

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. GLADSTONE has revised the speeches which he delivered in Scotland, and they will shortly appear in a collected form.

It is predicted that more miles of railroad will be built in 1880 than were built in any year before. About nine thousand miles of new road are under contract, and about ninety thousand miles now built, will require repairs to the extent of ten per cent.

A LETTER from Madagascar states that complications are being fomented by Jesuits with a view to induce the eventual intervention of France and its assumption of a protectorate of the island. "We hope," says "Le Journal du Protestantisme Français," "that the Government of the Republic will not be tempted to renew in Madagascar the deplorable errors which formerly brought trouble upon Tahiti."

BISHOP CROWTHER, the coloured bishop of Western Africa, shews his catholicity of spirit in a very marked manner. Although, of course, an Episcopalian, he preached one Sunday morning not long since from the pulpit of the Faji Wesley Church, Lagos. Only a week or two previously the Bishop addressed a missionary meeting in the (American Mission) Baptist Church, at which the Governor presided.

THE deputation from the Evangelical Alliance, bearing a petition for the freedom of worship of all Christian sects, has been received by the Emperor of Austria, who promised to have the subject fully investigated. The public feeling is in favour of extending the protection of the law to the churches not at present recognized. The British Ambassador at Vienna gave the deputation his countenance and assistance under direction of Lord Salisbury.

THE "Journal du Protestantisme Français" says that M. Paschkoff has become the instrument of an important Protestant evangelization movement in St. Petersburg. At first he attempted to gather together the droschky drivers and hackney coachmen of the capital, many of whom were converted. Thence his work has gradually extended until now he has at his house, every morning and evening, public re-unions at which people of all ranks of society are to be met, and the Prefect of Police has authorized him to distribute the Scriptures and tracts in the streets of the capital.

THE Protestants in Roumelia seem to meet with favour rather than disfavour at the hands of the new government. Permission to build two chapels, one in Philippopolis and one in Yamboul, was readily given. These two chapels are now nearly or quite completed, and when done will mark a new era in the progress of the work in the two cities where they are located. Messrs. Bond and Marsh are members of the Bulgarian Lyceum at Philippopolis. At a late assembly of this lyceum the Archimandrite, a high Bulgarian church official, declared that "when the American missionaries came the people for the first time heard the Gospel." Protestant booksellers report a great change among the people generally, shewing that the gospel is making itself felt with increasing power.

THE agitation in Ireland still continues, and, of course, rather gathers as it goes. It was the most natural thing in the world, that when a movement was on foot for the purpose of getting the Irish farmer freed from all obligation to pay rent, his friends in the cities and towns should feel encouraged to rebel against paying anything for the use of the houses they occupied or the gardens in which they grew their cabbages. And so it has come to pass that a system of universal confiscation for town and country (for universal repudiation of rent simply means this) has been proclaimed as the great cure for Ireland's woes; and we Canadians in Toronto and elsewhere are all expected to welcome, as a hero and a statesman, the man who leads

in teaching such poor stuff, and who has yet escaped being shut up in a lunatic asylum.

THE liquidators of the City of Glasgow Bank have issued a report on their first year's operations. It is highly satisfactory, in so far as it may be inferred from it that no further call is likely to be made on the unfortunate shareholders. The calls which have been made have realized £4,452,366 5s., and from the assets of the Bank there has been got £4,856,666, making together, £9,309,032 5s. Of this sum, £9,157,670 12s. 10d. has already been paid or allowed in discharge of the Bank's obligations. The further assets and the sums yet to be recovered from contributories are estimated at £3,308,935 6s. 11d., while the remaining debts due by the Banks are £3,830,637 15s. 6d. This would leave a surplus of £468,296 10s. 5d., which, however, is subject to payment of interest on claims and the subsequent expenses of liquidation. The liquidators are doing their work ably.

A GOOD deal of outcry has been made against the liberation of the murderer, Ryan, and that on the ground that it establishes a bad precedent and may be taken as an encouragement to crime by others inclined to get quit of unpleasant wives, or disagreeable neighbours. If the fact of being drunk at the time when any offence was committed is to be taken as an excuse sufficiently strong to warrant a pardon, then all that is necessary to make everything serene is for the intending criminal to take plenty of whiskey and then do as he pleases. There is force in this and therefore we are inclined to agree with those who condemn the action of the Government in setting free a man who committed a murder of the most atrocious description, and that simply because he was drunk at the time, and happened to have an old father and mother. At the same time what are we to say about the law which licenses people to make their living out of the sale of those liquors, the use of which lead in so many cases to such deplorable results? Is such a law what it ought to be? An ever increasing number, who are not total abstainers, are more than in doubt if it is.

