

Notes of the Week.

WE have thought of it a good many times, but believe we have not before said it in print, that the *Presbyterian Observer*, of Baltimore, is now one of the best of religious weeklies. It is edited by a physician, H. M. Simmons, M.D. This is what the *Chicago Interior* says. It expresses our own hitherto silent thoughts to a nicety.

BRANTFORD Ladies' College has succeeded in obtaining the services of Miss Halmer, one of the most distinguished graduates of Toronto University. During her course at College she carried off the highest attainable honours. Her career as an educationist will doubtless be equally successful. Protestant parents have no excuse for patronizing Roman Catholic educational institutions when they have fully-equipped colleges of their own within convenient reach of all.

THE native Christians at Pwo Kau, in China, have refused to take part in the customary heathen village ceremonies. This refusal has greatly incensed the unconverted villagers. They have boycotted the Christians, and denied them access to the public wells, and dispute their right to use the public roads. It has been suggested that this is about as good an illustration as one could wish for of the essential savagery of the boycott.

THE new theology has taken itself to the country. It has been holding a convention at Lakewood, on Chautauqua Lake. Leading Unitarian clergyman, and other liberal teachers, were among the lecturers. Unitarian papers claim that the movement has the warm sympathy of Rev. R. Heber Newton, Professor Swing and other progressive religionists. If the new theology will do well anywhere, it will flourish in summer weather amid pleasant surroundings.

TORONTO lawyers and physicians are not alone in the frugality of living necessitated by slender incomes. An American physician estimates that the combined income of all the medical men in New York gives an average of only \$600. There are comparatively few who make large incomes, and a good many who make moderate livings. The trouble is that the number of physicians is altogether out of proportion to the population. The same thing is true of lawyers.

FROM an exchange we learn that the late Mr. Joseph Gould, of Uxbridge, provides in his will for the erection of a Mechanics' Institute, at a cost of from \$3,000 to \$4,000, to be presented to Uxbridge, for which tenders have been advertised by the executors of Mr. Gould. He also donates to the town the sum of \$2,500, to be invested in securities, the interest arising therefrom to be devoted to the relief of the poor, more especially those who suffer from the evils of intemperance.

THERE is a general impression that Germany is reactionary and unpractical. In fact, the Fatherland is as energetic and progressive as any of the foremost nations. It is striving for an extension of foreign commerce. With this purpose the German Government has decided to establish a great Oriental Academy in Berlin, with German professors and native assistants, in Modern Persian, Turkish, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese and Hindustani. Lectures will be free, and poor students helped.

THERE was a great gathering of temperance celebrities at Grimsby Park last week under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance. Distinguished workers and orators from various parts of Canada and the United States, among them the Mayor of Toronto, were present. Varied testimony was borne to the beneficent effects of the Scott Act wherever it was honestly enforced, distinct political action by

temperance men was strongly urged, and the purpose to work strenuously for entire prohibition was heartily endorsed by the large numbers who attended the demonstrations at Grimsby.

IT happily turns out that the dreadful stories of famine, and death by starvation, in Labrador, are malicious fictions. A cute Yankee fisherman palmed off the wild inventions on a credulous newspaper reporter. In his eagerness to obtain startling news, even the experienced interviewer is liable to have his critical faculty overborne. In this instance, this was conspicuously the case, as the retailer of the story credited Labrador with a population many times larger than it contains. The Boston man has now the poor satisfaction of having started the biggest fish story of the season. If there is any merit in colossal lying, the fabrication of this wicked falsehood is fairly entitled to the kind of distinction it brings.

ALL States which have aspired to power and permanency, the *New York Independent* well says, have made much of the family. They have established institutions for the promotion of family life, and passed laws for its protection. The family is the source of the power and prosperity of the State, and the State is vitally concerned in its welfare. But it is comparatively little, after all, that the State can do for the family. It can protect it, it can secure for it favourable conditions of development, but it cannot bring to bear any set of influences at all comparable to the influence of religion. When this influence operates the State has its most loyal and trusted supporters, society its best friends, and the Church its staunchest members.

THE agitation in Central and Northern Europe in favour of better observance of the Lord's Day is gaining in breadth and depth. In Alsace-Lorraine two petitions in favour of the reform have lately been circulated. The first one, originating in Roman Catholic circles, has already 140,845 names, but many on this monster petition are Protestants. The second petition was started by the Protestant Pastoral Conference at Strassburg, and has now 6,367 subscribers. In Paris the "Society for the Better Observance of the Sabbath" recently offered prizes for the best popular discussion in pamphlet form of the Sabbath question, the condition being that only workingmen were to send in their essays. No less than forty-one manuscripts were received, five of which took prizes.

