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## Notes of the Week.

THE *Canadian Churchman* says: President Grant, of Queen's University, is a man of whom Canada may well feel proud. He has a brain of the highest and strongest intellectual calibre, but he also comes down into the popular arena as a participator in national and other questions, with wise counsel and eloquent voice. No one can listen to him without both pleasure and benefit. His recent utterances on "Christian Socialism" and "Imperial Federation" are valuable contributions to these subjects.

Of the 474 ministers who left the Established Church at the Disruption there are still forty-two spared to the Free Church at home, besides a few others now abroad. The list of the survivors is headed by Dr. Beith, who was ordained sixty-eight years ago. Twelve of the survivors have occupied the Moderator's chair in the General Assembly, besides Dr. Goold, who joined the Free Church with his Cameronian brethren in 1876. This year the jubilees fall to be celebrated of Dr. Aird, of Creich; Dr. Addis, of Morningside, Edinburgh; Mr. Wilson, of Bridgeton, Glasgow; Mr. Macpherson, of Meigle; and Mr. Paton, of Fettercairn.

THE Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States on the revision of the Confession of Faith, after a very harmonious session lasting eleven days, completed its work and adjourned last week. The changes made have generally met with unanimous approval. The report will be presented to the Assembly in Detroit next May, and by it referred to the Presbyteries for adoption or rejection. It is stated that the changes made in the statements of the Confession have been of great importance, but have in no way impaired the integrity of the system of doctrine so long held by the Church.

LORD ABERDEEN, in a lecture on "Canada" on a recent Sunday evening in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh, in connection with St. Cuthbert's Young Men's Christian Association, said the loyalty of the French population might be traced to the policy of Britain in guaranteeing security to their institutions and their religious liberty. The Presbyterians who were in the main united were the largest and most influential of the Protestant denominations, the Church of England and Methodists coming next. The Canadians might fairly be described as a church-going people; although Sunday observance was not unduly rigorous, it was manifest that the Canadians were determined to maintain their Sabbath.

THE missionary spirit seems to be spreading in the Irish Presbyterian Church. We hear, says the *Belfast Witness*, that some splendid collections were made last Sabbath in response to the appeal on

behalf of India and China. From Windsor Church the news is especially interesting. One of its members, the week before the collection, placed a blank cheque in the hands of the minister, the Rev. J. C. Ferris, authorizing him to fill it for an equal amount to that which the congregation gave last Sabbath, up to \$750. That was a noble challenge, and the congregation responded to it right willingly. We commend the example of this unknown friend of the heathen to the Church generally. It would certainly bear imitation. The days are evidently gone when people complained of the sermon that had the silver tail.

THE Rev. James Wells, of Pollokshields, is to utilize the gift of \$2,500, presented to him by his congregation on the occasion of his semi-jubilee, in a long holiday. He is to visit the mission stations of the Jewish Committee. He says: My present plan is to start at once, go up the Nile to the first cataract, and then through Palestine. I hope to spend several days with our missionaries at the Sea of Galilee, and then to travel through the Highlands of Galilee, and along the shore by Tyre and Sidon, to Beyrout. On my homeward way I am to visit our missionaries at Constantinople, Budapest, Prague and Breslau. It will give me pleasure to meet these honoured missionaries. Principals Cairns and Rainy, Professor Dods and others will conduct the services in his absence.

THE British American Insurance Company held its annual meeting last week, at which the report of the year's transactions was submitted. From that report—which appears in another column—Governor Morison stated that every unremunerative branch had been lopped off, and every opportunity to extend on prosperous lines had been utilized. Mr. John Leys, deputy-governor, in speaking to the report spoke confidently of the prospects of this solid and successful institution. A becoming tribute was paid to the memory of the late Hon. William Cayley, who for nearly forty years was a member of the Board of Directors. The sum of \$5,000 was set apart for the improvement and artistic decoration of the commodious and central premises occupied as headquarters of this old-established and progressive company.

IN the cheaper edition of "Tropical Africa," just issued by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, Professor Drummond makes the following neat retort to Mr. Stanley: I am asked by my publishers if I mean to "reply to Mr. Stanley." This is an appalling prospect to a retired traveller, but on investigating the *casus belli* I find it not so alarming. It seems the great explorer demurs to my description of the Forest-country of East Central Africa, and pronounces it not the Africa he saw. Now, as Mr. Stanley has never been in my Africa, I do not wonder at this. What I do wonder at is that he should have conceived it possible I was describing his Forest-country—the Pigmies' Forest. But as I did not penetrate that cheerful jungle I could not, of course, describe it—especially as it was not discovered till after my book was written.

