

## Notes of the Week.

A CONTEMPORARY writing on the condemned Chicago anarchists remarks: In effect, Spies and every other anarchist sets himself up as an individual judge of what is right and wrong, and will obey no law that does not stand this test. A society composed of such individuals could by no possibility become a state, and no government can afford to admit them. Indignation has prompted the writer to give vent to his feelings in a foreign tongue, not taught in our colleges. Translated, it would read: "No government can afford to admit them to the rights of citizenship."

ABOUT 5,000 Protestants of the Cevennes have celebrated, on the top of one of the mountains where their ancestors used to meet on Sunday, the centenary of the edict of toleration, signed in 1787 by Louis XVI. The ceremony is described by an eye-witness as singularly impressive. A rustic pulpit had been erected on the summit of the wild mountain which formed there a plateau. Thirty pastors, in black silk gowns, were seated in front, and on a ridge behind the congregation. A commemorative stone was unveiled by a patriarch of Cevennes, and Pastor Vigue, of the faculty of Protestant Theology of Paris, preached a sermon on religious toleration and kindness. He took his text from a passage in St. Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians on charity.

REV. SIMON FRASER, one of the most prominent figures in the Highlands at the Disruption, and in the conflict by which it was preceded, died last week in his eighty-first year, and was interred recently in the cathedral burying grounds at Fortrose, in presence of a large concourse of ministers from various northern Presbyteries. Born at Foyets, Mr. Fraser graduated at King's College, Aberdeen, and for several years acted as university librarian. In 1832 he emigrated to New Brunswick, where he laboured for seven years, returning to Scotland in 1839 to be ordained minister at Fortrose parish. Since 1843, he has been pastor of the Free Church there, and in 1885 was presented with a purse of sovereigns on attaining the fiftieth year of his ministry. He is survived by one daughter.

COMMENTING on Mr. Spurgeon's remark that a minister who desires to have his church filled has but to declare the old Gospel, the *Newcastle Leader* says: The fact is that no preacher who had half Mr. Spurgeon's power, whatever his doctrine might be, would ever find himself without a congregation. Powerful preaching is in itself an attraction, and people will go to hear it whether they approve of the preacher's dogmas or otherwise. In the end it is probable that they will be brought to approve. Stern doctrine uninterestingly set forth will indubitably empty churches; but so will any sort of doctrine. An able and interesting evangelical preacher need be under no apprehension that the rigidity of his teaching will empty his pews. The manner of teaching has quite as much to do with the filling of the churches as the character of what is taught.

THE sudden death of Senator McMaster has shown how high was the general esteem in which he was justly held. By his will, it is seen how he intended to dispose of the wealth he had acquired during a long life of business capacity and perseverance. The McMaster University was designed to receive the largest donation, the sum of \$800,000 having been devised to that institution. There has been much talk about the validity of the Senator's will. Legal pundits, like doctors, differ widely in their opinions. Some maintain that the money will be disposed of as the will directs, and others hold that since the Senator died within six months after the instrument was drawn, it may be regarded as invalid. It is rumoured that the courts will be invoked to decide on the validity of Senator McMaster's will. Another illustration of the wisdom of a man being his own almoner.

OCCASIONS are not wanting when it is necessary to call attention to the narrow exclusiveness with which one denomination sometimes regards another. It is much more pleasing to chronicle instances of brethren of different Churches dwelling together in unity. One such is noticed in the *Woodstock Standard*. The annual harvest home festival at old St. Paul's, it is almost unnecessary to say, was a success. The ladies of the congregation provided a splendid supper which was done full justice to before the service proper commenced. The impressive ritual of the Episcopal Church followed with special references to the bountiful harvest. Rev. Mr. Wade, the popular pastor, then took the chair, and appropriate addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Cuthbertson, McMullen, Hill and Trotter, of Woodstock; Gemley, of Simcoe; and Saunders, of Ingersoll; while the choir rendered several anthems in a very fine manner. The church was splendidly decorated with emblems of the harvest, and the many members of the other congregations were loud in their praise of the manner in which all the arrangements were carried out.

THE *Interior* remarks. There is said to be among the Hindus a greatly admired proverb which runs in this wise: "Never strike a wife, even with a flower." That is a Hindu theory. The Hindu practice is somewhat different and antagonistic. A Hindu recently burned the soles of his wife's feet to prevent her from running away to escape his cruelty. That illustrates the very prevalent Hindu practice of treating their wives worse than they treat their cattle. The man who declared that he could tell the character of a people from its proverbs showed that he carried a full cargo of self-conceit or of ignorance. There is no truth in any such idea. The worse the people, the better, as a rule, the theories enunciated in their proverbs by way of atonement for shortcomings. We might proceed to state that this kind of inconsistency—sound theories with lax living—is not fenced off from the church by high walls and deep ditches; that it scales both, and is sometimes urged as forcibly against Christianity as that of the Hindu is against Hinduism. But it should be remembered that these are the rarely exceptional cases and not the rule; although it sometimes appears as if there were a superfluous number of cases.

