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Notes of the Week.

FROM a statistical table recently published it appears that the highest salary paid in the English Presbyterian Church is \$7,000. There are two ministers in receipt of that rather handsome income. There are fourteen who receive \$2,500; twenty, \$1,750; sixteen, \$1,500; twenty, \$1,250. The largest number, seventy-five, receive \$1,000. The lowest salary returned is one at \$665. Eighty-eight of our English Presbyterian ministerial brethren have manses provided for them.

THE Rev. Joseph Yair, M.A., of Eckford, Roxburghshire, died recently in his ninety-fourth year. Educated in Glasgow, and licensed by that Presbytery in 1824, he was within a fortnight of completing the sixty-third year of his incumbency. He figured some months ago in certain Presbyterial proceedings concerning the appointment of an ordained assistant in view of his great age. Imposing in appearance and dignified in manner, he was a notable figure in the Border district.

THE Rev. Dr. Macdonald, retired minister of Inverness first charge, died recently in his eightieth year. Born in Inverness and educated at Aberdeen, he was ordained in 1842, succeeding his father-in-law. He declined a chair in Aberdeen University, and also, owing to failing health, the Moderatorship of Assembly. A man of learning, he was also an excellent preacher, and was held in high honour in the Highland capital, in whose town hall his marble bust now stands alongside that of Dr. Carruthers.

PRINCIPAL RAINY, speaking at a Christian conference at Forres, at which Principal Mackichan, Rev. Dr. Black and Rev. Mr. Lee were present, admitted that the Church had often failed in its duty to the young. Ministers ought to take a course of practical training at the Normal school. The Sabbath school teaching had been a blessing, but it was unequal. The independence of young men and women must be respected, and the object to be aimed at in dealing with them ought to be not their acceptance of particular views but their making of Christ a reality.

AT the semi-jubilee celebration of Rev. James M. Kinloch, of West Linton United Presbyterian Church, ex-Bailie Lewis, of Edinburgh, remarked on the very interesting fact that four ministers there met on the platform, all above thirty years' standing, who have in turn been ministers of the congregation during the past forty-four years—Rev. Messrs. J. A. Johnston, of Springburn, Arch. Cross, of Edinburgh, formerly pastor of Erskine Church, Jagersoll, and also for a short time pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Newcastle, Ont., Robert Laurie, of Dundee, and Mr. Kinloch.

MR. TRAILL asserts that not one in twenty even of the cultured classes ever read poetry. Mr. James Payn thinks one in fifty would be nearer the mark, although a much larger proportion say they read it, and many have read it in their school days perforce in extracts and selections. They never liked it, and they don't like it now. "It is useless to argue upon the matter," adds Mr. Payn, "or to attempt to inculcate a taste for it in those who have none. You might as well try to teach them to play the fiddle. Under these circumstances the idiocy of our public

system, which endeavours to cultivate a taste for Greek and Latin verse in the average schoolboy, is indeed amazing."

THE Queen's College, Belfast, grows in importance as an educational centre in Ulster. The Rev. Dr. Hamilton, its president, strives to keep it in every sense well abreast of the needs of the times. The fine science theatre and lecture rooms, recently sanctioned by Government, are beginning to show their tasteful proportions as they advance towards completion. And now the president has taken another improvement in hand, which he wishes the old alumni to carry out at their own cost, not at that of the Government. This is a "Union" similar to that at Oxford, at Cambridge, at Edinburgh, and at Glasgow. He is being well-backed, and it is likely that his desire is practically as good as accomplished. He has enlisted the sympathy and support of the Marquis of Londonderry, Mr. Thomas Sinclair, M. A., and the ex-Mayor, Mr. C. C. Connor, M.A.

IT is a common impression that the art of public reading and speaking is too much over-looked in Scotland. That some are becoming alive to its importance will be seen from the following: A motion by Mr. Gavin W. Ralston, advocate, in Glasgow University council, that a chair of public reading and speaking be instituted, has been rejected by twelve to five. He attributes much of the non-churchgoing to the inability of preachers to speak so as to command attention. Rev. Mr. Houston, of Auchterderran, moved a direct negative, which was supported by Rev. G. M. Smith, of Stirling, who maintained that no man with a message to deliver had ever yet failed for want of elocution, and that all the art in the world would never make him effective if he had nothing to say. To this the reply will readily occur that if a man has a message to deliver he will do it all the more effectively if he has learned how to do it.

