

## Notes of the Week.

DURING a conference on Jewish Missions held at Mildmay, Mr. Newman Hall and Dr. Pierson, of Philadelphia, expressed their regret that hitherto they had paid but little attention to the claims of the Jews, but that for the future they hope to work personally for the conversion of the heirs of Abraham according to the flesh, and to excite sympathy for them throughout their respective congregations.

LAST week the Ontario school inspectors followed up the meetings of the Teachers' Association, and gave their attention for two days to the consideration of educational matters as they come under their own observation. The subjects engaging their attention were of a practical character. The meetings were presided over by the Hon. Minister of Education, who devotes his energies, experience and ability to the promotion of the educational interests of the Province.

THE Industrial Exhibition authorities have succeeded in arranging for attractions more varied and numerous than any yet presented. In addition to those permanent features of all great agricultural and industrial displays that give the visitor an idea of the capabilities and resources of the country, amusements of a diversified and interesting character will be provided. There is little doubt that, from present appearances, the approaching exhibition will be the finest yet held in Toronto.

DR. GEORGE THOMAS DOWLING, of Cleveland, O., whose open-communication sentiments recently announced have attracted much attention, has been constrained to resign the pastorate of the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church. He finds, he says, that the prevailing sentiment of the denomination is strong for close communion, while he is equally strong for open communion. He will leave the Church October 1, and enjoy a year's rest. He will then seek a pulpit in some other denomination.

MR. SPURGEON fears that the newly-published theological lectures of Dr. Lindsay Alexander will not secure a large sale. They would, he says, have been greatly valued fifty years ago, but who will duly estimate them to-day? Any nonsense which proceeds from a dreamy, muddle-headed word-spinner will gain its admiring followers, but true learning and Scriptural truth are at a discount, and the light heads of the age will have none of them. Mr. Spurgeon adds that Dr. Alexander was a master in Israel, one of a constellation of stars which made the pulpit of the modern Athens a blaze of light a few years ago.

PROFESSOR M'ALISTER acted as the cicerone of about 140 members of the Pan-Presbyterian Council on their visit to Cambridge. The excursion was under the superintendence of Lord Dalrymple and Mr J G Laing. The party, which included a number of the Scottish delegates, was mainly composed of Americans, with a good many colonial and continental representatives. Luncheon was provided in the dining hall of Clare College, placed at their service by Dr. Atkinson, the master, and in the evening they were entertained at tea by Professor M'Alister in St. John's, the college of Ben Jonson and Wordsworth.

DR. PARKER'S visit to Scotland has awakened much interest wherever he has gone. His meetings have been largely attended, and his addresses have been characteristically vigorous and direct. At Galashiels he touched on many topics in illustration of his thesis that mission work is the grand life work of the preacher. They were not to regard the classification of rich and poor, for rich and poor were alike unto the Lord. It was sometimes asked why the Church did not let politics alone. The Church, he said, could not and would not let politics alone, because true politics were an aid in the regeneration of the world.

THE *Christian World* remarks that the ultra orthodox Presbyterians are making haste to repudiate the heterodox views of Dr. Marcus Dods. The *Belfast Witness* regrets extremely the "tone and tendency" of the paper read at the Pan Presbyterian Council, and its sorrow is greater still that "views so dangerous and erroneous" are held within the Presbyterian Church. *Word and Work* demands to know by whose request, at whose suggestion, the appointment of Dr Dods to deal with such a subject was made, and insists on some method being found for "a public and distinct repudiation" of the paper by the official representatives of the Alliance.

THE Rev James Johnston, F S S, makes a curious calculation in his work "A Century of Christian Progress." He has been comparing the increase of population during the last hundred years with the respective increases of Protestants, Roman Catholics, and followers of the Greek Church, and the result is very striking. Protestants in Europe have increased from 37,700,000 to 134,000,000, or nearly four-fold; Roman Catholics from 80,190,000 to 163,000,000, or two-fold; and the Greek Church from 43,000,000 to 83,000,000, also two-fold. Mr. Johnson draws from this preponderating vitality of Protestantism the most hopeful augury of its future victory.

WHEN the builder of the Presbyterian Church recently referred to by Canon Wilberforce, lay dying, the General Assembly was holding its annual meeting, at which the Moderator took occasion to speak with unusual plainness regarding the liquor traffic. The dying millionaire distiller, on hearing of this, sent for his lawyer and added a codicil to his will by which he revoked legacies to the Irish Presbyterian Church amounting to \$250,000. This happened ten years ago; and Miss Isabella Tod, of Belfast, says that from that day to this she never heard any member of the Church regret the loss of that money. Miss Tod hints that Canon Wilberforce would find it a difficult task to produce such a fact on behalf of the Anglican Church.

