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—: FOR 1888, —:

Edited by REV. GEORGE SIMPSON.

The present issue of the YEAR BOOK contains, among other things of great value, original articles, as follows:—

Home Missions. By Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D.

The Nova Scotia Centennial Year. By Rev. R. F. Burns, D.D.

The Early Ecclesiastical History of Picton, N.S. By Rev. George Patterson, D.D.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. By C. S. E.

Foreign Missions. By the Editor.

What we Owe the Country and the Age. By Fidelis.

The Schemes of the Church: 1877-1887. By the Rev. R. H. Warden.

Missionary Work in Manitoba and N.-W. Territories. By J. K.

History of Congregations.

Presbyterian Colleges in Canada. By the Editor.

Mr. Croil, of the *Presbyterian Record*, says of the YEAR BOOK: "It is one of the best thumbed periodicals in our office. Every Presbyterian should have it."

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Notes of the Week.

THE question of Ministerial Inefficiency, which has been creating so much discussion in Scotland, has not hitherto been publicly dealt with in the courts of the English Presbyterian Church. This silence is to be observed no longer. The subject is to be brought before the Newcastle Presbytery at its ordinary meeting in March by the Rev. James Mackenzie, of South Shields, who will move the transmission of an overture to the Synod thereon. Other Presbyteries are expected to move in the same direction.

THE South Clerk Street congregation of Original Seceders, Edinburgh, recently observed a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer in respect of the present "dark and threatening aspect of divine Providence, and the defections and sins which prevail." The recognition and encouragement given to Popery by the Queen and Government, without opposition, was specified in a document issued by the Session as a violation of the solemn vows of the Church and nation, and one of the primary causes of the serious tokens of the divine displeasure.

LOVERS of sacred song have lately been afforded many occasions of listening to the exquisite singing of Mrs. Agnes Thomson. The improvement in this lady's voice during the past year has been simply phenomenal, and musical critics are vying with each other in their commendation. One says "That exquisite pathos and sensitive feeling were the distinguishing features of her singing"; another, "That the chief charm is a happy joyous quality which reminds me of the birds and sunshine of leafy June"; another, "That she sings as if inspired," and they all record the fact that her pathetic ballads and sacred songs move the majority of her hearers to tears. After a brief tour, she intends proceeding to Europe to study under the best masters.

A MINISTER in Gourrock, Scotland, lecturing in his church on The Place of Music in Worship, said he had been in churches when not a soul except the members of the choir appeared to sing a note. The result of preacher and hearers was most chilling; rather, that, let them have the very roughest and rudest music in which all voices join. Sacred music in Scotland seemed at present to be in a transitional state. People were not pleased with the old forms, and yet they did not see their way clear to anything better. Scenic

display in a church service the minister denounced as a wretched burlesque of all that is grand in Christianity. The soul can rise to God from a bare hill top or from an upper room, but it is apt to be kept below by two great attractions of sight and sound.

THE gloom over San Remo deepens. Well informed persons generally never took a sanguine view of the Crown Prince's ailment, and their most melancholy anticipations seem likely to be realized. It adds additional and unneeded painfulness to the case to know that Sir Morell Mackenzie and the German doctors are at variance as to the mode of treatment to be pursued, and that the German method is being followed, contrary to the English physician's will. This must be distracting to the mind of the illustrious patient and his wife. Unfortunately the authority on which it is given seems to place it beyond doubt. The San Remo correspondent of the *Edinburgh Scotsman*, who is understood to be the Presbyterian minister there, states it as given from Sir Morell Mackenzie's own lips.

THERE are signs, says the *British Weekly*, that the Roman Catholic controversy may be vigorously revived. At Tunbridge Wells, on a recent Sunday the Rev. Father Searle delivered a lecture in reply to a recent address by Lord Robert Montagu, in the same town. In the course of his address he stated that the Queen's mother, the Duchess of Kent, as Cardinal Wiseman told him in 1862 at St. Leonard's in an interesting conversation, was received into the Catholic Church before her death. Father Searle went on to say that the Protestants had to fear the consequences of their own diseased condition. The dissenting churches had to fear what Mr. Spurgeon had so boldly spoken about their desertion of fundamental Christian principles, the coquetry of their ministers in imitating so many Anglican clergymen of broad views about the Divinity of our Blessed Lord, the Atonement, Eternal Punishment, and the inspiration of the Scriptures.