THE editor of the *Catholic Mirror*, writing in the *New York Independent*, says: The leading men of the Catholic American episcopate to-day—men of thought and energy—are radical on the temperance question. Bishops Ireland, Spalding and Keane are a trio that cannot be matched among us; yet they are the men who lead the total abstinence movement, and whose views and sentiments most influence Catholics. While these three are active in the work, the united episcopate have thrown their influence in the same scale. Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, and Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati, have also taken advanced positions upon the subject, and no two cities in the land more sorely need temperance reform than those whose episcopal seats they occupy. From all appearances, I should say that the time is not distant when the Catholics of this country shall have done their part to uproot the saloon power.

SPEAKING of the British election and the results, the *Christian Leader* says: Perhaps there never was a time when there was more need of charity, to temper the evil spirit of party. On this subject seasonable words were spoken from one of the most influential pulpits in Edinburgh. Dr. Walter Smith, who indicated his satisfaction with the result of the electoral struggle, expressed his belief that the people have so far been wisely guided, reminded his congregation at the same time that the vote of a majority does not settle the right or wrong of any matter. It may be, said, Dr. Smith, that we, who for the present

have prevailed, may not have seen so deeply as those who have lost their cause. The present duty of Christian citizens, he pointed out, was to watch against the uprisings of bitter and ungenerous thoughts, and to chastise the misunderstandings and misrepresentations to which human nature is so apt to give way. There are true and conscientious men on both sides; and this is a fact which Christian men and true patriots will not fail to recognize.

DR. SOMERVILLE'S evangelistic tour in the Highlands, already referred to, began at Campbellton lately, and was most successful. He preached in Lorne Street Church ... a crowded congregation, manifesting, says the *Glasgow Christian Leader*, an eloquence and fervour rarely found at his years. In the evening he preached in Lochend Church for more than an hour. On Monday, at noon, the first of the Bible readings attracted a large and representative gathering; and on Tuesday the attendance was considerably increased. On Wednesday the meeting was very much larger, the interest apparently deepening. Requests for prayer were handed in at all the gatherings, and various gentlemen gave short addresses. The evening meetings were well attended, over 600 being present on Wednesday, when Dr. Somerville said good-bye. After meetings took place each evening, when a goodly number attended, and not a few were brought to decision. Dr. Somerville left for Tarbert on Thursday, taking Killean by the way, and on Monday he proceeded to Islay, where he is spending the present week.

THE secret of much of the labour depression and agitation of the last year, says the *Baltimore Observer*, may be found in the report of the Department of Internal Revenue. It appears that the consumption of beer has increased 1,524,980 barrels. The consumption in 1885 was greater than ever before, and, adding the officially-reported increase, as given in the *New York Tribune*, it appears that no less than 642,000,000 gallons of beer were consumed last year, or 1,083 gallons for every inhabitant, children included. Considering that thousands of our population have been educated up to temperance principles, this would indicate an equivalent of a pint a day for half the adult population. The increase in the consumption of whiskey was 1,606,108 gallons, which makes the consumption for the year 70,763,010 gallons, or 1.19 per capita. The increase in the consumption of tobacco and cigars is also remarkable, especially in their least healthy forms, particularly snuff and cigarettes, the latter appearing at present to be the lowest, most degrading form the habit has assumed. And all this has cost this land of the free over \$800,000,000. Figures may sometimes lie, but they also preach eloquent sermons.

FROM the Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Associations it appears that there are ninety association buildings in Canada and the United States, and that the net value of association property aggregates \$5,040,178. Three hundred and sixty-five associations own libraries of 272,624 volumes, worth \$293,168; 444 reading rooms, with a total daily average attendance of 22,587, are reported. One hundred and thirty-one associations report gymnasiums and other means of physical culture, such as rowing, baseball and outing clubs, bowling alleys, etc., and 592 report 666 Bible classes, with an aggregate average attendance of 7,340. Four hundred and eighty-seven men are devoting their whole time to the work as general secretaries, librarians and gymnasium instructors. There are 1,066 associations in this country, including the college, railroad, German, coloured and Indian branches. The annual current expense of these thousand societies amount to over \$800,000. The book also contains a list of associations in foreign countries. Six hundred and fifty of these are in Germany, seventy-nine in France, 570 in Great Britain, 491 in Holland, eight in Russia, two in China, three in Japan, six in India, twelve in Africa, fourteen in Australia, etc.