THE English Presbyterian Synod at Birmingham, under the Moderatorship of Rev. Dr. George Johnstone, received a deputation from the Irish Presbyterian Assembly, and Dr. Wylie, in addressing the House, delivered an anti-Home Rule speech, which called forth loud protests against the introduction of politics. Deputations also attended from the Local Peace Society and the Temperance Union of Birmingham. The Synod was asked to declare total abstinence to be the platform of its Temperance Committee. The amendment was, however, withdrawn, the Committee, without departing from its dual platform, having decided to also recognize a newly-formed Ministers' and Office-bearers' Total Abstinence Association. It was resolved to petition in favour of Sunday Closing. The Synod passed a resolution expressing deep pain at the persecution of the Stundists in Russia, and their sympathy with the persecuted. A resolution of sympathy with the suffering Russian Jews was also adopted.

COMMENTING on the Behring Sea arbitration, the *Christian Leader* remarks: Arbitration is to win in the Behring affair. The Salisbury agreement has been ratified by the Senate, and till 1893, by which time the award will be given, the United States are to take a limited number of seals only, while no other nation is to take any. This is the memorandum which had been already presented to Congress when President Harrison's message appeared breathing threatenings and slaughter against the British. Indeed, it had been previously accepted by the President, who, however, could not resist the chance of letting off a little stage thunder for the purposes of the ensuing Presidential campaign. Nothing pays among the lower class of American voters of the baser sort than an attempt on the part of those in power "to twist the British lion's tail." But the great spirit of Christianity and a common origin makes it impossible that we can ever seriously contemplate fighting our brothers.

THE *British Weekly* says: The two leading Presbyterian congregations in London—Marylebone and

Regent Square—have had a severe disappointment. The ministers of their choice, both called enthusiastically and unanimously, have not seen their way to comply with the invitation. Dr. Stalker, who was called to Marylebone, is clearly marked out for a professorship. But we should like to have seen Mr. Macdonald, a Celt of vigorous originality, a student and a man of accomplishment in "streaming London's central roar." Mr. Macdonald confessed that he was drawn strongly by the prospect of being at the centre of things and having a hand in moulding them; but the effective urgency of his large and important congregation in Scotland has kept him in their service. It is much to be desired that London Presbyterians should find one or two men of outstanding eminence, and the field is so important that neither Scotland nor Ireland should grudge their very best.

WHILE Cooke's grand new church in Toronto has just been completed and dedicated to the worship of God, it is interesting to learn that, according to the Belfast correspondent of the *British Weekly*, the magnificent new church built as a memorial of the late Dr. Cooke, and called "The Cooke Centenary Church," was opened recently by the Rev. Dr. Matheson, of St. Bernards, Edinburgh. Enormous congregations gathered to hear the celebrated preacher at both morning and evening services. That everybody was delighted goes without saying. The doctor seemed to have struck the proper key-note for Belfast, both in his sermons and in his after remarks as to Dr. Cooke and the city. In the latter he said he hoped "they would not be angry if he stated that first and foremost his motive for coming had been his attachment to the people of Ireland, and his attachment specially to the people of Belfast. His associations with that town, and his memories of its people should be to the latest hour the greenest and dearest spots in his memory. And then he had come, too, he had a strange association with that distinguished man, that great preacher of whom that magnificent edifice was a memorial. When he was a child he used to play the minister; he used to construct an imaginary pulpit by means of chairs, and preach purely imaginary sermons; and the name he thought of in the far-off city of Glasgow, and in the far-off days, was the name of Dr. Cooke—a name which clung to him for many a year." Altogether the dedication services were a success.

AT the English Presbyterian Synod, Principal Dykes gave in the final report of the Confession Committee. Objection was taken to certain clauses in the Appendix to the Articles of the Faith. It was moved by Rev. J. H. Thomson to omit from the clause on the Lord's Day, "Whatever respect some may pay to other days of commemoration, yet do these lack Scriptural authority, and may not be enforced as binding on the Christian conscience." Dr. Morison also thought the clause gave a quasi-approval to other days of commemoration. Dr. Dykes said that there were many who might feel it desirable to worship God on certain days that other Christians had thought fit to set apart for commemoration, and therefore the committee thought the clause in question would meet the case. On a vote being taken, the recommendation of the committee was adopted. A clause was adopted for insertion in the formula for the ordination of ministers and elders and the licensing of students, recognizing the Articles of the Faith as embodying the doctrine set forth in the Confession of Faith. It was decided to take steps to modify a clause in the model trust deed, leaving the Church at liberty in respect of her doctrinal standards in view of the adoption of the new Articles. Principal Dykes, Convener of the committee which drew up the Articles, received the thanks of the Synod for the intellectual ability and gracious spirit with which he had conducted the work. The thanks were conveyed by the Moderator, the members of Synod standing as an expression of their esteem for the Principal. In discharging the committee at the end of its nine years' labour, the members and the secretary, Rev. W. Dale, were also thanked.