A LENGTHY discussion took place in Glasgow North U. P. Presbytery on two resolutions protesting against the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican by this country. The first was moved by Rev. W. Barras, and the second by Rev. A. Oliver, who said he could not fall in with the motion of Mr. Barras because he could not consent that they should go to the Government and ask them to protect the Christianity of the country. Ultimately the movers and seconders of the two motions drew up a resolution protesting against any further steps being taken by the British Government in reopening diplomatic relations with the Vatican, because, in so far as such a policy recognized the Pope's claim to temporal power, it was inconsistent with the religious freedom of the Italian people, and any acknowledgment of the spiritual authority of the Vatican would be most prejudicial to the best interests of the United Kingdom. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

THE Scottish pilgrims introduced to the Pope by Archbishop Smith, of Edinburgh, numbered 130, of whom sixty were from Scotland, the others being Scotch people resident either in Rome or other parts of the world. The paucity of really distinguished people is indicated by the fact that special prominence is given in the list of leading members of the delegation to a couple of town councillors, one hailing from Stirling, the other from Dumfries. Of the five addresses presented one was from the Jesuits in Scotland and other from the monks who have so improperly got possession of Fort Augustus. The pecuniary offering from Scotland amounted to \$2,700; and the presents included an engraving in ivory of the so-called portrait of Queen Margaret from the Scots College in Rome. The engraving is after the painting, two centuries old, in the college chapel. Bishop Macdonald, of Inverness, was arrayed in the kilt with dirk and cairngorms, and the Pope seemed delighted

with the colours of the tartan. Mrs. Kinloch Grant, of Arndilly, was one of the lady devotees. Alluding to a passage in Archbishop Smith's address, asserting that Scotland was in times past the special daughter of the Apostolic see, Pope Leo hoped that what had justified such a title would be retained.

THE projected commemoration of the bicentenary of Renwick at his birthplace, the Dumfriesshire village of Moniaive, has been postponed until a more favourable season for an open-air gathering. It will be held on the site of the cottage in which the last of the Covenanting martyrs first saw the light. But a meeting, specially designed for children, was held on the 17th ult., and on Sunday a commemorative service was conducted by local ministers in the Free Church of Moniaive. In the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Nicholson Street, Glasgow, the bicentenary was celebrated on Friday evening by a large gathering, over which Mr. James Semple, of Crosshill, presided. Addresses were delivered recalling the fidelity of Renwick and engaging to maintain the doctrine for which he suffered by Revs. John M'Donald, Airdie; J. P. Struthers, Greenock; John Martin, Wishaw; and J. Kerr. The closing resolution deplored present-day defections and protested against the persistent and increasing public violations of the law and authority of the Governor among the nations. A juvenile commemoration service, held on Saturday afternoon in the Free Assembly hall under the presidency of General Nepean Smith, was largely attended by Sunday school children, with their teachers and parents, to whom Rev. R. B. Blyth delivered an address on "The Spanish Armada," while Dr. Gray, of Liberton, Moderator-elect, spoke on "The Covenanters and James Renwick."

QUEEN'S College trustees met last week, the Chancellor, Mr. Fleming, in the chair. The objects of the meeting were stated to be to consider the advisability of requesting the Principal to take rest and travel for the benefit of his health, and providing for the cost of the same; to arrange for the discharge of the Principal's college work during his absence; and to hear his report on the Jubilee fund. It was announced that the minimum sum of \$250,000 had been raised not including the \$10,000 given by Mr. J. Carruthers for a new science hall. The subscriptions when being taken averaged \$1,000 a day, and they number between 600 and 700. One third of them, and of the sums secured were obtained in Kingston. The students gave \$6,000 and they deserve a tablet in Convocation Hall in commemoration of their loyal services. The Principal reported that his health had not been good during the winter, and that he had not been able to do class or professorial work. He submitted the following recommendations: 1. the completion of the main college building, adding four or five class rooms at a cost of \$2,000; 2. the enlargement of the library to accommodate the large donations of books made to it; 3. the appointment of one or two professors to visit, at the close of the session, some of the buildings recently erected in the United States for instruction in practical science, mineralogy, zoology and civil engineering, and that on their return a committee be appointed to act with them in drawing up plans for the John Carruthers Science Hall, and entering into contracts for its erection and equipment. This building should be ready for the session beginning October, 1889; 4. the chair of English and history to be divided into two, Professor Ferguson to be appointed professor of history, and a professor of English language and literature to be advertised for in Canada and Great Britain; 5. a chair of French and German to be instituted and a professor advertised for. Hitherto the work in this department has been done by a lecturer and tutors; 6. tutors to be appointed next session in chemistry, mathematics, classics and other departments as the senate may think necessary; 7. a committee to be appointed to receive applications for the two new chairs, and that it meet not later than Sept. 15, and have power to call a special meeting of the trustees if necessary.