

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

MR. GLADSTONE has received from Ireland a flood of communications expressing horror at that crime. Up to the time of writing the assassins have not been arrested.

THE death is announced of Dr. John Brown, of Edinburgh, author of "Rab and His Friends," and other delightful essays, and a son of the eminent Rev. John Brown, D.D. He was born in 1810.

JOSEPH COOK, after lecturing in Calcutta, went for rest to Dharjeeling, which is a sanitary resort on the Himalaya Mountains. His plan is to lecture in Southern India, then to visit Ceylon, Japan and Australia. He expects to return to Boston in December, and resume his Monday lectures in that city.

A REVOLUTION threatens Egypt, the Ministers having demanded the deposition of the Khedive, separation from Turkey, and the formation of a Government under Arabi Bey, the head of the army. Of course, Turkey and the Great Powers will not quietly submit, and another war cloud hangs over the East.

THE new bill for agrarian offences in Ireland appoints special commissioners of three judges, suspends trial by jury, gives almost unlimited power of search and seizure, and greatly increases the summary jurisdiction of magistrates. The Irish members protested energetically, Mr. Parnell predicting a disastrous failure.

AN article in the "Catholic World" speaks in condemnatory terms of Protestant missionaries bribing converts in China and India. It is known to everybody that Catholic missionaries in China buy subjects of Catholic grace out and out. How long has it been since we heard appeals for postage stamps to buy Chinese infants?

A BILL for the punishment of wife-beaters in England, introduced by four Irish members, proposed that persons convicted of assaults on women may be exposed in a public pillory, the words "woman-beater" or "wife-beater" to be placed on a board over the pillory. On a second offence within three years the offender may be whipped. The measure is not to apply to Scotland.

PRINCIPAL RAINEY, in his closing address to the students of New College, Edinburgh, said that while public questions, such as some of those now on hand, had great interest and importance, nothing was of such consequence as the rising of the spiritual and moral temperature of the Christian people of their congregations. That was, beyond all comparison, the first thing.

THE "Christian Leader," a Scottish journal, in a recent issue says:—"We have the best authority for stating that, in the event of no satisfactory overtures being made by the Established Church at an early date, it is the intention of Dr. Begg and Dr. Kennedy and their party to withdraw their opposition to the present Disestablishment movement, although they may take no active part in prosecuting it."

IN the Free Church of Scotland the organ question does not appear likely to reach high-water mark this year, but the agitation in favour of its introduction is making steady progress. The Synod of Irvine by fifteen to ten, and the Synod of Angus and Mearns by twenty-seven to twenty-four, have refused to transmit memorials to the Assembly on the subject. These large minorities indicate how steadily the tide is rising.

CONSIDERABLE attention is being paid by the Church of Scotland to Sabbath school teaching. Dr. Gray, of Edinburgh, mentioned at a meeting of Presbytery last week that throughout Scotland there are 1,900 Sabbath schools, with 17,000 teachers and 200,000 scholars, all in connection with the Church of

Scotland. In Edinburgh Presbytery there are eighty schools, with 12,371 scholars on the roll, and an average attendance of 9,338.

AUSTRALIA is feeling the need of taking steps to preserve its forests from destruction, both for the sake of keeping its supply of timber, and to prevent the long droughts and the increasing dryness of its climate, the result of its frequent bush fires. It is proposed to reserve a block of 200,000 acres for systematic tree-planting, and to expend upon it during the next twelve years the sum of \$650,000, with the idea that in twenty-one years the colony would possess 310 square miles of forest.

THE African traveller, Enim Bey, believes that there are yet three undiscovered lakes north of the Victoria Nyanza, and the missionaries of the Universities Mission east of Lake Nyassa believe that there is still another lake between it and the sea. This inclines the "Foreign Missionary," in view of those already named for Victoria, Albert, Beatrice, and Leopold, to the generous suggestion that the whole royal family of Great Britain may yet be accommodated with a lake apiece.

THE Bishop of Bath and Wells, at the annual meeting of the Bible Society at Exeter Hall, London, on the 3rd inst., approved of the decision of the committee to still adhere to the old version of the New Testament, but suggested that in translations great assistance might be derived from the extremely accurate scholarship of the new version. Speaking as one of the revisers, he understood that the chief objection to use the revised version was that in aiming at greater accuracy English phraseology did not equal the extraordinary beauty of the old version.

