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## Notes of the Week.

A large party of Russian immigrants passed through Windsor, Ont., on Sunday. Several of them stated that they were being driven out of Russia because they were Roman Catholics and would not join the Greek church.

The Dowager Duchess of Sutherland has actually been sent to Holloway prison for six weeks for contempt of court. The case would have more significance as an illustration of the equal execution of justice were it not for the fact that she married the late Duke in his old age, much to the disgust of all the family, and that the present Duke was very willing to see her disgraced.

The Belgian Chamber of Representatives reassembled in Brussels, Tuesday, after the preparation of the reports on the revision of the constitution, and by a vote of one hundred and nineteen to twelve adopted universal suffrage, with a proviso for plural voting for the classes owning property. It is expected that this decision will have an allaying effect upon the popular agitation, which was rapidly assuming alarming dimensions.

English Nonconformists were martyred in the reign of Elizabeth, as Protestant bishops and clergymen, who had triumphed under Edward, suffered under Mary. On April, 6th, 1593, Henry Barrow and John Greenwood were hanged at Tyburn, and John Penry in the New Kent Road. The tercentenary of these events was recently celebrated in London by a procession and speeches in Hyde Park.

The report of the discovery by Professor Harris, of the United States, of the complete original Syrian text of the four gospels of the Mount Sinai convent, naturally awakens great interest on the part of biblical scholars and theologians in both Europe and America. Before, however, these alleged original manuscripts lead to any revision of the present received text, their genuineness will have to be established beyond all doubt.

The Belgians seem to excel all the rest of Europe in their devotion to alcohol. There are 150,000 "schnaps" houses in Belgium and only 5,000 schools; that is to say, there is one inn or "estaminet" to every thirty-nine Belgians, and only one school to every 1,176. It must be remembered, however, that the children do not drink at all, and that the women drink little in most of these houses, so that one drinking-house is needed to satisfy the thirst of every fifteen adult male Belgians.

Canada has now 14,869 miles of completed railway, and 218 miles under construction. The total amount of capital represented by this vast system is \$869,068,477. Of this the Dominion has contributed \$144,214,383, the provinces, \$26,997,435, and the municipalities, \$13,981,247. Last year the aggregate earnings were \$51,685,768, leaving a balance of \$15,197,539 after paying the ordinary expenses. Of the sixty-five railways reported upon, forty-five show surplusses, and the chief among those with deficits are the Government concerns.

The coming meetings of the Scottish General Assemblies are looked for with unusual interest. The Free Church celebrates its jubilee. During the fifty years of its life this body has raised over one hundred million dollars. There are more than three hundred thousand communicants, and the yearly income exceeds three million dollars.

The Established Church meets under threat of disestablishment. This is nothing new; but the fact that a Government is for the first time pledged to introduce a Disestablishment Bill gives seriousness to the situation and prevents the discussion from being merely academic. The "Old Kirk" is in a state of great prosperity; and its religious activities are numerous and of far reaching importance.

The island of Zante, one of the principal Ionian Islands, was visited by a most destructive earthquake on the 17th, resulting in great loss of life and property. The shock appears to have been most violent in the city of Zante, the greater part of which was destroyed. The people are panic stricken and the authorities helpless. The streets are impassable, being filled with masses of stone and timber, the wreckage of the houses which were thrown down by the earthquake. Thus far the bodies of twenty persons killed by falling walls have been removed from the debris, and it is feared that many more dead are still in the ruins. Advices from the interior show that the whole island has been devastated. Many villages have been destroyed, and it is thought that the loss of life has been very great.

The following extract from a private letter from Toronto, says the N. Y. Independent, will be of interest as indicating the progress of the Union movement among the Churches of Canada: "I have recently had a private conversation with the leader of the Anglican High Church party in this city, which indicates at least an unbending on the part of many. In brief Dr. — practically said: Agree to the Church of the future, preserve in some way the historic continuity of the visible Church, which is all we mean by the historic episcopate, and we will raise no question as to the validity of ordination in the Churches uniting. Reminded that such a concession cut the ground from under the Apostolic Succession theory and made the ecclesia the fount of authority, he replied: 'Ubi spiritus, ibi ecclesia. Conserve the visible continuity of the Church and for the sake of unity we would put aside opinions.' How far such a spirit might prevail in more public assemblies I cannot say; but the concession from my friend, in which he says he is not alone, is a sign of the times."

We have received, says the Christian Guardian, circulars and newspaper extracts containing warnings and appeals in reference to certain schemes of the liquor and other immoral interests of Chicago at the World's Fair. It is said that the seven thousand liquor saloons of that city have arranged to induce girls from all parts of the United States and Canada, as well as from abroad, to go to Chicago under the promise of exceptionally high wages. It should not be forgotten that the most misleading and deceitful advertisements will be circulated on behalf of those whose designs are immoral; and on this account parents, guardians and young women cannot be too much on their guard. The most nefarious schemes are on foot, and their promoters are planning a carnival of wickedness. Among the agencies which will endeavor to counteract these schemes is the Central W. C. T. U. of Chicago. Being confident that many young girls will be in danger of falling into evil hands upon arrival in the city, the Central Union has decided to station big-hearted, prudent women, decorated with a large metal badge at the various stations to look after inexperienced women and girls, and direct them to reliable boarding-houses and hotels. The metal badge will resemble a policeman's star, and will be large and plain enough to attract attention and secure confidence.

