

Notes of the Week.

CONSEQUENT on his acceptance of the Professorship of Greek in Queen's College and University, Kingston, Canada, Rev. John Macnaughton has intimated his resignation of the charge at Lairg. In accepting the resignation Dornoch Presbytery unanimously adopted a resolution expressing their regret at Mr. Macnaughton's departure from their midst, and recording their high hopes as to his future career.

THE Irish Presbyterian Church is arranging for the election and ordination of elders in its congregation at Damascus, where there is a native Christian Presbyterian Church, well organized and in a most flourishing condition. On Sunday the attendance of worshippers reaches 240. There are sixty communicants, twelve native Christian workers, a Sunday school with an average attendance of 143 scholars, and two day schools attended by 271 pupils.

THE seventy-sixth annual commencement of Princeton Theological Seminary was held recently and fifty-nine young men received their diplomas on the occasion. Rev. Dr. E. Erskine, of Newville, Pa., addressed the graduating class, and Prof. W. H. Green, D.D., spoke the farewell of the faculty. Besides a number of prizes, two fellowships were awarded: the Hebrew fellowship of five hundred dollars to William Paton, who goes to Germany to pursue a year's course of study; and the New Testament Greek fellowship to George T. Eddy.

THE Rev. James M. Wilson, M.A., headmaster of Clifton College, some Sundays ago occupied the pulpit in Queen's Cross Free Church, Aberdeen, of which the Rev. G. A. Smith is pastor. The Hon. and Right Rev. Arthur Gascoyne Douglas, Episcopal Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, in a letter to the Bishop of Gloucester, within whose diocese Mr. Wilson is resident, called attention to the fact of a Church of England clergyman having preached in a dissenting church in Scotland. A correspondence ensued, but it is stated that the Bishop of Gloucester has seen no occasion to interfere in the matter.

THE University of Moscow recently celebrated its one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary. Its teaching force consists of eighty-eight regular professors and eighty-five private instructors; the number of students is 3,805. The Minister of Instruction has in recent years made several efforts to lessen the attendance at this and other Russian universities, particularly by keeping away the poor. In Russia, too, the professions are overcrowded. One of the latest orders is, that the sons of coachmen and washerwomen shall not be admitted to any of the higher grades of schools. Another order is that only a certain percentage of the total number of students can be Jews.

DR. DAVIDSON, who till a short time ago was senior pastor of Lady Glenorchy's Church, Edinburgh, died recently in his eighty-ninth year. He celebrated the jubilee of his ministry in 1878, and it was only a few weeks ago, subsequent to the death of his junior colleague, Mr. Cusin, that he tendered his resignation. Born at Brechin in 1801, he became tutor in the family of Sir William Dunbar, of Mochrum, and was presented to Drumblade parish in 1828. In 1842 he accepted a call to Lady Glenorchy's, Edinburgh, whose congregation followed him en masse at the Disruption. He was a model pastor. Sir Thomas Clark, of the eminent publishing firm, is a son-in-law of Dr. Davidson.

THE Rev. A. Wallace Williamson, of Edinburgh, Dr. MacGregor's colleague, has been granted seven months' leave of absence by his Presbytery to supply the pulpit of the late Mr. Ewing, of Toorak, according to an arrangement made before his death. Dr. MacGregor, in urging that the application be granted, said it would take the Toorak congregation a long time before they found an efficient successor to Mr. Ewing. Some might think there was too much coming and going of ministers between this country and Australia; but he entirely dissented

from that, believing such visits did incalculable good. It should be an unwritten law that no man need aspire to the office of Moderator of Assembly who had not graduated in the colonies.

THE Rev. Erskine Fraser, the worthy United Presbyterian pastor whose death is recorded, was a fellow-student of Principal Cairns and prizeman along with him in the logic class at Edinburgh in the first year of Sir William Hamilton's professorship. He afterwards studied under Tholuck at Halle. He was an intimate friend of Robertson, of Irvine, and also of Dr. John Ker, with both of whom he had been associated in student days. Mr. Fraser never came prominently into public view; but his scholarly and amiable qualities secured for him the regard and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. One of his three sons is a probationer in the Church with which the family have been honourably identified since the days of their distinguished ancestor Ralph Erskine.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The shameful spectacle of two great nations like the United States and Canada tossing a poor Chinaman backwards and forwards like a football, because he could not pay the tax levied upon the Chinese before they are allowed to set foot on American soil, was scathingly rebuked from his pulpit by Dr. Cochrane, of Ontario. The same papers that told of the cruel treatment of the poor stranger contained glowing accounts of the noble contributions of women in Canada to send missionaries to India and China! "What if China should retaliate," asked Dr. Cochrane, "and turn back our merchants and missionaries from her shores?" The few Chinamen in Brantford attend Dr. Cochrane's church and Sabbath school; they bear the highest character and have uniformly conducted themselves with the greatest propriety; one of their number, indeed, is preparing to go as a missionary to his countrymen.

