

## Notes of the Week.

DR. J. P. NEWMAN, the personal friend and pastor of General Grant, bears testimony to the deceased General's faith in Christianity. He says, "The great warrior and statesman, patriot and friend, died as the Christian dieth. He had said to me: 'I believe in the Holy Scriptures, and whosoever follows them will be benefited thereby.' His faith in immortality was without a doubt, and he wrote on a tablet 'I pray that the prayers of the people, offered in my behalf, may be so far answered that we may all meet in a better world.'" And when I suggested, in the month of April, that he might be restored and accomplish much for his countrymen by his religious example, his response was: "If I am spared I shall throw all my influence in that direction."

THE Commission, consisting of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Manning, Messrs. Morley and Reid, appointed to investigate the evidence submitted to them in connection with the *Pall Mall Gazette* disclosures, have completed their disagreeable task. They have issued a brief report in which they state that they excluded enquiries into the charges against men or classes of men and the police, and confined their attention to the system of criminal vice described. Their inquiry has satisfied them that the statements are substantially true. This report dispels all doubt and renders quixotic attempts at defence, on the plea that the statements were exaggerated, henceforth impossible. It is to be hoped that the labours of the Commission will be followed up by active and energetic measures to stamp out this horrible form of vice, and that adequate punishment will be meted out to the offenders irrespective of rank or condition.

LAST October Sir Moses Montefiore received congratulations from every continent on attaining his hundredth year. Now the end of that long and honoured life has come. Last week he passed peacefully away. With the shrewdness and tenacity of purpose peculiar to his race, he amassed a colossal fortune. He had, however, far higher claims to the esteem and respect of his fellow men, for his chief distinction was not that he was a millionaire. The ample means which Providence placed at his disposal were freely spent in ministering to the necessities of the distressed and those ground down by oppression. He threw himself with ardour into the cause of his suffering kinsmen according to the flesh. Wherever they were the victims of tyranny he interfered for their deliverance. The name of the illustrious Hebrew will be held in affectionate remembrance by his nation when another century has come and gone.

THE graceful and powerful pen of Irenæus has dropped from the practised hand. Dr. Irenæus France, for fifty years the leading writer in the *New York Observer*, has died at the good old age of seventy-three. He was a faithful and steadfast champion of Evangelical truth, not that he loved or delighted in controversy, but because he was a lover of truth and righteousness. He was a graduate in arts of Williams College, Massachusetts, and of theology in Princeton. After a pastorate of five years he became connected with the religious press in which sphere of duty he continued till his dying day. With a brief interval his labours were uninterruptedly confined to the *Observer*, and Irenæus' letter was eagerly looked for up to the close of his long career. Up to the last he wrote freshly and tersely, yet without slipshodness. The work he was enabled to do was a good work and thousands of readers will sincerely mourn his loss.

OUR Baptist friends are to be congratulated on their efforts to make their theological seminary as complete and efficient as possible. They have already secured an excellent professorial staff, and to this important additions have just been made. Dr. Rand, of Acadia College, Nova Scotia, has been appointed Professor of Ethics and Mental Science, and the Rev. J.

W A Stewart, of Hamilton, has been selected to fill the chair of Homiletics. In Knox College, probably on account of insufficient means, we have had to be content with a lectureship combining Homiletics and Pastoral Theology. The duties of that lectureship have been most efficiently and successfully discharged by a gentleman who at the same time exercised his ministry in a city congregation. If the lectureship is to be elevated to the dignity of a professoriate every consideration of special fitness, success, honour and gratitude indicates that the present incumbent has the first, if not the exclusive claim to the appointment.

THE recent disclosures of the *Pall Mall Gazette* have aroused general attention to the existence of widespread and most demoralizing forms of vice. All efforts to turn aside the popular indignation aroused have signally failed. There is not the same desire to shield the gross immoralities of public men that was apparent only a short time ago. No person with right feeling can hear of the fall of a prominent Liberal politician without sincere and profound regret. Terrible is the abyss into which Sir Charles Dilke has sunk. At a time when his political influence was being generally recognized a disastrous blight falls upon his good name. His social lapse will cost him dear. To the honour of public life in Great Britain, he it said, the man who is guilty of the gross dishonour with which one of the Radical leaders is charged, can no longer aspire to a seat in the British Cabinet. He recognizes the fact and is overwhelmed with shame. Only a debased conscience can consider that immorality is no bar to advancement in public life.

GENERAL MIDDLETON on every fitting occasion gives his testimony to the excellent qualities displayed by the Canadian volunteers in the North-West. At Regina last week, in replying to an address of welcome, he spoke of the uniform cheerfulness with which they did their duty, encountered difficulties and fronted danger, bearing valuable testimony also to the good behaviour of the young men generally. His unprejudiced evidence on behalf of prohibition is worth serious attention, not so much because it contains anything new, but because he cannot be regarded as a "temperance fanatic," even though he states emphatically what most people are convinced of: "Whatever they were called on to do they did it cheerfully, and what would never have happened in the case of regular troops, there were no court martials. One reason for this is found in that excellent law you have here prohibiting strong drink. This total absence of crime, I believe, was due to the total absence of stimulating liquors. They have proved that it is much better to do without it. There were cases of old soldiers who had been accustomed to drink, and they found they could do better without it."

