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## Notes of the Week.

Rev. Mr. M'Neill, the evangelist, reached Calcutta on February 6, and met a number of friends at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms. Speaking of the first week's services, the *Indian Witness* says—"Mr. M'Neill's work has daily grown in interest through the week. The tent is provided with eleven hundred chairs, and these have all been filled, and numbers have had to stand. The power of the meetings has also increased; the week's experience is so encouraging that the service for the Sunday night has been appointed for the Rink, which will accommodate from two to three thousand persons."

A movement is on foot in England to erect a monument to the memory of Tennyson, the late Poet Laureate of England, on one of the high seaward cliffs of the Isle of Wight and on the "edge of the noble down which he loved so well, and we may say has immortalized. It is to be in the shape of a lofty granite monolith in the form of an Iona cross, and it is to be placed on the top of a bold cliff 700 feet above the sea. The Government has agreed to accept the monolith and to preserve it forever as a beacon. Its cost will be \$6,000, of which \$1,000 has been assigned to America and two thirds of the whole cost is already subscribed. The monument will bear the legend; "Erected by friends in England and America."

The following figures, taken from the *Michigan Advocate*, relative to the education of negro children in the United States are most encouraging and hopeful, as to the future, as well as an indication of what fruitful work is being done by many agencies, connected with the churches especially, among that once enslaved people. There are 1,416,202 negro children in the public schools of the United States, and of these 1,329,618 are in the public schools of the sixteen Southern States. This is an encouraging showing. A generation ago it was a penitentiary offence in all the south to educate a negro. Now, public schools are provided for their education. As compared with the past, the amount raised by taxes for the public schools in the south is large, but as compared with the North it is as yet small.

The Salvation Army seems to do well by its newspapers. In the trading account for 1894 we find that the receipts for the *War Cry*, *Young Soldier*, etc., were over £78,280, against expenses £61,062, or a profit of £17,000. Elsewhere Mr. Bramwell Booth says that the "Army Literature" brings into the various headquarters about £200,000 per annum. On the same authority we find that during 1884, 51,000,000 of newspapers, magazines, periodicals, books, tracts, and other publications were issued from the Salvation Army printing press, all containing "some definite teaching for the ungodly, the young, and the afflicted." All the labour involved is quite "voluntary"—presumably this means unpaid—and is "carried on by godly persons," who never make any "attacks or accusations or reflections upon Christians or their work."

The *Edinburgh Scotsman*, which is in a way the London *Times* of Scotland, is coming down heavily upon Principal Rainy in connection with a revival of the question of the Union of the Free and United Presbyterian churches of Scotland. While this has been in abeyance the learned Principal has been devoting his strength to the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland. "What a pity it is," says the *Belfast Witness*, "that these three Scotch Churches, which are substantially one, should manifest such ecclesiastical rivalry, and make themselves and the religion they represent a byword and a mockery among Anglicans and Romanists. But to us it is quite clear that if ever a union is to take place among them it will never

be brought about by sledge hammer blows administered never so skillfully from without, but from the presence and operation of the true spirit of unity from brethren."

A bill for the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales has been introduced into the Imperial Parliament which it is hoped may pass ere long. The effect upon the church of establishment by the State appears according to history to have been uniformly bad, and once established nothing can exceed the tenacity with which it clings to privilege. Yet there appears, from a series of able articles on Disestablishment, appearing in *The Christian World*, conclusive evidence that a large proportion of Church of England ministers in Wales favor disestablishment. It requires a good deal of courage in Episcopal clergymen to speak out against the sectarian clamor on this subject; yet a number of them have done this strongly and clearly. In the last *Christian World*, it is said: "It is a notorious fact that three out of every four of the Welsh clergy who have taken Holy Orders during the last ten or fifteen years are ardent Welsh Nationalists, and, as such, are longing for the day when the Welsh Church is set free from the trammels of State control."

