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Notes of the Week.

PROFESSOR DUFF in his closing address as Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod said: With other denominations they had maintained fraternal intercourse, and the visit from the Irish deputies would be a memorable one. The members of Synod listened to them with profound attention, and expressed deep sympathy with their Church in the anxieties they felt for their unhappy country. But whatever changes may be impending, they hoped the rights of conscience would continue to be as much respected as before; that they would be neither privileged nor persecuted, but, like other Churches, have the protection of law, and continue to be recognized by law in the enjoyment of perfect religious equality.

By the resignation of Miss M. Ross, who has for several years faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties of Lady Principal in the Brantford Ladies' College, there is a vacancy in the College Faculty. There is scarcely a position in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada where a lady possessed of the necessary education, refinement and Christian culture would have a better field for the exercise of her talents, in developing in the daughters of our Church a mind and character that will enable them to adorn the places they may fill in after life. The salary offered is very liberal. The college residence is most delightful, while the social advantages render the position still more desirable.

Two years from now another notable centennial celebration will be held in the United States. The General Assembly at Minneapolis has given attention to the subject, and, in the large-hearted, generous way characteristic of Presbyterianism, seeks the co-operation of other members of the Presbyterian family. A cordial invitation has been extended to the Southern Church with the view of securing united action. This invitation, it is needless to add, will be accepted in the same spirit in which it is tendered, and the fraternal relations, of which so much has been heard in recent years, will doubtless become closer still. If separate organizations survive till 1888, it is almost certain they will blend harmoniously soon afterward.

THE Committee on the Centennial Assembly reported, recommending that the one hundredth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States be held in Philadelphia in 1888, that one day of that Assembly be specially devoted to the presentation of historical and memorial addresses by persons previously appointed, and that a Centenary Fund of \$5,000,000 be raised by the Church. This fund is to be devoted to the permanent endowment of the Board of Ministerial Relief and Aid for Colleges, in sums of \$1,000,000 and \$500,000 respectively, to the endowment of the other Boards of the Church, in sums sufficient to meet all the costs of administration, and to the endowment of the theological seminaries of the Church. The report was unanimously adopted.

LAST week the President of the Toronto Board of Trade, on his return from Britain, in an interview referred to the dilatoriness displayed in completing the Canadian department of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. It is to be regretted that those interested were not up to time. It is certain, however, that Canada is making a most creditable exhibit of her resources, industries, manufactures and arts. The handsome and carefully arranged official catalogue of the Canadian section of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition would of itself convey a most favourable impression of the variety, interest and completeness of Canada's representation at an Exhibition embracing the industrial and commercial resources of the British Empire throughout the world.

THE United Presbyterian Synod considered the question of more extended lay representation in the Church Courts. Several overtures were presented

asking for such extension. The practice in the U P Church hitherto has been to elect elders to represent the congregations only to which they belong. It is proposed that, as in the Church of Scotland, in the Free and in the Canadian Churches any elder may be eligible. One of the overtures craved a fuller representation of sessions in Church courts than now prevails. The point in which the overtures agreed was that instead of being chosen by the session, the representative elder should be elected by the congregation. A motion approving the principle of the overtures and the remission of the subject to Presbyteries was adopted.

VARIOUS subjects of interest were under discussion in the United Presbyterian Synod during its meeting in Edinburgh. Inefficient pastorates was one of these. In the Free Church and in the Australian Church the same subject has come up for consideration. It is not to be expected, neither is it desirable, that radical changes should be suddenly introduced, and for these there seems to be no eagerness. After considerable discussion, in which various views were expressed, among them the shelving of the question altogether, the introduction of a complete system of Presbyterian visitation and the appointment of a committee to consider the whole question were proposed. The latter proposal carried. On the presentation of the committee's report, the subject will be brought before the Synod next year.

WHEN the Royal Society of Canada was formed it was subjected to a keen critical fire. It has, however, gone on steadily doing its work, and is from year to year growing in importance and influence. The annual meeting was held in Ottawa last week, and several of Canada's most distinguished scientific and literary men took an active part in the proceedings of the society. Some of these are men of world-wide reputation, and their contributions to the republic of learning are regarded as authoritative. There is nothing invidious in referring to the learned Principals of McGill and Toronto Universities, the former the president-elect of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and the latter, famous alike in archæology, ethnology and general literature, and both sincere and humble-minded Christian men. The Historical Society of Winnipeg was also ably represented by Professor Bryce.

