

## Notes of the Week.

A MARITIME Province contemporary is responsible for the following. While the contribution plate was being handed round in one of our churches on a recent Sabbath a well known young man, who lives not 1,000 miles from Baddeck, dropped in a 5 cent piece, and, holding on to the plate, he took 4 cents change. After the plate had gone on its way he discovered that one of the cents was bad, and, calling to the plate-bearer, he exchanged the cent for a good one.

THE death is announced of Rev. A. Bryce Muir, of St. Paul's Church, Higher Tramere. Deceased, who was about forty-three years of age, died suddenly at the Isle of Man. He was a native of the West Highlands of Scotland, and received his education in Glasgow and in Germany. He was ordained a minister of the English Presbyterian Church of Otterburn, in Northumberland, on December 21, 1870, and after labouring there for three years he was appointed to take charge of St. Paul's Church, Birkenhead.

THE Rev. W. S. Swanson, Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, is actively engaged in stirring up the missionary zeal of the Church. He has just put forth a statement which shows that the native Church in Formosa, in connection with the English Presbyterian, which has 1,473 communicants, during 1886, contributed for the support of the Gospel ordinances and for missionary work the sum of \$2,143, more than double the sum contributed in 1885, and more than six times the sum contributed in 1882. Mr. Swanson regards this advance as remarkable and gratifying.

FOR a number of years the American Tract Society has issued the *Illustrated Christian Weekly*, an admirable family paper for old and young. It has been of uniformly pure and healthy tone, and the illustrations have been of the best. It has recently changed hands, the Tract Society ceasing its publication. It is announced that it will continue under the editorial care of Mr. O. A. Kingsbury, with Mr. W. J. Canfield as publisher. They state that it will be conducted on the same lines as hitherto, and that it is soon to be enlarged. It is hoped that under its new management it will become increasingly prosperous and useful.

MOST heartily, says the *Belfast Witness*, do we congratulate our excellent mayor on the high honour which was conferred on him on Monday last by the Lord Lieutenant, and most heartily do we wish long life and prosperity to Sir James and Lady Haslett. The other newspapers have expressed their pleasure at the distinction conferred on one of our worthiest citizens. We join in the feeling. But we have this additional source of pleasure, that the Knighthood has been conferred upon a worthy ruling elder of the Irish Presbyterian Church, a foremost worker in the Sabbath school cause, and an earnest total abstainer and promoter of temperance.

THE editor of the *Christian Leader* has this jotting in his note book: The secretary of a missionary society had extended his address, at a meeting to the not very great length of forty minutes, when a young man stepped up to the platform and placed his watch upon the table to imply it was time to stop. The speaker quietly pocketed the watch, as if it were a gift, and continued his speech. At the close of the meeting the impertinent youth was obliged to ask for the watch, and found a smart reproof for his insolence in the refusal to surrender it till an ample apology had been given. Even a prosy speaker should not be insulted by conceited impertinence.

IN the Province of Quebec the ideas prevalent in Ontario as to the sanctity of the Sabbath have not the same weight. In this Province there is a strong healthy feeling in favour of the maintenance of Sabbath

privileges. Attempts to curtail these are met with earnest remonstrance. It is otherwise in Quebec. The Fraser Institute, in Montreal has been opened on Sundays, and the Victoria Rifles Band has commenced giving sacred concerts on Sunday evening in Victoria Park. During the election contest in Ottawa County, Sabbath was the day on which the largest number of political meetings were held. Politicians and electors would greatly benefit if the Sabbath rest were respected.

MEDICAL men from almost all parts of the world have been holding a most important congress at Washington. Several eminent Canadian representatives of the healing art read papers and took part in the discussions. Such assemblages of distinguished members of the medical profession cannot fail to be advantageous to themselves and to the people generally, since the results of recent discoveries in medical science are thus brought more directly under the notice of those most immediately interested in the progress of their profession. The members of the congress were the objects of kind attention by the people of Washington, even the occupants of the White House showing them marked consideration.

THE *Almonte Gazette* says: In his sermon last Sabbath evening, Rev. Mr. Ross said that when the Perth deputation interviewed the C. P. R. superintendent for the purpose of obtaining better train accommodation than was given by the new time table, something was said about Sabbath desecration. "Sunday!" said the official in reply. "I don't know any Sunday! I have to work on Sunday the same as on any other day!" The able preacher did not fail to improve the occasion by means of the railway dignitary's curt but pungent reply. There is not a railway corporation in Canada to-day that does not compel many of its employees to violate their consciences by working on the Sabbath; and it seems to be getting worse in this respect year by year.

