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Notes of the Week.

Attention is directed to the offer of a copy of the Interlinear New Testament, in clear type, 670 pp., to any one securing us three new subscribers at \$2. Send on \$6 and three new names and make your minister a present of this valuable book.

The recent decision of the Pope as to the non-validity of Anglican Church orders which has caused so much trouble and anxiety to many of our Church of England brethren, if they will allow us so to call them, is naturally looked at from quite a different point of view by non-episcopal bodies. The Rev. Dr. Parker of the City Temple, London, took occasion lately to notice in his own peculiar way the attitude, owing to the verdict of the Vatican, of the episcopal and established clergy of the Anglican Church. With a kind of grim humour he remarked that the Dissenting ministry had received an enormous accession to its forces. The Pope had written a letter in which he declared that the archbishops and bishops and the whole band of clergy were mere Dissenters after all. He said, "We welcome these illustrious accessions, who will henceforth take a humble place by our side."

If things all go next summer as now arranged, it promises to be one of much and stirring interest, especially to Toronto as well as the country generally. We are already familiar with the arrangements being made to welcome and entertain the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science whose meeting next year will be held here. The same may be said of the steps taken to hold in Toronto next year a great Historical Exhibition. The visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, lately announced as likely to take place in connection with the opening of our new Municipal buildings, will call forth a great demonstration of Canadian loyalty here and at every point their Excellencies may touch at, and make a great occasion for Toronto. And now, last, it has just been decided by the Dominion W.C.T.U. convention that in October next the World's W.C.T.U. convention shall be held here also, which will bring amongst us a large gathering of the best known workers in this great and good cause. This is already a good bill of fare for one summer to say nothing of the usual number of smaller conventions which are certain every year to be held in our favoured city.

The changes made by death and otherwise are giving the present Government an opportunity of altering the very essential character of the Dominion Senate. The appointments just made to it of Messrs. David Mills and George A. Cox we are glad to see approved of as excellent even by newspapers, which if they could reasonably be found fault with, would not be slow to do so. We trust, however, that when the character of the Senate politically becomes more evenly balanced, which will take some time yet, than it is at present, the Government will show both its magnanimity and loyalty to the idea of the constitution as originally intended by the appointment of good men apart from their political opinions, as well as of men who represent all the business and professional interests of the country. We have not at best any great admiration for a second chamber, but if it is to vindicate its right to live, as well as its claim to usefulness and to the

public respect, it must be made a body that will do something more than simply register the decisions of what for the time happens to be the dominant political party.

The Winnipeg Ministerial Association has been discussing the hindrances to church work. Evangelist Schiverea, in an address on the subject, mentioned as outside hindrances, influences of the club and lodge, greed for wealth keeping away from week-evening meetings, and the wrong use of the bicycle, although a good thing in itself. Among hindrances within the church he emphasized the indifference of members to the salvation of souls, worldliness creeping into the church, singing of operatic airs, striving after oratory in preaching instead of true spirituality and the power of the Holy Ghost, preaching the higher criticism and evolution instead of the simple gospel of Jesus Christ, and a lack of general sociability at church among professing Christians.

From our latest old country exchanges a few particulars may be gleaned respecting the unfortunate loss of the mission vessel *Dayspring*. The crew consisted of eighteen men, of whom eight, including the captain, have been saved. The missing boat, with ten men, was amply provisioned, and it is hoped they may be saved, but as yet no tidings of them have been heard. So far as known no missionaries were on board. The vessel was on her fourth voyage with three months' supplies and mails for the mission stations. No vessel, it is said, could be better officered than she was, the captain and all the crew being experienced seamen, and they state that the vessel struck on a rock not marked in the chart. Had the wreck occurred on the previous voyage the lives of Rev. John G. Paton, his wife and son, and ten missionaries would have been imperilled. The *Belfast Witness* says: "We earnestly hope steps will at once be taken to procure another vessel to take her place, and we very much mistake the feelings of the Christian people in this and the adjoining countries if the money to provide for such be not at once forthcoming." One of the trustees of the *Dayspring* fund reports a cheque from a lady of £1,000 "to commence or buy another ship at once."

The banquet of the Lord Mayor of London, which, together with its accompanying show so dear to the heart of the Londoner, has been looked forward to this year with unusual interest, has come and gone. The supreme interest attaching to it was the statement which it was expected Lord Salisbury as the head of the Government would make as to questions of foreign policy, and above all respecting a matter, the Venezuelan boundary, upon which his lordship has been thought by many to have shown too great reticence. Lord Salisbury at the banquet was able to announce the settlement practically of what has been felt to be a very delicate question, and one which experience has proved might easily become very dangerous to the peace of the two most powerful nations in the world. Some details remain yet to be arranged and the actual final settlement cannot be effected for weeks or months to come, but the mode by which this is to be done is agreed upon among the nations concerned. The terms appear to meet with the approval of men and of the press of all parties in England, while perhaps those disposed to be captious in such a matter may claim that the United States and Venezuela have in

so far scored a victory in this case. Whether they have or not is a matter of no significance whatever. Britain has along with her desire to protect the just interests of her people, shown also a willingness and desire to do what is right; but by far the most important feature in the whole proceeding is that another distinct advance has been made in the rational and peaceful method of settling international differences by arbitration rather than by war.

