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Notes of the Week.

It is a mistake to suppose that Dr. Newman was a man of great learning. The *Manchester Guardian* is probably right in saying: "He was a fair Latin but an indifferent Greek scholar. Of Hebrew and its cognate languages he was ignorant. He was familiar with no modern languages, but could read French and Italian. His historical knowledge was almost exclusively confined within the third, fourth and fifth centuries of the Christian era."

THE Rev. W. Robson Notman, of the Manse, Paget, Bermuda, sends the *British Weekly* notes of a sermon recently preached in his church by the Rev. President Patton, of Princeton College, New Jersey. Mr. Notman writes: "The sermon was delivered to a crowded and deeply interested audience. Dr. Patton is a Bermudian, and the Bermudians are very proud of him. He speaks very rapidly, has a most exquisite command of language, and is almost provokingly logical."

A CONTEMPORARY says: "It is not organization but personal intercourse that tells. Dr. Billing, Bishop of Bedford, lately complained to the incumbent of a populous parish that his church was empty and advised him to give two hours a day to visitation. The vicar replied that with so many committees it was impossible to do this, whereupon the bishop bluntly informed the vicar that he was not instituted to attend committees, but to work his own parish. The lesson is not unneeded. Many an able man has spoilt his true mission by diverting energy and time to committees. Church business has marred Church work."

MR. McVARRISH, the Highland convert from Romanism, in a Sunday evening lecture in Ladywell Church, Glasgow, said that no one could live in the monastery at Fort Augustus without being sincerely sorry for poor Brother Oswald, who had left great possessions to become a monk. If ever any man took a step which he regretted, Brother Oswald was that man. The monk referred to is Mr. David Oswald Hunter Blair, son of Sir E. Hunter Blair, of Blairquhan, Ayrshire, who on becoming a monk handed over his estates to the Church. The best known member of this family was the printer for Scotland of the authorized version of the Scriptures during the later years of the Bible monopoly.

At the Medical Congress in Berlin a Russian specialist in nerve diseases declared that most of the influenza patients had simply suffered from "neurotic contagion"; and the same physician prophesied that before long the world would be afflicted by an epidemic of nevrosis, which would cause strange things to be seen. He recalled the doings of the "convulsionists" of the seventeenth century and of the latter-day revivalists in America, and he foretold that the wealthy classes, in their craving for new sensations, should one of these days go crazy for a few weeks altogether, and behave like maniacs. The prophetic vision, moreover, warned him that "luxurious London" was the city where the inevitable epidemic was most likely to break out.

THE *Christian Leader* says: "No one who has marked the course of the proceedings, and who has noted the advantage which the law so often gives to the wrong-doer, will be surprised to learn that Dr. Barnardo has been worsted in that case which he carried to the Queen's Bench. He is ordered to deliver up the boy for whom he had provided a home and Christian nurture when there was no one to care for the poor creature; and the lad is nominally reclaimed by the woman McHugh, his mother, but in reality by the priests. Of course, Dr. Barnardo has to pay all the costs; and he is, moreover, subjected to the insults which the daily secular press is in the habit of heaping on the Protestant philanthropist in such cases. Every lover of righteousness, however, will deem it an honour to bear a part of the burden that has been laid by priestly malevolence, and by mechanical law, on the orphans' friend."

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND, on the eve of sailing from New South Wales for the New Hebrides, was shown Sydney Harbour by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Goodlet. About 120 ladies and gentlemen were on board the steamer by invitation, including lay and clerical representatives of all the churches. A sumptuous lunch was provided, and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly, Rev. T. E. Clouston, proposed Mr. Drummond's health. In reply the Professor said no such honour had ever before been conferred upon him. Australia he thought was very like the old country with this difference that he was far more appreciated at the Antipodes than at home. On returning from the New Hebrides Mr. Drummond was again to address the students at Sydney.

THE *New York Observer* says: "We are not surprised at anything that Swinburne writes, but it is a pity that the *Fortnightly Review* should be blotted by his wild utterances. His latest production is a denunciation of the Russian Czar and practically a call for his blood. It is not merely an excuse for tyrannicide, but demands it. The cause of humanity will not be advanced by such doggerel, and the editor of the *Review* showed a want of good taste in giving publicity to the wild shriek for imperial blood. Speaking of the tyrants the author says, 'these, if God's hand smite not, how shall man's not smite,' thus setting himself against God, who has said 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.' The cause demands pity whose inspiration is drawn from such a source as Swinburne."

