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Notes of the Week.

Mr. A. H. Mackay, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, in a paper lately published advocates the reform of weights and measures so as to bring them all under the decimal system; the reform of English spelling; and the third closely allied one is instruction in phonographic writing.

Rev. Samuel J. Nicholls, D.D., the well-known Presbyterian preacher and pastor of St. Louis, and ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, has been elected President of Lane Theological Seminary at Cincinnati. It is not yet known whether he will accept or not. Professor E. D. Morris has been the acting president of the seminary.

On the 6th inst., the Lord Rector of Edinburgh University (the Right Hon. J. P. B. Robertson, Lord Justice General) delivered his rectorial address to the students in the United Presbyterian Synod Hall. The interest of the event was enhanced by the presence of lady students and a limited number of other ladies specially invited.

A noble act of heroism is recorded of Miss Mary E. Brewer, the American missionary in Sivas, who, at the risk of her life, went, with only one Turkish cavass, into the midst of the murdering mob and took a woman attached to the mission safely to the American consulate. She is a heroine and the granddaughter of missionaries on both sides.

{ } The Rev. Dr. Smith, of Cathcart, Glasgow, the "Father" of the Church of Scotland, celebrated his 92nd birthday lately. The reverend gentleman, who continues to enjoy good health, has been minister of the parish of Cathcart for sixty-seven years, and celebrated his pastoral jubilee in 1878. He has a recollection of conversing with a soldier who carried arms at Culloden.

How the Turkish Government discharges its duty in protecting the lives and property of Foreign missionaries is illustrated by the case of one in Bitlis, who says that, only on the seventeenth day after the outbreak did the Government show an open intention to protect them; even then it was not safe for them to go into the streets, and practically they were prisoners in their own houses.

New Zealand is pushing its temperance legislation with thoroughness and to good purpose in the right quarter, where drinking appears often in its most seductive, because in its most respectable and fashionable, guise. A clause has been inserted in its Licensing Bill providing for the closing of club bars at the same time as hotel bars—10 p.m. in country places and 11 p.m. in large cities—with no drinking whatever on Sundays.

The conviction last week, by a unanimous verdict of the jury, after a long and careful trial, of the man charged with setting fire to one of the buildings in Toronto last fall, which led to the destruction of so much valuable property, and from which there was such a narrow escape from death of more than one person, recalls a great disaster. A crime more dastardly than this cannot well be named, for the man who can be guilty of it, must be prepared, if he is really sane at the time, for all the possible consequences not only to property but to life that may follow from his act. It is nearly always most difficult to fasten guilt with absolute certainty in such cases upon the culprit, but when it is clearly and truly fastened, the public safety demands that due retribution will be awarded to the man guilty of such a crime.

No state document has been looked for with greater interest for some time than the reply of Lord Salisbury to the note of Secretary Olney, of the United States Government, on the Venezuela boundary dispute. It was received by the British ambassador at Washington on the 6th inst., but its contents could not properly be made public immediately, because of the President being absent on a hunting trip.

A most notable evidence of the progress which temperance principles are making in Scotland, which at one time was said to be the worst country to be found for drinking, is mentioned by the *Scottish Reformer*. It states that the provosts and chief magistrates of forty-one towns and burghs are total abstainers, and that the chief magistrates of thirty-nine towns and burghs are favorable to some measure of temperance reform.

The New York *Independent* in its last issue says: "Dr. Behrends's Church in Brooklyn set an admirable example last Sunday in adopting very wisely worded resolutions to be sent to Washington, asking that American life and property in Turkey be protected. But how? is the question. In the case of the outrages in China a force of British soldiers was sent to Kucheng. Cannot American marines be sent to Marash?"

Probably no people are more given to acts of unostentatious kindness, a virtue well worthy of imitation, than the English. *The Presbyterian*, London, England, mentions as an illustration of this the fact that, for the nineteenth year in succession, a note for \$500, has been placed in the offertory-box at St. Mary's, Kilburn, by an unknown person, accompanied by a small slip requesting that the amount may be distributed among the charitable institutions of the church.

