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Notes of the Week.

In Edinburgh there are sixty-eight students in the Divinity Classes of the University. In New College, which is the Divinity School of the Free Church, there are one hundred and thirty-nine students. The "Frees" are more attractive to the young men, or probably they have, in their churches, more young men who are drawn to the ministry.

"Nothing," says *The Independent*, "in all the march of progress is more striking than the improvement in the case of the sick, through trained nurses. Bellevue Hospital, in New York, twenty years ago, was supplied with nurses by giving women who had been condemned to a 'term on the island' their choice, to go there or take an equal term as nurse in Bellevue."

Cardinal Vaughan, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain, is to visit Rome shortly, and there is an air of expectation, widely diffused, that something remarkable is to be developed, in which all Christendom will be interested. Perhaps this visit of the Cardinal is to precede the appeal to the Pope to Anglican churchmen and English dissenters to return to the Papal fold.

The London *Daily News* correspondent in Constantinople says it is rumored that the Porte is considering administrative reforms to be introduced in Armenia. Among these reforms would be the recruiting of the gendarmerie from the Christian as well as the Mussulman population, the appointment of a Mussulman Governor for the first three-year term and Christian Governors for all subsequent terms, which would be five years each. These reforms would be introduced in all the provinces concerned in the recent massacre.

The County Council, of London, England, has just issued a big volume full of interesting statistics. It appears that of the resident population only 65 per cent. were born in London, and of born Londoners living in England 77 per cent. still live in London and 23 per cent. in the rest of the country. The southeastern counties, the south-midland, the eastern, and the south-western, are the only districts that contribute (severally) more than 3 per cent. of the population. The total foreign percentage is no more than 2.26.

The Missionaries in China are passing through the crisis in the affairs of that country safely, though they must be sometimes much affected thereby. The *Christian Observer* gives the following news from one station occupied by missionaries of the Southern Presbyterian Church: "A letter from Tsing Kiang Pu, the most northern of our mission stations in China, says that our missionaries, while itinerating lately, met with violence, and had narrow escapes from serious injury, but that they were (November 2) safely at their homes again. The ladies and children of the station at Tsing Kiang Pu were about to start to Shanghai for protection. Let us pray for them all."

Dr Torrance, of Tiberias, criticises in strong terms the present policy of the Turkish Government, by which no additional Jews are allowed to settle in Palestine. At Bethlehem, Nazareth, and many other places there are Christian communities, but no Jews. Yet the eyes of the whole Jewish world are on the land of their fathers, and every movement in the way of missionary effort is told in the ends of the earth. He says Jews simply cannot understand any of their number becoming Christians. The majority of them live in Christian countries, where they are constantly under the lash of oppression. Comparatively few of them are acquainted with Protestantism. They know the Christian faith only as a system of gross idolatry.

Mr. Tyrrell, whose explorations in our far North have become well known, returned lately to Winnipeg, from a seven months trip, with Mr. Ferguson, A. D. C. to His Excellency the Governor-General, who had accompanied him. The Winnipeg *Free Press* says: "Speaking of the new territory surveyed, Mr. Tyrrell said that he had been able to locate several timber areas and note the existence of many 'interesting rocks,' but he would not say whether or not he had discovered any minerals. He came across considerable prairie land in the far north which produced a strong growth of grass, suitable for grazing purposes, but as to the general character of the country he was non-committal. The timber is found principally along the water courses, the white spruce attaining a fair size of growth."

The Independent, of the 3rd inst., opens with a long article entitled "The Churches in 1894" being a review of the chief ecclesiastical events of the year in the different bodies represented in the article, written by some one qualified to speak for each. That on the Northern Presbyterian Church, for example, is written by Rev. W. H. Roberts, D.D., LL.D., stated clerk of the General Assembly. It will be of interest merely to mention the names of the bodies spoken of: Adventists, Baptists, Brethren, Catholics Roman, Christians, Church of God, Congregationalists, Disciples of Christ, Dunkards, Evangelical Bodies, Friends, German Evangelical Synod, Jews, Lutherans, The Methodist Bodies, The Presbyterian Bodies, Protestant Episcopal Bodies, The Salvation Army, United Brethren in Christ, Unitarians, Universalists.

