

Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. David Kerr, D.D., of Pittsburgh, the accomplished editor of the *United Presbyterian*, and one of the ablest preachers in the Church with which he was connected, died after a protracted illness in the seventieth year of his age.

THE Methodist Church in Canada has lost one of its most distinguished men. The death of Principal Nelles, of Victoria College, has left a blank. He has rendered important services for many years, and was a man of great amiability and general accomplishments. His loss is sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

THE death was announced by cable last week of Mrs. Dinah Maria Mulock, the well-known author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," and a large number of other works. She married in 1865 Mr. George Lillie Craik, son of Rev. Dr. Craik, of St. George's Church, Glasgow. Mr. Craik is interested in the great publishing house of Macmillan & Co. In consideration of Mrs. Craik's work as an author she was in 1864 awarded a pension of \$300 per annum. Her literary style was notable for pure limpid English, and her works breathed a fine genial spirit.

IN one week in January last, no less than \$140,000,000 worth of rum and tobacco was carried to West and South Africa from American and European ports. Thus, one great crime is being committed against poor Africa, while another is being suppressed; and bad as is the slave-trade, the rum-traffic has greater sorrows for the despised African. And who is being enriched by the rum business? It is not those who buy; it is only those who sell and carry. Commerce is not benefited, because rum prevents production of that which really enriches commerce, disabling and destroying the producers.

THAT was a sad affair, remarks the *New York Independent*, in which a young man shot his step-father as he was coming out of Dr. Withrow's church, in Chicago, on a recent Sunday. A petition for divorce had been presented by the man, one of Chicago's wealthy and honoured citizens, against his wife, and the charges made against her had angered her son, who being, like his mother, of Southern training and notions, imported the pistol as a means of righting the wrong. The mother applauds the son's act, and says she intended to shoot her husband herself. Here is more inane regard for "honour," which "honour" is only a selfish regard for reputation with no regard to character.

ON the Temperance question Master Workman Powderly is strong and emphatic. In his address at the Minneapolis Convention on this subject he said: I would far rather see a man a sober man than a drunkard. It is better to educate our children to be temperate than to be drunkards. There is not a man living who will say it is right to bring into the home that which damns the head of the family. There are those who have threatened to leave the Order because of my position on this question. I say to all who would withdraw for such a cause, "go." I'll trust the fate of the nation with sober men and women. I'll never take back one word of what I have said on the temperance question, so help me God!

THOSE who wish to see the success of the Scott Act and who notice the persistent effort that is now being made for its repeal in certain counties, cannot but be convinced that the frantic and lawless attempts to intimidate temperance workers, and to induce the people to vote against the Act for the sake of peace, are powerful reasons why the measure should be upheld by majorities whose meaning cannot be mistaken. In Orangeville the other Sunday it is stated that a number of people supplied with liquor by tavern-keepers made a lamentable exhibition of

themselves on the public streets. Such methods of attempting to discredit the Scott Act will only convince law-abiding people of the necessity for its maintenance and more strict enforcement.

IN the Central European States the Jews are crowding the universities and the learned professions. Statistics show that in the twenty universities of Germany there are in all 1,326 non-theological professors, and of these ninety are Jews—i.e., seven and a half per cent. The disproportion of this can be seen when we remember that the Jews constitute only four-fifths of one per cent. of the total population of the Empire. Of the 529 *privatdozenten*, or tutors expecting professorships in these universities no less than eighty-four, or seventeen and a half per cent., are Jews. The same state of affairs is seen in the student statistics. In the leading university of Hungary, at Pesth, out of a total attendance of 3,212 students, no less than 1,061 are Jews, or a percentage of thirty-three. Yet in Hungary the Jews constitute only four per cent. of the total population.

THEIR first Soiree Musicale was given by the Toronto Conservatory of Music in Convocation Hall of Toronto University on Thursday evening last. The Hon. G. W. Allan presided, and opened the proceedings with a few happy and appropriate remarks. Brief addresses were also interspersed by President Daniel Wilson and the Bishop of Toronto. The musical selections were of a high order, and very artistically and pleasingly rendered. The efforts of Madame d'Auria, Mrs. Bradley and Miss Hillary were very effective and much appreciated, as were also the violin solos of Mons. Boucher, and the readings of Miss Jessie Alexander. The Toronto Musical Conservatory has a mission to fill. It has made an excellent beginning, and, under the able direction of Mr. E. Fisher, it will no doubt attain an important position, and accomplish much in the elevation of musical taste and culture.