THE protracted controversy occasioned by Dr. Woodrow's views on evolution has now reached a definite stage. The General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, meeting at Augusta, Georgia, by a vote of 137 to thirteen, adopted the following deliverance: The Church remains at this time sincerely convinced that the Scriptures, as truly and authoritatively expounded in our "Confession of Faith" and Catechism, teach that Adam and Eve were created body and soul by immediate acts of Almighty power, thereby preserving a perfect race unity, so that Adam's body was directed and fashioned by Almighty God without a natural animal parentage of any kind, out of matter previously created of nothing, and that any doctrine at variance therewith is a dangerous error, inasmuch as by methods of interpreting Scripture which it must demand, and in consequence, which by fair implication it will involve, it will lead to denial of doctrines fundamental to faith.

OUR Episcopalian brethren claim, not unreasonably, to be liberal-minded and tolerant in their treatment of those who differ from them. But in the Anglican, as in other communions, extremes meet. Our contemporary, the *Dominion Churchman* , prints a letter from a correspondent who concludes his lucubration thus: Regarding Dr. Carry's postscript in your issue of 6th inst., I should like to say that I have not seen, nor do I intend to see, the Revised Bible—either Old or New Testament. The Church is the witness and keeper of Holy Writ—the custodian of God's Word; and when she, or that part of the Holy Church represented by the Convocation of Canterbury, commits the re-translation thereof to heretics

and schismatics, she is guilty of an act of unfaithfulness, which I—drop in the ocean though it be—will not countenance. Let the revision be revised by a committee of faithful Churchmen, High and Low, and I think thousands will accept that who reject the late.

AN exchange says. At its meeting in Winnipeg, the Presbyterian Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories passed a resolution urging that greater care should be taken in the selection of Indian agents. The members of the Synod have seen, to their sorrow, that in the past the Dominion authorities have deemed any worn-out ward politician, however objectionable his habits or loose his principles, well fitted to be given charge of Indian affairs in the North-West. The result has been that the red man could no longer rely on being honestly treated; he was swindled out of the supplies voted to him; and bad pork was palmed off on him, though the country paid for it at the rate of over twenty cents a pound. Hence when trouble arose in the North-West through the Government's neglect of the Half-breeds, many of the Indians joined in the rising. If disaster is to be avoided in the future, the advice of the Synod must be adopted, and none but honest and capable men appointed to offices of trust.

LEOPOLD VON RANKE, the aged and renowned German historian, died in Berlin lately. He was born at Wiehe, in Thuringia, on December 21, 1795, and was therefore in his ninety-first year. He was the eldest of four brothers. Having been educated for a school teacher he was at the age of twenty-three appointed head master of the gymnasium at Frankfort on the Oder. At the age of twenty-nine he published his first works, "The History of Roman and German Nations from 1494 to 1535," and "Criticisms upon Modern Historians." These works brought him a professorship of history at Berlin in 1825, a position he retained until his death. The work which first gave him European reputation was entitled "The Popes of Rome." This work appeared in 1834. In 1841 he was appointed by the Government Historiographer of Prussia; in 1848 he was elected a member of the National Assembly at Frankfort; in 1866 he was ennobled by the Government, and in 1885 the sixtieth anniversary of his Berlin professorship was celebrated. The great work of his life, a history of the world, was projected after he was eighty years of age. It was to be in nine volumes. Six of these have been completed, and it is believed that he has left sufficient notes and documents to permit at least one more to be prepared by his literary executor. His wife was an Irish lady.

THE report on the general statistics of the United Presbyterian Church for the year 1885, submitted to the Synod by the Committee on Statistics, states that the number of congregations on the Synod roll is 557, a decrease of two on the preceding year. The number of baptisms reported by these was 9,755, a decrease of 462. The number of Sabbath schools is 862, nine less than in 1884, where instruction is given by 11,724 teachers to 94,103 scholars; there are 763 advanced Bible classes. During 1885 the increase in membership has been 1,255, the total membership being 181,146, giving an average to each congregation of 325. During the year the membership has decreased in eleven Presbyteries. There are, however, 294 congregations out of the 557 in which the membership has increased, but in 176 of these the increase has not exceeded ten. The aggregate congregational income for congregational purposes has been for 1885 \$1,228,185, a decrease on 1884 of \$110,540, and giving an average of about \$7 per member. The total congregational income for missionary and benevolent purposes has been \$395,895, a decrease of \$26,150 on the preceding year. Under the head of legacies and donations, the contributions have been \$215,499, exceeding the income from this source for 1884 by \$27,840. The total income from all sources has thus been \$1,839,579, being less than the income in 1884 by \$101,400, there being fourteen Presbyteries, however, in which the income shows an increase.