

Notes of the Week.

DR. AIRD, the ex-Moderator of the Free Church General Assembly, deploras the doctrinal errors which are stealthily increasing in the Free Church. The inspiration and infallibility of the Bible are, he says, denied, and the fundamental principles of their religion are assailed. He specially bewails the action of the General Assembly in recently appointing to one of its professorial Chairs a man who is in full sympathy with, and a leading promulgator of, these erroneous views.

DR. HAMILTON MAGEE, of Dublin, who has studied Irish affairs keenly for many years, believes that the effect of the Persico incident on the Irish Roman Catholics will be neither trivial nor temporary, and that it will probably take its place in history alongside the perfidious betrayal of their country by Pope Adrian IV., which all Irishmen have learned to execrate. "It affords an extraordinary proof," he adds, "of the almost incredible selfishness and tyranny of the great ecclesiastical despotism at Rome."

THE Ulster Protestant journals, both Tory and Liberal-Unionist, express the belief that the aid which the Government would receive from the Parnellites in attempting to endow a Roman Catholic university would be more than neutralized by the alienation of their chief supporters in England, Scotland and Ulster. Rev. Dr. Kane, Grand Master of the Belfast Orangemen, denounces the programme of the Government regarding Irish education and declares that it will meet with the most determined opposition of the Irish Protestants.

PRINCIPAL CAIRNS, at the conference of Good Templars in Edinburgh, counselled them to introduce into their proceedings more and more of the devotional element. They could not of themselves make a man a total abstainer any more than they could make him a Christian. They should try to get people to join the lodge. He himself derived more satisfaction from the remembrance of any convert he had been instrumental in gathering in than from any speech he had ever made. It was a total mistake, he added, to think that they were doing no spiritual good when they limited themselves to temperance reform.

NOT all sea-beach preachers are, as described by the *Daily Telegraph*, "gloomy Jeremiahs of the sands" and "hopelessly illiterate Solomon Eagles." Dr. C. F. Harford-Battersby, conductor of the Children's Special Service Mission at Eastbourne, wrote to point out, as rebutting evidence, that he holds three University degrees and the diplomas of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians, that his college at Cambridge was Trinity, that he holds an appointment at one of the largest London hospitals, and that he is assisted by two clergymen, by two graduates and two undergraduates of Cambridge, and an undergraduate of Oxford.

THE congregation of Chalmers Church, Dunedin, resolutely uphold the decision of their elders and deacons to put a clause in the title-deed of the building proposed to be purchased excluding instrumental music and hymns from their service. The deputation to the Presbytery emphatically affirmed that they had put their foot down and were determined to stand. Several members of Presbytery thought the step a most disastrous one; but others held the opposite view, and the Presbytery ultimately approved the deputation's report. Many Highlanders in Dunedin, it seems, who have been estranged from the Church by various causes, will now rally round this standard; and it is hoped that Chalmers Church will soon be filled.

THE Nun of Kenmare says, and says sensibly: I may add here that I think far more good could be done by the plain statements of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church than by sensational narratives. The former are not so attractive to the general public as the latter, but they are of far more value because they cannot be denied. Many Romanists are in utter ignorance of the teaching of

their own Church, and it would be amusing, if it were not so very sad, to see their indignation when I make statements which I have simply taken from the very books which sisters, and all the teaching Orders of the Roman Catholic Church, including, of course, the Jesuits, are obliged to teach those whom they educate.

By the death of Rev. Alexander Rentoul, M.A., of Sandy Mount, Dublin, the Church has sustained a more than ordinary loss. Mr. Rentoul belonged to a family which has for generations supplied distinguished ministers to the Presbyterian Church, first to the Secession Synod, and, since the union with the Synod of Ulster, to the General Assembly. He was the son of the late Rev. J. B. Rentoul, D.D., of Garvah. In evangelistic efforts, and in the higher education of the people, he took a deep interest, and the fine High School which has been established at Sandy Mount is a monument of his persevering zeal. A short time ago he had an attack of hemorrhage of the lungs, which obliged him to retire from all active work, and for a little while he seemed to be recovering, but the hopes that were cherished were soon blasted, and he died at Howth recently.

THE *Christian World* says: On his way to Ireland Mr. Carvell Williams called at Hawarden, and had a long talk with the ex-Premier on Mr. Balfour's announcement in regard to the establishment and endowment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland. We have reason to believe that Mr. Williams left with the impression that Mr. Gladstone's views are such as might have been expected, and that they will not be considered unsatisfactory by Nonconformists. Mr. Gladstone, we believe, anticipates that the proposal will encounter the strongest resistance from the Nonconformists. There can be no doubt about that. The Committee of the Congregational Union has already arranged for a resolution on the subject to be moved at the Hull Assembly. Other Nonconformist bodies are certain to follow the example of protest against a proposal that violates their most sacred principle.

