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SABBATH SCHOOL PAPERS.

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Notes of the Week.

LAST April, two Mormon elders were dispatched to Hindustan, whence, thirty years ago, after utter and ignominious failure, all missionaries were withdrawn. One of the two has just returned, and reports that the Hindu heart is still hopelessly hard, and also that the native at whose earnest solicitation the elders were appointed, basely apostatized from the Latter-day faith while upon the voyage out, and became bitterly hostile.

THE brave little garrison cooped up in Kassala for many months has within the last few days been reduced to dire straits. For a long time its supplies have been low, and it has been closely encircled by hordes of Haddendowah Arabs whose vigilance made a relief sortie a very hazardous affair. Last week this little band suffered a serious defeat. Many officers and men perished in the encounter. The situation of Kassala renders speedy relief difficult, and the Emir in command urges that, unless aided soon, the garrison must either surrender or die of famine.

THE gallant Canadian voyageurs have returned from Egypt. They performed satisfactorily the work assigned them, and have exemplified the pluck and endurance in which Canadian voyageurs and lumbermen excel. The far travelled boatmen are delighted to return to their native land. They have received a hearty welcome and will find their way to their several homes. Many of them, no doubt, will continue to tell marvellous stories of Egypt for the remainder of their natural lives.

THE REV. G. BALFOUR, Edinburgh, presided at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Society for Female Education in India and South Africa. Women's work, he said, was best managed and superintended by women. We have got ladies upon our parochial school boards, but we have no lady ministers or lady elders yet, and if we continue to go on Scriptural principles we would never have them. But there was Scriptural authority for deaconesses, and if we had a staff of deaconesses, he would have no objection to see some of them serving on our General Assembly's committee, and we, the gentlemen, would be immensely the better for their help.

FOR some time past uneasy feelings have existed as to the designs of Russia on Central Asia. The ostensible cause of the formal dispute is the rectification of the Afghan boundary. The scientific frontier, it seems, has not yet been discovered. Earnest protestations of Russia's friendly feeling are made from time to time. Despite these, military expeditions are persistently pushing eastward. Britain distrusts the good faith of Muscovite diplomatic assurances, and is disposed to regard an aggressive movement on Herat as decidedly serious. Recent events disclose the fact that British sentiment is not now running in the direction of peace at any price, and the language of the Foreign Office is couched in firm tones. It is yet quite possible, and indeed highly probable, that at present a war with Russia will be averted.

THE discussion of the question of compensating the liquor trade for the losses it will sustain by the adoption of the Scott Act is finding its way into the pulpit. The Rev. J. Wood, of the Congregational Church, in his sermon on Sunday morning, referring to the demand for compensation, said, that if on looking at the matter all round, and not from the liquor sellers' point of view only, it was found that they were entitled to it, the temperance people, he was sure, would not only be just, but generous, to a fallen foe. But, then, the claims of widows and orphans, made such by drink, and of parents whose sons had been entrapped and ruined by the saloons, and of wives who were worse than widowed by the same evil, and of the country for a fair proportion of the cost of our jails and asylums and hospitals—made necessary by the crime, insanity and disease of intemperance—must not be ignored. And, if all this were taken into account, the speaker thought the compensation that could be claimed would be all on the side of the victims and sufferers from the traffic.

At the annual conference recently held in Edinburgh, of the Scottish Liberation Society, the report congratulated the friends of the Society on the encouraging circumstances which had developed during the year, and referred in particular to the Bill for Disestablishment in Scotland introduced by Mr. Dick Peddie. This measure, it was stated, is based on the scheme issued in 1881 by the council of the Society, and its discussion is expected to afford material for testing the disposition of members of the Government and of the House of Commons. The report having been adopted on the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Webster, M.P., several questions bearing on Disestablishment were discussed, the principal speakers being Dr. Cameron, M.P., Dr. Hutton, Mr. Duncan McLaren, Mr. J. Boyd Kinnear, advocate; Professor Calderwood and Professor Lindsay. Immediate action was advocated, and a resolution was adopted for applying the endowment funds of the Church to free education.

