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## Notes of the Week.

The nuns who were appointed as teachers in one of the public schools at Pittsburgh, have retired. The Board of Education decided that the wearing of the peculiar "habit," or "insignia," of a religious order is sectarian teaching, and inadmissible in the public schools. As this prevented the payment of salaries to the nuns, they ceased to teach there.

In Pennsylvania there has been an interesting decision as to the taxation of church property. On St. Luke's block, Philadelphia, was a church building, of which part was used for worship, and another part was leased to the city for a public school room. The city claimed taxes on the property as not being used exclusively for religious worship. The Supreme Court decided that under these circumstances the property is liable to taxation. The decision is a wise one.

Hon. Charles A. Schieren, Mayor of Brooklyn, has offended the Irish of that city by refusing to order the Irish flag to be displayed on the City Hall on St. Patrick's Day. He does it on the ground that the American flag is the only appropriate one to wave there. If accorded to the flag of Ireland, the Germans, the French, the Italians and others, could claim the same privilege. The Mayor is right, and we think that intelligent Irish citizens will approve of his impartial course.

The Trades Unionists' Demonstration in favor of the Employers' Liability Bill, and against the House of Lords, took place, March 18. The district between Hyde Park and the Thames embankment was filled with workmen and paupers, brass bands, processions, banners, and thousands of spectators. The banners bore very suggestive mottoes, such as, "Down with the Lords;" "No Hereditary Lawmakers;" "The Lords Threw Out the Employers' Liability Bill—Let Us Throw Them Out," etc. After the procession, tens of thousands gathered in the park, and addresses were made by more than a hundred speakers.

Rev. A. Lambert has left Rome and announced himself as a Protestant. Mr. Lambert is spoken of as a man of excellent character, of rare gifts, and as having occupied an influential position in the Roman Catholic church. Since his renunciation of the church of Rome he has made several public addresses. He speaks with great ease and intelligence, and yet his spirit is free from rancour when he alludes to the church which he has left. His conversion to Christianity comes from his recognition of the falsity of the claims of the Roman church, and his acceptance of the simple teaching of the New Testament. He believes sincerely that there is but one High Priest, and He is Jesus Christ.

Lord Rosebery, successor of Mr. Gladstone as Premier of Great Britain, is at present very much to the front. Just what he may be able to do with Home Rule for Ireland, how Scottish business can best be attended to, what is to be done with the House of Lords, the difficulties that lie in his way and how he is to steer through amongst them; how soon Parliament will be dissolved and what will be the result of the next election, are all questions on which there is no end of conjecture. Of all these matters that of the House of Lords seems to be the most interesting to the general public. Of this, *Harper's Weekly* says: There is beginning in Great Britain important constitutional contest. The hereditary principle in legislation is in issue. The "mending or ending" of the House of Lords is the new question that will be submitted to the constituencies of the coming general election, for the retirement of Gladstone from the premiership and the accession of Lord Rosebery must soon be followed by dissolution of the Commons and an appeal to the people.

Rev. Hermann Warszawiak, in the March number of the *Hebrew Christian*, speaking of his visit to Toronto says, "Over 300 most respectable Israelites, men and women, attended the meeting for Jews held in Knox church, and listened most earnestly and attentively to my discourse, pleading with them out of the depths of my heart to believe and accept Christ as their Saviour and Redeemer, as I and so many other Hebrews have already done. The warm and hearty reception I received on every hand from our Canadian brethren, Jews and Christians, at this truly wonderful convention, was even beyond my expectation. Love and sympathy were shown me on all sides, and people brought their offerings and contributions towards our work with most willing hands and hearts full of prayer."

The question of religion in public schools is a most difficult one to solve, and different nations employ different methods of meeting its difficulties. There has been a long-standing contest about it in France between the Government and the Roman church, and the Government has lately issued an order as follows: "Masters and mistresses shall teach the children, during the whole duration of their school life, their duties towards their family, their country, their fellow creatures, towards themselves, and towards God." It is also ordered that Thursday be set apart in France as a holiday, "to enable parents to have their children taught in the religion to which they belong, outside the precincts of the school, and a week's observance is allowed before confirmation for religious preparation."

