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Notes of the Week.

THE number of new parishes erected and endowed in Scotland under the operation of the Endowment Scheme amounts now to 372, in addition to which forty Churches have been erected into *quoad sacra* parishes, raising the total number of parishes in the Church of Scotland to 1,335.

AT the Free Church Assembly missionary meeting, addresses were delivered by Dr. Hendry, from British Central Africa; Rev. Principal Hector, Duff College, Calcutta; Rev. Dr. Stewart, from Lovedale, South Africa; Dr. Dyer, from the Aborigines of Santalia; and Mr. A. H. L. Fraser, Commissioner, from the Central Provinces of India. Five young men were presented for missionary work abroad, four of whom are going to found a new station in Africa.

A GENIAL writer, in an interesting paper in the *United Presbyterian Magazine*, describing the recent U. P. Synod meeting in Edinburgh, says Dr. Munro Gibson's "genial" personality took all hearts captive before he said a word. "In fact he never needs to speak, only to beam, and he has an inexhaustible breadth of beam." Although he was the so-called stranger of the night on which he spoke, Dr. Gibson assured the Synod that he is U. P. to his long-lost back-bone.

THE *New York Independent* says: Justice Kilbreth says that every year the Tombs Police Court disposes of 15,000 to 20,000 cases of women and 40,000 to 45,000 cases of men arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, drunkenness being the main cause. Let some statistician figure out the results in dollars and cents and then put over against the sum the amounts received for the license of the saloons. That is the way to find out whether license is a cheap and effectual way of dealing with the liquor question.

WHILE the bacarat scandal trial was proceeding in Lord Coleridge's court, the *Christian World* says it illustrated once again how the ineradicable worship of rank is conjoined with the most passionate love of scandal. The people who are so anxious to bend the knee to royalty are also most eager to watch the tortures of a royal personage in the witness box, and would probably not "for worlds" miss the execution of a king if it were the custom to decapitate kings nowadays. Such parasites float, like microbes in a sunbeam,

In that fierce light that beats upon a throne
And blackens every blot.

THE famous Castle Church, at Wittenberg, to the doors of which Luther nailed his ninety-five theses on October 31st, 1517, and in which he and Melancthon are buried, is undergoing a thorough restoration. This was a favourite project of the late Emperor Frederick III., and was begun under his auspices while still Crown Prince. His sickness and death interrupted the work, but the present Emperor has enthusiastically resumed the undertaking as a sacred inheritance from his father. The entire inside of the church is being renewed at a lavish expense, and two towers are being erected. Since 1781, the third centennial anniversary of the great Reformation, iron doors, on which the theses of Luther are seen, together with other reminders of those great days, have been added to the building, by the Prussian King, Wilhelm III.

THE announcement of the sudden death of Dr. Van Dyke has made a profound impression in the American Church. The doctor had hosts of warm, personal friends, to whom his death is a sore loss. The Philadelphia correspondent of the *New York Evangelist* says: He has preached frequently in the pulpits of that city, especially in former years, and always with great acceptance. His recent election to an important professorship in Union Theological Seminary had called renewed attention to him, and awakened fresh interest among his friends. His death, coming so soon after his call to this new position, is a peculiar loss. We must believe that God has a wise end in all that He does, and our faith must not falter.

THE Rev. W. J. Dawson, of Glasgow, gives a remarkably graphic account of Monte Carlo in the *Young Man* for June. Of all the faces at the gambling tables those of the croupiers struck him as the worst. "Low browed, thick jawed, with cunning eyes and fixed insolence of aspect, there was not a man amongst them who was not repulsive. There was not an attendant in the place who had a fairly decent face. All were stamped with the same curious indefinable degradation. Blackguardism looked out of their furtive eyes and was written on their scowling crafty countenances. And the more I surveyed them the more keenly conscious did I become of the moral pollution in the air. An odour of evil breathed through the whole place. I wondered how long it was since those rascally attendants had wiped up the blood stains on the marble steps, and hidden the body of the suicide in some safe secrecy."

THE General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church met in May Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast, on Monday, June 1st, when the retiring Moderator, the Rev. William Park, M.A., preached from 1 Kings, xvii. 1.—"As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand"—a thoughtful and eloquent sermon; after which he constituted the Assembly, and in an able address reviewed the progress and success of the Church during the past year, and then dwelt on some present-day questions that closely affect her interests. Dr. Brown (Limavady) was unanimously chosen Moderator for the ensuing year. He is a much older man than Mr. Park, and has for years taken an active part in Church events and politics. He is a genial, kindly man, and popular with a large section of the Church. After thanking the brethren for the great honour they had done him, he delivered an exhaustive address on the leading features of the day in religion and politics.

