

Notes of the Week.

SOMETIMES we hear, says the *Chicago Interior*, of the difficulties of reaching the Turks with the Gospel; and yet the Bible house in Constantinople sells about 5,000 copies of the New Testament, the Turkish translation, every year to native seekers of the truth. This looks as if the difficulties were in the unfriendly attitude of the Government, and not in the hearts of the people. Given enough Bibles, distributed among the homes of an appreciative portion of a people, and the spiritual quickening of the whole mass is only a question of time.

SIR JAMES KING presided at the meeting held to institute the Glasgow Social Union. Its objects are to promote sympathetic fellowship between well-to-do inhabitants and their poorer fellow-citizens, and to improve the physical, moral and social condition of the latter. By visitation it is hoped to encourage habits of temperance and thrift, and to raise the standard of comfort. Social gatherings and entertainments will be held, and an endeavour made to improve the housing of the poor, and to secure open spaces for rest and recreation.

ACCORDING to a Parliamentary return relating to the Scottish Universities for the ten years ending March 31, 1889, the total grants from public funds during that period for the four Scotch Universities and the Observatory and Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, amounted to \$1,962,275, of which \$384,780 was for new works. The amounts of ordinary issues from public funds for the respective institutions during the year 1888-89 were as follows:—Aberdeen University, \$32,680; Edinburgh, \$46,750; Glasgow, \$33,820; St. Andrew's, \$20,315; Edinburgh Observatory, \$6,685; Botanic Gardens, \$15,920.

GLASGOW North United Presbyterian Presbytery called attention to the encroachment on Sabbath rest by 1,400 open shops, running of tramway cars, and continuous labour at Blochairn steel works. The desecration of the day by pleasure driving and young men going on bicycles was also specified. Rev. John Steel knew that ministers, good elders and pious ladies used the cars on Sunday morning, and were thus enabled to go to church without exhaustion. He spoke of the impropriety of discussing the subject as if the Church had to act the part of a religious policeman, and preferred them working to enlighten the consciences of their own people on the subject.

DR. CAMERON LEES, in commending the Scottish Home Industries Association, said it was not a charity, but worked to help those who helped themselves, encouraging home industry among the crofters in the Highlands. It was said by some who did not understand their nature that the Celt was a lazy person. Being a Celt himself and knowing their race, he was bound to repudiate that assertion with all the moral force and power of language he possessed. The Celt was not lazy; he was a man who would work as hard as any one if he got work to do. He might not care very much to leave his native home, but if he got work in his own country he would do it well.

THE *Belfast Witness* says the two great Scottish Churches have made their selection of Moderators for next year. The widely known A. K. H. B. is to be raised to the chair in the Established Church, and Dr. Thomas Brown, of Edinburgh, in the Free. "The Recreations of a Country Parson" at once made Dr. Boyd famous, and though he has since written much, he has never surpassed, probably never equalled, that initial effort. It cannot be doubted that he is a very fitting man for the Moderatorship. Dr. Brown is much less widely known, but in the Free Church he is held in high estimation. He is one of the few pre-Disruption ministers now left in the land of the living. His "Annals of the Disruption" worthily preserve the memory of that great event. The Irish Presbyterian Church has not yet made choice of her Moderator. In her Jubilee Year she ought to have in the chair a minister *primus inter pares*. Who is he to be?

Many would like to see the highest honour in the Church's power done to one of the old pre-Union ministers. Few of them are now left.

THE new concert organ built for the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and placed in Association Hall, was formally opened on Monday evening week, in the presence of a very large and interested audience. Toronto has now what has long been a want, namely, a good public hall containing a good concert organ. The programme, which consisted of six organ solos and five vocal numbers, was in every way excellent. The performers on the organ were all teachers of that instrument in the Conservatory, whilst the vocalists were all students of the institution. Mr. Edward Fisher very appropriately prefaced the programme by playing the "National Anthem." The organ is one of the finest in the city, and is really a splendid instrument, having great power and compass. The Conservatory is the first to place a concert organ in a Toronto public hall.

CONCERNING the recent London scandal the *Christian Leader* tersely remarks: There can be no doubt, we fear, that London has witnessed another flagrant case of connivance by the authorities at horrible crimes committed by persons of high social distinction. That the facts are beginning to leak out is ascribed to the integrity of one official, a member of the Cabinet and the descendant of a distinguished Christian, who refused to be privy to the disgraceful shielding of the depraved wretches. But the provinces are hardly entitled to throw stones at the metropolis; only the other day, in Scotland, a minister of religion, guilty of the same unnatural crime, committed in a place and under circumstances that deepened the horror, was given time to effect his escape to a foreign land where he would be beyond the reach of the law he had so grossly outraged. That land is in peril where even the highest authorities interpose to prevent the apprehension and punishment of certain criminals because they are rich and titled.

