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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE corner stone of a new Protestant Episcopal church was laid on the 24th ult. in Paris. The structure is to cost \$500,000, of which \$228,000 is already subscribed. Father Hyacinthe and his wife attended the ceremonies, and there was an immense throng present.

BISHOP POTTER, of New York, has appointed a committee to devise measures for raising a permanent fund of \$1,000,000, the income of which shall be devoted to the building of new Protestant Episcopal churches. The benefits of this fund are not to be restricted territorially.

DR BOARDMAN, of Philadelphia, is endeavouring to raise \$50,000 to endow a lectureship of Christian ethics in that city. By the term, Christian ethics, he is understood to mean "Christ's precepts and behaviour as regards every-day life." It is intended that the lectures be delivered in Philadelphia, and then published for circulation throughout the country.

THE prospects of religious freedom in Spain are much improved by action of the newly-organized Council of Ministers. On Sabbath, March 13th, they resolved to give a free pardon and liberty to the native Protestant pastor who was some time since condemned to several months' imprisonment for holding prayer-meetings in Catalonia; and the vexatious proceedings which had been set on foot against Protestants in districts remote from the capital have been summarily stayed. To the protests which the Papal Nuncio has made against toleration of Protestantism, the reply has been given that the Government will pursue its own course, and will not submit to any interference by the bishops and the papacy hostile to the rights secured to non-Catholic subjects by the constitution.

THE business man who is inclined to croak because so much money from this country is spent for missionary work in heathen lands ought to hide his face in shame after learning the facts in the case, as brought out by Rev. George Hood, of Minneapolis, in the February "Foreign Missionary." For example, the trade between Boston and the Sandwich Islands for the year ending in June, 1879, was \$125,355, the profits on which, at twelve and a half per cent., would amount to \$15,669, while the amount furnished by the American Board to the Hawaiian missions that year was but \$6,023. Taking the whole country for that year, the official figures at Washington shew that, for every dollar expended on that mission, there was received back in the United States, in the way of trade, \$115. This is only a single illustration of the commercial value of missions.

THE Pope has issued an encyclical letter, proclaiming a jubilee from March 19th to November 1st for Europe, and to the end of the year for the rest of the world. The first jubilee was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII. in 1300, to recur with each centennial year. It brought enormous crowds to Rome, and the Roman people consequently besought the successors of Boniface VIII. to proclaim jubilees more frequently. In response to these requests, Clement VI., Urban VI., and Paul II. successively reduced the periods between jubilees to fifty, thirty-three, and twenty-five years, at which last period it remains, but in fixing semi-centennial jubilees Paul II. deprived the city of Rome of all special profit from them. Originally the plenary indulgence was granted to those who, in the jubilee year, visited the church of St. Peter in Rome a certain number of times with pious offerings. This brought people by hundreds of thousands to the Holy City. Paul II., however, abolished the condition of visiting Rome, permitting the substitution of certain works of charity or devotion, which could be performed in the countries of the devotees.

STANLEY, the African explorer, has been heard from again. A letter from Gaboon says: "Count de

Braza, an Italian explorer, arrived here yesterday from the Congo River. He went up the Ogowe River as far as he could get in a canoe, thence overland, six days' journey, to the Congo, down the Congo to the sea, and so here by steamer, so making a complete circuit. The point at which he reached the Congo was five journeys inland from Stanley Pool. Coming to the river, he met Stanley and his party, twenty-five miles inland from a place called Avedi. He staid with them one day. Stanley's party were in a mountainous country, and obliged to travel overland, for the river was full of rapids. Their progress was slow. There were no provisions to be had where they were. The men were eating rice, and the donkeys corn and hay, all brought from Europe. He reports one of the missionaries of the English Baptist mission shot in the groin by the natives. Count de Braza goes up the Ogowe again to-morrow, to continue his explorations. He represents the country far up the Ogowe to be a table land, 2,400 feet above the sea, comparatively free from fever, and supporting a large and peaceful population. Somewhere in this fine country he has built a supply station, and has reserved one room in his house for the use of Rev. R. H. Nashua, M.D., of the American Mission, now visiting Philadelphia, who, he hopes, will take up his abode there, and teach the people. The Count himself is looking remarkably well, in spite of his five years of exposure.