Mr. Tyrrell's late explorations in our distant North have brought to light yet another field for the labors of some devoted Christian missionary. On the Kazan or (Ptarmigan) river, a beautiful stream, he fell in with a tribe of Esquimaux. These people have become separated from their brethren on the coast to whom they originally belonged and have become an inland tribe. They subsist mainly on reindeer meat, of which they can obtain an abundant supply with but little effort, as reindeer roam through the region in vast herds. These Esquimaux kill the reindeer by spearing them when the animals are crossing a lake or river. These inland Esquimaux have not inter-mixed with the Indians, but live exclusively among themselves. As a general rule they do not pursue the hunt for barter, being satisfied to live on the food that the chase furnishes. They use the skins of the reindeer for clothing.

The new School Boards of Ontario have been elected and are settling down to work. There's is an onerous, responsible and very honorable task. Like situations in Municipal Councils, often the men best fitted by education and sound judgment, fight shy of this position, in which it often happens that, because they are most competent to judge as to what is best, they are for that very reason the more likely to incur odium. Not a few of our ministers, are members of such Boards, and are there doing good service to the cause of education, and to the country. Often they are appointed by the County Council, at other times they are proposed for election in the ordinary course. With regard to this latter method the *Galt Reporter* puts this case well in speaking of Rev. Dr. Jackson who was again elected lately in that city: "We are quite aware that it is an unpleasant position for a clergyman to be compelled to stand a contest for any municipal office, and can understand that Dr. Jackson very reluctantly allowed his name to be brought forward, but that was all that was asked of him, as those who were desirous of securing his services on the School Board required from him nothing more than that he should be eligible before the ratepayers, and believed, and the result fully verifies their belief, that, if so, his election would follow."

According to the forthcoming English Congregational Year Book "the number of churches," says the *Independent* and *Nonconformist* "is slightly decreased; but the number of sittings provided has been increased by 43,701—a sign surely that the Church Extension agitation is bearing fruit. The number of churches and mission stations reported in the several county returns for England and Wales is 4,426. Adding to this, as was done for the last eight years, 165 stations known to be supported by individual churches, a total is reached of 4,592. There are 2,804 ministers in England and Wales. Of these 633 are without pastoral charge, including 70 who are engaged in collegiate or secretarial work, and at least 240 who, by reason of age or ill-health, have retired from pastoral duty. In Scotland there are 112 ministers, of whom 18 are without charge. In Ireland there are 27 ministers, of whom two are without charge. The lists of evangelists and lay pastors returned by county associations contains 195 names. In Scotland there are 99, and in Ireland 127 churches. The total of churches, branch-churches, and missions in Great Britain, Ireland, and the islands of the British Seas (Mission Stations in Scotland not included) is 4,814."

A Committee of the Senate of Queen's University, Kingston, has had under consideration a scheme of matriculation proposed by the University of Toronto, and has taken action in what we would consider a very wise direction, as indicated in the report of the Queen's University Committee, and which is as follows, signed by George Bell, LL.D., Registrar:—"Your Committee recommends the adoption of the scheme of Matriculation proposed by the University of Toronto, and expresses pleasure at the step which has been taken in the direction of raising the standard for Matriculation by increasing the percentage of marks for passing from 25 to 33 per cent. upon each subject. But while sympathizing with this desire to raise the standard, your Committee regrets to see that the Scheme tends to increase the quantity of work required for admission rather than to improve its quality. Your Committee is of opinion that it would be advisable to set papers of a more elementary character than has been the practice in the past, and to exact 40 or 50 per cent. as the standard for pass. This, we believe, would compel pupils to remain a year longer at the High Schools, and would tend to foster a higher ideal of exact scholarship amongst those seeking admission to universities."

Gov. Penoyer, of Oregon, who is a strong believer in bi-metalism, addresses President Cleveland in language more forcible than respectful to the chief magistrate of the land. He says:—"We see our stricken land, with its prostrated industries and idle throngs, willing, but unable to work and unwilling to beg or suffer. After two years of ruinous delay and mismanagement you have, thank heaven, at last discovered the real trouble, although you have not proposed the proper remedy. As you now concede, the country needs more money, but it does not want the worthless stuff you proffer. Sixty years ago the Democratic party had a President who defied the banks in the interest of the people. Has it now a President who defies the people in the interest of the banks? Do you aspire to furnish an example of treason to the cause entrusted to your care, which will be without any parallel, except one, in all the annals of American history? Your party in both houses favor the restoration of silver as standard money. The people actually suffering from the existing prostration of business favor it and will you stand with them in overturning the monometallic policy of the British money oligarchy which is fast degrading our fair country to the condition of a subjugated province and our hitherto free people to a condition of financial serfdom." And more of the same sort.