

ANOTHER ecclesiastical establishment is doomed, that in the Island of Ceylon. Lord Kimberley has made the announcement that the existing ecclesiastical subsidies in that part of our Empire would be withdrawn, the withdrawal, however, to be made gradually, but to be completed at the end of five years. All who know anything of Ceylon know what a curse these subsidies have been. There are only 10,000 Anglicans in the Island—the population of which is two and a half millions—and yet they have had a bishop, an archdeacon, four principal chaplains, and several junior chaplains, subsidized by the government to the extent of £14,000 a year. The clergy of the Presbyterian Church have been also subsidized. Now that these gentlemen are all to be reduced, politically, to the rank of Nonconformists, we believe that it will be better for the cause of peace and quietness, and better, too, for the purpose of that religion which establishments always hinder rather than help—*Baptist* (London).

It is stated that an application has been made to the Porte for a grant of land in Syria, to be allotted to Jews who wish to emigrate from countries where they are being persecuted. In order to encourage Jewish families to engage in agriculture, it is proposed to open up means of communication by the construction of roads, tramways, and railways, and to establish colonies in blocks of land round the railway stations. The project has been initiated by some English and German gentlemen who, by their influence and financial strength, are able to carry out the undertaking, which is evidently one of great interest. The immigration of any large number of Jews to Judea would encourage the hopes of those who both desire and expect to see "God's ancient people" reinstated once more in their own land.

Novelty has always a charm for some people. The conductor of some "unsectarian religious services" in the North of London advertises as one of the attractions of his establishment, the use of the Revised New Testament every Sunday.

A Wesleyan Orphanage is to be erected near Erdington, a suburb of Birmingham. One of the Trustees of Sir Josiah Mason's Orphanage subscribes £10,000, and the Wesleyan Conference has contributed a similar sum towards the cost.

Some enthusiastic Irishwoman has been decorating the effigy of Mr. Parnell at Madame Tassaud's with a gold chain. Equitably, to whom does the chain now belong, the Messrs Tassaud or Mr. Parnell?

It is held to be difficult to "do" a Scotchman; but a Scotchman, writing to the *Times* recently, confesses to having been "done." Going home from church on Sunday morning, he saw a man eagerly seize a piece of bread lying in the gutter, and begin to devour it. Overflowing with compassion, he hastened up to the poor fellow, and gave him some money. No sooner, however, had he yielded to the prompting of charity, than the "canny" element of his Scotch nature re-asserted itself. How came the piece of bread to be lying in the gutter just in the nick of time? He followed the object of his compassion, and saw him play the same game half a mile further on. There is little doubt that almost, if not quite, without exception the street beggars in our great towns are a bad lot.

Professor Atwater says with regard to a controverted point among men of science: "The prevailing opinion among agricultural chemists for some time, and one which I have shared, has been that plants get nearly all their nitrogen from the soil and extremely little from the air. But there are many facts which are very hard to explain on this theory, and I am, with many others, coming to suspect very strongly that plants do, somehow or other, get considerable nitrogen from the air."

We are glad to notice the position that is being taken by women in the university examinations to which they are admitted. In the recent B. A. examination at the London University, one young lady is at the top of the list of those who passed in honours in English, and two other ladies are also in the first class. Two ladies are in the second class in French, and two in the first class in German. In the first B. A. and first B. Sc. (conjointly) examination, one lady stands at the top of the first class in mathematics, another heads the second class in experimental physics, and two other ladies passed in the second and third class in botany. In the first M. B. examination one lady is at the head of the first class in anatomy, and has obtained an exhibition and gold medal, while another lady passed in the first class in materia medica and pharmaceutical chemistry, and a third in the second class in organic chemistry. These successes will answer at least one of the objections to women being allowed to enter themselves for examinations. It can no longer be asserted that they are not clever enough. Perhaps some of the male students may be disposed to say that they are "too clever by half!"

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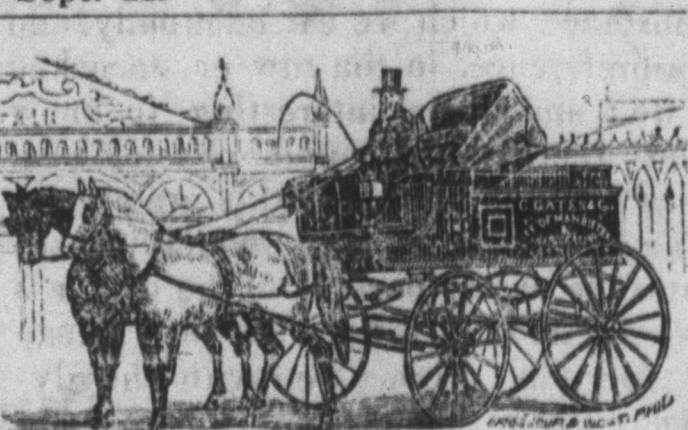
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49 Granville Street,
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Sept. 14.

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