THE meeting in Shaftesbury Hall last week, in the interest of Queen's University, was both enthusiastic and successful. The position of Queen's is now clearly defined and cordially accepted. Its friends have elected not to enter confederation, and there the matter rests. There is no disposition to question the wisdom of the decision and no inclination to say harsh and ungenerous things because the overtures to accept federation have been declined. With chivalrous devotion, Principal Grant has set himself the task of raising a quarter of a million dollars, to complete the endowment of the University at Kingston, and it seems as if the work would be completed at an early date, so successful have been the Principal's efforts hitherto. The absence of Dr. Grant from the meeting was unfortunately unavoidable through illness, from which it is pleasing to state that he is gradually recovering. The communication read by Mr. Macdonnell was characteristic of the force and clearness with which Dr. Grant enunciates his views. Professor Watson's discourse on the requirements of Queen's and an ideal university was forcible and effective. The generous contributions already made by prominent citizens of Toronto indicate that the people of the Queen City will do what is expected of them.

THE fifth session of the Toronto Woman's Medical College affiliated with the University of Trinity College has just opened with very encouraging prospects. The staff of professors and lecturers is surprisingly complete for so young an institution. In the list are the names of several physicians who have more than a local celebrity. The new President of the Faculty is Dr. McPhedran, a choice which the future success of the college will doubtless amply justify. The faculty

reported that during the past year two ladies have received the degree of M.D., C.M., at Trinity College, and one has passed the primary examination, with first class honours in all the subjects, at the same institution. At Toronto University one lady passed the first year examination with first-class honours in Anatomy and second-class in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and another passed the primary. These five ladies form the entire number of students of the Woman's Medical College who presented themselves for examination at the universities, and it will be seen that, without an exception, they have done credit to the teaching they received. If the retrospect is thus satisfactory, the prospects for the future are still brighter. Already many names have been added to the list of prospective students, and the number who have expressed an interest in the college has largely increased.

THE advance of Presbyterianism in Belfast, remarks the *Witness* of that town, as indicated by the number and character of the new places of worship which are being erected in connection with it, is certainly as marked as it is gratifying. Sixty years ago the town contained but four Presbyterian Churches, two of them small buildings. To-day it has thirty-two, and in addition many new suburban congregations erected to accommodate the vast numbers of Belfast people who now reside in the outskirts of the town. Not only so, but the style of the modern churches, especially those erected of late years, presents a wonderful contrast to the appearance of the old buildings. More beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical architecture could nowhere be found than some of them. They are at once an ornament to the town and a credit to the body. Lately an addition was made to the list which cannot but be generally admired. We refer to the Crescent Church opened on a recent Sabbath, which was built for the accommodation of the congregation of Linenhall Street, who, under the earnest and able ministry of the Rev. John McIlveen, have found the old place too strait for them. Without and within it is a very beautiful edifice, designed with exquisite taste, most solidly constructed, and supplied with every accommodation necessary for the successful working of a large congregation and a populous parish. May all success attend it.

THE *Christian Leader* makes the following reference to the death of Mr. Nelson, the Edinburgh publisher. Edinburgh mourns this week the loss of one of her most loyal and loving sons, and the publishing trade of Britain one of its most distinguished and honourable members, by the death of Mr. William Nelson, of the eminent firm of Thomas Nelson and Son, who passed away on Saturday morning in his seventy-first year. A member of the Free High Church, he had contemplated making an autumnal tour in Greece with his pastor, Dr. Walter Smith; but about three weeks ago he was taken seriously ill. In everything that touched the amenity of his native city and the preservation of its historic relics he took an interest which was not merely sentimental. At his own cost he restored the Argyll tower at the castle; St. Bernard's well, on the Water of Leith, in the virtues of which he was a firm believer, he purchased, and at a cost of £4,000 transformed that mineral spring into one of the most attractive resorts in the city; while his other kindred works included the restoration of St. Margaret's Chapel at the castle. Along with his brothers Thomas and James, he developed the business which his father began in a small shop in the Lawnmarket until it had become one of the largest publishing concerns in the world, noted especially for its elementary education books and its wide diffusion of wholesome religious literature, uniting cheapness with good literary quality and artistic taste. Solid theological works were also issued latterly from the Nelson press, the fame of which has grown almost as much in the New World as in the Old. By his numerous employees, in whose welfare he took a warm personal interest, as well as by many others to whom he had lent a helping hand, and also by the members of the Church with which he was connected, William Nelson will be greatly missed.