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## Notes of the Week.

Commandant Herbert Booth and party have been driving round the Edmonton district in order to better judge its value as the locus of a London over-sea colony in connection with the work of the Salvation Army. It is expected that the Commandant will give the results of his trip in a lecture at the barracks, Winnipeg, on his return.

Dr. J. Guinness Rogers has been recording some of his reminiscences in *The Sunday Magazine*. He recollects the time when locomotives were first introduced; when ordinary tea was 6s. a pound; when the idea of universal education was looked upon with distrust approaching to alarm; when the weekly paper cost sevenpence, and the classics were the costly luxuries of the few. He dwells upon the advance made in many respects, but thinks it open to question "whether the feeling between the Anglican clergy and Dissenting ministers in England has materially improved."

Rev. Dr. John Hall, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, has most erroneously been frequently and lately pointed out as the recipient of an extravagantly great income, enormous and plentiful fees for marriages and other services, it being also stated that he was the fortunate possessor of much real estate. The honoured pastor has now been really favoured, not, however, by gossip, but by a late member of his congregation, who for years enjoyed his faithful ministrations. The will of Mrs. E. H. Ford, the parishioner referred to, provides Dr. Hall with \$3,000 a year, for life, in appreciation of her pastor's services in the cause of Christ.

A friendly correspondent from Chataqua, N.Y., whose kindness we fully appreciate, writes us as follows: "You may be glad to learn that Prof. A. B. Bruce preached here yesterday, Sabbath, 11th inst. He tells me he has not time to visit Canada this Summer. There are more people here than ever. Dr. Bruce had a magnificent congregation, which very highly appreciated his excellent discourse based on two words of Paul: 'Knowledge puffeth up,' and 'To Know Him.' Prin. A. M. Fairbairn gave an address at the Vesper Service on the Chorus of Graces in the exhortation, 'Add to your faith virtue,' etc. Dr. Bruce lectures to-day (Monday, 12th inst.) on the Portraiture of Christ given in the synoptics."

Five years ago last May the General Conference of Missionaries in Shanghai, China, representing 1,296 Protestant missionaries then in the country, issued an urgent appeal for 1,000 more men for China within five years and the lady missionaries of the Conference appealed for more women workers. Rev. Dr. C. F. Reid, of Shanghai, for a committee appointed to report the results of the call, states that in the five years there have been sent out 481 male missionaries, 167 wives of missionaries, and 505 single women, making a total of 1,153. The committee regards the result as not exactly corresponding with the appeal, as only 481 of them are men, and again calls with renewed earnestness in view of the new facilities and enlarged claims China now presents, for a larger reinforcement during the next five years.

*The Indian Standard*, a monthly Presbyterian journal of social, literary and religious intelligence, published at Rutlam, India, has been charged with what is in a newspaper an all but unpardonable sin, being often too late, even so long as a month behind time in being issued. Its late editor disarms criticism to a large extent by the frank admission that "such tardiness is a disgrace," and by pleading the want of support on the part of its friends contributing to its pages. In this matter he makes the

remark true of other papers as well: "*The Indian Standard* will be an effective bond of Presbyterian union largely in proportion to the practical interest taken in it by its Presbyterian readers." A new editor has been secured. The Rev. J. M. McComb, A. P. Mission, Umballa City, has been appointed, and will begin his duties with the August issue.

From Renfrew, Ontario, where the progress westward of Lord and Lady Aberdeen began by formally opening a large creamery, whose future history it may be hoped will be worthy of its auspicious beginning, to Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Qu'Appelle, Assinaboia. The time of their Excellencies has been faithfully and busily filled up in discharging public duties with a patience, courtesy, tact and warm interest in everything and everybody that deserves not only hearty appreciation but genuine admiration. "Everyone," says a correspondent from Qu'Appelle, "has been much struck with Lord and Lady Aberdeen's kindness and trouble even in the smallest matters. They had already that day been travelling and driving about the country over forty miles, attended three meetings, and arrived at Indian Head in the dark, right through a thunderstorm, looking travelworn and desirous of rest."

