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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

WE have not been able to make room in this issue for the communication headed "In re Loyalty." It will appear next week.

REV. DR. KEMP, of Ottawa, has returned from his European trip. The Rev. D. B. Gordon is not expected back until about the 1st prox.

SOME unknown "Well-wisher" has sent the Rev. Hugh Currie, Keady, from the establishment of John Watson, jr., of Montreal, a very valuable communication service with tokens. May it prove to the donor "bread cast upon the waters."

THE New Testament Revision Company, which meet in Westminster Abbey, have advanced so far in their work that they expect to publish their New Testament from the University presses early next year. Two editions will be issued: a large octavo, and a smaller and cheaper volume for general use.

REV. DAVID MACRAE declines the call to his old congregation at Gourrock, which congregation has voted to leave the United Presbyterian Church. But then, Mr. Macrae has a call to the School Wynd church, the late Mr. Gilfillan's, a much more influential church. The excitement in the Gourrock congregation is dying out.

LATE Scotch papers record the death of the Rev. H. McNeill of Lochend Church, Campbeltown, Kintyre. He died on Sabbath evening, 3rd ult. Mr. McNeill was one of the now fast diminishing band of ministers who took part in the formation of the Free Church of Scotland in 1843. As a preacher and as a man he was well known and highly appreciated throughout the south-western Highlands.

THE prospects are for an unusually hard winter for the poor in all parts of Europe, except in the Odessa, Russian district, where they will have plenty to eat. Elsewhere food is to be high and work scarce, and wages very low for what work there is to do. The number who will have to depend upon charity will be very large in all the countries. Were it not for the accumulated wealth, and the facilities for transportation, the destitution in many places would reach the degree of a famine.

DR. MUTCHMOR, who recently preached the opening sermon in Erskine Church, Toronto, says in

the Philadelphia "Presbyterian," "From Toronto to Montreal is the most interesting water-course on the continent. We hear the beauties of our own Hudson forever dilated upon; but they are tame compared to the decorated boundary line between us and our neighbours of the Dominion." And yet the writer of that paragraph in all probability missed seeing some of our best scenery.

THE question of the separation of Church and State is to be discussed by the French Protestant churches next month. A meeting is to be held in Paris to consider that matter. French Protestantism would gain immensely were it to stand altogether on the voluntary platform. The Established Reform Church has largely failed of efficiency because of its connection with the civil government. It may be too much to hope that it will sever that connection now; but that result must be brought to pass sooner or later.

THE number of Presbyterian churches in Wales is 1,150, the decided majority of these being in North Wales. The total number of ordained ministers is 580, and of "preachers and exhorters" 210. While fully recognizing the work of other denominations, there can be no doubt that in Wales, especially in North Wales, the Presbyterian is the national church, in the best sense of the word. It is not established by the State, but it is established in the hearts of the people, and has been the channel of unspeakable blessings to the land.

IT is a noble tribute the fidelity with which the Jews have observed the command of God to Moses, "Thou shalt open thy hand wide even to thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy land," and there is believed to be not a pauper Jew in the United States. A prominent Jew of Philadelphia, who for four years has been compiling the statistics of Judaism in this country makes this statement. "Every Hebrew of the 350,000 in this country able to work, finds something to do, and the sick and infirm are provided for by benevolent societies." Of what other nationality or faith can this be said?

CHRISTIAN missionaries have made their mark in Japan to such an extent that some of the Buddhists of that country are preparing young men to go out as preachers to counteract the teachings of the missionaries. A number of these young men have been sent to China and India for thorough instruction in the mysteries of Buddhism. But these strongholds of error will crumble before the artillery of the Gospel, and the day is not far distant when this land shall be called Christian. A very encouraging result of woman's work there is the awakening upon the subject of female education. The Empress has become so much interested that she has inaugurated a female normal college, and gives to it five thousand dollars.

THE new Presbyterian church just completed at Midland is a comfortable frame building, large enough to accommodate a congregation of about 350, was opened by Professor Gregg, of Knox College, Toronto, on Sunday last. He preached at 10-30 from the first three verses of the 1st chapter of Hebrews, setting forth that the present is a better dispensation than that of the patriarchs and prophets, being more enlightened and containing greater advantages to God's own people, and whose responsibilities are proportionately great. The discourse was powerful,

earnest and full of love. At three o'clock Rev. Mr. Baker, Methodist minister, preached an excellent sermon. In the evening Professor Gregg again preached from the text "I know that my Redeemer liveth."—The attendance at the three diets of worship was large.

CALAMITIES never come alone. In the principal continental countries it is not the corn crops alone that are damaged. In Italy, France, and Spain the silk crop is an utter failure. In Italy, France and Germany there are likewise fears entertained for the vintage. The vines are seriously behindhand, but damage done differs according to localities. In France generally there are still hopes that the wine harvest will be simply late. In Rhenish Germany, however, it is said that unless August and September are more favourable than they were ever known to be, irreparable damage has been done. An old proverb says, "What bloom on the morning of St. Margaret's Day (July 13) comes into the vat; what blooms after mid-day remains without." If this proves true this year, three-fourths of the fruit of the Rhenish vineyards are lost. The French sugar crop is in a similar condition. About one-third of it is irremediably injured already.

THE annual meeting of the Ottawa Valley Sabbath School Association will be held in Almonte, on the 9th, 10th and 11th of September. The following subjects will be discussed: 1. Teachers' meetings, and how to conduct them. 2. Piety in our scholars; how it may be fostered and strengthened. 3. The secret of successful teaching. 4. The duty of pastors and church members to the school. 5. How to teach an unstudious class. 6. Sabbath school literature. These subjects will be introduced by well known Sabbath workers of the Ottawa District. Amongst those invited by the committee to take part, and who are expected to be present, are Rev. Messrs. Stafford, Cameron, Gordon, Wood, Armstrong, Phillips, Huntington, and other ministers of Ottawa; Alderman Lang and J. McMillan, M.A., of the same place, Rev. J. McRitchie, President of the Mutual Conference, Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, Rev. D. J. McLean, Rev. R. Brown, Rev. J. J. Leach, Rev. J. Brown, D. Ward, Rev. Mr. Burns, and P. C. McGregor, B.A.

THE wide and growing differences of opinion among Congregationalists on important doctrinal points, such as future punishment, leads President Bartlett to say: "In the agitations of the times, some men, of more or less prominence, have swerved quite widely, if not radically, from the basis of traditional orthodoxy, and have not been especially reticent of their opinions or doubts. Their liberty to do so cannot, and their conscientiousness should not, be questioned. They have, however, at the same time expected to be received by the Churches as though no such change had taken place in themselves. This expectation and demand are bringing before the ministry and the Churches, the great mass of whom as conscientiously reject these new views, the serious question whether it is practicable for two to walk together except they be agreed on these matters. They have been slow to raise the question, but they have raised it necessarily and spontaneously, and are considering it carefully and gravely." Dr. Bartlett thinks that the great body of his denomination will stick to the old-fashioned orthodoxy, while the schism will cause the "liberals" to become Unitarian, or something like it.