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Notes of the Week.

It will please all admirers of Ruskin to know that a reader has been compiled chiefly for the sake of young readers in schools and colleges from Mr. Ruskin's three great early works, "Modern Painters," "The Seven Lamps of Architecture," and "The Stones of Venice," and in the arrangement of the extracts some attempt has been made at giving the main lines of Mr. Ruskin's teaching, and the chief characteristics of his style.

A widespread and intense feeling of anxiety spread some days ago throughout the whole Methodist church for the safety of nine missionaries who had left Fort Simpson to attend the Conference meeting at Victoria. A fortnight passed without any tidings of the mission vessel which was at last happily found by a passing steamer and the missionaries and crew rescued from the yacht which was found disabled and aground. We congratulate our Methodist brethren on their relief from their anxious fears and joy with them in their joy.

"An odd collocation of ideas," says the *Christian World*, "is brought about by the news that a railway station has been opened at Gehenna. The line from Jaffa to Jerusalem has its terminus in the Vale of Hinnom, or Gehenna, to use its Greek equivalent. The word Gehenna is several times translated 'hell' in the New Testament, and from its 'ever burning fires' originated the sulphurous conceptions of future punishment which figured through so many ages of Christian theology. The nineteenth century has now dealt with these ideas in its own characteristic way. The voice of medievalism will be drowned in the shriek of an engine whistle."

"Ian Maclaren," the author of the "Bonnie Brier Bush," was the guest lately in London of the Author's Club. In an eloquent peroration of his speech on the occasion he pictured the uses of fiction. He decried the solace it gave to the sick and the weary. He had seen them in their own homes, and knew how much the reading of a good and even amusing book helped to relieve them from their misery. Authors some times thought too little of this aspect of their work, but it was as much to be considered perhaps, when they come to count up their gains, as the mere pecuniary advantages, and the satisfaction derived from the applause of their fellow authors.

The Christians of Syria are in almost as sorry a plight as their fellows in Armenia. In the district of Skukit, the other day, the Metwalis attacked the houses of a number of Christians with stones, and attempted to enter them, finally compelling the inmates to seek refuge in some of the Christian villages in the district. The house of a Greek Catholic priest was, however, forcibly entered by night. Subsequently some 40 or 50 Metwali youths proceeded to the Christian quarter of the village, uttering threats that they would do the same for them as was done to the Armenians. Similar reports come from all parts, and complaints of the corruption of the officials are heard on all sides.

At the meeting of the Baptist Union in London, England, the Rev. Dr. Glover said the Pope had addressed to them, along with other Christian Englishmen, a courteous letter, asking them to return to the bosom of the Church. He thought that a courteous letter should be courteously replied to. He therefore proposed that the officers of the Union be requested to prepare and submit to the autumnal Assembly of the Union a letter to His

Holiness the Pope, in reply to his recent invitation to English Christians to return to the Church of Rome. As one member vigorously and persistently opposed applying the term "Holiness" to the Pope, the resolution was carried with the obnoxious word struck out.

The outstanding feature of the Baptist May anniversaries in London, England, was the brilliant success of the missionary gatherings. For numbers, for enthusiasm, for buoyant hopefulness, they touched high-water mark. Since the great Centenary effort there has been a certain amount of natural reaction, and the committee and officials for the last year or two have had, metaphorically speaking, to whistle to keep their courage up. Now they are all smiles, and there is a general feeling that a year hence the report will announce the rise of the revenue to the £70,000. By way of contrast, the Home Missionary meeting was—so far as the attendance went—the failure of the week. It is not creditable to the Baptists in England, any more than to the Congregationalists, that they should take so little interest in their Home Missions.

