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## Notes of the Week.

In Scotland, Presbyterianism has 3,436 congregations; Episcopalians, 280; Congregationalists and Baptists, 263; Romanists, 360. Scotland is thus still pronouncedly Presbyterian.

Speaking at the opening of the Burns' exhibition in Glasgow, Mr. William Wallace said that Scotland had been conquered twice only—by John Knox and by Robert Burns. John Knox conquered its head, Robert Burns its heart.

A pill charged with the X rays if swallowed is said to illuminate the interior, facilitating the investigations of a doctor. By means of the rays fractured bones can be watched from time to time without removing the bandages. A Frenchman claims to be able to photograph the interior of the human eye.

At the inquiry into the loss of the *Drummond Castle*, Mr. Marquardt, the only surviving passenger, gave evidence, and stated that none of the officers attended the concert on the fatal night, the captain only coming in for a few minutes at the close. Another witness stated that during the past twenty-one years fifty-six vessels had met with casualties at or near the spot where the steamer went down.

Now that Sir John Pender is gone, only seven survivors remain of those who took part in the laying of the first Atlantic cable of 1857-8. They are Lord Kelvin and Sir Samuel Canning, who had charge of the fitting-out and laying the cable, both of whom were knighted in 1866 after the successful laying of the cable in 1865; Sir Richard Collett, Mr. Clifford, Mr. H. A. C. Saunders, Mr. B. Smith, and Mr. Gerhardt.

Dr. Maclaren, Manchester, completed the fiftieth year of his ministry recently. Preaching on Sunday morning to a large congregation at Union Chapel, Oxford Road, he took for his text the words, "Fellow-helpers to the truth" (John iii: 8). In the course of an interesting reference to the past fifty years of his ministry he stated that this was the text from which he preached his first sermon, on Sunday, June 28th, 1846, at Southampton.

Last week the first meeting of the Synod of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland took place at Inverness. The Rev. Mr. Macfarlane, Raasay, was elected moderator, and Mr. Mackay, Gairloch, clerk to the Synod. It was resolved to form two Presbyteries, to be called the Northern and Southern Presbyteries. The financial statement showed that the total payments for the year ending 31st March last amounted to £1,764 15s. 2½d. leaving a balance of £700 10s. 3d. The Rev. Mr. Mackay, clerk, announced a donation of £500 from a friend towards the funds of the church.

Cheering and helpful are the words of Sir J. W. Dawson, who at the recent conference at Mildmay spoke on the relation between natural science and revealed religion. It is, he tells us, in admitting a primary cause, that science and scientific men come near to religion. And hardly any rational scientific man is prepared to affirm that there is no first cause. Agnostics, of course, say that they do not know such a cause. But agnosticism is not scientific. They say, "We do not

know a cause.' Do they know, he asks, any effects of the cause? All the causes of this world are known by their effects.

The *Halifax Chronicle* says: Dr. H. M. Ami and Mrs. Ami are in the city. Dr. Ami, who is one of the leading paleontologists of America, is on the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada. He is at present engaged in an exact paleontological survey of the various geological formations found in the important mineralogical regions of Pictou county and environs. Yesterday he was much interested in the collections of Dr. Honeyman from the eastern counties of the Province, in the Provincial Museum.

Queen Victoria now rules 367,000,000 people, says the *London Advertiser*, a greater number than has ever before acknowledged the sovereignty of either king, queen or emperor. Apropos of the ill-founded report that Her Majesty talked of retiring from the throne because of ill-health, it is a curious fact that no English sovereign ever voluntarily abdicated. Six rulers were deposed, not counting Lady Jane Grey, who was crowned and reigned nine days. It is no doubt the ambition of Her Majesty to witness the sixtieth year of her reign, on which she enters next year.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland, secretary of the Methodist Mission Board, who has just returned from an official visit to Newfoundland, found in that island a general public sentiment in favor of Confederation with the Dominion. Isolated as it is, standing by itself, it must always labor under great disadvantage in the race for national life, and in all national aspirations. Its natural place is in connection with Canada, and it is only in connection with us that much real progress can be expected, for union with the United States is not to be thought of. On the other hand the full rounding out of the Dominion appears to require that Newfoundland should be a part of it. Of course the terms of its admission into the Confederation, and all that, it is for the proper parties to settle. It is gratifying to learn from Dr. Sutherland's account that the effects of the financial panic in the ancient colony seem to have largely disappeared, and railway extension, to open up for settlement interior lands, promises to improve matters in the future.

Few things, of any pertaining to national wellbeing, are more important than the public health, and the stage of advancement of any people may well be gauged by the amount and degree of intelligence devoted to this matter. The fourteenth annual report of the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario, just issued, is of much interest in this respect. It is gratifying to know to what an extent disease can be averted and valuable lives saved by wise preventive measures. By diffusing intelligence on this subject in various ways, the people have acquired sanitary knowledge which, under the guidance of their local authorities, in most instances has succeeded in putting a stop to the progress of such infectious maladies as have appeared among them. The report shows that the public health has stood high, in relation to other years and to other countries, during 1895. Among the most prevalent of infectious diseases has been typhoid fever. From this report it clearly appears from every study that has been made of it in recent years in Europe and America, that the fact of its

dissemination being due directly to drinking water, or indirect through milk, stands prominent and indisputable. Facts like this being established and made widely known among the people, should enable them, as it is plainly their duty to do, to co-operate with and aid the authorities in minimizing the extent of this and such diseases, and so lead both to the prolongation of the average duration of human life, and saving many precious lives, not to speak of all the sorrow and suffering that arise in connection with the ravages of disease and death.

