

Notes of the Week.

THE Synod of New Mexico, which has just been organized and held its first meeting in Albuquerque, consists of the Presbyteries of Sante Fe, the Rio Grande and Arizona. Nineteen years ago these two territories could boast of only four Presbyterian ministers and two elders. In this same field there are now twenty-five ministers, twenty licentiates and helpers, ten candidates for the ministry, with elders in each of the forty-seven churches.

It is said that there are more Jews in New York City than in Jerusalem itself, the number being nearly 90,000. They keep up their distinctive worship, and maintain forty-nine synagogues. They are a recognized force in commercial and political circles. Among them are wealthy bankers, princely merchants, able and influential editors, and active politicians. They are generally moral and industrious. While they comprise ten per cent. of the population, their contribution to the criminal classes is less than one per cent.

THE Rev. Charles M. Grant, of St. Mark's, Dundee, makes a happy retort on one of the censors of the foreign missionary scheme of the Guild, who asked what is being done for the cure of the destitution, misery and vice around us. He offers to take this critic around the mission work of his parish, on condition that the latter afterwards takes him around and shows him what he himself is doing. "If he can show anything worth showing," says Mr. Grant, "I shall own in him the very first opponent I have ever met of missions to the heathen abroad who was not also a neglecter of the heathen at home."

AMONG the passengers who sailed for India recently, says the *British Weekly*, are several ladies sent out by the Ladies' Society of the Free Church of Scotland for Female Education in India. One of them, Miss Janet Hunter, M.D., of Queen's Terrace, Ayr, goes to Madras as a medical missionary. Miss Hunter is a distinguished student of the London School of Medicine for Women, and has taken the double qualification from the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh, and the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Brussels. She has recently spent some months in further medical study in the hospitals of Vienna and Prague. During her residence in London Miss Hunter was a member of Regent Square Presbyterian Church.

A PRISON reform conference will be held in Association Hall, Toronto, on Tuesday, November 26th, under the auspices of the Prisoners' Aid Association, commencing at 11 a.m. Hon. S. H. Blake, president of the association, will be in the chair. These subjects will be discussed:—1. Pressing for the appointment of a government commission on prison reform, and appointing a committee to wait on the government. 2. Asking the Ontario Government to extend the powers of said commission, so as to include: (a) The cause of crime. (b) The best means of rescuing destitute children from a criminal career. (c) The best means of providing and conducting industrial schools. (d) The propriety of the Government assuming larger control of county jails. 3. The consideration of an appeal to our legislators to treat the question of prison reform from a non-party standpoint. 4. The appointment of a committee to co-operate with other bodies in seeking necessary amendments to the criminal law of Canada, including absolute control by each province, of prisoners who have violated provincial laws; the indeterminate sentence; conditional liberation; and the permanent incarceration of confirmed criminals.

THE jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Laughton, of Free St. Thomas', Greenock, was celebrated recently with much heartiness, an address being presented by the Presbytery, and a congregational meeting being held in the evening. In replying to the address of the Presbytery, Dr. Laughton said he had no doubt that his younger brethren might sometimes think that the old men were rather behind the age. That was quite natural; and for himself, he could not say a young minister, was specially recommended to him because he was just stereotyped upon the old pattern, and out of sympathy with any of the special

and peculiar movements of the age; but he would remind the younger brethren that it was of the utmost importance that they should have a certain sympathy and responsibility in the movements of the public mind and the church in the age in which they lived. They must not forget that they were in a transition period of the church's history. Changes and alterations were in the air, and it was of the utmost consequence for the younger brethren, who would have to deal with these changes, to hold fast the first principles of the faith. A social meeting of the congregation was held in the evening, and was largely attended. An address was presented by ex-Provost Campbell, who said that the Greenock Young Men's Christian Association was formed in 1839, five years before the London Association. One of its members, Mr. Donald Currie, now Sir Donald Currie, on going to Liverpool in 1842, started a Young Men's Association there, and others were started, which still continue to correspond with the parent society in Greenock. Mr. Campbell spoke warmly of Dr. Laughton's preaching, and speeches were delivered by Dr. Thomas Brown, of Edinburgh, the Rev. J. M. Jarvis, ex-Provost Mr. Robert Blair, and others.

THE attitude of some English Churchmen towards Dissenters, in relation to the historic Episcopate, is thus illustrated by the *Christian Leader*: In face of the firm refusal of the Congregational and Baptist unions to accept the historic episcopate as a basis of union with the Church of England, it is worth while to record the fact that even at Cardiff there was a distinct divergence of opinion as to the matter. Dr. Gore, of Pusey House, Oxford, said, "The bishops of the Anglican communion re-affirmed the principle of the validity of Anglican orders by their refusal at Lambeth to admit a report which would have recognized the validity of non-episcopal orders. For which re-affirmation God be praised." Dean Perowne, on the other hand, asked whether Presbyterian orders were valid, and was met with cries of "yes" and of "no." But he was prepared to prove their validity, and quoted Keble and Andrews to that effect, while admitting that Laud and Jeremy Taylor were of a contrary opinion. Noteworthy in this discussion, however, was a frank speech by Major Seton Churchill. The word of a layman, and especially of a soldier, is always likely to go straight to the point. This officer's words had the quality both of directness and of breadth, when he seized the opportunity as a layman of preaching at the parsons. "If the clergy want to commend themselves to the people it would have to be by earnestness, devotion, and good works. They might set up pertinacious claims, and drag after them weak-minded people, but they would estrange thoughtful laymen, and would not do good to the church. Catholics might be priest-ridden, and Nonconformists under the dictation of deacons, but these were extremes. I believe most thoroughly in apostolic succession, but in the sense of Dean Alford, that historical truth was handed down from generation to generation, not that there is anything to justify a sneer at the sacraments of those who do not see eye to eye with us."

