

Notes of the Week.

THE annual meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Jamaica was held at Kingston in January. The Rev. James Ballantyne, of Hampden, the largest congregation in the island, gave in, as Convener, reports of Sabbath schools and congregational statistics. In connection with the Synod there are fifty-two congregations, with a membership of 9,151; and eighty week-day schools, attended by 7,471 scholars. The congregations of the Synod raised last year for all purposes \$38,575. Mr. Ballantyne was formerly pastor of River Street Church, Paris, Ont.

DR. W. G. BLAIKIE, the well-known Divinity Professor of Edinburgh Free Church College, the *Christian World* says, starts next month for the United States, to visit a son in California, and other friends. During the past few years Professor Blaikie has, in addition to the faithful discharge of his college duties, accomplished a vast amount of extra work, chiefly of a literary character, so that he is fairly entitled to a rest. His visit to the States will be of an entirely private nature. We cordially join with all his friends in wishing him a pleasant voyage, a happy reunion with his son, and a safe return to the resumption of his important duties in Edinburgh.

A DEACON of Free St. Matthew's, Glasgow, read a paper at a recent meeting of the Deacons' Association, in which he regarded as at least questionable the raising of funds for church purposes by bazaars, and believed that it would lead to a higher state of feeling and action if the expenditure were regulated wholly by the free-will offerings. In regard to seat rents he quoted an Act of Assembly passed in 1843 recommending that, except for such limited and temporary purposes as liquidating debt incurred in the erection of churches, no seat rents should be levied, and he expressed a hope that when by the debt extinction scheme all burdens on buildings were discharged the church might reach her intended condition and be "free" in this respect also.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The Canadian friends of Pastor Chiniquy are desirous of celebrating in some appropriate manner his eightieth birthday which occurs 30th of July next. It was first intended to make a local demonstration in his honour by his friends and neighbours; but as the matter has been talked of, the work seems to expand by its own merits. And there is quite a prevalent idea that the occasion should be made general and that the venerable evangelist's friends in all parts of the world may take part in it. We have no doubt that many both in Scotland and England will rejoice to fall in with that. Father Chiniquy is one of the remarkable men raised up by God and especially cared for and guarded to do His will and proclaim His Gospel.

THE *Christian World* remarks. Perhaps no minister in Scotland is so cognisant of the state of religion in Scottish villages as well as Rev. James Wells, of Pollokshields Free Church, and he made good use of his knowledge the other day when proposing in Glasgow Presbytery an overture in favour of union with the United Presbyterian Church. In a parish he lately visited, containing about 1,000 inhabitants, he found four ministers, four manses, and four churches, three of which were Presbyterian, and within a stone's throw of each other. We do not wonder at Mr. Wells saying that his visit to that village "saddened him almost to sickness," and that feeling is intensified by the thought that there are probably three hundred parishes in Scotland in the same condition. The principle of Presbyterianism should surely make the remedying of this state of things an easier matter than it would be in England.

THE Canadians, says the *Christian Leader*, are very proud of Toronto, and Scotland looks with some degree of pride on the model character of a city which so many of her sons have assisted to build up. But it would appear that Toronto has yet to learn how to deal with her criminals. Of the \$21,000 the prisoners in her jail cost last year, scarcely a cent was earned by the prisoners; and we are amazed to learn that they are actually made to wheel sand

from one part of the prison yard and then to wheel it back again for no useful purpose, but merely as punishment. This is barbarous. [The difficulty to be overcome is that labour organizations object to the competition of prison labour with that of honest workmen. The subject is receiving earnest attention and a solution will be found. Prison labour may be made remunerative without injuring honest working men, or resorting to "barbarous" devices to keep the inmates of gaols out of mischief.]

THE ninetieth birthday of the venerable Dr. Dollinger, of Munich, was recently celebrated among showers of congratulations from all civilized lands. Dollinger, like Ranke, is apparently determined to die in harness. His literary activity within the last two or three years has been extraordinary. Two volumes of his addresses have appeared, and he has aided materially in the preparation of a work on the Jesuits. It now appears that Dollinger, and not Professor Friedrichs, as was supposed for so many years, was the author of the "Janus" letters that appeared during the session of the Vatican Council in the columns of the Augsburg (now Munich) *Allgemeine Zeitung*, and which are even yet the leading sources concerning this Council to which outsiders have access. The remarkable mental vigour of such men as Ranke, Dollinger, Hase and fully a score and more of other German scholars who have reached the eighties and beyond is an object lesson for fast-living students well worth heeding.

THE death of Dr. Edersheim took place lately at Mentone. His end was sudden, though Dr. Edersheim had for some time been in indifferent health. The deceased, who was a native of Germany of Jewish extraction, was converted to Christianity, and settled in Scotland after being engaged for a short time in missionary work among his own race. In Edinburgh he attracted the notice of Sir William Hamilton by his philosophical ability. He studied for the ministry of the Free Church, and became pastor of the congregation at Old Aberdeen. Here he was warmly appreciated by a few—among his Sunday-school teachers was Dr. Whyte, now of Free St. George's, Edinburgh, who owns great obligations to him; but he was not satisfied, and retired. After an interval he commenced a Presbyterian Church at Torquay, where he was warmly appreciated. He thence passed into the Church of England, but failed in obtaining a congenial sphere. He was appointed Vicar of Lodres in Dorset, but wearied of the country, and ultimately removed to Oxford, where he had a real and beneficial influence in theological circles. His books are well known. The best known is his "Life of Christ," a profound and scholarly production. He was a frequent contributor to *The Edinburgh Review* and *The Saturday Review*.