One of the most fell diseases that flesh and blood is heir to in many countries, and in many parts of Canada, is consumption. All who have had any personal experience of it will have watched with interest the steps which have been taken to establish a Home for the treatment of consumptives. A long step has been taken to limit its ravages when it has been clearly established that it is infectious, and that by suitable measures being taken its spread may be guarded against. The Provincial Board of Health of Ontario is favorable to the establishment of such homes, while some prominent physicians are not yet prepared to go so far. The report advocates the establishment of a home by the Government on some inland and elevated tract of land, protected by an evergreen forest growth. Such a home would necessarily be something between a hospital and a sanitarium, the maintenance of which might be in considerable part provided for by the products of agricultural, horticultural and other industries, and by the moneys received from pay patients of the better class.

At the banquet recently given by Sir Donald Smith in London, Rev. Principal George M. Grant, D.D., of Queen's University, Kingston, gave the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," in the course of which he said: "We admit that the mother of parliaments is first, but I think we Canadians hold that the Canadian Parliament comes a very good second. We do so, not merely because Canada is the greatest of the Colonies, but because it has triumphed over more difficulties and more varying and apparently insuperable obstacles than any other English-speaking country. (Cheers.) In England, with a homogeneous people, it is easy to get a representative assembly. In Canada we had to work together two races who had fought each other for centuries—races differing not only in race but in religion; and we have succeeded in doing that with an extraordinary amount of success. (Cheers.) There are few spectacles so picturesque as that represented by this Parliament of Canada that is to meet this month—a Parliament to be presided over by a French-Canadian elected as Prime Minister by his countrymen from ocean to ocean. Mr. Laurier is a man of such virtues that every Canadian looks forward to his Premiership, not only with joy, but hope, because, while he has many virtues he has especially that virtue that commends a man to Englishmen. 'Laurier,' said Sir John Macdonald, 'could not break his word if he tried.' (Cheers.) And then we have as his lieutenant Sir Oliver Mowat, who for twenty-three years has given an absolutely pure administration to the Premier Province of the Dominion, a man of the keenest constitutional insight. (Cheers.) What, then, can we look for but a continuation of the past history of Canada just as sound, just as true to all that makes the British Empire great!" (Loud cheers.)

## PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Christian Instructor: If you wait for a friend who is faultless you will find none this side of heaven.

Ram's Horn: Are you doing anything for the Lord that your best friends don't know anything about?

D. L. Moody: If a minister can convince the people in the first five minutes that he only aims to save their souls he will kill all the critics in the house.

John Tauler. He who seeks God if he seeks anything beside God will not find Him; but he who seeks God alone in the truth will find Him and all that God can give with Him.

Macduff: Seat thyself under thy Beloved's shadow, "and let His fruit be pleasant to thy taste." It is trial that unfolds and develops the love of the heavenly Friend. This "tree of life" distils a balm for every broken, wounded heart and every downcast spirit.

Christian Leader. Romanism grows bolder, and is not ashamed to give the fullest demonstration that all that has been said about its idolatry and superstition is absolute truth. About eighty pilgrims for Canterbury started from London one morning last week. They belonged to the "Guild of our Lady of Ransom."

Methodist Protestant: Have you ever thought of the fact that multitudes of men have missed opportunities, but there are few who have not had them? The wise man grasps them as they pass, the fool cries after them when they are gone. There is an old proverb that says: "Fortune may knock once at every gate," but frequently it is not to enter, but only to inquire who lives next door.

Christian Work: There is certainly a "beauty of holiness," but beauty is not the whole of holiness. It will not do to mistake sentiment for sanctity nor poetry for piety. In all true godly character there is a gracious element connecting itself with the redemptive work of a divine Saviour. Dreamy moralizing may put on the gloss and glitter, but only faith in Jesus can change the heart and make the soul to shine with a transfused glory.

Watchman: There is one professorship which we would like to see established in every theological seminary—a professorship of Common Sense. But, alas! that is a thing that cannot be taught. A man has to have it by birth, or go without it altogether, though he may add somewhat to his original gift. The success of a minister depends quite as much upon his possession of this gift as upon some other things which are highly prized.

F. W. Farrar, D.D.: Can there be a more abjectly pitiable spectacle, can there be a more fearfully dismantled hulk on the rolling waters, or a more ghastly wreck upon life's lonely shore—than the habitual drunkard? He cannot resist a chemical product; he has made himself the negro slave of a dead thing; he has impawned that which is divine within him to the meanest and loathliest of all the fiends. What is this but demoniacal possessions? What is this but the undying worm and the quenchless flame, self-introduced, self-kindled in the heart.