The special evangelistic service which have been in progress in New York for several weeks give promise of large and notable results. Not for many years has the city been so deeply stirred. The attendance at the meetings has been increasingly large, the number of services constantly growing, and the interest deepening and widening day by day. At a meeting of pastors held early last week to consider plans for an extension of the work nearly two hundred persons were present, and the reports from all quarters were of the most encouraging character. At this meeting Rev. Dr. John Hall spoke earnestly in favour of a house-to-house campaign. Other speakers at this time were Rev. Drs. James M. King, David J. Burrell, A. C. Dixon, B. B. Tyler, and Howard Duffield, all of whom expressed the belief that the time was propitious for vigorous and united action on the part of the churches in the work of saving souls.

Americans excel in the liberal provision which they make for the advancement of education both secular and sacred. The Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary has had substantial aid from a generous friend, Mr. A. J. Alexander, of Woodburn House, Kentucky. During all the days when the plans for the organization of this institution were considered, both privately and in the church courts, he gave his counsel and words of encouragement, and now he has added a splendid gift of money, at a time, too, of special sacrifice to his own business interests. He has deeded to the endowment of the Seminary a piece of property, in Chicago, valued at \$100,000, making the total endowments now \$250,000. It is a business house which, last year, rented for more than eight thousand dollars. After deducting taxes, repairs, etc., this will represent to the Seminary an income of six thousand dollars a year, or more.

In these days of general distress among the laboring poor, the charitable organizations of the cities are tasked and taxed to the utmost to provide relief for all. Among the most efficient societies to succour the needy, is the Relief Committee of the Industrial Christian Alliance of New York city. Their plan is as follows: They work chiefly through the Children's Aid Society, the King's Daughters, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Home for the Friendless, principals of public schools, churches, missions, etc., and other charitable agencies situated in the centres of distress.

They keep up seven restaurants where, for five cents or a five cent ticket, a substantial meal can be eaten on the premises or carried home. So carefully is it managed that one of the workers states that a family of six had on one occasion made a fair meal on a single five cent ration, while ninety cents worth of tickets will support a family of three for a week.

As the close of the fiscal year of the Presbyterian Church in the United States is drawing near, both the Home and Foreign Missionary Boards send out an earnest appeal for help to rescue them from a terrible deficit and necessary retrenchments: Twenty-five cents additional, it says, from each church member would clear the debts. Can we not raise this amount in our churches before the 15th of March and place it in the hands of the mission societies? Please carry one of these appeals to any friend you know who would not otherwise receive it. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse," "and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing." Next day, after hearing this appeal, two young ladies, of a certain church, cheerful and energetic, started out, resolved to secure twenty-five cents from every member of the entire church. As a result, about one hundred dollars was secured, which was over and above the regular contribution which had already been made. Might not many of our lady friends take the hint from this conduct and go and do likewise on behalf of our own Foreign Mission Fund and with a like happy result.

The International Primary Teachers' Union, at a meeting held a short time ago in Philadelphia, passed the following resolutions to be laid before the International Lesson Committee: *Resolved*, That we recommend to the Lesson Committee now in session in Philadelphia, that they select a separate International lesson course for the primary department, to begin January 1, 1896; and that it consist of one-half the length of time used to cover the regular course. *Resolved*, That it is the judgment of this Executive Committee of the International Primary Teachers' Union that this separate and special course shall be in addition to the regular course, and shall not interfere with the present lesson-helps which are prepared for the primary department; and it shall be optional for each denomination to prepare helps for the primary department as at present upon this course; and it shall be optional for each school to adopt this course." The Lesson Committee has asked the International Primary Teachers' Union to prepare such a course, and submit it to them as soon as possible. At another meeting of the Executive Committee of the primary Unions, held in New York, March 24, a committee was selected to prepare this course.

Every preparation is being made by the Y. M. C. A. in London, Eng., for the approaching jubilee celebration of the semi-centennial of the founding of the movement. The arrangements for entertaining and locating the large number of delegates expected is necessarily multifarious. Seventy branch committees have been formed throughout London to aid in the work. The members and friends of the various associations in the metropolis will be asked to provide sleeping accommodations for the visitors, and a huge pavilion is to be erected on the vacant ground adjoining Sion College on the Thames embankment, wherein they may be provided with a dinner and tea each day. On Friday evening a reception of the delegates will be held at Exeter Hall, where the conference sessions will take place, and in all probability there will be a special service in Westminster Abbey. The Lord Mayor and the corporation of the city are to be asked to extend a reception to the delegates in the Guild Hall. The clergy and ministers of the United Kingdom have been asked to preach special sermons to young men on the Sunday, and in the afternoon of that day a Bible reading will be given to the delegates of the Rev. F. B. Meyer in Exeter Hall.