LAST Wednesday was a great day in Washington. President Arthur, who owed his election to the assassination of President Garfield, stepped down from the White House and the highest office the American nation has in its gift. The 4th of March, 1885, also marks the close of the ascendancy of the Republican Party, which has controlled the national affairs since 1861. Grover Cleveland, avoiding display as much as possible, proceeded quietly to Washington. Since it was conceded that he had been fairly elected President, there has been a manifest endeavour to treat him fairly. No party has sought to berate him, and render his position unnecessarily difficult. His inaugural speech is characteristic of the man. There is a plain, common-sense, honest ring about it which more than compensates for the absence of the soaring eloquence which usually marked the Presidential messages of other days. Cleveland enters on his high office under favourable circumstances. His public record is good, and his choice of a Cabinet gives general satisfaction. Our American neighbours appear to be fortunate in the President they have chosen.

IT was generally expected a year ago that in May, 1885, the separation of the grocery and liquor trade would be carried into effect in Toronto. A large majority of the ratepayers by their votes decided that the separation, as provided for the Crooks Act, should be made. There is at present some doubt about the matter. The validity of the Crooks Act is placed beyond a doubt by the recent decision of the Supreme Court. The McCarthy Act was declared *ultra vires*, but its supporters do not acquiesce in that decision, and it is intended to carry an appeal to the Privy Council. Meanwhile, much confusion and uncertainty exist. Last week an influential deputation from the Toronto Temperance Electoral Union waited on the Premier of Ontario. Mr. W. H. Howland and Rev. John Smith, the principal spokesmen, urged a strict enforcement of the provisions of the Crooks Act. Complaint

was also made that licenses had been granted for the sale of liquor on the Exhibition grounds. The Hon. Mr. Mowat promised that the subject would be considered by the Council, and the decision arrived at publicly announced. A memorial, praying for withholding Dominion Licenses, has also been addressed to the Governor General and the Dominion Government.

BADGERING, a witness in a law court is a practice so common that it seems to be ordinarily accepted as an indispensable part of the administration of justice. Many a man of irreproachable character has, without a murmur, to submit to the browbeating of the brazen Buzfuz. This unjustifiable abuse is beginning to receive attention. It only requires a little consideration to consign this remnant of antiquated brutality to the oblivion it merits. The *Montreal Witness* says: In the opinion of a contemporary, a person who died suddenly a few days ago, was worried to death by the browbeating of a lawyer. It is certain that the conduct of lawyers towards honest witnesses is often as distressing and galling as it is infamous, and it is becoming more and more evident that some means of protecting witnesses against such torture to all their finer feelings must be devised if our courts are not to be mere repetitions in another form of the ancient tribunals that examined by scourging, or the Inquisition which used the rack and thumbscrew.

IN his interlude in a recent lecture, Joseph Cook, speaking of temperance legislation, said: Who have been the opposers to this legislation? Not the saloon men. If a man keeps a saloon, he does not want his boy to keep a saloon. If a man drinks, he does not want his boy to drink. Saloon-keepers have signed petitions for these laws again and again. The brewers oppose us. Why? Because they have vested interests, real estate and money invested in breweries. They are looking out for their dividends, ten, fifteen, and twenty years hence. The children of to-day are wanted by the brewers for the drunkards of to-morrow. It is our children they want. They do not want them thus taught, but left in ignorance to buy their beer, to be the beer bloats of to-morrow. A self-governing people must be a sober people, training its children to sobriety. The death knell of the possibilities of Washington's ideas dominating not only our country, but pervading other nations, is sounded when a state refuses such education. The mothers of Massachusetts are petitioning their legislature now in session for this temperance education law. I stand here to represent that motherhood. The brewers are competing for our children. Who shall win? Shall the brewers?

SOCIAL forces and their results are pressing themselves on the earnest consideration of Christian men. Some are mere theorists who get hold of a hobby with a modicum of truth in it, but it is so constantly trotted out that, beyond an occasional smile, little effect is produced. The relations of capital and labour are living issues, and vague and visionary theories are plentiful, yet the Christian Church in our day cannot overlook the important consequences involved in these relations. Last week Dr. Costa, preaching in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, New York, said: In the labour question is wrapped up the question of the soul. Men are forced to labour as if they had no souls. Men are entitled to a good share of their time, and all we have to do is to see that they get it. A day of nine working hours would allow the vitality necessary for self-improvement, and the Church and society would be all the better for it. If the horse car companies owned their men they would not venture to make them work fifteen hours on a cold winter day. The men are worse off than the horses. The stockholder don't care sixpence for their souls or bodies. The Church must come to the front in this question if she will hold her place in society. She must show herself what she truly is—the friend of labour. She must show the capitalist that she is the Church of the mechanic. Then, and then only, will they believe that she is the Church of the living God.