WE must all sympathize, says the *Christian Leader*, with Mr. Spurgeon when, referring to Dr. Horatius Bonar, he says: "One's own family circle seems to have been invaded by the death of this dear Asaph of modern times." But we cannot follow this English mourner at the grave of the Scottish hymn-writer when he adds, rather truculently: "Of a race of champions he has brought up the rear-guard; and now there follow hordes of camp-followers, who have little left them but the tradition of a glory which used to be. And yet—who knows?—the Lord may raise up out of the stones of Scottish brooks children unto Knox and Chalmers." Only the other day Mr. Spurgeon was loudly praising a new book by one of those camp-followers, "Imago Christi"; and Dr. Stalker is but one of many of the younger generation who deserve to be spoken of in very different terms. Mr. Spurgeon had better have a care lest he be the bearer of false witness against brethren who are as faithful as himself to the great verities of the Christian faith.

A WORD of recognition for musical progress achieved is due to the Irish Presbyterian Church, which in the past has been very backward in its psalmody. Classes for singing are now held at both of the Assembly's theological colleges, and attendance at them is compulsory. This year every student who presented himself at the final theological examination possessed a certificate of attendance at one of these classes. The cultivation of music in the Presbyterian day schools is also growing; most hopeful sign of all is the earnest and enlightened spirit of the ministers. Rev. D. Taylor, Convener of the Psalmody Committee, says that the Church's praise may be regarded as her spiritual barometer. Slovenly psalmody indicates deadness, and boisterous ranting indicates superficiality. Rev. W. J. McCracken says that in preaching God addresses us through a man like ourselves, in praise we have the privilege of addressing God through the Divine Mediator. Let the people live up to these sentiments, and their psalmody will prosper.

THE first triennial report, just issued, of the British and Foreign Arbitration Association furnishes statistics, says the *Christian Leader*, which mock the claims of the European nations to be called by the name of the Prince of Peace. France, Germany and Russia are now expending between them \$551,194,650 a year in maintaining armies and navies, mustering in all ten and a half millions of men. There are upwards of five millions, physically the flower of the population, under arms in Europe to-

day, but if the complete military forces of the whole continent were mobilized there would be upwards of seventeen millions of armed warriors, trained and disciplined to war. In the ninety years of the present century the tax-payers of our own land have had to pay for their army and navy \$11,490,178,800. This indicates the cost of our preparations for war alone, without reckoning the extraordinary expenditure incurred in the wars that have been waged since the century began. For this monstrous and criminal waste the Christian churches of Britain must be held mainly responsible. Had they been faithful to the principles of the New Testament, and if Christian professors had applied these to their political action, it goes without saying that the expenditure on our army and navy would have been infinitely less.

FROM the official calendar of the Toronto Conservatory of Music it is learned that the opening of its next season takes place on Monday, September 1. Since its incorporation in Toronto in 1886 the Conservatory has had very gratifying success, the number of its pupils having increased from year to year. This was only to be expected when once the people began to understand the character of the institution and the high tone of the instruction it affords. The large staff of teachers it employs are all well known for their artistic abilities and attainments and this year several new names have been added to the list. Provision is made for instruction in every branch of music, piano, voice, organ, violin, orchestral and band instruments. Harmony, sight-singing, church music, elocution and dramatic action, etc., the system adopted being such as to lead the student through well-graduated courses from the first rudiments to a high degree of proficiency. An admirable feature of the institution is the series of lectures, concerts and students' recitals which are given at regular intervals and to which all students have free access. This year also the establishment of a reference musical library will be a great boon to the students. As an institution where thorough instruction on the most scientific and approved methods can be obtained the Conservatory is worthy the attention of all interested. A calendar giving much information as to the different courses of study, fees, etc., can be had free on application to the musical director, Mr. Edward Fisher, who has been associated with the institution since its establishment.

READERS may have seen an outline of the Rev. W. A. Crawford-Frost's scheme for securing Christian union. The London *Christian World* has got hold of it, but by a curious mistake it abbreviates the young divine's patronymic by omitting the last and essential part of it. Mr. Frost before entering on his sacred functions did good work while engaged in Toronto journalism. Here is the *Christian World's* paragraph: "Rev. W. A. Crawford has undertaken a labour compared with which those of Hercules were child's play. He is rector of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and founder of the Christian Unity League, to further the objects of which he is now in this country. Mr. Crawford is young, sanguine and courageous, or he would never hope to persuade 'men of all creeds and nationalities,' beginning with the bishops, clergy and laymen of the Anglican Church, to take this four-fold pledge: That I will endeavour to refrain from the use of unkind words towards individuals or bodies of men of all classes or creeds; That I will not allow an unkind word to be spoken in my presence without attempting, so far as I may be able, to prevent, divert, or mitigate the same; That I will strive to see beauty in every object, goodness in every character, and truth in every system of thought; and, That I will endeavour to avoid noticing ugliness in nature, faults in individuals, error in philosophy, and controversy in religion, in so far as I may be able conscientiously so to do. By the time Mr. Crawford has thoroughly converted the Anglican clergy to speaking kindly of and fraternizing with Jews, Turks, heretics and papists, leaving out the Moslem, Buddhists and Confucianists, nothing else ought to be able to stop him on his career of reconciliation."