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Notes of the Week.

THE report of the British Museum authorities for 1888, which has just been presented to Parliament, shows that while the number of visitors to the Museum generally is falling off, that of the visitors to the reading-room is increasing. Five years ago 152 000 persons used the reading-room; in 1888 the number was 188,000. In the past year the total number of volumes supplied was 1,208,706, as against 1,221,298 in 1887.

THERE are at present, it is said, twenty-two vacant charges in the English Presbyterian Church, and exactly the same number of probationers on the roll. There will be a large increase in the number of students attending the college next session. The signal success of Professor Dykes' professorship, and the popularity of Professor Elmslie, are attracting candidates for the ministry from various parts of the Presbyterian world.

THE *British Weekly* says: It seems as though the striking Gothic pulpit from which Dr. Dykes and Dr. Hamilton preached in their long ministries in Regent Square, is doomed to pass away. We understand that Mr. McNeill and the office-bearers have agreed to replace it by a platform, which will be ready and in its place when Mr. McNeill resumes his work, after his holidays, which he is beginning *more suo*, by taking part in Evangelistic services in the north of Ireland.

IT is not merely in the Anglican fold that such words of exhortation are needed as Bishop Moorhouse has been addressing to his clergy at Manchester. He admits that there may be a good and even a strong heart at the centre of any number of bristling out-works of clerical affectation. Not the less, however, are these forbidding, especially to workingmen. He is convinced that if they could all get rid of "the suffocating airs of professional dignity," and just go about their work as men, there would be no class in the world who would have as much influence as the clergy.

MISS AMELIA B. EDWARDS, LL.D., described as the "most learned lady in the world," and according to an English contemporary, a delightful woman to know, is making her preparation for an American visit in the autumn. She recently wrote, in answer to an invitation, signed by a large number of the most eminent divines, civilians, and scholars: "The hope that I might some day visit America has for many years held a foremost place in my heart. It holds that place no longer. What I now chiefly desire is, to visit the Americans; and that pleasure will, I trust, be mine towards the close of the present year."

THE World's Sunday School Convention, at its recent session in London, drew up a form of memorial for presentation to certain European rulers in favour of better observance of the Lord's day in the countries under their sway. After setting forth among other things that Sunday school work in Europe has been much hampered by the general disregard of the day of rest, the memorialists say: Moved by these considerations we, with one accord, by our officers, earnestly petition your majesty that, by your personal influence and by the constitutional power in your majesty's hands, you will secure for the day of weekly rest the place given it in that catalogue which all Christian lands recognize, and, for the good of the people and for the glory of God, promote its recognition as a delight, holy of the Lord and honourable. The memorial is to be presented to the Emperor of Germany, the King of Italy, and the President of French Republic.

THE *Montreal Star* says: The people of the States of Idaho and Tennessee do not take as kindly to Mormonism as do those of the North-West of Canada, for while the Mormons are pitching their tents on Canadian soil they are being driven out of the other places to which they sought to make their way, Utah becoming uncomfortably warm for them. They have striven for years to maintain their hold on Utah, but successive laws passed by Congress aimed

directly at them have at last begun to tell, and if they remain there it can only be as other citizens and after abandoning the practice of polygamy. It is to be assumed that the Mormons who have come to the Canadian North-West have left polygamy as an article of faith behind them; if not, it will be the duty of the Government to see that the Mormons are not permitted to get their roots into Canadian soil, as once they establish themselves they will be a terrible nuisance and will prove a drawback to the development of the country. Mormonism has been the cancer of the Republic, and it has required many applications of the legislative knife to get rid of it, if it can be said indeed that it has really been got rid of yet. Canada should profit by the warning.

IN the week in which the minister of the Broadway Tabernacle has been once more proving his power in the Scottish pulpit, it may be not out of place, says the *Christian Leader*, to recall an amusing anecdote of the late lamented Dr. Robertson, of Irvine, which Dr. Taylor has been heard to relate. When the latter was a student he happened to pay a visit to Robertson, who straightway sought to secure his services for a sermon on the following day. The tyro modestly declared that he was quite unable to undertake such a heavy responsibility, confessing that he had but one sermon. "Well, that is all I want," replied Robertson. "But it's the sermon I prepared for the hall, and is on Justification," said the protesting student. Robertson would accept no excuse, and, wholly against his will, the modest youth mounted the pulpit of the most eloquent orator in the west of Scotland and as best he might fired off the scholastic prelection which he had prepared for the professors. At the close of the service when the youthful divine entered the vestry, "Well," exclaimed Robertson, "I am glad I asked you to preach, Taylor;" adding, with a peculiar twinkle, "It is not often my people hear a sermon like that!"