The recent election in the United States of a President for the next four years has naturally drawn public attention in some degree to the Church connection of the various candidates for that high office. The *Cumberland Presbyterian* informs us that Hon. William McKinley, President-elect, has been since his seventeenth year a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Hon. Garrett A. Hobart, Vice President-elect is a Presbyterian, and so also is William J. Bryan, Democratic and Populist nominee for President. At fourteen he united with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Hon. Arthur Sewall, Democratic nominee for Vice-President is a Swedenborgian. The Prohibition nominee for President, Hon. Joshua Levering is a Baptist and has been a Sunday school superintendent since 1881. Hon. Hall Johnson, Prohibition nominee for Vice-President, is a member of the Christian Church. The "sound money" Democratic candidate, Senator Palmer, has been for fifty years a member of the Baptist Church. The religious connection of Hon. S. B. Buckner, Hon. Thomas G. Watson, and the nominees of the National party have not been ascertained. This statement affords a very striking illustration of the extent to which the profession of some religious belief and connection prevails amongst our neighbours, that a choice made without any reference to religious connection should show such a result as that above stated.

The observance of seasons of retreat practised by the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church is, we believe, one based on a wise and true understanding of the need of the spiritual guides of the people. A circular of the Evangelical Alliance of the United States, signed by the President, William E. Dodge, and the General Secretary, Josiah Strong, has just been issued, which in this restlessly bustling age may perhaps mark the beginning of a new departure, as well as express the felt need of some of the Church's busiest workers of seasons of repose and quiet. After referring to several outstanding features of the times in which we are living: for instance, its unrest, its astonishing industrial development, the tendency of great numbers to flock into cities, popular unbelief, especially the closer organization of society creating a new sense of social obligations, and the growing realization by the Church of a mission to society as well as to the individual; the decline of the keen apprehension of spiritual realities, and of spiritual as compared with material growth, and recognizing as a corrective to these and similar things the need of a great spiritual quickening, this circular proposes that, "in preparation for the campaign of the coming winter, the ministers of the Churches in each community meet for conference and prayer and spend a quiet day together on Tuesday the 17th, to be attended in the evening by all Church officials." The idea, we think, is an excellent one, and, in addition to the Roman Catholic custom referred to, has been tried in England by Protestant ministers with excellent spiritual effect.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

The Mid-Continent: Keep the boys on the farm by giving them part of the farm to keep them.

The Mid-Continent: The forty-minute sermon is bitterly complained of by the man who was reading the forty-page Sunday morning *Shock* just before church.

Bulwer Lytton: Ours is a religion little in its demands, but how infinitely prodigal in its gifts! It troubles you for an hour and repays you by immortality.

Farrar: Read your Bible, fill your whole souls with the thought of Christ. Make Him not only a Redeemer, but a Brother; not only a Saviour, but a Friend.

Jewish Christian. What is most sadly needed at the present time among Jewish missionaries is a common interest in the work and mutual love for one another. Until there is that union and fellowship one with the other, which will cause each to rejoice over the success of all, the work cannot be a permanent and glorious success.

Knoxonian: London never was as well governed as it is to-day—never was as cleanly, the public health was never as good, and on the whole the London of 1896 is better than the London of any year since William the Conqueror's time. If Macaulay's *New Zealander* has a return ticket he had better go back on the next boat.

Church at Home and Abroad: Material prosperity always follows successful missionary effort. The gospel quickens all the springs of life and progress. It not only begets a high and reverential regard for God and His word, but it also kindles a desire for the best interests of society in material as well as spiritual things.

Rev. Arthur Finlayson: Nature makes sympathy a necessity to us; society makes it a duty; habit may make it a pleasure. What the sun is to the body, sympathy is to the soul. Wherever you find a nature withdrawn from the genial influence of sympathy you may observe traces of abnormal weakness and melancholy.

The Times: It is no credit for us to send young children to work at an age at which, in France and Germany and Switzerland, they are prohibited from working. Children, if they are to be protected at all, must be protected by the law. If one manufacturer employs child-labour, his trade rivals must do the same, or he will beat them out of the field.

Church at Home and Abroad. Romanism in Protestant communities is not the same as Romanism in exclusive sway. The Catholic Church in New Mexico differs from the Catholic Church in New York as much as a lion in the jungles differs from a lion in Barnum's Museum. If an ecclesiastical system may be judged more fairly by its fruits in regions where it is free and untrammelled in its jurisdiction, and the inculcation of its principles, we are certainly right in forming our estimate of the Roman Catholic Church by the results of her three centuries of absolute sway over the Spanish portions of America.