A SPECIAL meeting of the directors of Union Theological Seminary was held recently at which action was taken respecting the vote of the Presbyterian General Assembly disapproving the appointment of Professor Briggs. All the directors were present except three. It is stated that the directors had before them carefully prepared legal opinions by William Allen Butler and ex-Judge Noah Davis, taking the position that it was competent for the Board of Directors at any time to recall the agreement made with the Presbyterian Assembly in 1870. After considering the matter for some time the directors, by a vote of nineteen to two, Dr. John Hall and Professor Prentiss leaving before the vote was taken, adopted the following resolution: That this Board of Directors after having taken legal advice, and after due consideration, see no reason to change their views on the subject of the transfer of Dr. Briggs, and feel bound, in the discharge of their duty under the charter and constitution, to adhere to the same.

A LARGE gathering congregated at the Toronto Mission Union Hall last week, when the Union celebrated its seventh annual meeting. Mr. A. Sampson presided. A substantial lunch, with tea and lemonade, was served, after which Mr. A. Burson, the president of the Union, the Rev. Mr. Baldwin and Rev. Dr. Sterling, of New York, gave concise addresses. Miss Annie Boyce, who for five years has been engaged in mission work in the east end.

is about to leave for Chicago. She was presented with a very touching address and purse by Mr. H. O'Brien on behalf of the mission. The mission work for the past year is reported as progressing favourably. There are five branches in the city. Their work includes classes for Bible study, young women's work, sewing, drill for boys and truant classes. They also have day nurseries for the children of women who go out to work; there are employed five trained nurses who nurse the sick at their homes gratis; there is a home for aged women, and the members of Mr. S. H. Blake's class at St. Peter's Church have maintained for the last two years a soup kitchen in Sackville Street. The receipts of the mission during the year were \$26,575.71, and the expenditures \$25,590.21. There were received \$2,500 from the bequest of the late W. Gooderham and \$500 from that of T. M. Thomson.

THE *Belfast Witness* says: Of the deputies which have appeared at the Irish General Assembly, it is unquestionable that the most telling speech was made by Rev. Chevalier Prochet, deputy from the Waldensian Church. That he is a man of great mental vigour and spiritual power was evident to all, and the fact that he was a deputy from a Church which has made such a heroic defence of Protestantism in a country which is the stronghold of the Papacy, made him, independent of his speech, a welcome visitor. Dr. Monro Gibson spoke well for the English Presbyterian Church, but those who know him best assert that they never heard him speak so poorly. That he was not at his best may be admitted, but when he is at his best, it is a best which is hard to beat. The speeches of Rev. James Brown and of Mr. Ferguson were well received. It was a great pity that the House was so thin when Dr. Burns, of Halifax, Mr. Copeland, of New Hebrides, and Mr. Dickson, formerly of Ballycarry, were introduced. It is hard to speak to empty benches. If an audience is necessary to effective speaking, these brethren would have electrified a full House, for even though the audience was sparse the impression on those who remained to hear was great. The Moderator has been very happy on several occasions in conveying the thanks of the Assembly to deputies, but he has never been more happy than in the few sympathetic words he addressed to those who spoke for the Colonies.

SOME four centuries ago, says the *Christian Leader*, Spain was in the plenitude of her power. Germany, Italy and France watched her every sign as a behest or as a warning. Mexico and Peru and the West Indies poured treasures into her lap. Her grandees were the most polished of men; her literature was of great renown; her liberties were secured by wise laws. She was then seized with the infatuation, that ever tempts the mighty, that she could make the mass of her empire uniform. The Inquisition was founded to harry Jews and worry Protestants; and wars were made, as in the Netherlands, for the same end. Since then her decadence has been slow and certain; and she has shrunk into one of the minor powers that are of small account. A comparison is not far to seek. The Russian empire has been growing in its range; it has expanded its commerce; it has liberated its serfs, and organized a local government; it has grown a literature of peculiar and excellent quality; it has become equal in the comity of first-class powers. Now it is starting with pertinacious obstinacy on the same path to perdition that Spain did, it must eventually end in the same manner. Finland is being robbed of ancient privileges and a native language, the Lutherans of the Baltic provinces are being subjected to privations and forced into orthodoxy; Moscow and Odessa and the regions about are to be depopulated of the Jews, the Stundists—simple, poor and multiplying—are brought under the harrow; and the steppes and mines of Siberia are filled with the graves and groans of exiled hosts. The lessons of history are not false; there can be but one issue—a growing debility, then dismemberment, and then collapse. In some respects Russia's threatened rottenness involves a greater difficulty to Europe than that of Mohammedan countries, even of Turkey.