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Notes of the Week.

A LOCAL committee for the entertainment of the members of the Association for the Advancement of Women, which meets in Toronto, October 14, was formed last week. The object of the Association is to consider and present practical methods for securing to women higher intellectual, moral and physical conditions, with a view to the improvement of all domestic and social relations.

IN Arbroath Presbytery Mr. Gibson, of Carnoustie, called attention to the conduct of a co-presbyter, who had absented himself from the meetings of the court, and moved that he be cited to attend next meeting, and that if he did not attend they should proceed to his deposition. Mr. Gibson subsequently moved simply that he be cited; but this was rejected by ten to three. Mr. Cairns considered that the offending brother had in this matter suffered injustice, and to cite him if he did not wish to attend "just meant a little torture of him."

ARRANGEMENTS were made recently for pulpit exchanges in the United Presbyterian and Free Church congregations on the south side of Glasgow. There are fifty-four of these, and every one is represented in this united movement, which is made in harmony with the decisions of last United Presbyterian Synod and Free Church Assembly. The Greenock Presbyteries of the two churches are now inviting each other to their ordinations; and the Glasgow Free Presbytery, on the motion of Mr. Wells, is to consider at its next meeting whether it can do the same.

SOME time ago the *Regina Journal* drew attention to the fact that the Government library in the North-West Territories is being extensively filled up with sectarian literature. Roman Catholic representatives have hastened to crowd the bookshelves with controversial Romish works. This stupid and presumptuous method of propagandism ought to meet with the rebuke it deserves. A representative of the *Journal* was not allowed to make a copy of the list of new books recently purchased, nor was he permitted to use the library, the reason of the refusal being given that the collection of works is yet incomplete.

EVERYTHING, the *Interior* remarks, points to the happy consummation of the proposed federation of Reformed Churches in this country. As making toward this end, we find in the denominational organs warnings against waste of ministerial strength, the reckless multiplication of preaching points, and the organization of small congregations just for the sake of producing an apparent increase on the church rolls. Regard must be paid to the claims of other churches, in occupying or attempting to enter new fields. A heartier recognition of these claims by all evangelical denominations will further the spiritual union and fellowship of many churches, of which the Reformed federation is to be a formal and partial test.

THE Rev. Dr. Hall, some time of Dublin, and now of New York, preached recently to very large congregations in Christ's Church, Rathgar. Many of his old Dublin friends belonging to the Presbyterian communion met the eminent divine after the services, and were most cordially received by him. Dr. Hall has returned to New York. He spent a considerable time in Ireland, chiefly in the North, and the regret is felt universally that his stay in the city will not be prolonged. Many who went to Christ Church on Sunday were unable to find accommodation. All who heard the preacher acknowledged that he had lost none of his old force and power.

AT the funeral of Professor Duff, the late occupant of the Church History chair in the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh, the services were conducted—at the house by Principal Cairns, Dr. Mair, Professor Paterson and Mr. Hislop, of Helensburgh; in the Synod Hall by Mr. Fleming, of Whithorn, Moderator of Synod; Dr. Kennedy, Rev.

Charles M'Gregor, of Lady Yester's, as representing the Established Church, and Dr. Laughton as representing the Free; and in the board-room of the School Board by Rev. Thomas Burns, of Lady Glenorchy's. The mourners numbered about 400, and as the procession moved to the Grange cemetery it was watched by large numbers of people. Professor Johnston led in prayer at the grave.

THE writer of Gossip and Grumbles in the *Glasgow Evening Times*, says: A correspondent tells me of an incident, almost unique, I should think, which occurred in the First United Presbyterian Church, Strathaven. On a recent Sunday the pulpit was occupied by Mr. Joseph Pirrett, a divinity student; on the Sunday following his father, the Rev. Mr. Pirrett, Glasgow, preached; and on the Sunday following that again, his grandfather, Dr. Joseph Brown, Kent Road, Glasgow, occupied the pulpit. Thus there was a representation of three generations preaching within one month in the same church. A few years ago the pulpit in First Presbyterian Church, Detroit, was occupied on a Sabbath morning by the late Dr. Duffield, in the afternoon by his son, and in the evening by his grandson.

THE *Indian Witness* says: The Maharajah of Travancore has set his fellow-Rajahs a good example in encouraging the work of primary education among low-caste and out-caste people in his Raj, by a donation of 5,000 rupees to the funds of the London Missionary Society. High-caste Hindus are making a great fuss about his having committed the double offence of helping the low-caste people up the ladder, and incidentally swelling the funds of a Christian Missionary Society. The poor Brahman trembles for his hereditary position and privileges whenever he sees the low-caste man climbing up the ladder of knowledge. And well he may. The Brahminism of birth and caste is doomed. The high-castes of succeeding Indian generations will be those who come from the lowest levels by the aid of the Gospel and Christian education. The Brahman sees the hand-writing on the wall, and "his thoughts trouble him." Sensible Maharajah.

