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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Rev. Alex. McKay, D.D., East Puslinch, will (D.V.) preach in Knox Church, Kincardine, next Sabbath.

THE great scheme to raise \$500,000 for church extension by the Free Church of Scotland is prospering. More than \$200,000 have been already subscribed. Twenty-two gentlemen in Glasgow gave \$110,000.

A MISSION station may be destroyed by a very small instrumentality. The tsetse, an African fly, has appeared at Livingstonia, Lake Nyassa, and all the cattle are dead. Dr. Laws writes that a new site must be sought for.

COLONEL GORDON has contracted with English manufactures for four steel steamers, to be used in exploring the Albert Nyanza and the rivers flowing into it. The steamers will be packed for their destination in portable pieces of about two hundred pounds each, which can be put together on reaching the waters which are to be navigated.

THE Rev. John Hall, D.D., of New York, recently lectured on the "Hebrew Scriptures and the Sciences," before the Young Men's Hebrew Association of New York; and the "Jewish Messenger" calls it "a novel and gratifying spectacle,—this eminent Christian clergyman lecturing to a Jewish audience upon a subject so strictly in keeping with the object of the Society that every word of the lecture could be delivered without hesitation in the synagogue."

THE committee for the restoration of St. Giles' church, Edinburgh, have received a plan of the proposed improvements. It provides for the restoration of that part of the building formerly occupied by the Old church, and lately by the Trinity College Church congregation. The architect proposes to remove the walls which separate this part of the building from the recently restored choir of the High Kirk, and to open up the Montrose and Preston aisles.

ON Sabbath, the 17th inst., the West Twenty-third Street Presbyterian church, New York city, was totally destroyed by fire. It was a handsome and spacious brown-stone church, built in the year 1853. It cost when built, including the ground, about \$85,000, and was free from debt. There is an insurance of \$50,000 on the building and organ. The present pastor is the Rev. Erskine N. White, D.D. The Third Reformed

Presbyterian Church was burned at the same time. It cost \$30,000, and was insured for \$20,000.

THE following paragraph from the Winnipeg "Free Press" shows the zeal of the Roman Catholics to provide religious services on the Canada Pacific R.R. for the workmen. Our Church has as yet found no one to go, though the convener has made every exertion to find a suitable Missionary:—"Le Pere Baudin spent the last two weeks on a missionary tour, visiting the different camps along the line as far as Rat Portage. A movement is said to be on foot among the members of his church on contract fifteen to petition His Grace Archbishop Tache for a resident clergyman."

THE annual festival of the Sabbath School in connection with St. Paul's Church, Peterborough, was held on Wednesday evening, the 13th inst. After tea, Dr. Taylor, who, in the unavoidable absence of the superintendent, occupied the chair, opened the more intellectual part of the proceedings by a brief statement, indicating the prosperous state of the school and the great success which had attended it during the past year. The children and their friends, of whom there was a large attendance, were afterwards entertained with vocal and instrumental music, dialogues and recitations, until nine o'clock, when the meeting was closed by the pastor, Rev. E. F. Torrance, pronouncing the benediction.

GOSPEL temperance meetings have for some time been held at the Hall of the Gospel Temperance Union, No. 332 Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, and continue with very encouraging results. During the months of December and January last, fifty meetings had been held with the following results:—Number who signed the pledge, 1,440; number who arose at the close of meetings and others who remained for religious conversation, 376; number who gave strong evidence of their conversion, 92; number who were destitute and furnished with lodgings, 327; number who were furnished with meals, 399. In addition, families in great want and distress, who were known to be worthy, were provided with bread, sugar, coffee, etc.

THE FORMOSA MISSION.—The apprehensions regarding the fate of Rev. G. L. McKay, missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Canada to Formosa, caused by news of his death by violence, have happily been allayed. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College, Convener of the Foreign Missions Committee, has received a letter from Mr. McKay, dated Dec. 17th, and having the Amoy post-mark of Jan. 9th, in which letter the writer gives details of the riot at Bang-kah, the principal city in the Tamsui district, where Mr. McKay was trying to establish a mission. The mob pulled down the mission-house and threatened the life of the missionary, who stood out for a week against the rage of native fanaticism. Mr. McKay had left Tamsui, but promised to return again. The report of his death was probably telegraphed from Hong-Kong to Yokohama and brought to San Francisco by the steamer immediately preceding that which carried Mr. McKay's letter to Prof. McLaren.

A SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION in connection with the Presbytery of London is to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 12th and 13th of March. Rev. J. A. Murray will preside, and deliver the open-

ing address on Tuesday the 12th. Session to begin at half past seven p.m. The subject for discussion at that session is "The relation of the Sabbath School and of baptized children to the Church and to the family," to be opened by Rev. J. J. A. Proudfoot, D.D., of London. At the second session, which begins at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, the 13th, a discussion on the question, "How should a Sabbath School be conducted," will be opened by Mr. T. W. Nichol, of Sarnia; and on the same day at 2 p.m., the third session will begin, when Rev. George Cuthbertson, of Wyoming, will open the topic, "The great aim of Sabbath School work." "How best to secure the continued attendance of the older scholars, retaining them in the school, and leading them from the class to the Communion Table," will be discussed at the fourth session, beginning on Wednesday at 7 p.m., and will be opened by Rev. A. Henderson, of Hyde Park. These are important topics, and we have no doubt the discussion of them will elicit suggestions of much practical value.

THE following circular has been issued by the Sabbath School Committee of the Toronto Presbytery:—"DEAR SIR,—The Presbytery of Toronto, at its last meeting, had under consideration the *General Assembly's Circular on Sabbath School work*, and in connection with it passed the following resolution:—"That deputations of Elders or Laymen taking a deep interest in Sabbath School work be appointed to visit, when practicable, all the Sabbath Schools within the bounds, and report to the Presbytery as to the state of the schools." The Committee appointed in connection with the above resolution, respectfully request you to visit _____ Sabbath Schools, and would submit as an assistance to you in your work, the accompanying list of questions, which you will kindly answer and return to the Secretary (332 Jarvis Street). The Committee would suggest that your visits be made as soon as possible, in order that the report may be given to the Presbytery at its meeting in April next. Trusting that the work done, in the name of the Master, may prove congenial to you and a benefit to the schools, We are, Dear Sir, Sincerely yours, THOMAS KIRKLAND, Secretary. J. A. CAMERON, Convener. Toronto, 16th February, 1878. Name of Superintendent and School. How the Superintendent is chosen, and how often. Number of Teachers on the Roll. Average attendance of Teachers. Are Teachers' Meetings held? If so, how often, and for what purpose? Is there a training class in connection with the school? Number of scholars on the Roll. Boys— Girls—. Average attendance. Boys— Girls—. Is there a senior (or Bible) class? If so, how many scholars? By whom taught? Is the International Scheme of Lessons used? If not, what lessons are used? Is the Shorter Catechism regularly taught? Are the Psalms, or other portions of Scripture, committed to memory? How often are the lessons reviewed? By whom? How is the singing conducted? If hymns are used, What collection? Is there a library? If so, how many volumes? Are collections taken up every Sabbath? How are the necessary expenses of the school met? Does the school contribute to Missions, or other schemes of the church? Is the school kept open the year round. If not, how long? Does the Minister attend the school regularly? If not, how often? How many have united with the church from the Sabbath School during the past year? Remarks by deputation on the state of the school."