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## Notes of the Week.

While on the waters of the Manchester Ship Canal and in full view of their townspeople, the mayors of Manchester and Salford kneeled at their sovereign's feet, and were bidden to arise Sir Anthony (Marshall) and Sir William (Bailey). This open-air knighting on board ship had in it an Elizabethan spirit which has quite taken the fancy of the nation.

More than a hundred Scotsmen have taken up farms in Essex during the last dozen years, and hardly any of them—two or three—are known to have failed. They reduce the proportion of arable land and cut down expenses; rents have fallen, profits are very small; but these colonists seem to be the salvation of the south-east of the corner. Scotsmen are often salvation regiments.

By the will of the late Abraham L. Vansant, of Philadelphia, two bequests of \$10,000 each were made to the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. By a codicil these are reduced to \$8,000 each, with the explanation that certain securities held by the testator had depreciated in value since the making of the will.

The late John Fraser, of Philadelphia, at his death made the following bequests, which become available on the death of his widow: The First Church, Falls of Schuylkill, \$500, to be known as the Fraser bequest, and to be used in paying the salary of the minister; Presbyterian Hospital, \$200; Presbyterian Ministerial Relief Fund, \$200; Presbyterian Disabled Ministers' Fund, \$200; Home for Old Couples, \$200.

At the Baptist Y. P. U. Convention the Registration Committee's report was presented by Mr. Ratcliffe. He said there were a large number of persons who had not registered at all, but there were 5,539 who had. There are 178 from the Northwestern States, and 337 from the Southern States. There came 2,497 from the Northeastern States, 462 of whom came from Pennsylvania, 410 from New York, 378 from Illinois, 372 from Michigan. Canada sent 2,521, of whom 2,427 came from Ontario.

The newspapers announce that President Cleveland has informed a delegation of workmen that, at an early date, he will appoint a commission to investigate the causes leading up to the present labor disturbances in the United States. This resolution is as wise as his conduct in ordering out the Federal troops to sustain the laws was courageous. We trust that in the one act he reflects the sober thought of the American people as in the other he reflected their loyal resolve to maintain the laws of the land.

The English House of Commons has been giving considerable attention to the increase of lunacy in Ireland, a late report of the inspectors having shown that in the last forty years the insane of all classes has increased over 200 per cent., and that this increase was made among a diminishing population. Various explanations of this singular phenomenon are suggested, among them the emigration of the stronger members of the community, and the intemperate use of alcohol and tea, the latter beverage being used in great quantities and in a concentrated form.

A great calamity very lately visited Constantinople: an earthquake shook the city and the neighboring country, destroying many lives, and throwing the whole population into a state of terror which is all the greater that the shocks were a number of times repeated. More than two hundred lives are at this writing known to have been lost, and the destruction of property is immense. The beautiful Mosque of St. Sophia was among the public build-

ings to be injured, but happily the damage can in this case be repaired. Trade is paralyzed, the wealthier classes have fled the city, the poor are camping in the parks, cemeteries, and open spaces. The British Ambassador has permitted the homeless or frightened to camp in the Embassy grounds, and has opened a relief fund.

Dr. Field of the *New York Evangelist*, who is a noted traveller, is now on a visit to Alaska. He travelled part of the way by the Canadian Pacific Railway. *The Evangelist* says that "on his westward travels, he writes of being favored with fine weather and everything to make his journey perfect. Though he has seen so many parts of the globe, he finds cause for new wonder and admiration in the panorama that is being unrolled before him. 'I had no idea of the wonderful scenery of this part of British America,' he writes. 'It has mountains as high as any in Switzerland, and gorges as deep and wild as the famous Via Mala.' The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was one of the greatest achievements of its kind in the world.

The question has come up of the right of women to sit as delegates in the Wesleyan Conference in England. A Miss Dawson was elected as a delegate by the Birmingham Synod and took her seat. Attention having been called to her presence in the conference, it was moved that the question of her right to sit as a delegate be referred to a committee. Mr. Price Hughes moved an amendment that the conference proceed with the order of the day, and advocated the admission of women as delegates. An exciting debate followed, and an amendment was finally adopted, without expressing any opinion as to the election of Miss Dawson, instructing the Chairman of District Synods not to accept the nomination of women as representatives until the whole question is decided by the conference.