THE poor, the miserable, the vicious, the degraded, says Archdeacon Farrar in the *Contemporary Review*, can never be reached except by the spirit of sympathy. Benefits scornfully flung to them, as we would scarcely fling a bone to a dog, will neither improve their lot nor touch their hearts. No deep and abiding good will be wrought by those who abandon the stimulus of hope. Socially there must be a far greater awakening to the sense of duty. At present the few are magnificently liberal; the many are shamefully uncharitable. It has become a question of the day that the rich should more and more feel the guilt of a purely selfish luxury unaccompanied by either public munificence or private generosity. Let them—and let all—look well to it that they have no share in the interests of crime, no investment in gains derived from the causes of human misery. If each one swept thoroughly his own door the streets would be clean.

OVER 300 delegates attended the British Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations in Dublin lately. A very cheering reception was given in Metropolitan Christian Buildings at the General Secretaries' Conference. At Howth it was agreed, on the proposal of Robert Burn, Aldersgate Street, to form a secretarian society for common objects. Mr. G. Williams presided over the opening business meeting. Mr. Newett, Manchester, expressed the delegates' sympathy with Mr. Williams upon a recent severe bereavement. Mr. John White, London, read a paper upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work. He urged that though utterly powerless themselves in presence of unconverted young men, there was no limit to the power of Christ in them if, after His own divine example, their lives were at all times and everywhere freely open to the inflow and outflow of the Holy Ghost.

DR. PENTECOST'S open air meetings in Scotland have been in progress for ten weeks, and have been attended by crowds varying from 2,500 to 10,000 and 12,000, as the weather has permitted. It is said by old citizens that there have never been such meetings held in Edinburgh. The interest in them is not only unabated, but continually on the increase.

In the meantime, Dr. Pentecost's services in Free St. Andrew's Church are increasing in interest and power each Sabbath. Long before the hour of service the Church is crowded in every part and all standing-room taken, notwithstanding 300 extra seats have been put in the church. Dr. Pentecost continues his work in Edinburgh till September 15, and then begins his regular mission work in Dundee on September 22, and thence in following centres through the autumn and winter in Airdrie, Coatbridge, Broughty Ferry, Newport, Greenock, Paisley, Ardrossan, and other places.

ON the proposed Irish Catholic University the Belfast *Witness* remarks. The public mind has been most anxiously exercised over the chief secretary's announcement as to the proposal to do something to satisfy the clamours of the Irish Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the matter of university education. It came upon the country with such suddenness, and coming from Mr. Balfour was so unexpected, and, besides, it is as yet so shapeless and undefined, that people scarce know what to think or say, or do about it. There are abundant signs, however, that anything of the nature of a proposal to establish a Roman Catholic university will meet with the most determined opposition. Notices of motion on the subject have already been given in the Belfast Presbytery, and nothing is more certain, so far as the whole Presbyterian Church is concerned, than that such a proposal would be fought against with the utmost strenuousness. But we must wait to hear what is really proposed before we can do anything. It is not easy to fight with a shadow.

DR. ANDREW THOMPSON of Edinburgh, writing to Rev. John Parker of Sunderland on the incongruity and injury of intruding amusements into the midst of religious services, so much so as at times to extrude the religious element or to cast it into the shade, says: When meetings are held to begin with religious exercises and to end with dancing or theatricals, the religion will be looked upon as a kind of penance leading the way to amusements which are regarded as giving the real enjoyment. Mr. Parker has published in pamphlet form the overture on the subject which he moved in the Newcastle Presbytery in March last, along with extracts from a sermon on the same subject by Rev. Richard Leitch of Newcastle. Mr. Spurgeon writing to Mr. Parker says: I have often spoken about these wretched amusements. Indeed, this was a main point of the Down-grade controversy—frothy doctrine and silly amusements seem to go together. I hope Presbyterians will keep right, but the spot is seen here and there. I am sorely troubled by seeing defection where one could not have expected it.

THIS is the *Christian Leader's* comment on the reception accorded the Equal Rights delegation to the Governor-General: In his elaborate reply to the large and exceedingly influential delegation which waited on him with petitions urging disallowance of the Jesuit Estates Bill, the Governor-General of Canada merely repeated the arguments of the ministry at Ottawa which had been already thoroughly refuted. It was with unfeigned astonishment the deputation learned that no case would be submitted to the Supreme Court to obtain its opinion upon the validity of the Act. After they had bidden Lord Stanley farewell the delegates, who were headed by Principal Caven, at once proceeded to hold a meeting at which they decided to urge the continuance and the extension of the movement throughout the entire Dominion. This was the reply to the impertinent lecture with which they were favoured by Lord Stanley on the duty of being tolerant, and of following the policy of live, and let live, "like our great neighbour." The French Canadian press is, of course, jubilant at this triumph; and the Jesuits must be chuckling over the eulogy pronounced on them by the Governor-General, who declares that he has not found them less loyal or less law-abiding than others. That the Government and the Governor-General of Canada have violated fundamental principles of the British Constitution does not admit of a doubt; and we trust the people of the Dominion will never rest until the Act has been repealed which recognizes the right of the Pope to interfere in our civil affairs in a way which is derogatory to the supremacy of the Queen and menacing to the liberties of the people.