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## The Presbyterian Year Book

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## Notes of the Week.

THE Methodist Episcopal clergymen of Columbus, Ohio, have passed resolutions, condemning in strong language the holding of an Inauguration ball at Washington, on the night of the 4th of March. It is said that the Methodist ministers of Indianapolis contemplate doing the same thing.

THE *British Weekly* says: We regret to announce the death, on board the steamship *Arcadia*, between Bombay and Aden, of John McLeod Campbell, collector, of Bombay, one of three brothers in Bombay who were sons of the eminent Scotch theologian. Much sympathy is felt with Mrs. McLeod Campbell, who, during her three years in India, has been associated with many forms of good Christian work.

ARCHDEACON MACKAY-SMITH, in *Harper's Magazine* for January, says that the colleges never had so many professing church-members in them as at present. A few examples will show this. Yale College, in 1795, had but four or five students who were church members; to-day nearly one-half hold such membership. Princeton, in 1813, had but two or three openly professing the Christian faith; to-day about one-half, and among them the best scholars. In Williams College, 147 out of 248, and in Amherst 233 out of 352, are members of churches. In many other colleges, as proved by Dr. Hodge, from whose carefully prepared tables these figures are taken, the proportions are still more favourable to the prospects of religion.

THE New Year's utterances of Emperors, kings and statesmen are regarded as important because they usually give an indication as to whether war or peace will prevail. The enormous armaments of all the European powers, and the relations more or less strained that have existed for several years made people apprehensive that war might break out any day, and when once it began there was no saying as to the proportions it might assume. For the present at least the tone is evidently pacific. French President and German Emperor, Russian autocrat, Hungarian Premier and Italian King have all given assurances to their respective peoples that 1889 will be a peaceful year. There is no hint, however, that anywhere there shall be any stay of warlike preparation.

THE ter-jubilee of the Secession was celebrated in Glasgow recently by a meeting promoted by the U. P. Church and held in the Waterloo rooms. Mr. D. M'Cowan presided. A letter from Prof. Candlish was read, in which he expressed the hope that the union of the Free and U. P. Churches, which ought to have been effected long ago, would not be long delayed. Prof. Douglas wrote that he looked upon the separate existence of the two churches as sinful. Principals Cairns and Rainy were the chief speakers. The latter said the U. P. Church had shown a magnanimous readiness to rise above what was merely denominational, and it was not their fault if the ecclesiastical connection was not wider. He hoped the day was not far distant when he might be able to say the same for the Free Church.

IT is not a pleasant thing to cast aspersions on the departed, but an English contemporary gives to its readers the following paragraph. During the ministry in Brechin of the late Nathaniel Morsen, he preached a sermon to his congregation in the parish church on the evening of a communion Sabbath, which was characterized as one of the ablest ever preached in Brechin. But true it is, this same sermon was reproduced from a copy of the "London Penny Pulpit" then being issued, and copies of which were bought and sold to various parties, to their great amazement. Since Mr. Morsen's death, a volume of his sermons and memoirs was edited by one of the "faithful forty," in memory of the deceased. It was soon, however, discovered that some of the sermons thus published were also not his own, and the volume had a very limited circulation, having fallen nearly still-born from the press.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, says a London (Eng.) contemporary, is to be made serve as a sort of Non-conformist cathedral. Arrangements have been made to have the Sunday services conducted for a month at a time during next year by leading preachers of various denominations. Professor Davison, of Richmond, takes January; Dr. Dale, of Birmingham, February; and, later on, the list includes such men as Mr. Goodrich, of Glasgow; Dr. Fairbairn, Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, Professor Elmslie, etc. The plan, which was the suggestion of Dr. Dale, was adopted with great cordiality at a meeting of the congregation held recently, which was presided over by Dr. Elmslie, and addressed by Samuel Smith, M.P., Mr. de Sélincourt and others. Admirable measures have been taken to provide for the week-day services and general work of the Church. It will be interesting to note the success of this experiment.

