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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE late Horace Greeley made a very pithy and pointed remark when he said, concerning the Bible and public schools:—"It seems strange that the book which we regard as the best in the world should be the only one excluded from our schools."

MR. HORATIO C. KING has withdrawn from the charge of the publishing department of the "Christian Union," in order to devote himself to the "Orpheus," a musical publication whereof he has become co-editor and proprietor. His past services are very highly spoken of by the "Christian Union."

THE students of Knox College on a recent occasion held a pleasant meeting, at which Mr. Donald Ross, M.A., was made the recipient of a handsome present of a copy of Chambers' Encyclopedia by his fellow-students, in token of their appreciation of his devoted and disinterested efforts in advancing musical culture in the College.

FIFTY-FIVE years ago John Ross went from Scotland to South Africa as a missionary. He is there yet, and does some work still. He has never been at home since he left Scotland in his early youth. He has worked steadily on, quietly, persistently, and with constant success. Is not that a record worthy of note? Moreover, he has two sons who are admirable missionaries.

SIR ALEXANDER GORDON, M.P. for East Aberdeenshire, has given notice of motion as follows for "an early day":—"To move"—"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a Commission to inquire into the causes which keep asunder the Presbyterians of Scotland, with a view to the removal of any impediments which may exist to their re-union in a National Church, as established at the Reformation, and ratified by the Revolution Settlement and the Act of Union."

THE last lecture of the course on "Presbyterian Topics," in aid of the Library Fund of the College, will be delivered in Knox Church, Montreal, on Thursday next, the 28th Inst., by Rev. Principal Macvicar, LL.D., on "The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church." We are glad to know that this has been a successful course and doubt not that the closing lecture will be one of the most interesting and profitable of all. Such a subject in the hands of Principal

Macvicar will be treated in a masterly way, and should be heard by all the Presbyterians in Montreal.

THE Scotch people are beginning to move with decision against the proposed establishment of a Papal Hierarchy in Scotland. A conference of Protestant delegates has been held in Edinburgh, and arrangements made for public meetings in that city, Glasgow, Greenock, and Dundee, to protest against the papal usurpation. One gentleman, Mr. William Kidston, an enthusiastic follower of Dr. Begg, has subscribed \$25,000 to a fund to defray the expenses of a legal process against the designs of the Papacy. The Presbyteries are also adopting protests against the hierarchy.

AT the present time the Free Church of Scotland has a larger number of students in attendance at her Divinity Halls than for several years past. During this session the number of regular students preparing for the ministry of the Church at the colleges in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, is 196, of whom fifty-seven are first year's students. For the four preceding sessions the average attendance was 166, and of first year's students forty-three. Besides the regular students of the Free Church, there are forty belonging to other Churches at home and abroad. Amongst the students are young men not only from England and Ireland, the Colonies and the United States, but from Italy, Bohemia, Hungary, and Russia.

THE many friends of Professor McKerras throughout the Church, will be grieved to hear of his illness, and will pray earnestly for his complete recovery. The College is fortunate in having close at hand one well qualified to take up his work at a moment's notice, and continue it for the last month of the session. The Rev. Mr. Nicholson of Landsdowne was not only a distinguished classical scholar in his student days, but he has been engaged as a classical teacher ever since on the Pacific slope, until his return to the Kingston Presbytery last year. We hope to see Professor McKerras in his place at the General Assembly, restored to complete health by now resting for two or three months.

REFERENCE is elsewhere made at considerable length to the opening of the new Gerrard (lately Gould) Street Presbyterian Church on Sabbath last. There were three services, all largely attended. At the opening services in the forenoon the Rev. J. M. King, M.A., minister of the church, conducted the devotional exercises, which were followed by an earnest and appropriate sermon by the Rev. Wm. Donald, of Port Hope, from Isaiah viii. 13, 14. In the afternoon suitable addresses were delivered to the children of the Sabbath Schools by Rev. Mr. Donald and Dr. Burns. And in the evening, after devotional exercises by Rev. Principal Caven, D.D., the Rev. Dr. Burns, of Halifax, preached very impressively from Dan. ii. 34, 35.

THE Treasurer of the Ladies' French Evangelization Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada acknowledges with sincere thanks the receipt of the following contributions in aid of the French Protestant work in Montreal:—Rockwood, Ont., Rev. Arch. McNabb, \$5; Huntington, Que., per a friend, \$16; Mrs. J. Templeton, Blackheath, Ont., \$5; Nobleton, Ont., per Mrs. McFall, \$3; York Town Line, per Mrs. Arch. Heron, \$9.25; Dorcas Society, Knox Church, Montreal, per Mrs. Swan, \$5 and a parcel of clothing;

Womans' Missionary Society, Georgetown, Que., per Miss Muir, a large box of clothing. The treasury of the Ladies' Society is at present exhausted. To render unnecessary the contraction of the work, contributions are earnestly solicited within the next fortnight. These to be addressed to Miss H. M. Gordon, Kildonan, 1059 Sherbrooke Street, Montreal.

A DEPUTATION from the Foreign Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church recently waited on Dr. John Brown and Dr. A. Peddie, at their respective residences in Edinburgh, and presented them with a testimonial of silver plate, the gift of a few friends, in recognition, as stated in the inscription on each article, "of inestimable services gratuitously afforded for more than a quarter of a century in testing and conserving the health of their missionaries, and thus rendering his beneficent profession the handmaid of saving health among all nations." The testimonial in each case consisted of a solid silver centre-piece. It was arranged in tripod shape, with top supported by three fluted Corinthian columns, and on the base a standing figure of Æsculapius, specially modelled from a terracotta in the British Museum. The whole formed an appropriate subject, the Temple of the God of Healing being really a beautiful work of art in idea and realization.

IF a few more nuns could escape from their convents, and keep alive the feeling which has been excited at Reus by a young girl of that city regaining her freedom, convents will be doomed throughout Spain. Of course the young girl must be mad! No nun in her senses, if the Archbishop of Taragona may deliver judgment, would for a moment think of escaping from a convent. The girl's story, however, will carry far greater weight than the Archbishop's opinion, and as the people listened to what she had to say of the treatment she received, it is not surprising that the priests feared a conflict. The alcalde of Reus has refused to obey the Archbishop's command, the half-starved nun declaring that she will sooner go to the gallows than back to the convent from which she has escaped. The last news of her is that she is now in the home of her parents, and if public opinion does not very much alter in the city, the Archbishop of Taragona will find himself in a difficulty should he proceed to enforce his order.

ACCORDING to the recently published statistics of Victoria there is in that colony a population of 830,679. Of this number the Church of England is credited with 299,091 adherents; the Roman Catholics 198,067; the Presbyterians 131,098; and the Wesleyans 109,370. But these statistics do not represent the actual denominational preferences of the people, for it appears that the census enumerators are in the habit of classing those who do not claim connection with any other sect with the adherents of the Church of England. When the number of persons "usually attending" a place of worship is taken, the Wesleyan Church has the lead with 94,286; the Roman Catholic follows with 68,386; the Presbyterians with 63,220; while the Church of England has only 38,496 regular worshippers. In the number of registered ministers of religion, the Presbyterians take the lead with 157; the Wesleyans have 138; the Church of England 135. But the Wesleyans own 347 places of worship, the Presbyterians 602, the Church of England 424. In the sitting accommodation of churches the Wesleyans are far ahead of the other denominations.