The great railway strike in the States having rather ignominiously collapsed by the incarceration of Debs and his associates, another kind of struggle, the result of which may be not less important, has been entered upon, the struggle in the courts between the Government and the societies which represent labour. It is needless to say that the Government will fight its side of the case to the very last, and the labour associations are evidently determined to strain all their resources to the utmost to fight out their case to the end. Labour organizations which took no part in or did not even approve of the strike, are likely to lend assistance to the fight in the courts. The results will be watched with deep interest, not only in the States but over the whole civilized world, by both laborers and employers of labour, and the decision of the case whatever it may be, cannot fail to be important.

The rally of the Christian Endeavorers of the Presbyterian Church of the United States North and South, and of Canada, at Cleveland, is described as having been "really wonderful." The Old Stone Church, as it is called, was packed, and a second remarkable overflow meeting had to be held. Enthusiasm and loyalty to the church, with expressions of appreciation on the part of pastors of the spirit of the rank and file of members of the Christian Endeavour, were conspicuous features of the meeting's rally. The mission boards of the church, loyalty and practical co-operation with the pastors, advance movements among Presbyterian Endeavorers, the work and scope of the society, and other subjects of interest to the denomination, all came in for attention. "A Young People's Society and a Junior Society in every Presbyterian church," and that "every society shall give systematically to the mission work of the church," was the purport of the resolutions unanimously passed by the conference. The meetings were unique and wonderful, and their effect on the work of the church will doubtless be strongly felt during this coming year.

Bishop Grafton, of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, thus expresses his views of the "historic episcopate," and of the way by which other bodies of Christians may become united with the Episcopal church: "Let me restate the truth to which, in the interest of unity, I desire to bear witness. Within the body of Christ, where the Apostolically descended and Episcopally ordained orders have been transmitted, there are to be found fuller sacramental endowments than among our separated brethren. We are willing to allow their ministers to be what their convictions and their seals of God's approval testify them to be—viz., evangelists, teachers, preachers of the Word. But realizing as we do the great illuminations and resources and potentialities of grace given under the fuller administrations of the priesthood of Christ's body, which we by God's mercy possess, we desire them, so much more worthy as many of them are than ourselves, to be partakers of these spiritual gifts. Whenever our brethren are enabled by the enlightenment of God's Spirit to discern our *priesthood*, as now we acknowledge their *ministry*, the barriers to reunion will gradually melt away."

Though little heard of of late years, Sir Henry Layard, who died so recently, was in his day highly distinguished and leaves a name which will not be forgotten. He was the discoverer of Nineveh and brought to light its wonderful and long buried treasures. He was of English and Spanish parentage, being the son of a Ceylon civil servant, was born in Paris, and spent the most of his early life in Italy. In 1839 he started on a prolonged tour through the East. The accounts of his discoveries, which have now become classical, at the time of their appearance created immense enthusiasm. The material results may be seen at the British Museum. After laying bare the hidden treasures of Nineveh and Babylon, young Mr. Layard, only 32, looked round for a career in which his intimate acquaintance with Eastern affairs might be utilized. After a brief spell at Constantinople as an Attache, he entered Parliament in 1852 as M.P. for Aylesbury, in the Liberal interest, and only finally retired from it in 1869, to take up the post of British Envoy at Madrid which he vacated for that of Ambassador at Constantinople in 1877. He negotiated the treaty under which Great Britain occupies Cyprus, and was made a Grand Cross of the Bath. He retired in 1880, and his later years have been devoted to Italian art.

The *Montreal Witness* of the 25th ult. contains a very clear account of the origin of the present difficulty between China and Japan respecting Corea. In 1885 a treaty was entered into between China and Japan which placed Corea under the joint protection of the two empires in the matter of keeping order in the country, or of Japan having the right to do so alone. There are at present 12,000 of Japan's subjects engaged in commerce in Corea, and 2,000 Chinese. Of late the conduct of the Korean Government has been very corrupt and tyrannical, and this has been directed specially against foreigners, Japanese as well as others. Japan accordingly promptly sent troops and ships to protect her subjects and commerce. China being left behind, suddenly professed that the trouble was at an end, the island at peace and asked Japan to withdraw her troops, which she refuses to do until order and good government are restored. China, by virtue of certain ancient claims and rights of suzerainty over Corea, which are by this conduct of Japan endangered, now wishes to drive her troops from the island. Hence the threatened war. Both Russia and Great Britain have important interests at stake and are vigilant, watchful onlookers and interested parties, to say nothing of the United States. It is to be hoped that the threatened war may still be averted; should it not, it may involve and lead to issues much more far-reaching than if China and Japan were simply and alone concerned.