A Russian correspondent of an English paper says that under the Tzar Nicolas II., the Jews of Russia need expect no amelioration of the repressive measures which so weighed upon them during the reign of Alexander III. The latest ordinance is one of almost incredible barbarity. In various parts of Russia there are localities resorted to by invalids where there are rich mineral springs for the healing of their various diseases. During the summer months these "Curorts" are largely patronised by all sorts and conditions of men from all parts of the empire. It has now been ordered that in future Jews are to be excluded from these places, whether they come as traders or as invalids. In a country like Russia where government is so centralized the responsibility must lie with the central authorities rather than with the local tyrants who have issued it.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met in the Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, last Thursday. This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United body and the Church mentioned is the historic one in which reunion was consummated. "Its members will be welcomed," says the *Pittsburg Banner*, "to Western Pennsylvania, the great center of Presbyterianism in this country, from which have gone out more men and women to labor for the Master at home and abroad; from which have emanated more of the agencies which now mark the operations of the Presbyterian Church; where have originated more of the movements which have characterized the history of the denomination, than can be claimed for Presbyterianism in any other part of the United States. The settlement of Presbyterians, and the growth of Presbyterianism here, seem to be of providential ordering."

Dean Hole, who visited Toronto some months ago and delighted all who heard him by his genial wit and humor, has given to a representative of the *Christian Commonwealth* his opinion of the working classes in language which we might commend to the same class here: "They are just like other men. The honest working man, who is trying to do his duty and takes a pride in his work, is the finest fellow on earth; but the lounge, who only works in order that he may just exist and get his beer, is a poor enough creature. The worst enemy of the working man is he who tries to persuade him that there is no dignity and no happiness in work, that he is a slave, and ought, if he can, to put his hand into the rich man's pocket. I have

always told the working man that if he is doing his best he is as great a man in the eyes of his Creator and Judge as the man in the highest position in life. No one can do more than his best, whatever his work and position."

Labouchere, the well-known proprietor of *Truth* and Radical in politics, has been for years a thorn in the sides of most Liberal cabinets. Speaking of a weak government, such as he considers Lord Rosebery's to be, he has given utterance to some wise words as to what a government in power ought to be: "The entire system of Parliamentary Government is being reduced to a farce by an attempt on the part of our present leaders to retain office without power—a position which would have been intolerable to Mr. Gladstone. When ministers announced that they would stick to their posts so long as they had a majority of one, and asked the world to admire their stern resolve, I was not one of those lost in admiration. Leonidas and his band of Spartans may have earned the approval of posterity by dying rather than yield the pass to the enemy. But the present Cabinet was not put in office to defend a pass. Its mission was to give legislative effect to certain measures, and this it cannot do without a majority considerably more than one."

Very few may have any very definite idea of where Fort Chitral is. It is sufficient to know that a company of Englishmen have been beleaguered there for weeks by one of the fierce mountain tribes of North India. To relieve them a British force, aided by that of a friendly tribe, have performed feats of daring and endurance in scaling mountain fastnesses such as show that whatever is possible for man in such circumstances Britons will do. The *Times* says—"At last we are in possession of an authentic story of the the siege and relief of Chitral Fort, and Englishmen as they read it must feel their hearts swell with patriotic pride. In Simla they are comparing the defence of Chitral 'in a manner' to that of the residency of Lucknow, and the mere fact that it should recall, however faintly, that glorious episode in our annals shows how high is the estimate formed in India of the achievements of Mr. Robertson and his comrades. The Viceroy of India received a telegram from Darmstadt from the Queen, expressing her Majesty's admiration of the gallantry displayed by the troops in Chitral as well as sorrow for the loss of life which had occurred, and solicitude on behalf of the wounded."

The hopelessness of any compromise with the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the matter of education may be seen in the appended decision, recently made, at the Vatican with respect to the education of Roman Catholic children in English universities, Oxford and Cambridge being especially mentioned. The last sentence of the decree may also indicate how religious education may be provided for. The decision is: "That no kind of approval or toleration can be given to the education of Catholic youths in the national universities unless they have previously obtained, during the period of their primary and secondary education, a thorough and exact knowledge of their religion, and are of a sufficiently solid and formed character to fit them for university life: and unless, moreover, they be prepared to avail themselves of such instruction to be offered them during their university course as shall equip them with such further suitable and adequate Catholic training and knowledge as may be deemed requisite. A small council has been nominated by the bishops, consisting of clergy and lately, to provide for the religious educational interests of Catholic undergraduates, without, however, interfering with the ordinary work of the universities."