THE "Christian Leader" says: "Our Scholar Prince, the Queen's youngest son, is now happily married, though he was still suffering so much from the effects of the accident at Mentone as to need the support of a staff at his wedding. There is a difference of eight years between the Prince and his bride, and of course on the right side. It is a happy circumstance that the Princess Helen shares the intellectual tastes of her husband. Principal Tulloch was a guest at the wedding, and Lady Theodore Martin (Helen Faucit), who was also there, presented a Bible to the Prince."

REV. W. M'CAW, Manchester, was moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod this year. From statistics prepared by Prof. Leone Levi for presentation to the Synod, it appears that the Church is now made up of 275 congregations, besides several preaching stations, the communicants numbering 56,099, against 55,206 in 1880. The entire revenue of the Church has been £208,226, against £205,603 in the previous year. The contributions for missionary and charitable purposes were £35,000. It was reported that the thanksgiving fund amounts to £155,859, and the equal dividend paid to ministers had been maintained at £200. Rev. W. G. Elmslie, Willesden, was appointed permanent Hebrew tutor. A new hymn book was approved of. By 132 votes to 121 the Synod refused to allow elders to be moderators of Presbyteries or Synods.

IF proof was needed that this is indeed a utilitarian age, it could be found in the fact that even so great a natural wonder as Niagara Falls is not to be allowed to continue without paying its way. It is stated, apparently with authority, that a company of Boston and New York capitalists has been formed who have purchased the American Falls, and will use the immense water power to generate electricity for the country. This agency for lighting and motive power that is now coming into practical use depends greatly on continuous and uniform impulse. Of course this could not be secured so effectively from any other source. The company propose to conduct electricity through properly insulated cables underground to sixty-five prominent cities between Boston and Chicago. They

claim that the electric current will be as good and forcible 500 miles from the Falls as one mile.

THE English Government has offered a reward of £10,000 for the capture of the assassins of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Under-Secretary Burke, but no clue to the murderers' identity has yet been discovered. The indignation and the outrage is great, but the excitement has abated in some measure, and the fall of the Gladstone Ministry is not regarded as imminent. The secretaryship has been bestowed upon Mr. George Otto Trevelyan, and a bill has been passed giving the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland great powers in case of disturbance; but there has been no abandonment of the policy of conciliation. The funerals of the victims were largely attended, and their families have received much condolence. The Land Leaguers have everywhere denounced the crime, and it is only from a few radical Irishmen in the United States that any expressions of approval of the deed have been heard. In this city the cowardly assassination was condemned in very unmistakable terms by all the speakers at a large meeting.

PROFESSOR BARFF has given, before a meeting of the Society of Arts, a very interesting account of a new antiseptic, which will, according to the evidence, preserve animal or vegetable food perfectly fresh for many months together, so that no one who tastes it thus preserved is in the least aware that it is not quite fresh. This antiseptic is a compound of boracic acid with glycerine from which the water has been expelled, a compound which the Professor calls boroglyceride. It is as hard as ice at ordinary temperatures, but when warmed becomes partially fluid, and is then easily dissolved in hot water. Cream thus preserved has been sent all the way to Jamaica and to Zanzibar, arriving perfectly fresh and sweet; and oysters opened and preserved in the solution for many months were tasted by the audience, and pronounced as fresh as if they had been only just opened. The same result had been obtained with meat, fowl, fruits, and all sorts of food. If the boroglyceride is cheap enough—and it seems to be very cheap—it may revolutionize the price of food all over the world, and materially alter the distribution of the areas devoted to the production of food.

THE following are among the principal features of the new school law in France: 1. Instruction in primary schools comprises instruction in morals and civil duties; reading and writing; elements of the French language and literature; geography, especially of France; history, especially modern history of France; elements of law and political economy; elements of natural, physical, and mathematical sciences: their application to agriculture, hygiene, industrial arts, manual work, and the use of the tools of principal trades; elements of drawing, modelling, and music; gymnastics; for boys, military exercise; for girls, needlework. 2. The public primary schools shall be closed one day in every week, and every Sunday, in order to enable parents to send their children to religious instruction outside of the school buildings. Religious instruction is optional in the private schools. 3. Primary instruction is obligatory for all children of both sexes, between six and thirteen. This instruction may be given in public or in private schools; or at home, by the father himself, or any person he may select. 4. The parents or guardians have to inform the mayor of the commune, at least fifteen days before the opening of the schools, whether they intend to send their children to public or private schools. 5. The mayor of the commune prepares every year a list of the children of school age, and sends copies of the same to the directors of public and private schools and to the school inspector. 6. Whenever a child leaves a school, the parents or guardians must inform the mayor at once. 7. The expenses for building, furniture, and heating are at the charge of the commune, and the salaries of teachers and all other functionaries are at the charge of the State.