

Notes of the Week.

ON the motion of Professor Selmond, Aberdeen Free Presbytery unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that the restriction of the occupancy of any chairs in the national universities to the members of a single ecclesiastical denomination is unjust, indefensible and not calculated to promote the best interests of the universities themselves.

It has been remarked, says the *Interior*, for the encouragement of reformers, that when one is swimming against the tide of public opinion he is certainly not a dead fish, since a dead fish floats with it. We regard it as more cheering still to reflect that reformers can beat all live fish records, by actually turning the tide of public opinion from a wrong to a right direction. Let the brethren who are swimming against the tide of public opinion which tolerates the desecration of the Sabbath, continue to head up stream. The whole body of water will flow their way by and by.

ANOTHER Zulu war seems imminent. They are said to be mustering in formidable numbers. All available forces in Natal have been hurried to the frontier and urgent calls for reinforcements have been sent to Capetown. These have been at once responded to, and a regiment, as well as artillery, horses and supplies, have been at once despatched to the scene of expected hostilities. While the British people were exercising themselves over a possible invasion of their island home, the enemy was preparing to strike at what they supposed a vulnerable point, thousands of miles away. What is the cause of the new Zulu war has not yet transpired.

THE *British Weekly* says: The great Missionary Conference, which was most appropriately to close on Wednesday with a protest against the Drink and Opium traffic, has been carried through with signal success. Without disparaging the services of others, it is only just to say that this is in large measure due to the organizing secretary, the Rev. James Johnston, (who visited America last year in the interest of the Conference) whose grasp of the whole subject, tireless industry, and dauntless courage have accomplished a great work. Not till the complete report of the whole proceedings has been published will it be known what a substantial contribution has been made to our knowledge of missions and the best way of working them.

THE Niagara Whirlpool has claimed one more fool-hardy victim. The unfortunate who tried to navigate its seething waters in a slender skiff lost his life in the attempt. If the poor man placed but little value on his life he had no right to sacrifice it while others were dependent on him. At the present time a man is endeavouring to cross the Atlantic alone in a boat of diminutive size. He may reach the other side in safety, or he may never more be heard of. His success would prove nothing; his failure would only be one more warning to those who purposely tempt Providence by setting the dictates of religion and common sense at defiance. It seems that cranks, like the poor, are always with us.

A SCOTTISH contemporary remarks that ministerial inefficiency is not the only reason why it would be well sometimes that a pastor and his congregation should part. There may be a want of adaptation producing baneful results. This reflection is suggested by the case of Claremont Street United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. Owing to painful differences between himself, the Session and the congregation, Rev. A. Scott Matheson has resigned his charge. There was no want of earnest devotion to duty on the part of the minister, who is animated by the most fervent spirit of evangelistic zeal: but the teaching was not suited to a west-end congregation, and the people ceased to attend. Mr. Matheson might ac-

complish a great work in some other place; and we hope to hear soon that he has obtained the sphere in which he will be useful and happy.

THE name of William Quarrier, the practical Christian philanthropist, is not unknown in Canada. Many of the orphans he has been enabled to rescue have found a friendly shelter and a sphere for honest and honourable endeavour in the Dominion. Last week he was in Toronto and addressed a meeting in St. James Square Presbyterian lecture-room giving interesting details of the work to which he has devoted the best years of his life. In seventeen years they had rescued more than 5,000 children, about 2,500 of whom were brought out to Canada. Children are taken into the homes at the rate of 450 each year, and they wanted to increase that number to 700. This was the reason for the necessity of twelve further cottages. Mr. Quarrier is a man of strong faith, great zeal and much earnestness. In combination with these good qualities there is not a little Scottish shrewdness which keeps him clear of the realms of visionary enthusiasm. His style of address is direct and simple, and his story is certain to elicit sympathy from all who listen to it. While there is a strong feeling in Canada that a particular class of emigration is in danger of becoming disproportionately large, none will withhold encouragement and sympathy from such a movement as that which Mr. Quarrier conducts with so much zeal and self-denial.

THE remonstrances against Sunday labour on the Canadian canals has as yet been without avail. The Ottawa correspondent of the *Empire* says: It is understood that all the St. Lawrence canals, including the Welland, will hereafter be open for the passage of vessels on Sundays until eight o'clock in the morning and after nine in the evening. The change has been made at the request of forwarders, who complain that they are heavily handicapped by the delay which the Sunday closing of the canals entailed. The Erie canal is open for traffic on Sundays and it was represented to the department that the St. Lawrence route suffered by the difference of a day which Sunday closing made. The men employed on the Canadian canals will be paid extra for the work they do. It will be seen that the moral aspect of the question is completely ignored. The violation of the Sabbath rest, and the encroachment on the workmen's liberties are apologized for on the ground that forwarders complain. Their complaints then are more imperative than the divine law, and more to be respected than the right to Sabbath rest. The men who have to work on that day are to have their consciences salved by extra pay. That the American canals are open on the Lord's Day is no excuse why the Canadian canals should be open likewise. The people who, with their eyes open, sanction the clear violation of a divine law for the sake of gain alone and justify their action by the bad example of their neighbours, will lose much more than they can possibly gain by the operation.

