

STICK TO BUSINESS.

WELL directed energy and enterprise are the life of progress; but if there is one lesson taught more plainly than others by the great failures of late, it is that safety lies in sticking to a legitimate business. No man—manufacturer, trader, or banker—has any moral right to be so energetic and enterprising as to take from his legitimate business the capital which it requires to meet any emergency.

Apologies are sometimes made, for firms that have failed, by recurring to important experiments they have aided, and the unnumbered fields of enterprise where they have freely scattered their money. We are told that individual losses sustained by those failures will be as nothing compared with the benefits conferred on the community by their liberality in contributing to every public work. There is little force in such reasoning. A man's relations to a creditor are vastly different from his relations to what is called the public. The demands of the one are definite, the claims of the other are just what the ambition of the man may make them. The histories of honourably successful business men unite to exalt the importance of sticking to a legitimate business; and it is most instructive to see that, in the greater portion of the failures, the real cause of disaster was the branching out beyond the legitimate business, in the taking hold of this and that tempting offer, and, for the sake of some great gain, venturing where they did not know the ground, and could not know the pitfall.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

THE diocese of Sodor and Man has been rendered vacant by the death of Bishop Powys, who has presided over the diocese for twenty-three years, and who died recently at Bournemouth, aged sixty-two.

The sudden death of the Rev. G. T. Perks, M.A., one of the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and president of the Conference in 1873, has caused a feeling of sadness not only throughout the connexion to which he belonged, but also amongst other denominations, by whom he was well received, and honoured as an able preacher, a distinguished theological scholar, and an accomplished writer. His death took place at Rotherham, where he preached on the Sunday—morning and evening—previous to his decease. After a service in Green-lanes Chapel he was interred in Abney Park Cemetery on Saturday, June 2.

The reception in this country of General Grant, ex-President of the United States, has been in every respect satisfactory. The people of Liverpool, in which port he landed, cheered him with every demonstration of enthusiasm, and his course has been followed by similar marks of admiration in each of the towns and cities he has visited. He is to receive an audience of the Queen, and the Lord Mayor of London has entertained him at a banquet in the Guildhall, and presented him with the Freedom of the City.

The Pope has directed that prayers should be offered for the success of the Turkish arms in the Russo-Turkish war.

Mr. Spurgeon has again been suffering from his old complaint of rheumatic gout, which has partly prevented his preaching. His health, however, has considerably improved during the past month, and he has undertaken occasional services.

In Bulgaria, 4769 homes have been erected by members of the Society of Friends, and seed has been supplied to 9300 persons for their land. Clothing has been distributed among the distressed peasantry. Schools also have been built.

The population of the city of Naples is about 600,000. The greater part of these (according to Mr. Landels, son of Dr. Landels, and an evangelist in that city) are "slaves in the hands of some 15,000 priests, who refuse them the open Bible, and leave them in a state of the most deplorable ignorance. Of the entire population 82 per cent. cannot read."

The Rev. W. H. M. J. Aitken has been holding mission services for several weeks past in the west and north-west of London. The attendance has been very large, and it is believed that the efforts of Mr. Aitken have been effectual in removing much of the apathy of his hearers, in arousing many to a sense of their stewardship, and in the implanting of the

seeds of spiritual life where there had previously been latent or acknowledged scepticism.

At the *conversations* of the Evangelical Alliance, in the rooms of the National Club, Whitehall, it was stated that new branches had been opened in Egypt, Spain, and elsewhere. The council had successfully interfered on behalf of persecuted Christians. The annual week of prayer had been very generally observed, especially on the continent, where, in some places, the people had assembled in thousands and tens of thousands.

Arrangements have already been made for the delivery by Dr. Dykes, of Regent-square Presbyterian Church, of a course of lectures on preaching, and for a course of pastoral theology, by Dr. Drummond, of St. John's Wood. The lectures will be given in the Presbyterian College. Other lectures will also be given by the Rev. W. Dinwiddie, Dr. Paterson, Dr. Morison, and J. Thompson.

The General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland has held its sittings in Edinburgh, The Rev. Dr. Cook was the retiring moderator, and nominated the Rev. Dr. Phin as moderator for the ensuing year. The Archbishop of Canterbury visited the Assembly, and was present for several hours.

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland was held at the same time, and in the same city (Edinburgh) as that of the Established Church. Dr. McLauchlan was the retiring moderator. Dr. Gould, late of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, was elected moderator for the ensuing year.

The 200th Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends was one of much interest, and showed marks of the new era into which the body has entered of late years. From epistles read from various Yearly Meetings it appears that there has been a large increase of members in other countries. An address was delivered by Mrs. Richardson on the questions—"What is the Work of a Church? Have we done it? and if not, Why?" The present membership of the Society in England is 14,411, of which 7490 are females, and 6921 males. There has been an increase during the year of 188. There are twelve public schools of the Society, with 620 boys, and 425 girls; total 1045. Since the formation of the Society, tracts and leaflets have been issued to the number of 8,111,105. A proposal from the Durham quarterly meeting to embody a creed for the instruction of members was rejected, but it was decided to draw up a minute recommending the general instruction of members.

The Wesleyan Conference will hold its sittings at Bristol at the latter end of July. There will be about 180 candidates for the ministry. The number of members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society in Great Britain, as furnished by the May district meetings, is 352,288, against 372,938 last year, being an increase of 9350, with over 28,000 on probation.

The United Methodist Free Churches report an increase for the past year of over 1700 members.

The 400th anniversary of the introduction of printing into England by William Caxton was celebrated on Saturday afternoon, June 2, by a service in Westminster Abbey. The Jubilee of the Printer's Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum, was also associated with the celebration. Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," composed in 1840 in commemoration of the invention of printing by Gutenberg, was sung. Dean Stanley preached an appropriate and memorable sermon on Romans xiii. 12.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland commenced its sittings on Monday, June 4. The Rev. J. Menely (outgoing moderator), preached, and the election of a new moderator afterwards took place. The Rev. George Bullis having a large majority of votes, was unanimously elected to the office for the ensuing year.

A large gathering of children recently assembled in Westminster Abbey, and were addressed by Dean Stanley, who preached on the text, "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (1 John iv. 11.) His sermon lasted only about five minutes, and was beautiful in its simplicity and adaptation to the capacity of his hearers.

We have heard a great deal lately as to the impurity of the water we drink, and truly the condition of some of our public reservoirs is most alarming. Reform we must have, but while this is being tardily executed, we must protect ourselves, and this can be effected by no better means than by Bishop's Spongy Iron Filter, which we have recently seen and tested. It is unnecessary to enter here into a technical description of