

Notes of the Week.

A STRUGGLE is going on between the ministry and the Romish priesthood in Hungary. A piece of recent legislation bears that when priests baptize children of Protestants they must not baptize into their own Church, and must immediately notify the nearest Protestant pastor. The priests stubbornly decline to comply with the regulation, and the ministry are resolved, the sweeping majority which carried the law in the lower chamber having given them great courage, to confiscate the estates of the Church. These estates are said to be the most valuable ecclesiastical property in Europe.

A CONTEMPORARY says: One has heard too much about the pious peasants of Ober-Ammergau, and about the edifying nature of their performance—so much that it is gratifying to learn that the Prince Regent of Bavaria means to abolish the spectacle. The Passion Play is run, it seems, by a clique of Viennese Jews for their own advantage. Their conduct is precisely similar to that of their fellow-Israelites who hawk about the country cheap and nasty Roman Catholic pictures. The fashionable crowds who flock from the ends of the earth to gaze at a caricature of the tragedy of tragedies must be "edified" otherwise henceforth.

THE committee to which the United States Northern Presbyterian General Assembly committed the work of revising the Confession of Faith has just closed its session in Pittsburg. The deliberations of the committee are private. At least reporters are not admitted, and no extended account of the work done is given to the public in any form. It is understood that no extended publication of conclusions arrived at will be made previous to reporting to the General Assembly. Other meetings will be held in other cities, as may suit the time and convenience of the members.

THE Irish Presbyterian Churchman expresses a hope that the candidates for the chair left vacant by the death of Professor Bigger will either abandon the system of canvassing or conduct it on respectable lines. Canvassing, says our contemporary, is becoming the degradation of our Church. Canvassing for congregations is carried on even before they are vacant. Canvassing for professorships is carried on even before they are vacant. The same journal in congratulating the Rev. R. M. Edgar, of Dublin, on entering the twenty-fifth year of his ministry, expressed the hope that his great services will yet receive from the Irish Presbyterian Church a recognition worthy of the man and creditable to the Church.

ONE Sunday last month, says a correspondent of the *British Weekly*, Dr. John Hall, of New York, preached at Carlsbad in the little hall in the Kurhaus, in which the Presbyterian services are held. It was packed full, a hundred and forty-eight people being present, including a number of Episcopalians, who for once had deserted their beautiful church on the Schlossberg, and several Germans knowing English. The sermon was of the old-fashioned type, which alas, doubtless of necessity, is dying out, suggesting Robert Hall, and in some respects recalling John Cairns. The text was 1 John iii. 1-3, the heads being (1) The present position, (2) the future, and (3) the present duty of the children of God. There was no nineteenth-centuryism in the discourse; indeed it might have been preached, with scarce a sentence altered, by a minister of the apostolic church, or at any age of the Church's history, to any audience of professing Christians. The preacher's dignified presence, magnificent voice, perfect delivery and simple statement and enforcement of just the truths of his text compelled attention. One only needs to hear Dr. Hall preach, and be a little while with him, to understand how he has won the place which is his in the hearts of thousands of his countrymen of all denominations.

THE week beginning Sunday, November 9, has been set apart, as usual, by the International Convention and the World's Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations, as a season of prayer for the Associations and their efforts in behalf of young men. The American Associations have regularly observed this annual appointment since 1866, and each year abundant blessing has accompanied their efforts. It is hoped that the observance this year will be more general than ever before, and that it will be attended by an outpouring by the Holy Spirit upon the work and workers. The Associations have great cause for thankfulness to God in the marked prosperity that has attended the work during the past few years. With the enlarged opportunities for usefulness, that greater facilities afford, come increased responsibilities, and there is need of earnest prayer to God for His continued guidance and blessing, that the Associations may prove more than ever a helpful agency to young men. Though it may be impracticable for all the Associations to observe the entire week, none, it is hoped, will fail to observe at least the first day, Sunday, November 9.

THE Universal Scientific Alliance is about to open its quinquennial ballot in the five divisions of the world for the election of its president and of its first vice-president. It is known that this association, which numbers delegations in more than 400 localities, scientific consulates as it were, has for its end to furnish men of science, litterateurs and artists, who travel, at their arrival in each city, all the information they may require, and to bring them at once into relations with the most important persons of the place who addict themselves to the same studies. In case of sickness abroad, its members are cared for by the medical men connected with the institution. Among the persons nominated by the central committee for the presidency are cited: M. Leon de Rosny, retiring president, who has succeeded Messrs. Carnot, senator, and De Sartiges, former ambassador; Baron Al. Kraus, general delegate for Italy at Florence; M. Aug. Lesouef, commissary general for Roumania, and M. Celestin Lagache, former senator. For the vice-presidency, the Chevalier de St. Georges Armstrong, well known for his important works on International Law, and M. G. Eloffe, officer d'Academie, president of the Oceanic Society of France. For information address W. H. Vander Smissen, M.A., delegate of the Scientific Alliance at Toronto, or the Rev. Professor Campbell, LL.D., Presbyterian College, Montreal, general delegate for Canada.