THIS year's issue of the *Christmas Globe* is unmistakably a thing of beauty. The literary contents, though agreeably varied, are most of them specially appropriate to the season. A number of the best known writers in the Dominion are contributors to its pages. Canadian poets are well represented, and among the contributors of sketch and story appear E. W. Thompson, the *Globe's* "Observer," and our own ever-ready and versatile "Knoxonian." The pictorial effects are also strikingly attractive, and the execution of this special number as a whole is a credit not merely to those immediately concerned in its production, but to the country. There is a pleasing absence of preponderating snow storms and dreary icicles. A casual look over its pages will not send a cold shiver through the frame of the beholder. Those who have friends abroad (and who has not?) will be delighted to send the *Christmas Globe*, confident that it will be a genuine pleasure for those beyond the seas to receive it. It is certain to make a favourable impression. This is without question the best holiday number the *Globe* has ever issued.

MR. JAMES BAIN, JR., the Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, has just issued a revised edition of the catalogue of the circulating library. It is the most complete that has yet been published, embracing as it does all the titles contained in the first and second catalogues, with their various supplements, and the new books received while the present one was being prepared. There are in the library 22,000 volumes, and in the revised catalogue they are represented by nearly 50,000 entries. Mr. Bain's work will bear close criticism, and has been admirably executed. The first 192 pages consists of an alphabetical arrangement of the different authors. In the second section the titles are arranged under subjects. Under the heading "Natural Science" there are included works dealing with physical science—anthropology, biology, botany, chemistry, physics, etc. Then there are the mental, social and medical sciences, religious literature, the arts, languages and literature, geography, travel and topography, history and its allied subjects, biography sections carefully classified. This useful

guide to the contents of the Public Library is as complete as it can be made.

AT the meeting of the Synodical Committees of the English Presbyterian Church which have been held in London, it was reported that the Sustentation Fund, which is now established on a firm basis, continues to pay the annual ministerial dividend of \$1,000. The Confession Committee went on with the drafting of the proposed appendix, setting forth the mind of the Church on other matters referred to in the Standards, but not embraced in the Articles of the Faith. Dr. McLeod, Moderator of Synod, Rev. R. H. Lundie and Mr. Thomas Matheson, gave in reports of their visits to the Continental churches. It was reported that the salary of Rev. A. Lamont, who goes out to Singapore to assist Mr. Cook, will be paid by Mr. Barbour. At the meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee a letter was read from Rev. A. Gregory, late of Wooles and now of Changtoo, stating that a little church has been built in that city, and that an hospital is in course of erection. The Committee on Public Worship submitted their final revision of the "Westminster Directory of Public Worship." A gratifying improvement is reported to have taken place in the college finances.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance will be held at Toronto, commencing on Wednesday, December 18, 1889. It is confidently anticipated that this will be one of the largest and most influential gatherings of the kind yet held, and an earnest appeal is hereby made for the attendance and co-operation of all in sympathy with our movement and its objects. Among the many important questions to come up for discussion at this meeting, there are two to which we call special attention. 1. The securing of prohibitory legislation, as far as the same is within the competence of the Local Legislature. 2. Electoral action for the securing of legislation in favour of Prohibition. The present plan of the Alliance is the organization of voters for the purpose of securing Prohibitionist representatives in the Dominion Parliament and in our Local Legislature. The Alliance as an organization is not in any sense in competition with any other organization. It is simply the Legislative Committee of the various temperance societies and workers. It is composed of members and delegates. Any temperance or church organization that contributes annually \$1 or upwards to the funds of the Alliance is considered a branch, and has a right to send to the Convention one delegate for every dollar so contributed. In addition to the delegates so constituted any temperance worker approving of the objects of the Alliance may become a member by paying \$1 or more. The usual favourable travelling arrangements have been made.

IN the case before the United States Court, in which certain Mormons were applying for naturalization, Judge Anderson summed up the evidence, showing that it was proved that "the Church claims and exercises the right to control its members in temporal as well as spiritual affairs," that the doctrine of blood-atonement is still held, under which an offender, for certain offences, shall suffer death; and that the Church has, with all the means at its command, opposed the enforcement of the laws of the United States against polygamy. Judge Anderson then concludes: When a man of foreign birth comes here and joins an organization, although professedly religious, which requires of him an allegiance paramount to his allegiance to the government, an organization that impiously claims to be the Kingdom of God, to control its members under His immediate direction, and yet teaches and practises a system of morals shocking to Christian people everywhere, it is time for the courts to pause and inquire whether such men as applicants should be admitted to citizenship. The evidence in this case establishes unquestionably that the teachings, practices and purposes of the Mormon Church are antagonistic to the Government of the United States, utterly subversive of good morals and the well-being of society, and that its members are animated by a feeling of hostility toward the government and its laws; therefore an alien who is a member of said Church is not a fit person to be made a citizen of the United States. The applications are therefore denied.