A CONFERENCE on Christian Life and Work, under the auspices of the Free Church Committee on Religion and Morals, was held recently at Inverness. A large number of people were present. At the conference such subjects as The Church's Mission, Sabbath Observance, Intemperance, Irreverence and Profanity, Family Worship and Bible Classes were discussed. Among those who took part in the various discussions were: Mr. Forbes of Culloden; Rev. Mr. Macaskill, Dingwall; Rev. J. M. Sloan, Glasgow; Rev. J. G. McNeill, Cawdor; Rev. A. D. McKenzie, Kilmorack; Rev. Dr. Black, Inverness; Mr. James Barron, Inverness; Mr. Arras, Fodderty; Rev. Mr. Renny, Wick; Principal Rainy and Professor Lindsay. In the evening a largely-attended public meeting was held in the Music Hall—Rev. Mr. Sloan, Glasgow, presiding. Principal Rainy spoke at considerable length on the Work of the Ministry, urging that conversion should precede entry on the ministry. Rev. Alexander Mackenzie, Edinburgh, delivered a brief address on Home Religion. Professor Lindsay, Glasgow, discoursed on the Church and the Young. He stated that a Scottish Roman Catholic bishop had declared that if the Roman Catholic clergy did not pay more attention to the youth of their flocks than was paid by Presbyterians to the youth of

theirs, there would not be a Roman Catholic in Scotland in forty-five years. Then it was well known how Episcopalians were training children, and even kidnapping them into their churches, with the result that it was quite possible that Episcopacy might soon make more progress in Scotland than they as loyal and zealous Presbyterians would like to see. Professor Lindsay next discussed the various agencies bearing on the welfare of youth that were at work, including Sabbath schools, Bible classes and fellowship meetings. He urged that there should be associations in each congregations in communication with similar associations in the South, with the view of preventing young persons from the Highlands from falling into the lapsed masses when they moved into the cities. In his own evangelistic labours in the one-roomed homes of Glasgow, nothing pained him more than the large number of Highland men and Highland woman to be found there—Highlanders, who might have gone forth from pious homes, now dragged down to destruction, and no one caring for them. Rev. Mr. Nichol, Kelso, delivered an address on Intemperance. Principal Robertson, Calcutta, discoursed on the Duty of Missions to the Heathen, and the Rev. John MacTavish, well known to most of our readers, delivered an excellent address on Home Training and Parental Control. The proceedings which were thoroughly evangelistic in their character, were throughout marked by much earnestness of purpose.

THE *Montreal Witness* has opened its columns to a discussion on the Union of the Churches. The first, a thoughtful paper, breathing a fine spirit, is by Professor Shaw, of the Methodist College, Montreal. Very wisely we think the Professor does not favour an incorporating union. Here are some of his reasons: "If my idea of ecclesiastical unity is correct let us have more of this unity. Down with arrogant assumptions, harsh judgments, unkind words, sectarian strife. Let each one always be as kind to others as if he were a standing delegation to convey to them expressions of most generous and brotherly feeling, saddened by their declension and gladdened by their progress. 'Then shall we all come in the unity of the faith,' not of creed, but of saving faith, 'and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man.' We want no Hildebrand to realize a Protestant theocracy in this nineteenth century. We have a better ideal of unity at which to aim. Some people speak and act as if Christians could have charity for each other only by belonging to the same church, and the most uncharitable utterances that have ever fallen from Christian lips have come from men who have done most to hinder the unity of the Church, and who, at the same time, have been the champions of oneness of ecclesiastical organization. In making this plea for the principle of denominationalism I honestly say that I do not believe any one of the great leading Protestant Churches can be spared from its own peculiar work. We cannot afford to lose one member of this fraternity. I know some who are earnest Christians who would probably not be such if Methodism were the only church in the land. I know many Christians who would not be such if Anglicanism were the only church, and so with the others. Presbyterianism and Methodism, with all their similarities, are doing more for the world separated than if united, and all that is needed is to see that their work is not neutralized by antagonism, and that their resources are not squandered by needless emulation. I have been led into this discussion because I have been asked what is my opinion of the proposed union of all Protestant Churches. In brief, I reply I have no sympathy with such a proposal because—1st. It is not required by the Scriptural doctrine of the Church. 2nd. Such a union would be liable to very great abuse and would probably lead to stagnation and mediæval corruption. 3rd. The Churches united would do far less good than they are doing separately. The verdict of history is unequivocally in favour of denominationalism. 4th. Sympathy through oneness of organization and oneness of creed is far from being as high a form of Christian principle as the charity taught in the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians."