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Notes of the Week.

Ninety thousand copies of the Illustrated Bible, issued in weekly parts, have been sold among the Roman Catholics in Italy.

The shortness of human life is illustrated by the fact that only one couple in 11,500 live to celebrate their golden wedding.

The Rev. G. F. Pentecost, D. D., has accepted the invitation to become pastor of the Marylebone Presbyterian Church of London, Eng.

Colonel Lucy Booth has been appointed by General Booth, her father, Director of the Salvation Army in India, and has left England for the Orient.

The Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem is dead. By his efforts harmony was maintained between the Spanish section of Palestine Jews and the Germanic section. In 1882 the Prince of Wales' sons witnessed a celebration of the Passover service at his house.

All over Europe the cold is intense, traffic by railroad and navigation is stopped in many places, and there is great suffering among the poor. Many persons have been frozen to death. Fires are kindled in the streets of St. Petersburg to prevent persons from perishing in the cold.

The Spectator, commenting on the recent remarkable increase in the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the British Dominions, says that in proportion as the Roman church has become strong she has become harmless. Like some chemical forces she is formidable when compressed and innocuous when allowed free play.

The poverty among English clergymen is growing serious. The Duke of Fife, presiding at the festival dinner of the "Friend of the Clergy Corporation," said that there were 7,000 clergymen in England, whose incomes were hardly sufficient for themselves, and palpably insufficient to enable them to make any provision for their families.

In answer to the inquiries as to the biography of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, Mrs. Spurgeon says that a biographer has not yet been selected, and that in the meantime "it ought to be known that no one has had access to the great wealth of material gathered by my beloved for his autobiography; and without that material no standard work upon his life and labours can be produced."

Dr. Hammond in the North American Review points out that insomnia is now one of the most prevalent of disorders, that it attacks people of all professions and branches of business, and that in its progress it plays havoc with the sufferers' mind. He mentions eight drugs used as specifics for relieving the malady, but pronounces them all to be dangerous. Purely hygienic methods are the only safe ones for dealing with the disease.

An Irish correspondent of the Central Presbyterian, writes: But what changes have taken place in the Free Church Assembly since 1843. Chalmers, Guthrie, Candlish, Robert Buchanan who wrote the ten years' conflict, and his eloquent brother, James, the professor who wrote "Comfort in Affliction," Banner man, and Cunningham, Gibson, Fairbairn, Dunkan—known to students as Rabbi Dunkan—Dr. George Smeaton, and Bonar, the sweet psalmist of their Israel, gone—all gone!

We reported that Mr. Moody is already at Chicago and at work on the preliminaries for his great summer campaign in the World's Fair city. In his evangelistic labors there next year it is said he will be assisted by Rev. John McNeil, Rev. F. be assisted by Rev. Dr. John McNeil, Rev. F. London; Rev. Dr. J. Pindar, of Poland, and Major Whittle, Rev. R. A. Torrey, Ferdinand Shivera, and Norton Smith, of this country, besides Sankey, George C. Stebbins, John Burke, D. B. Towner and wife and A. C. Love and wife.

The Presbyterian, of Philadelphia, mentions this wholesome case of discipline in that city: "The Seniors in one of the departments of the University of Pennsylvania 'tried conclusions' with the Faculty some time ago, and found themselves decidedly worsted. They decided to stay away, in a body, from recitations, just before Christmas. They were all expelled, and speedily. They have all, with two or three exceptions, acknowledged their error and expressed their sorrow that they committed an offence so prejudicial to the interests of the institution. Upon making these amends, they were reinstated. A good, stiff bit of discipline is sometimes very useful in our colleges."

The Rev. Professor Blaikie, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, was recently presented with congratulatory addresses from thirteen different bodies, on the occasion of his completing the fiftieth year of his ministry. Speaking in acknowledgment of the addresses, Dr. Blaikie, gave a retrospect of the conditions of national life during the last fifty years, and with regard to the religious condition of the country he said he considered that the outlook was hopeful. As to the Free Church, their most serious drawbacks had been their internal controversies, but in the long run he thought these would prove beneficial provided they maintained their evangelical and evangelistic spirit unimpaired.

The Interior: It is not worth while to ask such questions as these: Would you have the Church, for the sake of peace, permits violated, authority subverted, and permit faith with her to be broken, agreement annulled? No. That would not be Christian love, it would be pusillanimity. But the Lord discriminates between the man and the stubble the man uses in building. He burns the stubble, but saves the man. The stubble is just as thoroughly burned as if the man was burned with it. It is the stubble that we would clear out of our foundations. Of course, if the man pertinaciously defies authority, and insists whether or no, in putting stubble for stones, he must be cleared out, too.

Mr. Gladstone has addressed a letter to Douglas Campbell in regard to his recent work "The Puritan in Holland, England and America." In it he says: The English race—I am a pure Scotchman—are a great fact in the world, and I believe will so continue; but no race stand in greater need of discipline in every form, and among other forms, that which is administered by criticism vigorously directed to canvassing their character and claims. Under such discipline I believe they are capable of a great elevation and of higher performances, and I thank you, partly in anticipation, partly from the experience already had, for taking this work in hand, while I am aware that it is one collateral and incidental to your main purpose.

In the manufacture of matches the Eddy Company controls the trade of the Dominion. Their match factory, situated at Hull, in the Province of Quebec, employs 475 hands and turns out daily about 27,000,000 matches, 6,000 cords of wood and 100 tons of sulphur are annually turned into matches by the Eddy Company. This fact shows the enormous trade which can be developed by a manufacturer who keeps up his reputation for making a first-class article for universal use. In a fire proof room in the factory are four machines for making the little paper boxes which hold the matches. A strip of paper, about three inches wide, is fed into each machine from a spool. This machine prints, cuts, pastes and forms up the little box so that it drops down into the receiver complete, already for filling with matches. Each of these machines is made up of 3,700 pieces, and all were manufactured on the premises from designs made by the mechanical superintendent of the company. It takes three years to build one machine, hence the great precautions against fire by having them in fire proof quarters.

The Sarnia Canadian says: Dr. Chas. B. Morrell, editor of the Boys' Brigade Courier, Cincinnati, Ohio, H. C. Hall, Esq., of Detroit, and T. Frank Fernald, Esq., of Boston, eastern secretary of the Boys' Brigade in the United States, visited Sarnia on December 30th to discuss with T. W. Nisbet, for himself and as representing the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., St. John, N. B., provisional president of the Boys' Brigade in Canada, the better organization of the brigade in both countries, and the publication of the Courier as the organ of the brigade in the United States and Canada. It was decided to issue a circular to all Canadian companies advising them that a meeting would be called as soon as possible to elect brigade officers for Canada, and asking them to recognize Mr. Fotheringham, as provisional president under his appointment from Scotland, and such Dominion or provincial secretaries as he may appoint to look after the work in the meantime. Also asking them to recognize the Courier as the organ for Canada. There will be a Canadian page in all future issues of the paper and T. W. Nisbet has been appointed Canadian editor. All who are interested in the brigade in Canada are requested to communicate with him, and to send in any items of interest in connection with the work. For information about the Boys' Brigade refer to Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., St. John, N. B., or to T. W. Nisbet, Sarnia. Both Mr. Fotheringham and Mr. Nisbet have taken a lively interest in this movement and are well qualified to give information about it. The gentleman who has been appointed Canadian editor will do the work well.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Canadian Evangelist: We deprecate strongly the position of those who appear to think that whether Canada shall remain as she is, form a commercial union with the United States, become annexed to the United States, or enter an Imperial Federation, is simply a matter of dollars and cents. Our people should be taught that it would be base to barter thoughtlessly for gold, and problematic gold at that—a political system which, with all its imperfections, has proven itself adequate for the preservation of liberty, and the enjoyments of rights in a degree unequalled even by the constitution of the United States.

Mid-Continent: Dr. Briggs has been acquitted by his presbytery. It should not be forgotten, however, that Professor Swing's acquittal by his presbytery was followed by his condemnation by Synod. There is some probability that history may repeat itself.

S. S. Times: There is uncommon power in the commonplace. Nothing is more commonplace than the infinite blue of the sky, yet one never tires of turning to its quiet and abiding majesty from the vain pomps and changing spectacles of men. Truth, virtue, faithfulness—these are the sky of the soul, and all brilliant wickedness and all worldly wisdom pass away as vain shadows before the everlasting glory of these simple goodnesses.

Cumberland Presbyterian: The brevity which is the soul of wit is not to be measured by the shortness of the speech or sermon or story, but by the concentrated and pregnant meaning of the words and sentences. You may limit your discourse to a half hour and yet lack brevity, while your neighbour, who holds his hearers an hour, may have it. Brevity is condensed thought. Five minutes of vague and insipid diffuseness grows tiresome. Dishwater can not be made a sparkling beverage by dealing it out in small quantities.

Dr. Lyman Abbott: Whether Calvinism is good or bad theology depends upon the spirit in which it is held. If Herod and Pontius Pilate had come together after the crucifixion, and congratulated themselves on their conduct, saying, "We have done what God foreordained to come to pass," their Calvinism would have been a very bad theology. But when the apostles came together, saying, "Our Master is not defeated; we are not defeated; God is not defeated; even Herod and Pontius Pilate have but accomplished God's designs," this was a very good theology.

Presbyterian Banner: Ordinarily we do not notice flings at missionaries and falsehoods circulated about them in the secular press, as they are for the most part so ridiculous that no one believes them, and so ridiculous that no one believes them, and they are soon forgotten. But the article in the Chicago Tribune, referred to by Dr. Harper in this number of the Banner, assumed such swollen proportions that we thought it ought to be punctured, as has been effectually done by our correspondent. Why is it that a part of the secular press is never so happy as when throwing the most noisome filth at the Church, its people, its ministers, and especially its missionaries?

Wilfred Laurier: "For my own part I re-echo every word which has been spoken by Sir Oliver Mowat, when he said that Canada should not always remain a colony. (A voice—Certainly not.) No. Canada cannot always remain a colony. I say that at some time or other Canada shall take her place among the nations of the earth. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, if that result could be brought about by me by a turn of the hand I would not do it if it meant a difference with the motherland. This severance will come at the proper time, as the ripened fruit falls from the parent stem; or, better still, as a young man grows up and leaves the home of his father to become the head of a household of his own, so gentlemen, will Canada become a nation. (Applause.) She will not part from England in war, but in amity, peace and harmony. (Renewed applause.) Nay, more, I conceive of a state of things in which it may be possible that the independence of Canada may not mean a severance from Britain."