of the Panama railway were rendered impassable; bridges were damaged, the abutments cracking; and in some places the rails were bent, and in others the track was sunken.

A PAPER calling itself the "Protestant Times," in its zeal for the oath, charges the Duke of Argyll with having "little regard for either the Creator or our Constitution." In the same article the Earl of Derby is denounced as "an intimate associate of the pervert Cardinal Manning." This is a style of "religious" journalism that cannot be too severely reprehended.

CARDINAL MANNING, replying in the "Nineteenth Century" to Lord Sherbrooke on the question of Parliamentary oaths, contends that "every 'enabling Act of Parliament' whereby those who refuse to recognise God and His laws shall be admitted to make laws for us is nothing less than a covert exclusion of God from the councils and commonwealth of England."

OLD NEIL LIVINGSTONE was the founder of the missionary society, and also of a missionary prayer meeting, in the village of Blantyre. He bought or borrowed as many missionary books as he could lay his hands on. The heroes of the household were Martyn, Judson, Carey, Zirzendorf; so that from his earliest years David Livingstone was steeped in the literature of Christian missions.

SOME anxiety is again felt with reference to the crofters in Skye. An Inverness messenger-at-arms with a ground officer went to Braes on Saturday to serve interdicts on the tenants, but between Gedintal and Bilmenach they were met by a crowd of women and children, and so pelted with stones that they had to turn back without accomplishing the whole of their work. The Braes men are at the fishing at present.

ONE singular result of the destruction of Alexandria is reported to be the stoppage of the trade in the wrappings of mummies. The Egyptians have been in the habit of stripping the bodies and selling the stuff which enveloped them to American paper makers. The supply is said to be still ample. One ship recently took 875 bales to New Haven. An American house has lost a store of these rags, valued at \$40,000, by the burning of the city.

THE "Christian Leader" (Glasgow) says: "Pastor Chiniquy is finishing the last chapter of an important book, 'Fifty Years in the Church of Rome.' It was begun in 1873. It is probable that he will come over to England to find a publisher. Writing on July 29th to a friend in London, he says: 'I began yesterday my seventy-fourth year, and by the great mercy of

God I do not feel yet any of the infirmities of old age. My eyes are as good as when twenty-five years old, and my hand is as firm still. Yesterday I preached three sermons, and to-day I do not feel tired.'"

THE Peking missionaries, in memorializing the British House of Commons on the opium traffic with China, says it takes \$65,000 in bullion out of China, and impoverishes the people to that extent to purchase British manufactures. They say that the import has increased from 12,000 chests in 1834 to 97,000 in 1880, while the native growth now equals if it does not exceed the importation of the drug. It is worth while to recall that every chest of opium that entered China from 1793 to 1860 was in deliberate defiance of the Chinese Government.

A MOST remarkable painting has just been found at Pompeii, and placed in the Naples Museum among the Pompeian frescoes. It is chiefly interesting from the fact that it is the first work of art connected in the remotest degree with either Judaism or Christianity that has been discovered in the buried cities. It is five-and-a-half feet long by nineteen inches in height, and represents the judgment of Solomon. There are nineteen figures in the picture, including the King, who is seated on a dais, a number of soldiers, a group of spectators, and the women and child.

DR. ROBERT MOFFATT, the celebrated African missionary and father-in-law of Dr. Livingstone, is staying at Thornfield Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne, the residence of Mr. A. E. Reyner. On Sunday, the veteran, now in his eighty-sixth year, worshipped at Albion Congregational Chapel. A singular scene was witnessed after the services, when many persons crowded round Dr. Moffatt to shake hands with him. He spent a portion of his early life in Dukir Id. He made many inquiries respecting old residents, but his knowledge of the present generation had to be gathered up from hints as to the mothers and fathers and grandmothers and grandfathers of those who addressed him.

GENERAL BOOTH proposes to send a contingent to India, under the command of Judge Tucker, to attack the strongholds of Hindooism. The Judge, who has given up his office and a salary of £800 a year to enter the ranks of the Army, hails from India, several of whose languages he can speak, and is about to return thither with five or six comrades. The party intend to dress like the natives, to eschew European customs, and to adapt themselves to the manners of the people. A Yorkshire soldier volunteers for foreign service, and offers £50 towards the expenses of the mission, while the editor of the "War Cry" tells his readers "We have a Hallelujah lass who says she cannot sleep for thinking of Africa."