TEMPORARY arrangements have been made for filling the chair of Church History in the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh. Professor Calderwood and the Rev. R. W. Barbour, of Bonskeid, have been appointed. No arrangement, says the *Christian Leader*, could have been happier in view both of the interests of the students and its effect in demonstrating the substantial unity of the two Churches than that by which Rev. R. W. Barbour, M.A., of Bonskeid, is to be associated with Professor Calderwood in the conduct of the Church History class next session. Mr. Barbour is a distinguished scholar, who last winter during Professor Lindsay's visit to India conducted the Church History classes in the Free Church College in Glasgow with conspicuous ability and success. It will be remembered that he was nominated in several Presbyteries for the chair which Dr. Marcus Dods now occupies; and he would undoubtedly have been most influentially supported had he accepted that nomination. An interim arrangement is deemed necessary in the United Presbyterian hall in order that the Synod may be left with a perfectly free hand at its meeting next year; and in casting about for the temporary assistance required Dr. Andrew Thomson was approached by the committee, but that venerable father of the Church quite reasonably declined on the ground of his pastoral duties being sufficient to engross all his time and strength. Some unwise complaints have been made of the choice of a minister of another communion; but no more will be heard of these. Meanwhile our United Presbyterian friends will do

well to prepare for a wise selection from the ranks of their own ministry of a thoroughly competent successor to the late lamented Dr. Duff. There need be no difficulty in a Church which possesses scholars of the calibre of Dr. Mair, Dr. Oliver, Dr. Fergus Ferguson, Mr. Watson, of Dundee, Dr. Orr, of Hawick, and Dr. Whitelaw, of Kilmarnock. The *Leader* then proceeds to boom Mr. Watson for the permanent occupancy of the chair.

IT requires considerable courage for a prominent literary man to come to the defence of Tolstoi's "Kreutzer Sonata." Andrew Lang has undertaken the task in a paper which appears in the current number of *Longman's Magazine*. He expresses the opinion that it is hard on Count Tolstoi to hold him responsible for the ideas about love and marriage of his murderous hero in his latest work. Why, he asks, should the famous Russian romancer not be satirizing rather than sympathizing with the "nonsense" entertained by an extremely ill-conditioned, homicidal Muscovite maniac? He thinks we might as justly make Shakespeare responsible for the conduct of Iago. These, says the *Christian Leader*, are not the terms in which to speak of this vile production. The American Postmaster-General has rightly excluded the book from the privilege of the mails, and we are glad to see that even the secular press of America is unanimous in condemning the work as a malignant piece of diabolism. It attacks the institution on which all civilized life, social purity and domestic happiness rest. It is deeply to be regretted that a Gifford lecturer should even seem to be an apologist for a novel so coarse and brutal, and which is calculated to have a pestilential effect. Mr. Wanmaker is not a man of letters, but in this instance his practical criticism is much superior to that of the accomplished Borderer. Mr. Lang seems to have acquired at Oxford a breadth that is, in some important respects, the reverse of an improvement on what he doubtless regards as the narrow notions that were formerly universal, and which are still widely prevalent in the vicinity of Selkirk.

A SCOTTISH contemporary says: Principal Rainy, who has been spending his holidays at Kerrysdale House, was waited upon by Rev. John Baillie, of Gairloch, and a number of elders, who presented an address condemning the use of instrumental music and "the special pleading for license" for Drs. Dods and Bruce which characterized Dr. Rainy's speeches in the Assembly. The document further expressed strong indignation at the reception given both in Edinburgh Presbytery and the Assembly to those who offered to prosecute a libel against Dr. Dods. The address closed with the declaration that the subscribers have no sympathy with the cry for a truce; they will agitate in every constitutional form, and they hope Dr. Rainy may be the instrument of restoring the Church to her former moorings. In his reply, which he has since committed to writing, Dr. Rainy acknowledged, as regards the case before last Assembly, that they had awakened serious concern among many friends of the Church, and that he could not wonder at it. He did not undertake to discuss the cases because he could not assume that all who had signed the address had read the works necessary to be before those who judged the cases. But he took exception to the use of the word rationalism in reference to the two professors. Dr. Dods was well known to be a strenuous believing man, whose faith had been tried against the whole force of the learned unbelief of our time, and was unshaken, and who had been the means of confirming many. In the times in which we live panic and exaggeration are as likely to do harm to the cause of truth on one side as carelessness and latitudinarianism might on the other. Dr. Rainy pressed upon the Highland elders that they would best acquire weight for their views and exert influence in connection with them by filling their place in the Church and doing its work. He closed with the assurance that he regarded the step taken by the elders in coming openly to him with the expression of their feelings as a manly and Christian step, and also as a friendly one, though he regretted their disapproval of his conduct.