AT Woodstock the Rev. James Robertson, of Winnipeg, in making reference to the demand for labourers in the rapidly settling districts of the North-West, alluded to the fact that a large portion of the Ottawa valley which at one time was strongly Presbyterian, had been lost to the Church through the neglect of mission work in that field. What early vigilance might have made strong congregations, able to help in the work of the Church, were now weak and struggling ones. Unless the Church was fully alive to its duty the history of the Ottawa valley would be repeated in the North-West. To shew the lack of missionaries there, he might mention that at Dominion City where there were seventy Presbyterian families, they had never had a missionary. The work was being done by the Methodists. At Palestine the district had a missionary last summer, but had been left for six months without Gospel ordinances. In Beautiful Plains there were one hundred and forty-three Presbyterian families, and no missionary; at Schell River there was a large Presbyterian settlement with no supply. The same was the case at Grand Mountain, where the Canada Pacific was expected to cross the Assiniboine. These were examples of what was wanted over the whole country. He had come to the Home Mission Committee asking for twelve missionaries. The Committee had replied by offering \$1,000. He had then asked for nine students, but did not know how they were to be paid. They must appeal to the churches, as the settlers were not now able to pay; many of them who would soon be able to do so were now "land poor."

THE third annual meeting of the Alumni Association of Knox College was held on last Wednesday afternoon, in the College Hall, the president, Rev. W. T. McMullen, in the chair. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises, and after the usual routine business had been disposed of, the Rev. J. Thompson, of Sarnia, opened the discussion as to the best means of making additions to the College library. He recommended that an appeal be made to the wealthier members of the congregations throughout the Province for subscriptions, and that the members of the association pledge themselves to endeavour to raise during the coming year a fund which would yield an annual revenue of about \$700, to be applied to making additions to the library. He was followed by Rev. J. Gray, of Orillia, who spoke strongly in favour of making an effort to endow the College, but expressed himself as willing to join heartily in any scheme undertaken by the Association. Rev. Messrs. Laing, McEwen, Grant, Prof. McLaren, and others, spoke in favour of Mr. Thompson's proposal. A committee was

then appointed to draw up a scheme of details with a view to the practical carrying out of the proposal, and the opinion was expressed that no difficulty should be experienced in raising the required amount of about \$12,000, if each of the three hundred alumni of the College were to do his duty in the matter. After some further business the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Rev. J. M. Cameron; Vice-President, Rev. John Laing; Secretary, Mr. C. H. Cooke; Treasurer, Rev. R. Wallace; Executive Committee: Rev. Messrs. Gilray, Nichol, Grant, Pettigrew, McPherson, and Messrs. Gibson and McLaren, students. The meeting then adjourned to the dining hall. After supper had been partaken of, the retiring President delivered an address, which was well received. Various sentiments were then proposed and responded to. Among the speakers were Dr. Daniel Wilson, president of University College, who was the guest of the evening; Wm. Mortimer Clark, chairman of the College Board; Rev. Dr. Reid, Principal Caven, Professors Gregg and McLaren, Rev. Messrs. Bruce, Grant, Laing, Inglis, Frazer, and Mr. R. Y. Thomson. Music was also furnished by members of the College Glee Club. The proceedings throughout were of a most interesting character, and the enthusiasm manifested augurs well for the College.

THE closing exercises at Knox College took place on Wednesday, the 6th inst. The hour of meeting has long been regarded by many as exceedingly inconvenient, preventing, as it does, large numbers who would like to be present on the occasion from enjoying that privilege. Still the attendance was very good, though the hall was by no means crowded. From the preliminary statements made by Dr. Caven, it would appear that the past session had been a more than usually successful one. The number of theological students in attendance had been forty-six, while those in the preparatory classes and attending University College with a view to the ministry, more than filled up all the accommodation provided for boarders in the College. Of the theological students, fifteen were of the third or graduating year, fourteen of the second, and seventeen of the first. Reference was also made to the change which had been made in the constitution of the College, by which the necessary powers to confer the degrees of B.D. and D.D. had been secured to the Faculty. It was also intimated that the examination papers for those degrees had been prepared, and would be supplied to any who, according to the statute, were entitled to compete for the honour. Reference was also made, and very properly, to the great interest which had long been taken in the College by Mr. W. M. Clarke, the Chairman of the Board, and to his recent present to the library of a *fac-simile* of the *Codex Alexandrinus*. After these intimations had been made, and the names of the successful candidates for scholarships read, Professor Gregg proceeded to read the closing lecture, which was on the "Variations of Infidelity." It is not necessary to give the lecture in full, as it has already appeared in the daily newspapers, and it is therefore to be presumed that most of our readers have become somewhat familiar with its scope. The points which were very effectively dwelt upon as illustrative of the strangely conflicting views of infidels in reference to religious and spiritual matters, were the following: (1) With regard to the possibility of man attaining any knowledge of God; (2) In reference to the age and authorship of the different books of Scripture; (3) As to the teachings of Scripture about the unity and antiquity of the human-race; (4) On miracles; (5) On the prophecies of Scripture; and (6) In reference to the character of Christ. On each of these and other points he shewed that the variety of opinion among unbelievers had been and is very marked: so much so as in many instances to be mutually destructive. The lecture was an interesting and able one, though of course it was open to infidels to reply that, though they might not be agreed in their objections to Christianity, that fact did not of itself prove that Christianity was true, nor did the Dr. mean that it should be so regarded.