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Notes of the Week.

THE rural retreat in Canada where Rev. Dr. Barrows passed last summer's vacation with his family so pleasantly, did not exhaust its attractions in that one visit. The good doctor found Canadian air, food and waters so conducive to health and re-invigoration that, with his family, last week, he set out for the old resting place, where he hopes to spend an equally pleasant and profitable vacation. Thus saith the *Interior*: There are any number of rural retreats where United States brethren and their families could pass their vacations pleasantly. There are almost endless facilities for magnificent fishing, which the *Interior* itself might find irresistible.

THE Rev. Dr. Bryce, of Manitoba College, has forwarded to the Government of that Province, a scheme which, if carried out, will give Manitoba University the nucleus of a teaching staff and economize very much the resources of the different affiliated colleges. In brief, his plan is to have several courses of lectures in the different colleges delivered in a central place. Thus instead of having four courses of lectures by as many teachers say, in chemistry, there will be one course by one lecturer. To carry out this scheme some sort of a home for the university will be required, and in order to provide this Dr. Bryce asks an increase of \$1,000 a year to the University grant.

THE Rev. Mr. Lynd, the present Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, is described by a correspondent of an exchange as a preacher and orator of the first rank. "I have heard of a lady, the wife of an eloquent minister, who nevertheless styles Mr. Lynd 'our only orator.' But Mr. Lynd is not a fluent extempore speaker. When he does speak extempore his utterance is slow and deliberate, in fact it is vocal composition. His diction is always choice, and seldom has the Moderator's chair been graced by a more dignified presence." Mr. Lynd was one of the speakers at a drawing room meeting in the house of the Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley held to form a Women's Liberal-Union Association.

THE example set some weeks ago, says the *Chicago Interior*, by a southern governor, who openly acknowledged his dependence on God for direction and help in discharging his duties to the State, has been followed by a large body of men assembled in political convention in Dixie land. That convention, after listening respectfully to a prayer, actually joined in singing "Nearer, my God, to Thee;" and they sang it as if they firmly believed that good government can be had only by keeping close to the standards of the divine law. The devout governor represented one of the old parties, the devout convention the other. Evidently there is a leaven of righteousness working in the politics of the new south.

YOUNG Hebraists of high distinction, the *Christian Leader* says, seem to be the order of the day. The Presbyterian Hall in London has a remarkable instance in Professor Elmslie; and the scholar recently elected by the Irish General Assembly for the chair of Hebrew is only about twenty-six years of age. Even supporters of the other three candidates acknowledged that Mr. Thomas Walker was the best man. The fact that the venerable senior professor of Hebrew through whose retirement the vacancy occurred, after his own son had been struck off, voted together with that son for Mr. Walker was a high testimonial in his favour. The young professor is perhaps the most brilliant Hebraist of his years that the Irish Presbyterian Church ever produced.

COMMENTING on our recent reference to the age of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates in the United States, the *Huron Expositor* says: THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN in its last issue gets off the following good hit, which it would be advisable for a good many to carefully consider: "Cleveland is fifty-one years of age," etc. THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, however, need not go beyond our own country for

examples to point its moral. Both Sir John Macdonald and Hon. O. Mowat are closely crowding the allotted three score and ten years, and they are still looked upon as the two most able statesmen of the day, the one controlling the destinies of this great Dominion, and the other managing with great skill and success the affairs of the largest and wealthiest Province of the Dominion. But were they preachers instead of politicians they would have been superannuated long ago.

MR. JAMES SERVICE, that able Scot who is premier of Victoria, puts this matter in a nutshell to the people of that colony: We Australians are not likely to submit to be ruled from a little island in the Atlantic when we can manage our own defence. Such independence is prophesied as a certainty; but this only is certain, whatever the future may be, it will be absolutely in accord with our own wishes. Our wishes are not in favour of separation. Two reasons check any such desire. Danger to Australia may arise from two sources—from China or from Russia. We could not cope with either. Our only present safety lies in remaining a colony of the United Kingdom. When we number 20,000,000 to 30,000,000, the case may be different: but the decision will lie with Australians, and not with others. Meanwhile the practical point is the federation of the Australian colonies amongst themselves.

MR. CAMERON, of College Street Church, Edinburgh, in presenting the report to his Presbytery of the Dis-establishment Committee, said the Established Church was congratulating itself upon its prosperity and contrasting its position with that of the dissenting Churches. He looked upon that as an ominous kind of prosperity which was secured at the expense of other Churches. Dr. John Kay, while expressing his belief in dis-establishment, did not see the need of their condescending to pitch into newspapers or go on their knees to politicians. It was a question Almighty God would put right in His own time and way; and he preferred to have the friendship of his brethren of the Established Church rather than lose it by impatience. Mr. Brown, who moved the reception of the report, said his experience was that perfect frankness in this matter did not interfere with brotherly intercourse. Mr. Brown's motion was unanimously adopted.

