

## Notes of the Week.

We observe with pleasure, but without surprise, says the *Belfast Witness*, that in the Royal University examinations just concluded in Dublin Queen's College, Belfast, occupied its usual foremost position. Its *alumni* usually carry off the lion's share of degrees and honours, and they seem determined to keep their place of honour in spite of all changes. Yet it is well known that the medical candidates, at all events, are pretty heavily handicapped in the various contests owing to causes over which they have no control.

JUDGMENT has been given by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the question of jurisdiction in the Bishop of Lincoln's case. His Grace said, after full consideration of the authorities quoted, the court had nothing to satisfy them that there was an exclusive jurisdiction in the Synod of bishops. The court decided that it had jurisdiction, and therefore overruled the protest. Sir Walter Phillimore intimated that he should require time to consider what course the Bishop of Lincoln would pursue, and the inquiry was adjourned till June 14.

THE Scotch correspondent of the *British Weekly* says: I regret to hear from some friends of Professor Charteris, of Edinburgh, that his health has not for some time back been in a perfectly satisfactory condition. Dr. Charteris cannot be said to have ever been a very robust man, but it is now feared that he will not be able for some years to take such an active part as he once did in the affairs of the Church of Scotland. He has been, to all intents and purposes, its leader since the disappearance from the scene of the sometime rivals, Dr. Pirie and Principal Tulloch.

ON the recent vote in the British House of Commons on the disestablishment of the Church in Wales, the *Ottawa Journal* makes the following comment: It was hardly to be expected that at a first assault the opponents of connection between Church and State could effect the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales. The comparatively slight majority by which the proposal was defeated is decidedly encouraging. It shows that when the Gladstonians get back to power Establishment must go in Wales at once, and possibly soon after in England. Most of us, opposing as we are obliged to do the aggressiveness of a Church which is chiefly dangerous through the state privileges it enjoys in Quebec, have little sympathy with State Churches anywhere else.

THE missionary meeting in connection with the U. P. Synod in Edinburgh was crowded. It was held under the presidency of the Moderator, Dr. Drummond. The report on Foreign Missions was presented by the secretary, Rev. James Buchanan, who said they had at work in the foreign field fifty-five ordained European missionaries, twenty ordained native pastors, nine medical missionaries, three European evangelists, and twenty-one female missionaries. These were assisted by ninety native evangelists, and a large force of native teachers. There were eighty-six congregations, with 142 different stations. The congregations had an aggregate membership of 14,079, with 2,284 candidates for admission. At the Sabbath schools there was an attendance of about 12,000, and at the day schools upwards of 14,000. During the past eight years the membership of the native churches had grown from 9,687 to 14,079, yielding an average yearly increase of 549.

THE *Christian Leader* says. Mission work and colonial life do something to disintegrate the partition walls between Christian churches. At the ordination of Mr. Small, preparatory to his going out as a Presbyterian missionary to the New Hebrides, formerly the sphere of Dr. John Inglis, there was present no less a personage than Dr. Selwyn, the bishop of Melanesia. This appalling act is said to have been done with the concurrence of the episcopate of New Zealand. For the episcopal Synod was meeting in Dunedin, and the ordination was in Knox Church, of which Dr. D. M. Stuart is minister. Such reciprocity is not a novelty in New Zealand, for Dr. Selwyn's father used to be most friendly with other denominations in early days. Certainly no one would appreciate this frank and

public avowal of sympathy more than Dr. Stuart himself. In presence of heathendom and savagery, the distinction between priest and presbyter tends to become a vanishing quantity.

THE Italy of to-day, Mr. Gladstone tells us in the May number of the *Nineteenth Century*, shows a wonderful advance upon the Italy with which he first became acquainted thirty-eight years ago, and affords an unanswerable proof of the salutary effects of freedom and self-government. As to the Papacy, there is of course nothing to bear out the *canard* that Mr. Gladstone advocated foreign intervention between Italy and the Pope. The territorial question, he says, is one in which no foreign power can rightly interfere, and he remarks that the permission to the Pope to abide in Rome and possess the Vatican in isolated and silent, but complete independence was a permission to which no parallel can be found in history. The Italian Government would have been juridically justified in expelling the rival sovereign. Even among the clergy Mr. Gladstone notes that there is a strong party of opposition to the temporal power, and he is of opinion that Italy may in this matter contentedly await some more favourable conjunction of characters and circumstances.

THE attendance of elders at the English Presbyterian Synod in London, and at the United Presbyterian Synod at Edinburgh showed a great improvement over that of former years. The Synod meeting was the most largely attended that has ever been held. Out of 287 possible elders' commissions, no fewer than 278 were sent in. The growing visibility of the Church was indicated by quite a series of incidents. There was the letter received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, enclosing the encyclical from the Lambeth Conference on the subject of Christian Union. Then there was the reception at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor—an event unprecedented for at least two hundred and fifty years. And there was a deputation from the Baptist Union. The attendance at the U. P. Synod numbered 916, being composed of 484 ministers, four missionaries, and 428 elders. Last year there were 486 ministers, four missionaries and 392 elders present. Never before has there been so large an attendance as at the Synod of 1889.