THE last General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church was attended by 765 members—487 ministers and 278 ruling elders. During the year there have been twenty-eight licensures, as against seventeen last year; twenty-eight ordinations and seventeen installations. Last year there were but eleven installations. Thirteen ministers died during the year, against sixteen last year. There are now forty assistant ministers—an increase of ten during the year. The number of licentiates is sixty-four. Six years ago there were little more than half that number. There are 115 students for the ministry. In 1882 there were only fifty-nine, so that there is manifestly an increasing desire on the part of young men to enter upon the sacred calling, and thereby an abundant supply for the home and foreign fields provided.

PROFESSOR STOFFANI, of Milan, a liberal priest and scientist, who instituted an action for libel against an Ultramontane journal of that city in 1884, has at length obtained a verdict not only against the managers of the paper, but against the editor and seven priests who had a hand in writing the attacks. The damages were fixed at 20,000 francs. Special fines were also imposed on individual delinquents, and the responsible conductor sentenced to a month's imprisonment, while the offending journal has been ordered, under the threat of increased penalties, to print in full the proceedings and censure, and to pay for the insertion of the same in its two leading liberal rivals. The libels were extremely virulent, assailing the private character as well as the public reputation of the professor.

A CONTEMPORARY says. Mr. Samuel Smith's letter to *The Standard* on the spread of pernicious literature in this country certainly hits a blot on our civilisation, though one which it is very difficult to deal with. If it is true, as he asserts, that special

efforts are being made to pollute the mind of servant girls by impure circulars, surely the police ought to deal with the matter. As regards M. Zola's novels, it would not be a hardship if their sale in a translated form were prohibited, and those whose tastes lead them to wallow in such stuff were compelled to read them, if at all, in the original French, which, from being 'the language of ladies,' will soon become the language of Yahoos. The friends of decency, however, will spoil their case if they attempt to set up a universal Puritan censorship of the Press. As Mr. Smith himself admits, public opinion is the best corrective of the evils complained of. Prurience is vile, but prudery is not its remedy. The two extremes, indeed, are apt to meet.

ONE feature of the great annual meeting at Mildmay is by no means of a satisfactory character. Thousands of the most devoted Christian workers gather there, and it is expected that the collection taken up will be not only sufficient to pay expenses, but that there may be a substantial balance remaining to assist the numerous beneficent agencies which are carried on all the year round. The annual cost amounts to about £24,000, and one-half of this sum is given by the workers themselves. It is expected that the Christian community, and especially those who attend the Conference and evidently appreciate the proceedings, will contribute freely, but we learn with pain that the collection plate comes in after its great journey round the house in a most pitiful condition—scarcely covered—and for the most part containing the smallest coins. Mr. Mathieson's feeling of delicacy we can understand, but surely it is his duty to make the requirements of Mildmay very plain to his visitors. True devotedness and stigmata cannot dwell together.

JUDICIAL negligence and partiality lead to other consequences than miscarriage of justice. The uncertainties of law are proverbial, and where an elective judiciary exists the course of justice will most likely continue to be erratic. As a corrective, people too often take matters into their own hands, and Judge Lynch's decisions are but little affected by forensic eloquence and skill. When he takes the accused in hand there are few chances of appeal, and a second trial is in the circumstances unnecessary. It is possible that Lynch law may imbue evil-doers with a wholesome terror, but it does not inspire the average citizen with a becoming respect for constitutional law and its impartial application. Every now and again in the Western States self-constituted regulators undertake the reformation of delinquents, real or supposed, by summary process. The latest example is furnished by the Indiana White Caps whose high-handed outrages have at last led to their suppression. If the detective's story is to be believed the career of the White Caps was a notable instance of Satan reproving sin.

THE rejection of the Fisheries Treaty by the United States Senate has surprised nobody. The attempt to negotiate an international treaty on the eve of a Presidential election was certainly a hazardous experiment. It has failed, and nothing much will be done till it is determined whether Grover Cleveland or Benjamin Harrison will occupy the White House for the next four years. Whether the Republicans or the Democrats direct the administration, the fisheries question will have a better chance of being discussed on its merits than it can have before November. All the dire threats uttered during the long debates in Congress and Senate will have lost their force when the last vote has been polled. The Anglo-Saxon people may debate and quarrel over their fishery rights and wrongs, but they will not go to war over them. When the proper time comes the diplomatists will repeat with new embellishments the complimentary speeches in mutual praise of the negotiating nations. The American Eagle has been doing a little screaming of late, but it has had its sun-piercing eye mainly directed to the ballot-box.