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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Guelph "Mercury" speaks very highly of the sermons preached in Chalmers' Church last Sabbath by the Rev. R. D. Fraser, of this city.

THE expenses of Stanley's great African journey, just concluded, have been about one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, borne equally between the New York "Herald" and London "Telegraph."

THERE is no abatement of the ravages by famine in the northern provinces of China. Vast districts were being completely depopulated, and there is no possible hope of relief this year, or perhaps next.

In a note just received from Rev. Dr. Black, Kildonan, Ma., we find the following: "Weather fine. Snow—but little yet—melting to-day (Jan. 14). No such weather since the first settlement, sixty-two years ago."

THE new French ministry has two or three Protestant members, among whom M. Waddington, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is conspicuous. Among the subordinate officials are a number of members of the Reformed Church.

ON Mr. J. L. Barron resigning the leadership of the choir of St. Andrew's church, London, he was made the recipient of a handsome gold watch, chain and seal, and a purse of money, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the church and choir.

AT the Fair held a few weeks ago in Scotland for hiring farm servants, an immense number attended, but a very small proportion got places—wages having gone down. A terribly hard winter is anticipated in England, Scotland and South Wales.

By "alien immersion," a term now in common use, some Baptists mean the performance of baptism by immersion by ministers of other denominations. The term is heartily condemned by many of the best ministers and laymen of the Baptist churches.

MR. THOMAS SPURGEON, a son of the great London preacher, set out some time since in enfeebled health for Australia. All the way out his health improved. He preached on shipboard with great acceptance, and now crowds wait on his ministry in different parts of South Australia.

A BILL is before the Legislature of Quebec to allow the minister and managers of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, to borrow a sum, not exceeding \$12,000, and to that end to mortgage their church property. It is

supposed this is to find means to pay the costs in the celebrated pew case.

AN ARCHBISHOP is what the Scotch Episcopalians want, or think they want. And (not being established) if they want one there is no reason in the world why they should not have one, or a dozen if they like, and so get the start of the Roman Catholics. Bishop Eden is the candidate for this glory.

THE Montreal "Witness" says: "We are informed that there is a brochure now in the press from the pen of Rev. R. Campbell, of this city, entitled 'The Pretensions Exposed of Messrs. Lang, Burnet & Co., to be the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.' It will be issued in a few days, and will be duly announced."

WITH reference to the appeal in last week's PRESBYTERIAN from Rev. C. Chiniquy in behalf of the poor and to carry on French work, we beg to remind our readers that the General Assembly have appointed a Board to administer this department of the Church's work, to whose treasurer all contributions should be forwarded.

A ROMAN Catholic priest at New Rochelle, N.Y., is emphatically taking a "new departure." It is informally asking that the Protestant Bible may be retained in all the public schools to the exclusion of the Romish version, rather than that both should be thrown out, and there be no religious exercise at all for the good of the young.

HUMBERT I., now King of Italy, is just approaching the completion of the thirty-fourth year of his age. He is five years older than his father, Victor Emmanuel, was at the time of the accession of the latter to the throne. He, like his father, is a trained soldier, and has been baptised by the fire of battle; but, unlike his father, he is addicted more to intellectual pursuits, such as study and authorship, and less to hunting and the gratification of the grosser appetites.

STANLEY, the great African Explorer, is making his way back to civilization. On reaching Cairo he was welcomed by the English and American residents, and the high officers of state, the Khedive presenting him the grand cross of the Medjidie, in token of his efforts in the name of humanity, science, and civilization. The highest honors await him in Europe from the learned societies which are eager to recognize his grand additions to the stock of human knowledge respecting interior Africa.

THE "Times," commenting on the claims put forth by a party in the Free Church for State honors and State pay, and at the same time claiming that the Church shall not only be independent of the State but above it, says:—"The demand is an old one. It was made by Hildebrand, and is the claim of the present Pope; it was the claim of John Knox, and it is the claim of Mr. Tooth. Ultramontane, Ritualist, and Scottish Puritan meet on the common ground of pretensions to absolute ecclesiastical power."

THE Presbyteries of Dublin and Belfast have nominated the Rev. William Fleming Stevenson, of Rathgar, Dublin, to the office of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church for the ensuing year. Mr. Stevenson is at present on an ex-

tensive tour through China and India, on a visit to the mission fields in these two countries, but he is expected home in April, and the general meeting in Belfast is in June. At a meeting of the Armagh Presbytery on Tuesday, the Rev. Jackson Smyth, of Armagh, brother to Professor Smyth, M.P., was also nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly.

THE Presbyterian congregation of Cookstown held its anniversary meeting on New Year's day. The attendance was good, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Fraser, Campbell, and Cochrane, and the choir of the church rendered with good effect some choice pieces of music. Such a good spirit was felt pervading the meeting that it was the unanimous opinion that such meetings did good, and it was resolved to keep up the anniversary of their church opening. We may also add that on the 16th January the annual meeting was held, showing total receipts of \$810. It is also pleasing to announce that the ordinary giving on the Sabbath has greatly increased during the past year.—COM.

THE First Essa Presbyterian congregation held a festival on Christmas, 1877, when the net proceeds of \$40 were handed over to purchase books for the Sabbath School Library. The annual meeting was held on the 12th Jan. Matters pertaining to a manse were laid before the congregation by their pastor, the Rev. Stuart Acheson, when it was unanimously agreed to pay rent in the mean time. The question of bricking and otherwise repairing the church was laid over to another meeting to be held soon. The finances of the congregation were put on a better basis by an increase of subscription to stipend which had been called for by the deacons. A course of evangelistic meetings in connection with this and the Rev. J. J. Cochrane's charge of Thornton, conducted by the pastors and elders, has been begun, of which you may hear more anon.—COM.

THE annual meeting of the Missionary Association of Chalmers' Church, Guelph, was held in the basement of the church on Monday evening, 14th inst. The President of the Association, Mr. Daniel McIntosh, occupied the chair. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises conducted by Rev. Thomas Wardrope. Mr. James Philip, the Secretary, read the Annual Report, which shows an increase in the contributions of the congregation for missionary purposes, notwithstanding the general depression in financial affairs. The total amount collected for the schemes of the Church in 1876, including the Sabbath School contributions, was \$518.46; the corresponding amount for 1877 is \$550. The lady collectors are highly commended in the report for their diligence and faithfulness. On motion of Mr. Melvin, seconded by Mr. Wardrope, the report was adopted. Addresses were afterwards delivered by Rev. Mr. Murray, of London, and Rev. J. C. Smith. On motion of Mr. Guthrie, M.P., seconded by Mr. David Stirton, the available funds (not including the Sabbath School contributions) were apportioned as follows: Home Mission Fund, \$100; Foreign Mission Fund, \$50; College Fund, \$80; French Evangelization, \$50; Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$40; Assembly, Synod and Presbytery Funds, \$32. There are not many congregations in the Presbytery of Guelph ahead of that of Chalmers' Church in the matter of missionary contributions.