In the *New York Observer* of the 8th inst. is a most interesting "comparative summary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for the last six years," by the Rev. Wm. H. Roberts, D.D., Stated Clerk. The following particulars may be given for 1895: Presbyteries, 224; Local Evangelists, 215; Ministers, 6,797; elders; 26,590; deacons, 9,058; churches, 7,496; added on profession of faith, 67,938; communicants, 922,904; S. S. members, 994,793. Contributions last year for Home Missions were \$997,500, for Foreign \$712,877, for congregational purposes \$9,921,141; the total for all purposes for 1895 being \$13,647,579. The total contributions for the six years for all purposes is \$85,203,630, or an average for the six years of \$14,200,605. This is a wonderful record and for only one denomination. What would it amount to for all Christian denominations. Christianity losing its power! What other cause could call forth voluntarily such a willing stream of spontaneous and increasing liberality?

Chicago has been ambitious from its birth, but the great fire completely spoiled it. It was the biggest fire on earth, and ever since it could be satisfied with nothing but the biggest things; the biggest fire, the biggest stockyards, the biggest Fair, the biggest canal, and now it is to have the biggest telescope. The highest power was supposed to be reached when the Lick telescope in California was put up with a 36-inch lens. "No European manufacturers," we are serenely told, "ever thought of anything more than a 26-inch lens. But the Clarks, American manufacturers, have accomplished what has by all hitherto been considered an impossibility and made a 41 1/2-inch lens." This, as all who know Chicago's weakness would naturally expect, is for that city. Not only is this the largest thing of the kind ever made but with a self-satisfaction which is simply sublime it is added: "It is probable no larger lens will ever be made. Under existing conditions a larger telescope than the Yerkes—the telescope of Chicago University Observatory for which the lens is made—would be of no great value."

The candour, to put it mildly, with which the press among English-speaking people addresses the highest personages in the land when occasion requires it is very refreshing and a great safeguard of the public good. It is well known that for years the resignation by the Duke of Cambridge, the Queen's uncle, of the Commandership-in-chief of the

British army, has been wished for. The Duke has at last got to understand this and has given in a sort of conditional resignation. At Richmond he lately made a speech indicating that he does not consider his resignation definite, but that "if it was considered best for the army and the nation that he should retire, he was ready to do so." Whereupon *The Times* tells him bluntly that "there is no 'if' whatever in the case. It has been, and is, considered indispensable that he should retire, because, until he does, it is practically impossible to begin that reorganization of the army which is so urgently demanded in the public interest." There is a rumour that a wish prevails at court for the Duke of Connaught, the Queen's son, to step into the vacant position. But the press again makes it to be understood that he is not wanted there, and accordingly it is given out that he is not at present a candidate for the post.

We have just seen a rough cut of Wesley College, Winnipeg, which for some time has been under construction in that progressive city of our West. It rises to the height of three stories and an attic above the basement. On Friday, the 9th inst., the finishing touches were given to the stone work. The imposing edifice fronts on Portage Avenue, and is the third of the denominational colleges of Winnipeg. The impression left upon the mind of the observer who sees this structure for the first time is that it combines solidity with neatness, and convenience with artistic finish. When completed in all its parts it will rank as one of the most perfectly equipped colleges in Canada. The cost of the stone and brick-work alone is \$40,000, and the total cost will be in the neighbourhood of \$80,000. At the present time steam-fitters, plumbers, carpenters and plasterers have taken the place of the stone masons and bricklayers, whose work is ended. It is expected that the final touches will be given by October 15, and the college will be open for classes on Oct. 1st. We cordially congratulate our Methodist brethren on the approaching completion of this important undertaking and wish for it, in their hands, a long and abundantly useful career.

It is now a good while since the visits of distinguished literary and scientific men from England to this country, especially the United States, became a frequent and familiar thing. More lately distinguished theologians have been taking part in this most desirable kind of interchange. Dr. Denny and Dr. Orr have just been here, and there are here just now Prof. A. B. Bruce and Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. In connection with the visit of the latter *The Outlook* of New York speaks thus: "If we were asked what, in our opinion, is the greatest service which our distinguished visitor is just now rendering the Christian world, we should say, 'He is making the Church realise the permanent practical value of theology as a science.' That service is needed in our country perhaps more than for many years. We have Biblical theologians, exegetes, critical scholars, but we have very few great professors of dogmatic theology. Yet that ought to be the strongest chair in every theological seminary. Dr. Fairbairn is doing a great deal to revive a true interest in systematic theology and to restore it to its true place in the theological curriculum. He is also helping many to realize that there is a large and important place in this world for philosophy. The tendency of our time is to exalt science and discredit philosophy; Dr. Fairbairn does not discredit science, but he shows in a most convincing way that the spiritual world is quite as real as the physical. His way of dealing with the assumptions of those who, while only collators of facts, presume to be also philosophers, is refreshing and instructive."