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Notes of the Week.

THE Irish Presbyterian General Assembly's Government Committee has taken into consideration the right mode of celebrating the Jubilee, and has appointed a sub-committee to codify the various suggestions which have been made, and report a month hence. The Irish Presbyterian Church is expected to do something worthy of herself and of the occasion.

THE average cost of elections in the United Kingdom is 4s. per vote. The cheapest constituency is Northampton, where the members pay only 6d. per vote. This is a fact which ought to make many professing Christians in other parts of the country blush, is the remark the *Christian Leader* makes. It takes more than that to make Canadian constituencies blush.

THE University of Bologna will celebrate its eight-hundredth anniversary in the spring of 1888. The exact date of its foundation is not known. Authorities on the subject agree that an important school was established at Bologna in the eleventh century. Afterward the university took a great place as the chief centre for the study of jurisprudence, and there also anatomy was the first time scientifically studied.

It has been stated several times that the series of lectures by Joseph Cook, in Boston, just closed, was a failure, so far as attendance and interest were concerned. The *Wat. Man*, published in Boston, says this is not true, and that the series has had as large a measure of public favour as its predecessors, judging by the size and responsive enthusiasm of the audiences. Mr. Cook is as powerful and popular an exponent of truth as ever.

THE Evangelical Alliance of New York has started a vigorous campaign against a bill introduced into the New York Legislature, which provides that the courts shall put all children from seven to twelve years of age, found homeless, in the care of the Roman Catholic Protectors, no matter who the children are or whence they come, and that the Protector shall have a part of the public school fund. Such an arrangement as this would be an outrage, which would be defended by very few Catholics.

THERE was a time when Good Friday and Easter were recognized as Church days only by the Roman Catholics, the Greeks, the Lutherans and the Episcopalians. But now Easter, at least, is celebrated in many of the Protestant Churches by special service of song and unusual offerings of flowers. In the United States several Presbyterian and Congregational Churches joined last year for the first time in a communion service on the eve of Good Friday. A united service was held last week in Dr. Storr's Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn.

IN the State of Michigan, last week, a very stringent prohibitory law was submitted for decision at the ballot box. It failed to carry. That is not surprising; the wonder is that so very large a number voted in favour of prohibition. It is evident that throughout the State, outside of the cities and towns, there is a decided majority in favour of the suppression of the liquor traffic. In Detroit, and several of the towns, a heavy vote was cast against prohibition. In view of these facts, will the general belief that the cities are the centres of intelligence have to be revised?

WILL the following remark by the *Christian Leader* ruffle in the slightest degree the imperturbable complacency of the superfine organ which John Bright called the *Saturday Reviler*, and of which Spurgeon said any man might be contented if he had the love of God and the hatred of the *Saturday Review*? British journalism has occasion to hang its head with shame in the presence of an article on Beecher's death which appears in the *Saturday Re-*

view, an outpouring of fiendish malignity which proves how under the veneering of London civilization a spirit may exist that would disgrace the very lowest forms of savage life.

NEWSPAPER enterprise has been devising ingenious methods of ascertaining popular sentiment. One of the latest instances is offered by the *Pull Mall Gazette*, which has invited its readers to imagine themselves Dante, and to put into Paradise, Purgatory and Inferno English men and women of this century. Chinese Gordon had the largest number of votes for Paradise. Next to him, but receiving only half as many votes, came Gladstone. Four women's names appear among the first three—Florence Nightingale, Queen Victoria, Sister Dora and Mrs. Josephine E. Butler. Mrs. Butler, Cardinal Newman and Lord Beaconsfield received the same number of votes. The returns of the Inferno are not mentioned.

DR HOWARD CROSBY, of New York, has an article in the March number of the *Homiletic Review*, written in his usually racy and forcible style, in which he proposes and answers the following question: "What can the Ministry do to Purify our Politics?" His answers are these: 1. The ministry, as such, have nothing to do with politics. 2. The ministry can instruct their people in their duty to promote righteousness as individuals. 3. The ministry can place clearly before their people any gross injustice or glaring wickedness in law or its administration, which calls for Christian action. Near the close of the article, he says: "I end, as I began, with an earnest protest against political preaching and political preachers."

It is not only doctors that differ. Even cardinals are not altogether of one mind. Cardinal Taschereau is strongly of opinion that the Pope should condemn the Knights of Labour; while Cardinals Gibbons and Manning deem it unwise for the Church to antagonize the labour party. Each expresses himself confident that the Holy See will take his view of the case, and decide in accordance with his recommendation. Since his return, if interviewers are to be relied on, the Canadian cardinal expresses his confidence that the Pope will give his decision in favour of the position taken by him previous to undertaking his journey to Rome. This is human nature. Few care to acknowledge making a mistake, least of all a member of the College of Cardinals.