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Albert Barnes: I have seen many dying beds, but never have I seen one that seemed to me to be a proper place in which to make preparation for eternity.

Samuel Rutherford: There is nothing which will make you a Christian but a taste of the sweetness of Christ. "Come and see" will speak best to your soul.

J. H. Griffiths: Your relations with God decide your life in the world. If you would walk with God, first be with Him in the depths and intensity of your own soul.

Ram's Horn: There are people who claim that they want to go to heaven, who are careful to keep as far away as they can from a warm prayer-meeting.

Jeremy Taylor: To fear the censures of men, when God is your judge; to fear their evil, when God is your defence; to fear death, when He is the entrance to life and felicity, is unreasonable and pernicious.

Spurgeon: That there should be a Christ, and that I should be Christless; that there should be a cleansing, and I should remain foul; that there should be a Father's love, and I should be an alien; that there should be a Heaven, and I should be cast into hell, is grief embittered, sorrow aggravated.

Zion's Herald: When the history of this present age comes to be written, it will be seen that its great coherent principle and motive has been a renewed and re-enforced conception of God's universal fatherhood. This is the principle which is making our age so humanitarian, sociological, democratic; but the belief in God's universal fatherhood necessitates a belief in man's universal brotherhood.

Cumberland Presbyterian: Better walk around than to stop to quarrel with the man that obstructs your pathway. The river on its way to the sea does not wait to protest against the mountains, but flows gracefully round its base, watering valley and plain and making the landscape beautiful. Let this be the picture of our loving and gentle, yet undiscouraged and persistent continuance in well-doing.

Presbyterian Witness: The idea of a federation of churches is being favorably entertained; but even this makes slow progress. With a warmer spiritual temperature the time will come when movements will be more rapid, and when "the unexpected" will happen. The "federation" idea is almost realized in the "Presbyterian Alliance." Churches that ought to be very close to each other often have the bitterest feuds. The best cure for such feuds is union! This has been shown by the history of the Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Banner: The Church is a hive that should not have a drone in it. Members who have little influence may obstruct the way of the Holy Spirit by doing what they should not as well as by omitting what they should do. Hence those who would see the work of the Lord revived in the place in which they dwell should first of all prepare the way for him to their own hearts and then do as much as they can to have others do the same. He will visit in mercy those who meet as best they can their individual responsibilities, though the way is not prepared for him to visit a whole community or a church.

Christian Inquirer: But the courage of faith does not employ brutal efforts to overthrow enemies and manifest itself. It does not delight in boastful words or frantic demonstrations, but in the calm assurance of power through the truth, and patient waiting for the Spirit of God. The courageous man is not always insulting people on the streets, but he is one who has the mastery of himself and holds his power in reserve for a proper occasion. It often requires more courage to hold back than to rush into the battle.

J. R. Miller, D.D.: It is often in sorrow that our lives are taught their sweetest songs. There is a story of a German baron who stretched wires from tower to tower of his castle to make a great Aeolian harp. Then he waited to hear the music from it. For a time the air was still and no sound was heard. The wires hung silent in the air. After awhile came gentle breezes and the harp sang softly. At length came the stern winter winds, and storm-like in their forces. Then the wires gave forth majestic music which was heard near and far. There are human lives that never, in calm of quiet days, yield the music that is in them. When the breezes of common care sweep over them they give out soft murmurings of song. But it is only when the storms of adversity blow upon them that they answer in notes of noble victoriously. It takes sore trouble to bring out the best that is in them.

The United Presbyterian: Presbyterians and Episcopalians find themselves at one in Ireland in heartily reprobating home rule. Prelates of the Irish Church are not a whit less zealous than the Presbyterian pastors in opposing the measure now before the Imperial parliament, and are equally fervent in confidentially predicting dire disaster to every important interest should a Dublin parliament be instituted. The General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church has been called to meet in special session, to deliberate on "the crisis." Affairs have certainly a most anxious appearance. While it is not easy to appreciate the position of the liberty-loving Protestants of Ireland towards a measure which in principle and purpose, other things being equal, should be to the advantage of their country, their brethren in the faith in this country cannot be indifferent to their solicitude, nor can they think that they are animated merely by bigotry.

Christian Guardian: The knowledge and responsibility which should be exercised in the selection and management of Sunday school libraries are very much greater than they were forty years ago. We doubt whether the library, as an adjunct of Sunday school work, receives the attention it ought to receive. There are two extremes to be avoided—the one which allows books of anti-religious tendency in the Sunday school library, and the one which would narrow the reading of young people to a weak and common-place type of religious sentimentalism. It is essential that the books chosen should not only be good as regards the general character of their subject-matter, but written in strongly interesting style, with vividness and variety of scene and incident, with touching and inspiring lessons for conduct and life. We think, too, that a number of the great standard works ought always to be found on the shelves. The advanced Sunday school scholar, or member of a Bible class, will not be content with a class of books which does not include the highest thought of the religious world, or does not reach the profound social and industrial questions of the time.