IT is the belief of the inhabitants of Iona, says the *Christian Leader*, that the Roman Catholics desire to obtain possession of the island; and from what we hear from other quarters we have no doubt that the Duke of Argyll would receive, were he willing to accept it, a very handsome price for that portion of his estates. The scheme that is simmering in the minds of the Roman Catholic dignitaries is to re-edify the ancient cathedral and to plant there a new colony of monks. This was not obscurely hinted at by the two ecclesiastics who addressed the pilgrims lately when they spoke of the imminent fulfilment of a prediction which one of their legends credits to the dying Columba. But the people of Scotland will keep their eye on that cathedral at Iona, which is, we presume, not the property of the Duke of Argyll though it happens to stand on the island of which he is owner. Why does not the Church of Scotland re-edify the venerable structure instead of resting content with a parish church that is more like a barn than a place of

worship, and which is actually below the level, architecturally and in every other important respect, of the very poorest Primitive Methodist chapel we have seen in rural England? It would be easy to raise the necessary funds for such a work of restoration. If the wealthy men in the Scottish Establishment are not prepared themselves to accomplish it, there are thousands of Protestants of all the Churches on both sides of the Atlantic who would gladly hasten to assist. That cathedral in the islands of the Culdees must not be allowed to go to the monks.

THE *Glasgow Leader* says: As Principal Cairns remarked at the celebration of the ministerial jubilee of Dr. Bonar on April 5 last, the occasion was historic and will be ever memorable. It is fitting, therefore, that a full and authentic record of the proceedings should be printed such as we find in the elegant pamphlet issued this week which bears the *imprimatur* of Messrs. Lorimer and Gillies, of Edinburgh. The addresses of Sir Thomas Clark, Sir William Muir, Professor Charteris, Principal Cairns, Mr. M'All, of Paris, Mr. James E. Mathieson, of London, Mr. J. P. Coldstream, W. S., and the other speakers each contain points of permanent interest and value. The brochure is one that will be eagerly sought for and highly prized by every lover of sacred song. Mr. Sloan tells us that shortly after he became Dr. Bonar's colleague he was speaking to him about his hymns, and inquired if he remembered particularly he times at which they were written. Dr. Bonar replied that he had kept no record as to when they were written, or the circumstances. Referring especially to the hymn, "I heard the voice of Jesus say," Mr. Sloan asked, "Do you remember when you wrote that?" "I think," replied Dr. Bonar, "it was a year or two after the Disruption." He added that the most of the hymns were written for the Sabbath school children of Kelso. Perhaps once a month, or once a quarter, he would write a hymn, and have it printed and circulated among the children, and it was sung in the Sabbath school. One thinks of the text "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward."

AN unusual ceremony was solemnized in Scotland lately. Well nigh 600 Roman Catholics assembled at Oban, and next day sailed on pilgrimage to Iona. The proceedings bore a double character. It was half a pietistic operation, half a holiday enjoyment. The company was very variously composed. Monsignore Persico was there, the two Scottish Archbishops, and other members of the Scottish Episcopate, a throng of priests and monks, a few members of the nobility, such as the lately-widowed Lady Lovat and her son, Lord Ralf Kerr, who is brother to the Marquis of Lothian, the secretary for Scotland, with his wife, Rev. Lord Archibald Douglas, a good many gentry and representatives of the middle class, with a very considerable sprinkling of humbler folks, who were not the least fervently devout. As the Hebridean trading steamer which conveyed them neared the island, the pilgrims gathered on her deck, said the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, and sang the hymns "Faith of our Fathers," and "Look down, oh! Mother Mary." After landing High Mass was celebrated within the ruins of the old cathedral, the Duke of Argyll having given his permission. Archbishop Smith, of Edinburgh, delivered a panegyric on the life and labours of St. Columba; the Bishop of the Diocese followed with a sermon in Gaelic; and then a couple of hours were pleasantly spent in walks and talks. There is not a single Roman Catholic inhabitant on the island; they are all Free Church folk; nevertheless, a good many of them, attended the service, and though, instigated by their own clergymen and yet more urgently by gratuitous advice from the outside, a few were sullenly discontented, feeling ashamed or deeming themselves insulted, nothing in the shape of protest or opposition arose to vex the visitors or mar their enjoyment.