WE observe with some astonishment, remarks the *British Weekly*, the eagerness with which some Church journals fasten upon every admission of weakness or fault on the part of Dissent, and every tribute paid by Nonconformists to the Church of England. It betokens not cowardice, but courage, when a community faces the truth of its real condition, and seeks to have everything tested by the light. If Dissent were decaying, as many would fain think, it would be loudly proclaiming its health. Besides, what consolation can be derived by one Christian community from the weakness of another? If religion wanes in the Nonconformist Churches it will wane in the Establishment. It is not only uncharitable, it is the highest degree unwise, for one Church to gloat over the weakness of another.

THE *Interior* says. The arrest and imprisonment of Rev. E. F. Doane, a missionary of the American Board in the Caroline Islands, by the Spanish authorities of those Islands, on the false charge made under the influence of inimical foreign traders, has elicited no little anxiety as to the future of the missionaries and their work. Although Mr. Doane was released after a confinement of three or four weeks, he and his associates fear that the Spanish authorities will break up the mission by prohibiting the attendance of scholars. The unjust arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Doane should command the prompt and efficient attention of our Government which, while it cannot interfere in strictly missionary matters, can and must protect the civil rights of its citizens. This, we understand, it will at once proceed to do.

THE *Christian World* says: Mr. Langworthy, figuratively on his knees before the Official Receiver, begging pardon for his contempt of court, must have been an exhilarating sight to whoever was present as representing the *Pall Mall Gazette*. That evening paper, with a vigour, pertinacity and generosity which all must admire, took in hand the claims of the

lady he had so cruelly deserted and trampled upon, held up her ruthless persecutor in his true colours, and obliged the millionaire to provide for his victim. To oblige him to come over from South America *in propria persona*, and purge his contempt, was a crowning triumph over the false and heartless wrong-doer. Never, even in the pages of romance, was retribution more complete, or the power of the press and public opinion in a good cause more thoroughly exhibited.

THE *Southern Cross* says: There is, at last, the prospect of the Scots Church pulpit being happily and adequately filled. The charge has been offered to Mr. Barclay, who was formerly a colleague of Dr. M'Gregor, of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, one of the largest congregations, after that of Dr. Cameron Lees, of the Established Church in Scotland. Mr. Barclay is at present in Canada, having not very long ago accepted a call to a leading Church there, at a salary of \$7,000 per annum. It is understood, however, that if only for the sake of escaping the bleak Canadian air and gaining a more genial clime, Mr. Barclay is likely to accept the present call. In that case he will be an accession of the first order to the ministerial ranks of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Mr. Barclay is in the prime of life, and is said to be a man of great culture and refinement, and, in addition to his scholarly qualities, to be a splendid organizer. He excels both in pulpit power and in parochial organization. When Mr. Barclay, or any minister of his type, stands in the pastorate of the Scots Church, the last syllable in a very troublesome chapter of ecclesiastical history will be happily written.

IN a finely appreciative sketch of the late David Kennedy, in the *Christian Leader*, the following passage occurs: One of the most striking features of Kennedy's life was the fidelity with which he adhered in all his wanderings to the religious principles and the practice which had been instilled into him by his good old father and his early teachers. Wherever he went he connected his work with the Christian Churches; and on the Sabbath he and his family were sure to be at the service of the congregations, seeking to communicate an impulse that might improve the praise. Nor did his art lessen his keen relish for the Gospel message. His letters show that this had the first place in his heart. From Melbourne, writing about kirks and preaching, he says: Nothing will make up for the want of heart. Neither grace nor gerse (grass) will grow without warmth. I really now place heaven-born zeal above mere talent—earnest men, though somewhat commonplace, do more than polished, clever, cold brains. "Give me thine heart," is the cry of God and man. I have starved the last two months. We have coldness and commonplace—ouch, awful. Thank God we have the Word, so can never really starve.

ANOTHER theatre horror has filled hundreds of homes with mourning. This time the scene of disaster was Exeter, England. The fire broke out on the stage, and the material being of such inflammable nature, the flames spread rapidly. The building, it is said, was constructed according to latest designs, but the gallery, into which so many were crowded, had only one exit, and that by means of a comparatively narrow stairway with a rectangular turn. It is evident that even the latest designs can be considerably improved upon, if safety to life is taken into account. One thing seems evident from the descriptions that have yet appeared, many, if not all of the victims might have been saved but for the panic that instantly arose. It may be doubted whether fire or panic is the worst foe to human life. Consternation at even a false alarm of fire has often cost many lives. Might not the children at school be trained how to act in any sudden emergency? Coolness, presence of mind, and a less absorbing sense of self-preservation, a willingness to face death calmly if need be, would save many lives in moments of peril, and would certainly be more creditable to humanity than blind, instinctive rushing on destruction, which most great accidents reveal.