THE Canadian Government, in the interests of the vast influx of immigrants to the great North-West, has issued a warning note for them to prepare proper house accommodation for the coming winter. Squatting in tents is all very well during the summer months, but something more substantial is required to keep out the intense cold of the six or seven months' winter. Houses of sods are recommended where wood cannot be had. It is just possible that many working men will discover, as winter comes on, that Winnipeg and its neighbourhood has very many disadvantages for the working man. The extravagant prices for the necessaries of life is the worst of it. Many will doubtless troop down into the States and other more settled parts. After all, it is the agriculturist who will fare best as time goes on, and become most rapidly independent.

THE Canada Methodist Episcopal General Conference has been considering a report of the Revision Committee. The report recommended that presiding elders be stationed wherever advisable. Amendments were offered with the purpose of shutting up the "loopholes" of the present system, which allow of

"favouritism," and making the three-years' system absolute, and to make the term five years. Also a motion was made to abolish the office of presiding elder. On the subject of Methodist union, which is now absorbing the attention of Dominion Methodists, the General Conference passed resolutions hailing the proposal with joy, expressing a willingness to make reasonable concessions to secure it, and appointing a committee of eighteen to confer with similar committees of other bodies, and negotiate a union, if possible, with any or all bodies.

A PEASANT woman, one Thekla Popov, is now being tried in Hungary on a charge of aiding and abetting more than a hundred wives to poison their husbands. A correspondent of the London "Standard" telegraphs that she is a gipsy and some seventy years of age. She lived in a little village named Melencze, and it may almost be said that murder was her trade. The married women from the neighbouring country-side who sought her aid paid the old gipsy a fee of from fifty to a hundred florins for each bottle of poison they bought, and were duly instructed by her in the safest methods of its "exhibition." Sometimes she had dealings with young girls who quarrelled with their sweethearts, and who, from jealousy or rage, had determined to kill them. This woman's terrible trade prospered amazingly for two years. She excited no suspicion, because the drugs she administered acted slowly, though surely, and in their effects simulated the symptoms of disease. Even now that the bodies of some of her victims have been exhumed, they show no signs of poisoning, though the stomachs are eaten away.

THE "Advance" says of the Antichristian literature which is becoming so abundant in India, that in Lucknow and Cawnpore there are no less than forty-five publishing-houses doing this work. One of their publishers received \$4,000 from a well-to-do Mohammedan to assist in printing the Mohammedan books. Another issued a million of Hindu tracts at the expense of a Hindu prince. One hundred and three newspapers, mostly weeklies, are issued to abet Paganism and Mohammedanism and to attack Christianity. "The native presses," says Joseph Cook, "are exceedingly active. They throw off immense editions of books intended to defend Paganism, and of heathen classics notoriously stained by passages of immoral tendency, sometimes of positive indecency. I went through a Hindu publishing house at Lucknow which had just sent an order to London for \$25,000 worth of printing-paper." Well, let it come. The Gospel brings a sword. This stir and ferment is just what is to be expected, and is an augury of good. Anything is better than the old utter stagnation of heathenism. And the Bible is good against them all.

THE Glasgow "Christian Leader" of the 7th inst. has the following notice of well-known ministers:—"Two of the most popular preachers in New York, Dr. John Hall and Dr. W. M. Taylor, are at present visiting the scenes of their youth in the old country. On Sabbath last Dr. Hall preached to the congregation of Kings Mills, in Ireland, the neighbourhood where he was reared; and on the afternoon of the same day Dr. Taylor officiated for Mr. McInnes in Darlington Place U.P. Church, Ayr. On Sunday week, in accordance with what seems to be almost his annual custom, the minister of Broadway Tabernacle preached for his friend, Mr. Kirkwood, at Troon. One of his hearers on this occasion remarks that few, if any, of the large and appreciative audience will regret having been present. The groundwork of the discourse was Elijah's flight from Jezebel. The comparisons—love as contrasted with sternness, noise *versus* silence—were apt and pointed: love all-powerful in overcoming the rebellious when austerity and force failed; noise and tumult at fault in drawing the careless and thoughtless from the error of their ways; and silence as presented by the "still, small voice," immeasurably beyond the means chosen by babblers and disturbers of decency and order, so common at the present time.