ABOUT two-hundred workers and those interested in the cottage meeting held their annual business social in Richmond Hall last week, the president, Mr. H. C. Dixon in the chair. Since the last annual meeting, 183 meetings have been held, including Island work and entertainments given at the numerous institutions in the city. The treasurer showed a balance of \$98 on hand, almost all given by the people who attend the meetings. The free breakfast supplied 3158 people with meals at a cost of twelve cents per head, 300 men were clothed, and about 100 received clothing for their families. Over 1000 pounds of groceries were given to destitute cases and although workers did not ask for a cent, the treasurer of this department showed a balance of \$52 on hand. The meetings have never been so largely attended, and much good has been the natural result, ministers of all denominations having taken part. The evening meeting on Sundays for the breakfast men, had an average attendance of 136. The following officers were elected for this year; President, H. C. Dixon; vice-president, Mrs. H. C. Dixon; secretary, Miss E. Latch; assistant secretary, Samuel Scott; treasurer, John Dorsey; organist, Miss R. Grant; choir master J. F. Houghton. A select musical programme, and swinging the clubs by Miss Houghton along with a bountiful supply of refreshments, closed the most successful meeting ever held by the association. Efforts are being put forth to keep the Friday meeting as large during the summer, as it has been in the winter.

At the annual meeting of the Glasgow City Mission, Dr. Marcus Doles said there was no body of men more deserving of public sympathy than the city missionaries. He had some little experience of the work himself, and that taught him there was nothing more detrimental to the bodily and spiritual health than being constantly in contact with poverty, sin, dirt, and disease. Some people thought there was very little result from the work of the City Mission. No one would think so who took into consideration the enormous—one was tempted to say the almost insuperable difficulties that lay in the way of the work of the mission. He had a friend who managed a very flourishing working-men's club, and he told him it was quite in vain to undertake any missionary work, and to expect large results from it, until the whole conditions of labour were altered. The workingmen thought themselves to be lying under grievances for which the Church was largely responsible. He was not present to say to what extent the charge was true; he merely said there was this discontent among the workingmen eating its way and alienating them entirely from the Church. No one knew this better than the city missionary. Another great difficulty was the public-house. Go where they might in Glasgow, he might say in the entire country, and they would find the same complaint of constant disappointment and failure because of the public-house. They were always trying to establish some effective rival to the public-house, but nothing was more difficult than to do so. They tried, as was done in his own congregation, to gather in the working-men on several evenings a week to read the papers, to listen to lectures and music; they tried to get hold of the young lads by means of gymnastics and games, but it was a mere scratching of the surface. There was the public-house drawing its thousands with what seemed to be an irresistible attraction. Until something was done to counteract this attractiveness the city missionary worked at an enormous disadvantage.

THE following is the New York *Independent's* summing up of the Canadian situation. Readers may be amused at one or two of its slips: Such a conflict as that raised in the Canadian Parliament by the motion of Mr. O'Brien could not arise under our Government. With us the doctrine of reserved States rights is settled, and these rights are defined. In Canada, under its constitution, the rights reserved to the provinces seem to be few and somewhat uncertain. The Federal power of veto may be exercised at Toronto (*sic*) over every act of provincial legislation. It is true that the Liberal Party has been, for tactical reasons, trying to limit this power centralized in the Capital of the Dominion, and this position of theirs much cripples them in every effort to oppose the Jesuit appropriation in the Province of Quebec. At the time of the famous Papal Encyclical, Sir Alexander Galt said that the power of Federal veto was the only efficient protection of the Protestants of Quebec. This power of veto has lately been exercised by Sir John A. Macdonald in the Manitoba railway conflict of authority, and its exercise almost led to armed antagonism between the Province and the Dominion. It is not difficult to account for the very small minority that voted for the veto. The Federal Parliament consists of about two hundred and twenty-five members, of whom about seventy are Catholics. The Conservatives have a legitimate majority of about forty, and were Sir John to dissolve this Parliament, as he threatened, not a few members would lose their seats. Then the Liberals have been very ready to form an alliance with the Catholic Reallists (*sic*) from which they cannot easily retreat, not to mention their attitude opposing the veto power in general. The Protestant agitation equally threatened both parties and they combined to crush it. Nevertheless, Mr. McCarthy, who supported the motion asking for the veto, has a much stronger following than the vote indicates. It would not be strange if a third party, on the basis of independence of Church and State, should be started, and find a large Protestant following. Out of a population of five millions perhaps a million and a quarter are French Catholics, whose clergy have temporal power of tithing, etc., and whose ecclesiastical machines and wealth are crowding out the Protestants about them. Besides these there are about half a million Irish Catholics. There may be a troublous political future before Canada.