THE *London Presbyterian Messenger* says: The Territory in Central Africa, which has for twenty years been the almost exclusive field of work of Scotch missionaries, is about to be flooded with emissaries of Catholicism. Portugal has evidently become alive to the mistake in letting Protestant England have her own way, and has called in the help of the Church. A most imposing function was held at Algiers the other day, when, in the presence of over a hundred ecclesiastics and amid a crowd of the laity, with gorgeous processions and magnificent music (in which the Portuguese National Hymn was prominent), six missionaries were consecrated for Nyassaland. During the generations that Portugal has held the town of Zambesi, she has never sought to send a missionary north of the river, and only does it now in order to counteract the powerful influence which has been established by British missionaries and British traders. Cardinal Lavigerie, who performed the act of consecration, referred to the splendid work of those devout sons of the Church, Lieutenants Cardozo and Pinto, who have just returned from making what they are pleased to call treaties with the native chiefs. Portugal is evidently determined to make a desperate struggle to retain the belt across Africa she claims as hers.

THEOLOGICAL tests, says the *British Weekly*, are to be dropped entirely for the lay chairs. This will make little practical difference except that anti-Christian professors of a satirical turn may see fit to indulge in occasional sallies more freely. A much graver matter is the question of the theological chairs, and it is probably a wise step to refer the subject to the Universities Commission; or rather, it would be a wise step if the Commission were satisfactorily constituted. The present state of the Disestablishment question makes all discussion on this, as on other subjects, difficult and even unreal, and bars the way to reform in all the churches. Whatever solution be arrived at for the present we have no doubt about the ultimate decision. It is much to be desired in the interests of students and efficient professors that some arrangements should be made by the Scotch Presbyterian Churches, whereby the students should be free within certain limits to select their own professors. The present system is as bad as it can possibly be. It allows the grossest inefficiency on the part of pro-

fessors to pass without practical check. There is indeed in one of the Churches what is called a "quinquennial visitation," and might with equal propriety be called a scandalous farce. Great injustice is thus done to students, and through them to the religious interests of Scotland. The sooner the wholesome principle of competition is applied the better for all parties.

AMONG the many institutions of learning advertised in our columns, that of the Brantford Young Ladies' College deserves the special attention and patronage of Presbyterians, for whom it was specially founded. It is not only the oldest Presbyterian College in the Dominion, but it is now the only one (the Ottawa College having been transferred to the Board of French Evangelisation) sanctioned by, and reporting annually to the General Assembly. At the same time, so far as teaching is concerned, it is thoroughly non-denominational and the roll of students and graduates shows a goodly representation from all the Churches in the Dominion. The situation of the College with its beautiful buildings and grounds cannot be surpassed, and its internal arrangements and furnishings are of the most modern character. The new calendar for the year beginning September 4th, just issued, shows a greatly increased and efficient faculty of instruction. The Directors have spared no outlay in order to secure approved teachers and governesses, in every branch of the English, Scientific and Mathematical departments, while Professors Garrett and Martin with able assistants, direct the studies of the young ladies in music and art. Miss Lee, the newly elected Lady-Principal, has in similar institutions, proved herself competent in superintending the department, training and religious culture of young women, a matter of the utmost importance to Christian parents. Dr. Cochrane, who for many years presided over the college, has again at the request of the Directors resumed active connection with it, which is additional assurance that the educational work of the college will be pushed with greater energy than ever, and that the daughters of clergymen, and others attending the institution, will be cared for in every particular.

THE *English Presbyterian Messenger* says: We have never fully apprehended whether Mildmay Park ought to be looked on as a distinct religious organization or not. We believe it does not lay claim to such a character, but offers itself as a meeting ground for Christian fellowship between members of all Churches holding evangelical views. It is a brotherhood of Christians of many names, and not another brotherhood with distinctive marks of its own. In other words, it is an Evangelical Alliance; but differs from the Alliance so named in that it puts its hand to active Christian work. At any rate, the annual conference is looked forward to with great interest by a large number of the most earnest Christian people. The conference which took place last week was very numerous attended, and there were large overflow meetings. The principal address on the second day of the Conference was by Mr. Spurgeon, on "With Christ in Suffering and Service." He urged that those who took Christ had to take all his belongings, and therefore service and suffering. They would not get safe into port if they were like the sailors who, having invited the pilot on board in a storm, went down to sleep, saying that they would trust the ship entirely to him, and so would not obey his orders. Contending, then, that they must be "with Christ," he urged them to follow him as their model, always speaking and doing God's will. Christ's eloquence lay in the fact that He spoke God's word. Let them give Saul's armour back to Saul; he wanted it, poor thing. The very idea of preaching seemed to him to be to take the message from God and deliver it. Some seemed to think, however, that it was to excogitate from their inner consciousness, or somewhere or other—some other dark place—something which should be called truth, and which they should promulgate. He would excuse people for going to sleep under such preachers, since there was no reason for listening to them. Christ never altered his message. Christ never attempted sensation, or advocated ceremonialism. Lastly, they would do well sometimes to imitate Christ with regard to sleep. When troubled, let them go to bed.