If Canadians are not watchful they may in the course of a few years have a religious difficulty to grapple with in the North West. The Mormons have secured a foothold there, and it is stated that they are now being reinforced in considerable numbers by immigrants from Utah. During the recent session of the Dominion Parliament ministers were interviewed by Mormon elders concerning their interests in the North-West, and they were given clearly to understand that while as settlers they would be welcome, and in their religion they would be unmolested, that polygamous practices would not be permitted. This is as it ought to be. From some boastful sayings by North-West Mormons it is evident that some of them at all events are inclined to follow what in Utah has been considered the orthodox practice in their new settlements in the Dominion. If attempts in this direction are made they must be resisted at the outset. If the Latter Day Saints are paltered with in this particular who knows how soon the Mormon vote will become a factor in practical politics.

RESPECTING the appointment of Mr. Archibald MacMechan to the chair of English Literature in Dalhousie College the *Hamilton Times* says: Hamiltonians may well be proud of the product of their educational institutions. In recent years not a few of the old public School and Collegiate Institution boys have taken prominent positions in the business and professional world. Only the other day the *Times* chronicled the appointment of Dr. Alexander, a native of this city, to an important Professorship in the Provincial University. Dr. Alexander is succeeded in the Munro chair of English Languages and Literature in Dalhousie (N.S.) University by Mr. Archibald MacMechan, another brilliant Hamilton scholar, who has been selected from a big list of available educationists. Professor MacMechan was a fellow student at the Hamilton Collegiate Institute with Messrs. George Kappele, James Bicknell, jun., Professor Harry Fairclough, of the Provincial University; Dr. Andrew Lawson (of

the Geological Survey), and the late gifted Mr. McKinnon, barrister, Belleville, all of whom at a very early period in their professional career took an advanced position in the vocation chosen by them.

AT the forty-ninth annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society, held in Elm Street Church, Toronto, last week, the Hon. G. W. Allan, president of the Society, occupied the chair. The weather was unfavourable, and in consequence the attendance was not quite so large as it would have been had the circumstances been more favourable. The audience, however, was representative, people from the various churches in the city being present. On the platform also the different branches of the Evangelical Church were well represented. The report submitted presents a more than usually encouraging statement of the operations, state and prospects of Bible circulation throughout the world. The speech of the evening was delivered by Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, of Philadelphia, who presented a logical, clear, interesting and eloquent plea in behalf of the Bible as the Word of God, touching on present-day questions of inspiration, the doctrines and ethics of the Bible, and the relations of revelation and science. So impressive was Dr. Pierson's masterly address that the audience listened most sympathetically throughout, and the fine peroration was heard with strained attention that found relief in an outburst of enthusiastic applause at the close. Though the meeting was not numerously attended, in every other respect it was an eminent success, and it is evident that the Upper Canada Bible Society is an institution that has a warm place in the hearts of the Canadian people.

THE report of the Statistical Committee of the U. P. Church showed that there is now on the Synod roll 565 congregations, an increase of one, that there are 867 Sabbath schools, with 12,239 teachers and 103,879 scholars, an increase of 6,404 scholars for the year; that the Bible classes have fallen from 804 to 795, the membership being 32,070, a decrease of 450, and that the total membership is 182,963, a gain of 793, being above the average rate of increase for the last ten years. The total congregational income is \$1,598,725, a decrease of \$4,765 over that of the previous year, but an increase of \$8,945 over the amount for 1886. The average stipend is \$1,295, \$2 more than the average for the previous year, but less than the average for 1879. The students in the theological hall number eighty-seven, a decrease of fourteen on the previous year, and the smallest attendance since 1878. The college report showed that Professor Davidson had been teaching the Hebrew class along with his own in New College since Professor Paterson was unhappily laid aside by illness in the opening days of the year, and Principal Cairns, in moving a resolution of warmest thanks to the Free Church professor, said the incident would remain a bright spot in the history of the college and of the two Churches, and would tend to bring about the union of both.

DR. ALEXANDER MACLEOD, Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, was one of the deputies to the United Presbyterian Synod. He said the Court he represented could never forget the kindness shown them by the United Presbyterian Church. When some of them went into a new relationship in Church matters in England, severing life-long ties, their hearts were very sore, but the United Presbyterian Church from that time to the present sent deputies to the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church, to cheer them, and give them a feeling that they were not absolutely sundered from the dear old Church whose representatives he saw before him on that occasion. This year the Free Church of Scotland had followed the example of the United Presbyterian Church, and a deputation, federally related to them, appeared in their Synod, and in this way a very remarkable event had taken place. Through the organizing power of their beloved friend, Dr. Scott, there had been established a triennial Council to bind the United Presbyterian Church and themselves, and now into that Council came the Free Church of Scotland, so that instead of thirty-one members, there would be twenty from each of the three Churches. The Council would meet in Edinburgh in October next, and if what he had stated was not a foregleam of Church union he did not know what it was. Besides this, the Welsh Church had resumed visiting them.