TWO prominent Scottish divines have been saying plain things about the housing of the poor in large cities. One of them, Professor Story, is being called to account by house proprietors in Glasgow for his allegation that they are guilty of the infamy of having houses to let that are unfit to live in, and of letting them at infamous rents. The secretary of the Landlords' Association says "the Professor has evidently no knowledge of the world," but this is surely a mistake. Dr. W. C. Smith, at the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Social and Sanitary Society, said there were parts of the city that, from a sanitary point of view, were a disgrace to our civilization and Christianity. In some of the houses it was hardly possible there could be anything like a moral state of living. He knew on good authority, that some landlords were drawing thirty, forty, fifty and even sixty per cent. on the capital invested in such houses.

THE Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance, has issued a call for the annual convention to be held in Toronto on the 22nd and 23rd of this month. The business announced is the consideration of the results of the Scott Act, where it has been in opera-

tion, and the best means of meeting repeal movements. The Alliance platform adopted at Montreal last July, will also be considered, and also methods best fitted to advance the cause of Temperance. Delegates will obtain reduced railway rates, and arrangements will be made for the entertainment of the members from a distance attending the convention. Any Temperance or Church organization that contributes annually \$1 or upwards to the funds of the Alliance, is considered a branch, and has a right to send to the convention one delegate for every \$1 so contributed. In addition to the delegates so constituted, any temperance worker approving of the objects of the Alliance, may become a member by paying \$1 or more.

IN England, where tips are in season all the year round it seems at Christmas they are becoming unbearable. An English contemporary has the following: "Ask and ye shall receive," is a text which the employees of the large Birmingham firms have thoroughly taken to heart. They make a systematic canvass of the tradesmen who supply their employers, and, under the name of Christmas-boxes, extort a kind of blackmail, in recognition of their supposed ability to influence orders. So general and so successful is this system that one firm has just issued a circular to their tradesmen and connections asking them to desist from the practice, and assuring them that their refusal to give will not prejudice them in the distribution of orders by the firm. Christmas-boxes willingly given in recognition of trifling services during the year are eminently commendable. But the demand for gratuities on the sole ground that it is Christmas-tide, or in return for perfunctory ejaculations of good wishes, is strenuously to be resisted.

DR. THAIN DAVIDSON, who is specially the young men's minister, while preaching from the text, "A royal priesthood" bethought himself what he should say if he had before him a company of beardless, tonsured, and starched ritualistic priests of the High church party. He could not say, "This text is for you," but he would say, "Go home, my lads, and read your Bibles if you have any; and you will see that the Lord hath not chosen you to stand before Him." Dr. Davidson's kindnesses and attention to the young men of the metropolis draw to him many a youth who needs a friend. A short time ago he received a letter from a young man as follows. For two years now I have been tossed about by the devil. I am thirsting for something I cannot get. There is a burning hell in my heart. At times I am almost in despair. I am the most miserable young man on earth. I have tried everything to get peace. Every resolution I have made has been broken. I feel now that nothing will give me peace and happiness but the Spirit of God. Oh, pray for me!

THE contention that publicans have a right to the renewal of their licenses, if no complaint can be made as to their personal character or the conduct of their houses—in a word that they have a vested interest in their licenses—may be deemed to be finally disposed of, says the *Christian World*, by the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of Sharpe v. Wakefield. In this case the renewal of a license was refused by the Westmorland justices on the ground of "the remoteness of the inn from police supervision and the character and necessities of the neighbourhood." No complaint was made against the publican or his inn, and the question of vested interest was therefore clearly raised. A Divisional Court, consisting of Justices Field and Wills, upheld the magistrates, and now three judges of the Court of Appeal have confirmed their decision. It is, therefore, definitely settled that in law a publican has no vested interest, and that the licensing authority has full power to exercise discretion in the renewal of licenses.