DR. MARCUS DOD'S sermon in St. Giles, Edinburgh, has stirred up the opposition, and aroused the apprehension of many who were disposed to let bygones be bygones in the case of the brilliant theologian who has been recently elected to a Free Church professorship. The Edinburgh correspondent—fond, apparently, of figurative expressions—of the *Christian Leader* writes thus of Marcus Dods: It is now almost a matter of certainty that Dr. Dods is to be served with a libel. The dying embers of the controversy that raged at last Assembly have been re-kindled by this blast in St. Giles, and not a few friends of the new professor are far from ready in argument now. Principal Rainy will have no want of work on his return from the Antipodes. If Dr. Dods is to be dealt with simply by way of libel, and not merely of suspension on general grounds of expediency, the task of his prosecutors is by no means an easy one. With the formula of subscription for a foundation it may not be difficult to frame the premises and conclusion, but from the point of view of morality and fairness a libel would not stand well in the face of the Revision of the Confession, which is now under consideration. It is greatly to be regretted that Dr. Dods did not get to his professorial

work, and give proof to his opponents of his capacity to render real service to the Church, before treating us to this renewed declaration of his disturbing views. A man with his intellectual beam and moral cargo may picturesquely rake the empyrean with heretical sky-sails, and not be overturned; but what of narrower and emptier craft, not to speak of unballasted students? Although the belief is widespread that, notwithstanding his latitude towards those who deny the divinity of Christ and the substitutionary doctrine of the Atonement, he himself is sound on these points, the question will come to be asked, What is the strength or value of a belief in doctrines that are admitted to be non-essential except in the case of those whom he calls mature Christians? Since we wrote last we have heard Dr. Dods thrice, one of the occasions being an evangelistic meeting in the Free Assembly Hall; and we have heard nothing but what was admirable. In such a sermon as he preached in Nicholson Street U.P. Church on the "Rich Young Ruler" he is at his best. Would that he knew wherein lies his power for good! Of course he moves along the ground, never soaring aloft, but it is good to fall in with him. Just, however, because he is the man he is may he become the impetus that shall hurl many of shallow mind into the Socinian ditch. Would that he realized this!

REFERRING to the Presbyterian Jubilee in Australia, and the presence at the celebration of representatives of the Scottish Churches, the *Christian Leader* says: Dr. Rainy will soon be in Scotland once more, and he will bring with him impressions received by close and friendly intercourse with all sections of the Presbyterian family in Australia. There the representatives of the Established, Free and United Presbyterian Churches find no difficulty in getting on comfortably together in a united Church, and the worthy Principal, who is as apt to learn as he is to teach, may startle the home churches with some new proposals. He certainly has the ear of the Free Church, and can do pretty much as he pleases in the Assembly that meets on the Mound. He has also considerable influence in the United Presbyterian Church, seeing that he was an ardent advocate of union years ago, and is now a fervent apostle of disestablishment. He is not liked, however, in the Established Church, as the letters of Principal Tulloch conclusively show. How he would be listened to by the fathers and brethren of the State Church, were he to make proposals for union, is as yet a mystery. The only hope of their joining just now in an attempt to reconstruct the Scottish Presbyterian Church lies in the fact that their deputy, Dr. MacGregor, has also been visiting the united Church in Australia. All sections of the Christian Church in Scotland heard with deep regret of his illness, which may detain him somewhat longer in Victoria than he had arranged for; but should he appear at home in good health to take part in the winter's work, he may say something which will help forward the movement for union. He has expressed himself as greatly pleased with what he saw on the other side of the world, and he may wish to see some practical steps taken for getting the Presbyterians in this country to dwell together in unity. It is certainly a consummation to be devoutly wished for, as the present arrangement of the Presbyterian forces leads to a lamentable waste of men and means. The growing necessities of large towns and of many rural districts in which a mining population is settling, plead strongly for union. That, however, will not be attained until some settlement of the disestablishment controversy has been reached. Dr. MacGregor may have learned something in Australia which will help him over some of the difficulties he and his brethren see when they face the subject of union, and if he has, he should speak boldly out. He and Dr. Rainy are two influential men, and they will be expected to speak frankly regarding the united Church they have been visiting. They cannot do this without indicating their opinion as to the possibility and probability of a similar union in Scotland. Scottish Presbyterianism has its past history marked by many divisions, but in recent years the tendency to union has manifested itself, and it is this which should be strengthened by the speeches of Drs. Rainy and MacGregor on their return to their accustomed spheres of labour.