The funeral services of the late Professor Blackie, "were performed," say the *Belfast Witness*, "with consummate good taste." The funeral was public and the greater part of the service was in the historic St. Giles' Cathedral. The Lord Provost and magistrates attended in their robes of scarlet and ermine; the professors of the University in their vari-coloured academic hoods and gowns; also the professors of the Free Church College. The clergy were there in great force. The service was beautiful and appropriate, and taken part in by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, and Rev. Dr. Walter Smith, of the Free Church, whose preaching the late Professor Blackie greatly enjoyed. Immense crowds pressed upon the cortege, and reverently uncovered their heads as the coffin passed. The late professor is generally recognised not only as a man of genius, but as the last of the Scots. London absorbs Scotchmen of parts, as in the case of Carlyle, and all are becoming Anglicised, which is a pity. But Blackie was Scottish, pure and entire; he carried the air of the hills about him, and the fragrance of the heather. And though broadened in some of his theological opinions, his spiritual sympathies remained Presbyterian and Scottish to the last.

The Home Mission Committee of the Church met last week and sat constantly, working with great energy and patience and with all the wisdom it can command and experience at the most important part of our Church's work committed to its care. To look in upon it and listen for a time to its deliberations, to look upon the men and recognize this familiar face from the far East and upon that from the most distant West, and upon those of others that come from all the way between, to observe the earnest and watchful attention of almost every member as he sits at the long table note-book in hand, in many cases also with the whole or part of the blue book; and hear how the claims and representations of every applicant and every field are scrutinized; to watch how the secretary, his mind at full bent, keeps his pen going at top-speed, and with what tact, promptitude, firmness and withal good nature, the chairman keeps his hand upon and directs all, will at once convince one that membership in the Home Mission Committee is no sine-cure. Questions of the utmost moment come up from time to time before this committee the settling of which involves very great responsibility. It is understood that this year there will be a deficit of somewhere about \$10,000 in the Home Mission Fund, and to avoid debt, reduction is to be made

on all salaries paid by the Committee to an extent which it is hoped will avert this difficulty of debt. We hope in an early issue to be able to give our readers fuller details of what was done at the meeting.

In the United States the increase in the number of penitentiary convicts per million of the population in the last decade has been but thirteen, which is absolutely insignificant. So far as the prison statistics go, they tend to prove that serious crime, in the country at large, is neither increasing nor decreasing in comparison with the population. It seems to be increasing somewhat in the North Atlantic and Western divisions, but in the North Central (extending from Ohio to Minnesota and Nebraska), and in the South Central (extending from Kentucky to Texas) divisions, there has been a relative decrease in the number of felons in prison. Such increase as has taken place is found among the misdemeanants—petty thieves, drunkards and disorderly persons, not for the most part true criminals. The increase per million in petty crime is ten times as great as in serious crime; and the jails, not the penitentiaries, receive the benefit of it. It does not follow, however, from the increase in the jail population, that the people of the United States are in fact more disorderly than ten years ago; the difference may be due to a more determined effort on the part of the authorities to suppress disorder. According to figures the increase of prison population is greatest in the South and East, but least in the North and West.

On two successive days occurred very recently in New York City two social events possessing in several ways a very striking significance. They served to illustrate with a high degree of distinctness some of the abuses of great wealth. They involved members of the two richest families in the United States, and perhaps in the world; one was a union in the bonds of matrimony, and the other was a severance of those bonds. Looked at from the point of view of those interested in the solution of the social problems of the time, and especially in the betterment of the conditions of the working class, "we are confident," says *Christian Work*, "that all who are labouring and hoping for an improved state of things in these directions must feel a sense of dread and apprehension at the effect produced in various quarters by the vast extravagances and reckless and profligate expenditures of money connected with the events to which we have referred." From the accounts given by the press, and read by everybody, the marriage was celebrated with all the pomp, display and extravagance that vulgar wealth and taste could contrive. On this, *Christian Work* remarks in language which saddens while we read: "We do not hesitate to express our belief that these ostentatious and vulgar displays of wealth, much of it notoriously ill-gotten, have done more to increase the social discontent of the time, to intensify the bitter feeling entertained in various quarters towards existing industrial conditions, to add fuel to the flame which the anarchists and their followers are striving to convert into a universal conflagration, than the charities and benevolences of a thousand other men of wealth for a year to come can possibly offset. No philosophy of any sort, sound or unsound, no putting forward of the old commonplaces about individual liberty, the laws of supply and demand, the rights of men to accumulate wealth if they can, and to use it as they please, will weigh a feather weight against the convictions in the minds of multitudes that gross wrong and cruel injustice are involved in an industrial system under which it is possible for a few thus to accumulate money to waste by the millions while many are striving almost in vain to earn their daily bread."