PROF. ROBERTSON, of Glasgow, does not think that poverty has so much to do with non-church-going as some people suppose. Drink he believes to be a much more serious question. But there must be something more than that when it is found that a great number of the non-church-going are among the respectable artisan class earning good wages. He is convinced that what is at the bottom of the mischief is the blinding influence of this mercantile, money-making and luxury-seeking age, which only believes in what is seen. He thinks this can only be counteracted by a movement undertaken by the church in a systematic reasonable way, not by random individual effort. Prof. Robertson suggests that ministers might be set free to do more pastoral and mission work. Why should a minister be expected to preach twice or three times a day? He was perfectly satisfied with one sermon. He would like to hear of some wealthy west-end congregation setting their minister free for six months or a year to work among the non-church-going.

IN "Further Records of Life and Letters," by Frances Anne Kemble, just published, the following suggestive paragraph occurs: You speak of the social disorders and disorganization which exist in America quite as much (that is, considering the different circumstances) as in Europe, and ask: Where is social rest to be found? Nowhere, I rather think, until people are more aware than they are now that prosperity, national as well as individual, is a moral and not a material question. Here, in America, the great question of the identity of the interests of capital and labour will, I imagine, be worked out; and here, I suppose, people will first arrive at the conclusion (I mean masses of people, not individuals) which Maurice preached, that politics are Christianity, and that no favourable conditions whatever will stand instead, either for individuals or communities, of obedience to God and the teaching of Christ. It is wonderful for one, who believes this as I do, to watch how perfectly ineffectual all the liberty, all the social advantages of the working classes in this country are to produce effects, which are moral and not material everywhere.

THE Rev. Dr. Aird, of Creich, has entered upon the fifty-first year of his ministry. The event was celebrated by the members of his congregation with much enthusiasm. The Rev. Murdo Mackenzie, who presided, presented to Dr. Aird a lengthy and handsomely illuminated address from the congregation congratulating him on the attainment of the jubilee of his ministry. The Rev. Mr. Grant, Helmsdale, presented an address from the Presbytery. Mr. Macaskill then presented an address from the Dirgwall Free Church. The Rev. Mr. Munro, Alness, was chosen to present the handsome gift of many Highland congregations and friends. This Mr. Munro did as a native of Creich, and as one who had sat under the preaching of Dr. Aird, in a speech full of touching reminiscences and deep feeling. No Highland minister, he said, was more worthy of honour than Dr. Aird, and the Free Church never had a more loyal minister. He handed, amid loud applause, a cheque for 600 guineas to Dr. Aird, and a very handsome silver epergne to Mrs. Aird. In returning thanks for himself and Mrs. Aird, the aged Doctor, who was received with cheers, said it had never dawned on his mind that he would be the witness of such a day as that. He was full of thanks to the congregation and the Presbytery for their kindness, and he thanked the Lord for preserving him to see that day.

THE Irish Presbyterian Church follows the same plan of appointing its Moderator as does the Canadian Church. Nominations are made by Presbyteries and the Assembly itself elects. Among the names yet suggested are those of Rev. A. D. McDonald, Seaforth; Rev. Thomas Sedgwick, Tamagouch; Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, and Dr. Moore, of Ottawa. The last received *Belfast Witness* says of the Irish Moderatorship: It has become usual for the nomination for the Moderatorship to be made at the February meetings of the various Presbyteries. So far as appears from our reports, only about half the Presbyteries exercised their rights in the matter. From an analysis we find that the Rev. Dr. N. M. Brown, of Limavady was nominated by the Presbyteries of Belfast, Clogher, Ballybay, Limavady and Ballymena; Rev. Dr. Hanna, by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus; the Rev. Robert Wallace, Coleraine, by the Presbytery of Coleraine; the Rev. Dr. Alexander Field, Dervock, by the Presbytery of Route; the Rev. Professor Todd Martin, by the Presbytery of Comber; the Rev. William Park, Belfast, by the Presbytery of Letterkenny; and the Rev. Professor Petticrew, Derry, by the Presbytery of Glendermott; Professor Petticrew, who was presented, declined the nomination. In the Templepatrick Presbytery, Dr. Hanna and Dr. Field had an equal number of votes and no nomination in consequence took place. No mention is made of the Moderatorship in the reports of the other Presbyteries. The Church has, however, a goodly number of nominations from which to make a selection of its Moderator for the ensuing ecclesiastical year.