The Rev. Andrew Murray, of Wellington, South Africa, whose addresses in Toronto made so deep an impression, has been the chief speaker in London, England, at a conference arranged for by the Presbyteries of that city, for the Promotion of the Spiritual Life. Two of the evening meetings were held in Exeter Hall, and most of the others in Regent Square Presbyterian Church. Except at the morning meetings there were splendid audiences so that during them, Mr. Murray, it was thought, must have addressed fully ten thousand people.

Ex-Speaker Read, of the American Congress, in accepting the unanimous Republican nomination to be again Speaker, amongst other things made the following very wise and timely remarks:

We have, unfortunately, a divided Government, which usually leads to small results. But there are times when rest is as health-giving as exercise. We must not forget that our first and greatest duty is to do all we can to restore confidence to business, and that we must avoid all business legislation except in the direction of improving business. Rather than run risks we can afford to wait until well-matured plans give us assurances of permanent benefit. Crude and hasty legislation is above all things to be shunned.

No visitors to England from a distant part of Her Majesty's widely extended empire, have for a long time received a more honored welcome, or been shown greater courtesy and kindness than three Christian Bechuana chiefs, Khama, Sebele and Bathoen. The London Missionary Society held a meeting recently at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, to bid them farewell before returning to Africa. Mr. Albert Spicer, M.P., presided over a crowded gathering, among the speakers being Lady Henry Somerset and Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P. The dusky chiefs sailed from Southampton for South Africa on the 23rd ult.

The right spirit seems to be dominant in England regarding Sunday amusements. An invitation was recently sent to ministers to preach in favor of the opening of museums on Sundays. Only fifty-nine out of 50,000 preachers complied with the request. On the contrary, nearly 800 members of dramatic and musical professions signed a petition for the continuation of the laws now in effect, keeping the museums closed on Sunday.

A subject now most deservedly engaging the attention of the Church to an extent never before known, but not one day too soon, is its relation to all questions connected with the social well-being of the whole body of the people. At the meetings held lately in Dundee, of the Presbyterian Federal Council, two very suggestive papers were read dealing with the relations of Christianity to industrial and commercial life. One of these papers was by Rev. Prof. G. A. Smith, of Glasgow, on "Christianity and Industrial Questions"; the other, by Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, was on "Christianity and Commerce." Both are to be found in *The Presbyterian*, of London, England.

For some time rumors and charges, emanating from various sources, have been in circulation against the Jewish Missionary Hermann Warszawiak. The Board of the American Mission to the Jews, of which Rev. Dr. John Hall is president, having received a communication with specified charges, appointed a special committee of investigation. After a most thorough and impartial investigation this committee reported to a full meeting of the Board, after which a resolution was passed, "completely vindicating Mr. Warszawiak from the charges formulated against him." This action has been made public in "An Open Statement," published in the *Jewish Christian*, and also sent us in a circular signed by Rev. Dr. John Hall, as president; David James Burrill, D.D., chairman of the investigating committee; the treasurer, Constant A. Andrews, Esq.; and Rev. W. H. Walker, Sr., secretary. Wherever confidence may have been shaken, this action should fully restore it, and allow this good work to go forward without molestation or hindrance.

Coming events are already casting their shadows before in the old land in the choice which has already been made of names to be proposed for the Moderatorship of the Supreme Courts of the various Presbyterian bodies. At a meeting of the Standing Committees of the Free Church held in Edinburgh recently, the Hon. and Rev. William Miller, C.I.E., LL.D., Principal of the Madras United Christian College, was, on the motion of Principal Rainy, seconded by Dr. Ross Taylor, nominated as Moderator of the next General Assembly. The Rev. Dr. Archibald Scott, of St. George's Church, Edinburgh, has been nominated by the ex-Moderators of the Church of Scotland for the Moderatorship of the forthcoming General Assembly. Of the United Presbyterian Church Synod, the Rev. James Rennie, of St. Vincent Street Church, Glasgow, will be proposed as Moderator. Mr. Rennie has rendered important service to the Church, especially in connection with psalmody and hymnology. He is one of the leading members of the joint-committee now engaged in the preparation of a hymnal for use in the three Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and as this hymnal will be completed in May next, it is deemed specially fitting that he should be Moderator. Of the Presbyterian Church of England, Rev. John Thain Davidson, D.D., is the Moderator-designate. He has exercised his ministry in England for nearly forty years. He was Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod prior to the union of the various branches which now compose that body.