THE *British Weekly* says: In the Irish Presbyterian Church "a visitation" is made of each congregation every seven years by the Presbytery of the bounds. On these occasions, as the fathers and brethren often meet in out-of-the-way spots, it is the custom for the congregation under visitation to provide refreshment—usually a dinner. The Belfast Presbytery met the other day to visit the congregation ministered to by the venerable and genial Rev. W. Johnston, D.D., the founder and honorary superintendent of one of the most beneficent of Irish charities, the Presbyterian Orphan Society. During the progress of the visitation a messenger was seen to approach Dr. Johnston, who, after a little, announced its import. The purveyor had mistaken the hour and the dinner would be late. Questioning and answering proceeded, there being no hurry to conclude, when another messenger arrived. What he said produced a change of colour in the Doctor's face, and rising, the announcement was made with exceeding gravity that the purveyor had mistaken the day and "was preparing dinner for to-morrow." The disappointing message was received, as we should expect, amid great laughter.

LAST year the Ontario Government appointed a commission consisting of Messrs. John Charlton, M.P., Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey, William Hamilton Merritt, mining engineer, and Archibald Blue, secretary, to enquire into the mineral resources of the Province and the best methods for their development. The work has been accomplished with the thoroughness and patience that was to be expected, and in due time the report was presented to the Lieut.-Governor. It is now published, and makes a good-sized volume that is a store-house of accurate and reliable information concerning the mineral riches of this highly favoured Province. The next step will probably be the devising of measures by which the information presented in the report may be turned to practical use. The report is divided into six sections. The first deals with the geology of Ontario, with special reference to economic minerals; the second contains notes on mines, locations and works visited by the commission; the third discusses the influence of commercial conditions upon the mining industry; the fourth reviews

mining laws and regulations of different countries throughout the world; the fifth relates to the smelting of ores of economic minerals in Ontario; and the sixth discusses measures for minerals, finding and encouraging their development. An exhaustive appendix of over a hundred pages appears at the end of the report, which is adorned with a geological map of the Province and thirty-six illustrations.

RESPECTING the unanimity with which the question of Revision was disposed of at the Saratoga Assembly, the *Interior* remarks: The Assembly was unanimous for revision. There was but one dissenting voice, and that voice finally gave consent so that there should be no jar whatever in the prevailing harmony. This is one of the wonders which no man antecedently would consider possible. It marks an absolute revolution in religious disposition and thinking. It shows that we have reached a degree of unity which is solidarity—not in opinion, but in disposition. Honest men will not concede a conscientious principle, and these concessions show that no such principle was involved. The majority was overwhelming, but it was modest and magnanimous—and it gave the minority the place of honour. We were disposed to cast a little gentle ridicule upon the threats of disruption made by a few who were not in position to observe the trend and temper of the Church—but we had no expectation that the end would be to surprise all by such evidence of unflawed cohesion. The effect of this will be greatly to exalt and inspire our people in confidence. It is an exhibition of the unbreakable fibre of our Church—which is now seen to be, by virtue of its unity, the strongest Christian organization in the world. It will give new resoluteness to every phalanx of our aggressive legions. Missions of every kind, education, benevolence, every department of work, will feel the inspiration which comes of unity—and the onlooking world will see, for the first time, a religious denomination solid and clean as marble, and flexible as steel.

THE *Christian Leader* gives the following account of the Moderators of the Scottish Churches: The Moderators this year of the three largest Presbyterian churches in Scotland, though differing greatly in many respects, are alike in being sons of the manse. Rev. James Fleming, of Whithorn, who has presided so admirably over one of the most successful Synods of the United Presbyterian Church, is a son of the late Rev. William Fleming, A.M., of West Calder; and his brother is the senior pastor of the United Presbyterian congregation at Iriverkeithing. One of his sons is Rev. Thomas McCalman Fleming, M.A., of Cupar Fife, and another, Mr. John Dick Fleming, M.A., was at the close of the Theological Hall Session last month awarded the valuable Joan Kerr travelling scholarship. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd, the new Moderator of the Church of Scotland, was born at Auchinleck, in which Ayrshire parish his father, the late Dr. James Boyd, afterwards of Ochiltree and the Tron Church, Glasgow, was the immediate predecessor of the present venerable incumbent, Dr. Chrystal. The Moderator-elect is now in his fourth charge, having been ordained at Newton-on-Ayr in 1851, translated to Kirkpatrick-Irongray in 1854, to St. Bernard's, Edinburgh in 1859, and to the First charge at St. Andrew's in 1865. Dr. Thomas Brown, the Free Church Moderator, is a son of the late Dr. John Brown, who as a student of the Secession Church, was called to Chapel Street Secession Church, Hamilton, but who left that denomination on the Presbytery refusing to sustain the call on account of strong opposition, and became *quoad sacra* minister of Gartmore, Perthshire. Afterwards he was parish minister of Langton, Berwickshire, and Free Church minister there in 1843. He was the author of an able vindication of the Presbyterian form of church government. The Moderator-elect was presented to the parish of Kinneff, Kincardineshire, in 1837, his presentation being one of the first documents of the kind, if not the very first, to which Queen Victoria adhibited her signature. He became Free Church minister of Kinneff in 1843 and was translated to the Dean Church, Edinburgh, in 1849. He is best known as the patient and industrious compiler of the "Annals of the Disruption."