AN excellent article in the *Belfast Witness* on "Unity and Uniformity" concludes with these sensible words: A benighted bigot, by blindly pressing uniformity, may sow the seed of irreparable confusion and discord; but a genuine Catholic believer will feel it to be his duty to cultivate the charity which is the bond of perfectness. If men are heartily agreed as to the great doctrines of the Gospel, and appreciate their value, they will attach the less consequence to questions of doubtful disputation. The way by which the purity of the Church may be most effectually conserved is not by striving after an unnecessary and artificial uniformity, but by maintaining the unity of the faith through the exercise of a vigilant and faithful discipline, and by the proclamation of the truth. Our Irish Presbyterian Church, though without the uniformity of the Book of Common Prayer, possesses much more of the real unity of the Spirit than her Episcopalian neighbour with all her rubrics and formularies.

THE *Hartford Traveller-Record* says: The social condition of Winnipeg is even more remarkable than its physical; to find a new western city where on Sunday the saloons are rigidly closed and the churches all crowded, and the streets are as quiet as in Hartford, is a new sensation. The reason of this is that the colonizing blood is predominantly Scotch—largely East Ontarians; they are not the kind of people to establish Sundays of empty churches and busy saloons and gambling hells, nor of beer and brass bands. A good many of the English residents fret at the "blueness" of tone of the city's atmosphere—a novel complaint for a sudden Western city; but nothing could be more valuable for its future. It makes Winnipeg a place where respectable men with families will be willing to have the latter grow up, and thus draws the very best sort of settlers. The Scotch blood and type of features is in fact the predominant one all along the line far to the west; and the consequence is that the town growth is phenome-

nal in the absence of the preliminary stage of drunken disorder through which most of our western cities have passed.

THE International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations has drawn up and forwarded to ministers all over the country a reminder of the appointment—by the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations—of the second Sunday in November as a general and particular day of prayer for young men. This day has been observed annually for the last twenty years, and in 1875 the season of prayer was extended to cover an entire week. The committee hopes that the pastors will find it convenient to preach on Sunday morning, November 13, a sermon intended to "increase an interest in special effort for the salvation of young men." It also suggests the following topics as of use during the week: Monday—"Victory depends on prayer as much as on activity;" Ex. xvii. 8-13; Matt. xxvi. 41. Tuesday—"A good reason to be of good courage;" Deut. xx. 1-4, 8. Wednesday—"Success through reliance on God;" 2 Chron. xiii. 1-7. Thursday—"A sevenfold promise of God to His people;" Ex. vi. 6-8. Friday—"Immediate answer to praise and to prayer;" 2 Chron. v. 13-14; vii. 1-3. Saturday—"Men's prayer answered in God's way;" Deut. iii. 23-29; Matt. xvii. 1-4.

THE *Christian Leader* says Mr. Spurgeon's three articles on the "Down Grade" are issued this week as a pamphlet by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster. In the third article he offers what he conceives to be sufficient evidence to justify the warning he felt bound to utter. One of the three testimonies cited is that of Principal Brown, of Aberdeen, in his paper on "Scepticism in Ministers." With respect to the protest against his statements, Mr. Spurgeon compares the writers of some of them to Nelson when he put the telescope to his blind eye, while others he charges with not putting in print what he had personally gathered from them on other occasions! Mr. Spurgeon has evidently made up his mind to withdraw from the Baptist Union. In doing so he compares himself to Garibaldi when the Italian patriarch complained that, by the cession of Nice to France, he had been made a foreigner in his native land. "Our heart is burdened with a like sorrow; but those who banish us may yet be of another mind, and enable us to return." There is not much likelihood, we should suppose, of a body with so much backbone taking the step which Mr. Spurgeon seeks to impose upon it, and few of its members will follow his example.

THE Papacy is still harping on the temporal power. It persistently shuts its eyes to accomplished facts, and clings to the delusion that the march of modern progress can be turned backward. It is stated that the Pope has appointed Cardinals Simeoni, Rampolla, Monaco and Vannutelli to examine the law of guarantees with the view of ascertaining whether a *modus vivendi* between the Vatican and Quirinal can be established. When the commission has settled upon the required modifications, it will decide whether it would be expedient to negotiate with Italy. Cardinal Rampolla has issued a circular to the nuncios abroad asking the views of the Governments to which they are accredited regarding the Pope's letter upon the necessity of temporal power for the head of the Church. France, Spain, Belgium and Austria have declined to express their opinion on the subject. In Notre Dame Church, Montreal, a few days ago, a sermon was preached by one of the most celebrated preachers of France—no less than a prince of the house of Orleans and Savoy, the Rev. Father Daniel. The preacher referred to St. Peter in prison, who was on the point of being put to death when the angel appeared to him and delivered him. Faith saved him: Father Daniel then compared the captivity of Leo XIII. to that of Peter, saying that the faith of the Pope would also save him, and the Pontiff of Rome would yet be Pontiff and king.