THE *Christian Leader*, when occasion demands, can use very vigorous expression. Here is an instance, where the subject calls for the strangest expression: The black-hearted malignity of the supporters of the wicked acts is indicated in the latest article on the subject in the *Saturday Review*. The movement led by Mrs. Josephine Butler, and in which Dr. James Martineau has taken an active part, is denounced as a "loane-orne lunacy." The opponents of the Contagious Diseases acts are described as "the advocates of free trade in disease," as "letting loose on England and on India a plague which for some time had been in process of staying," and as "the advocates of the inalienable right of women to spread pestilence as she chooses." Finally, the *Saturday Review* has the audacity to assert that the opponents of the acts are setting at defiance not only "the clearest teachings of science and the unanimous dictates of experience and common sense," but also "the soundest principles of religion." The article seems vomited from the abysmal depths of the bottomless pit.

THE Rev. J. Mordy, president of the Niagara Falls Law and Order League, has issued a circular containing the following. At the request of representatives of the committees on Sabbath Observance, appointed by the courts of the various Evangelical Churches, the Law and Order League, in conjunction with the ministers of the Gospel, in Niagara Falls town and village, have arranged for a Convention to be held in Wesley Park, Niagara Falls, on July 29 and 30, on Sabbath Observance. On Sabbath, sermons on the subject will be preached at each of the three services, and on Monday afternoon and evening an

Alliance will be formed for the purpose of testing and enforcing the law, as well as arranging for some combined action to secure further legislation to bring about a better observance of the Lord's Day. Much good has already resulted from our efforts in this direction, and we are exceedingly anxious that the attendance at the coming convention may be large enough to form an organization whose influence will be felt all over the land. We are doing our best to secure the services of able men from Canada and the States, but we trust that the importance of the work will be the chief attraction. By getting a certificate from the ticket agent that you have bought a ticket to Wesley Park, you can get back for one-third fare. We will depend on you to assist in every way to make this convention a success.

THE *Belfast Witness* says: The Assembly just closed has made several new departures, for which it will long be memorable. For the first time in its history it has appointed a layman to the convenership of one of its great mission schemes. In Mr. D. G. Barkley the Foreign Mission has obtained the services of a gentleman whose long experience as an Indian judge, combined with his ardent interest in Indian missions to qualify him singularly well to be Rev. Wm. Park's coadjutor in this great work. But we especially hail his appointment with pleasure as indicating, on the one hand, the intention of the Church to avail herself more than she has done of the services of well qualified laymen in the high places of the field, and as showing, on the other, the advance which she has made when for such a post she can lay her hands on a man like Mr. Barkley. The more she perseveres in this policy the better, we believe, will it be for all interests. Mr. Barkley spent twenty-one years in India. He was Chief Judge of the Punjab. He is an LL. D. of Queen's University, Belfast, and is reckoned one of the most scholarly men who have graduated from that important institution. Judge Barkley was in Toronto two years ago on a visit to his cousin, Mrs. Thomas Kerr. The example set by the Irish Church in appointing a layman to be joint convener of the most important mission of the Church might be followed profitably by the Church in Canada. Judge Barkley entered the Civil Service in India when only twenty one years of age, and is yet in the prime of life.

OF the Pan-Presbyterian Council the *Christian Leader* says: The fourth council, which is being held this week in London, promises to be one of the most remarkable of all the ecclesiastical gatherings of a year more than usually prolific in such assemblies. At the initial meeting, held in Exeter Hall on Tuesday, there were present upward of 300 delegates, representing no fewer than seven millions of communicants and several times that number of adherents. The variety of nationalities represented must have struck even many of the Presbyterians themselves with profound surprise. The brilliant Pressense was among the representatives of the French branch of the Church, while Rev. Tan Leng was one of the delegates from the Presbyterians of China; Drs. John Hall and Howard Crosby worthily indicated the strength of Presbyterianism in the United States, Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, and others, its firm hold of the Dominion; a strong contingent had come from the Antipodes; and there were delegates from the two thousand churches of Hungary, and the fifteen hundred of the Netherlands, as well as from the powerful Dutch Churches at the Cape of Good Hope. The Anglican Church, whose leaders are in the habit of speaking as if it were continent of all, could show no such variety. The truth is that the Presbyterian Church is the largest and most richly varied Protestant organization in Christendom. There are delegates in the London Council even from the New Hebrides. The country of John Knox came to the front at the opening of the council, the Duke of Argyll presiding at the reception of the delegates by the London committee, which took place in the grounds of his mansion at Kensington, and Principal Oswald Dykes preaching the inaugural sermon in the historic pulpit in Regent Square.