A REMARKABLE colonization experiment is about to be made in Central Africa. The Belgian expedition, which is promoted by King Leopold, has arrived on the banks of Lake Tanganyika, and its leaders are preparing to establish a colony on the lake shores. Two thousand five hundred acres of land have been obtained from the Sultan of Ouripa by treaty. This district is reported to be fertilized by numerous rivers, and is extremely productive. Cotton is grown there, game is plentiful, and elephants are common. The natives are friendly and hospitable. The scientific branch of the mission will comprise the preparation of a map of the neighbourhood, the formation of geological, botanical and zoological collections, drawing up a vocabulary of the language, and keeping a record of all interesting events and observations. Two other Belgian expeditions are *en route*, and hope to reach Kirema early in May. When the three expeditions are united one part will direct its course towards Nyangoné, on the Lualaba-Congo, where probably a second station will be founded, and another, under Stanley, will move eastward, following the river which he so successfully explored in 1877. He is advancing with a large caravan composed in great part of Belgian artisans, and with stores of all kinds which are being conveyed up the Congo in four steamers under the flag of the International Association. He is to lay the foundation of a station on the banks of the lower Congo.

THE London Missionary Society has received the long-expected mail from Ujiji. Mr. Hore writes of the sickness, death and burial of the Rev. Arthur Dodgshun, announced two months ago, and of the Arabs and their malign influence at the Lake. The Arabs have the Wajiji so much in fear of them that the missionaries can scarcely approach them, except with the permission of the Arabs, who believe that the mission has been established for the sole purpose of

breaking up the slave trade. The Wajiji want to be friendly with the white men. Food is cheap and plentiful. Mr. Hore says, in conclusion: "I trust no one will call this mission disastrous or condemn Ujiji hastily as unhealthy. It is certainly much healthier than Zanzibar, and both Mr. Hutley and myself were never more persistent in our determination to go on. Certainly we want more help; but the work is *going on*. We are living down native prejudices and suspicions and the lies of slanderers. We will slacken no effort to carry on this work; and I am speaking not at home, but in the midst of the work and its difficulties. May God induce His stewards to do their part, and see in the vacant spaces of the ranks only cause for new and earnest effort. I commenced this letter with but mournful news. I desire to close it with an expression of thankfulness to God for what health and strength and success he has given us, and with an earnest appeal to all missionary hearts to apply their means and strength with renewed vigour to this work, and to be assured that, however cavaliers may talk of disaster, there is no despondency here."

FROM the "Life of Alexander Duff, D.D.," lately issued, we have the following estimate of the results of half a century of mission work in India: "When in 1828, the forty-ninth year of the mission which he had founded and extended, closed with his own life, introducing the time of jubilee in the Jewish sense, what did Dr. Duff see? Apart from the missions he had given to the Established Church of Scotland, and the missionaries, European, American and Asiatic, he had influenced or trained for other Churches, we may thus coldly sum up results which in all their spiritual consequences, and even historical ramifications no mere biographer can attempt to estimate. The one boy missionary ordained by Chalmers, and sent forth by Inglis in 1829, is represented by a staff of 115 Scottish, and 44 Hindoo, Parsee, and Kaffir missionaries in the half century. Of these nearly half have passed to their eternal rest, leaving at present 38 Scottish and 18 native ministers ordained or licensed to preach the Gospel after a careful literary and theological education, besides five medical missionaries—one a lady—eleven lay professors and evangelists, and several students of divinity. The two primary English schools of 1830, at Calcutta and Bombay, have become 210 colleges and schools, in which every year more than 15,000 youths of both sexes receive daily instruction in the Word of God, underlying, saturating, consecrating all other knowledge. English has become the common language of hundreds of thousands of educated natives of India and Africa. But a pure and Christian literature has been created in their many vernaculars and even classical tongues, based on and applying the translated Bible. The Free Church converts alone have numbered 6,458 adults, who, from almost every false creed, impure cult, and debasing social system in the East and the South, have sat down in the kingdom, many, through much tribulation, of which Christendom, as it is at present, has no experience. These with their families have not only created Christian communities, which sweeten the society around them, and are thus used gradually to leaven its whole lump, but they form twenty-eight congregations, which after many members have passed away to their eternal reward, number 3,500 communicants, 4,100 baptised adherents, and 800 catechumens, all under ministers of their own race. In 1878 they subscribed £750 to evangelize their countrymen, though themselves poor, after much self-sacrifice. No mission can shew so many converts or nearly so many native missionaries gathered from the ranks of educated Hindooism, and used to break down the mighty mass of Brahmanism, as the Indian Mission of Dr. Duff, who was ever ready to abase himself while magnifying his office and defending his method. Each reader may judge for himself what share that method has had in all that makes the India of 1878 differ from that of 1829, especially in the significant fact that in that period the Protestant Christians of India have increased from twenty-seven thousand to half a million."