THE great Irish question has reached an acute phase. The introduction of the Irish Crimes Amendment Bill into the British House of Commons gives rise to a parliamentary discussion of more bitterness than has been witnessed for many years. The Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists maintain that Government is possible in Ireland only by measures of severe repression; while Mr. Gladstone's followers and the Parnellites claim that peace and prosperity can only come to the unhappy island by a liberal measure of Home Rule. The Salisbury Ministry has staked its existence on the fate of the Coercion scheme, and it is possible that with the aid of their Liberal-Union coadjutors they may succeed in passing the Bill; but it is doubtful if such drastic legislation will render Ireland a happy and contented country.

AFTER all these years the Papacy is not reconciled to the loss of the temporal power. In every conceivable shape the banking for its restoration appears. In a recent short pastoral Archbishop Fabre, of Montreal, says: "The 29th of next December will be for the entire Catholic universe a day of great rejoicing. That day the vicar of Jesus Christ, the eminent and most illustrious Leo XIII., will have reached the fiftieth anniversary of his reception into the priesthood. We will implore heaven to give the freedom he is entitled to to the head of the Church; to give him full power and predominance over the Christian world; temporal power that has been wrenched from him by usurpation; and peace and a long reign. Those who

recognize the Supreme Headship of Christ over the Church cannot say Amen to such a prayer as that.

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed for holding a Y. M. C. A. Conference at Port Hope. The date fixed is April 11 and 12. As Port Hope is the most central point, it is hoped there will be a large attendance. The following places, and others between, have been invited to send representatives: Lindsay, Omemee, Peterborough, Lakeside, Campbellford, Stirling, Cobourg, Brighton, Trenton, Millbrook, Bowmanville, Oshawa and Whitby. There are associations in only four of these places, but any pastors or Christian young men in the other towns and villages will be heartily welcomed at the conference. Among the experienced association men, Mr. T. J. Wilkie, now of Toronto, Mr. W. P. Crombie, evangelist, formerly provincial travelling secretary, and Mr. Wm. McCulloch, general secretary, Toronto, are expected to be present.

IN the prelude, on "Lord's Day Lawlessness," to one of his recent Boston Monday Lectures, Joseph Cook said: "The only sufficient support for Sunday is a Christian population. Sunday will be observed as it should be only by those to whom it is a delight. As a day of rest, of worship, of religious instruction, of benevolent activity, it ought to be a delight to every man of good conscience and judgment. It is vain to preserve Sunday as a day of rest unless it is preserved as a day of worship. We are so made, and the world is so made, that periodic rest is required for bodily health, and equally periodic worship for the sanity of the soul and of society. The abolition of the Sunday would abolish nine-tenths of the religious activity of Christian lands. I was lately in Toronto, and found a more quiet Sunday there than I did in Edinburgh, and the perfect Sunday observance is secured by a thorough execution of the Sunday laws. Great Britain and America ought to import, not from Paris, but from Toronto, a Free Sunday; that is, a Sunday in which one-half of mankind shall be free from servile work for the amusement of the other half."

THE following graceful tribute to the memory of Dr. Ray Palmer is from the *New York Independent*: "Our old friend and beloved correspondent, Ray Palmer, D.D., was buried last Friday, in Albany, after commemorative services on Thursday, in the Belleville Avenue Congregational Church, of Newark, N. J., conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost, Dr. William M. Taylor, Dr. Hepworth, who was an associate pastor with Dr. Palmer of that Church, and Dr. Behrends, and assisted by the presence of very many ministers and friends from the neighbourhood and from New York. On Friday similar services were held in the First Congregational Church in Albany, whose pastor he left twenty-two years ago. There Bishop Doane opened the services with prayer, and Dr. Smart (Congregational) and Dr. Ecob (Presbyterian) followed. The universal honour in which Dr. Palmer's memory was held was expressed by this remarkable union of Christians of various names. During the last three or four days of his life, Dr. Palmer lay most of the time apparently unconscious. When told by his son at the beginning of this time that the end was near, he answered "Thank God" in a louder tone of voice than he had employed for some time. Occasionally, he would be heard to repeat to himself a hymn of faith and praise, now one of Wesley's and now one of his own. The last words he was heard to utter were spoken not many hours before his death. His lips were seen to move, and listening ears caught a few syllables, inarticulately spoken, of the last verse of his hymn entitled, "Jesus these eyes have never seen":

When death these mortal eyes shall seal,
And still this throbbing heart,
The rending veil shall These reveal—
All glorious as Thou art.

The words "The rending veil shall These reveal," were distinctly made out. So he passed away with his own words of faith, written in life, ratified in death.