IN an article on the recent meeting of the British Association the *Belfast Witness* justly remarks: The sixtieth annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which has just concluded its sessions at Leeds, indicates that the long war between science and revealed religion is dying down. Science, it is now understood, has to do only with phenomena, with the facts of nature discernible by the senses. But there is a region beyond the phenomenal, a region into which the senses cannot penetrate. In that region lies the spiritual and the moral. There the only light we get comes by spiritual intuition of spiritual men; in other words, from revelation and inspiration. The religious instinct is as much an ultimate fact of human nature as any of its animal instincts, and a true philosophy must provide for all the facts, not merely for some of them. So long as man is conscious of sin and misery, so long will divine religion be a necessity to him.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Miss Sophie Veitch, the authoress of "Angus Graeme, Game-keeper," expresses the opinion that in a considerable area of the north of England and the south of Scotland there has been of late a lamentable increase of drunkenness among boys belonging to the respectable middle class. In large towns and at favourite pleasure resorts on public holidays she has seen streets and roads besprinkled with intoxicated cads ranging from seventeen to twenty. She ascribes this fresh outburst of intemperance to "the vehement advocacy of extreme measures by the fanatical section of the total abstinence party." Miss Veitch holds that the animal appetites of men can only be held in safe restraint by being allowed play within the limits of strict moderation. She thinks it "highly probable that the little total abstinence reforming prig of nine or ten" will turn out "the drunken lad of seventeen or eighteen, disgracing himself in broad daylight on festive occasions." Dr. Adamson, of Edinburgh, lately drew attention to

the fearful leakage of the young from the temperance organizations; and it would be interesting to learn if there are any facts tending to support the notion of this outspoken lady novelist.

BEGINNING on Sunday evening, September 28, and on Sunday evenings thereafter during the remainder of the year, Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage will deliver a series of sermons at the New York Academy of Music, under the auspices of the *Christian Herald*, that journal having secured the Academy for this purpose at a cost of nearly \$3,000 for the series. When the Tabernacle trustees some time ago decided not to resume Sunday evening services in Brooklyn until the completion of the Tabernacle building, the journal mentioned at once took advantage of the opportunity afforded to give New Yorkers a chance to hear Dr. Talmage. The splendid accommodations of the Academy, with its seating capacity of 5,400, afford ample room for large audiences. In embracing the offer to preach there during these remaining Sunday evenings of 1890, Dr. Talmage generously declined to accept any compensation. He also agreed to induce the Tabernacle organist, Professor Henry Eyre Browne, and the cornetist, Professor Ali, and choir, as well as the ushers of his own congregation, to volunteer their services gratuitously on these occasions. The entire plate collections will be distributed by the *Christian Herald* among the hospitals of New York, regardless of religious preferences.

THE excessive floral displays at funerals have recalled many to the exercise of right feeling and good taste in paying tributes to the memory and worth of the departed. The *Belfast Witness* has these fitting remarks on the subject. Many people have noticed of late with much satisfaction the increasing use of the words "No flowers" at the end of announcements of funerals in the newspapers. Nothing is more beautiful or more seemly than the practice of associating flowers with death. They wonderfully relieve the gloom of the death-chamber and the grave, and preach sermons and suggest lessons to the living which are of the most valuable character. But in many cases the expense and the senseless display in which the practice has eventuated have been saddening. Here is the inevitable reaction. It is one thing for the family and immediate relatives of the dead to strew his corpse with lilies, and lay their wreaths of affection on his coffin. But when this seemly custom degenerates into an exhibition, suggestive only of ostentation and extravagant display, it becomes time to check it. It is well to bear in mind the lamentable excess to which these things have been allowed to go in America, where a single funeral sometimes costs thousands of dollars for flowers alone—the money spent on which might surely have easily found a better destination.

WE are glad, says the *Belfast Witness*, to see that the missionary forces of the Irish Presbyterian Church are to be immediately augmented. At a meeting of the Board of Missions held recently the Rev. J. H. Fitzsimons was appointed to China, the Rev. J. C. Blair to India, and the Rev. A. Wilson nominated also for the latter field. Mr. Fitzsimons, it will be remembered, was appointed to labour in India some time ago. When almost ready to start, however, he was prostrated by typhoid fever, and on his recovery the medical advisers of the Mission Board refused to sanction his encountering the risks of the Indian climate, but approved of his going to the North of China, where the climate is very different from that of Gujarat. We believe there is good hope that, when he leaves Ireland for that country, he will go specially as the missionary of the Sabbath school children of the Irish Presbyterian Church, many of whom—indeed, we believe, all who have been appealed to on the subject—have gladly promised to bear their part in sending him out, and keeping him at his post as their representative. This is surely a step in the right direction, and one which will, we hope, be followed up. The two other gentlemen who have been nominated for India will go to reinforce a band of labourers which by one cause or another has been sadly reduced in numbers. Both are very highly spoken of.