

Notes of the Week.

THE Currie case in New Brunswick is, it seems, not terminated yet. It was thought that with the deposition of an erring minister the discipline of the Church would be final. This, however, is not the case. President Wilson, of the Methodist Conference, has been served with a rule of a judge of the Supreme Court for a writ of *certiorari* to remove all proceedings in the D. D. Currie case to the Supreme Court, for the purpose of quashing them, and setting aside and annulling the decision of the Conference and Mr. Currie's expulsion from the Church and ministry. The subsequent steps in this procedure will be keenly watched.

A SPECIAL conference on the inspiration of the Bible is announced to take place in the third week of November, in Chambers Memorial Church, Philadelphia. Many of the most eminent theologians on the continent will take part in the proceedings. Professor L. F. Townsend, of Boston, will speak on Bible miracles, and the bearing of prophecy on inspiration will be discussed by Bishop W. R. Nicholson, of Philadelphia. Besides the addresses announced in the full and varied programme, important letters on Bible inspiration will be read from a number of distinguished European theologians. The conference should prove profitable in many ways.

IT is refreshing to find that, though all Europe is bristling with bayonets, there are men of great personal influence in public life who are convinced that there is a more excellent way of settling international complications than by means of the sword. The large and influential deputation of British statesmen and others who waited on the United States President presented their views and urged the adoption of arbitration instead of war. The President's reply was cordial and approving, but at the same time guarded, as might be expected from one who fills a position of such responsibility. The movement has become too strong to be killed by ridicule. It is destined to advance.

THE Pittsburg *United Presbyterian* remarks that the Parker eulogy, or rather the Beecher eulogy delivered by Dr. Parker, was on the whole a disappointment. It was curious to notice that one chief objection to it was that of "exaggeration," though if the orator exaggerated more than other friends of the deceased preacher it was only because he had superior abilities in that direction. They certainly did all they could. The fatal defect in the performance was in the fact that it included an effort, against the speaker's own convictions, to represent the subject of it as a teacher of orthodox evangelical doctrine. The honest sense of the public took offence at so provoking a travesty.

THE Rev. Edward J. Stobo, Fair Knowe Home, Brockville, writes concerning a most praiseworthy endeavour. Permit me to inform your readers that Mr. William Quarrier, the Scotch philanthropist, has been visiting Canada with a view to establish a Distributing Home for Scotch Children and Canadian Orphan Home. He has purchased Fair Knowe, Brockville, formerly the residence of Mr. Henry Abbott, for the sum of \$12,500, and is now busy converting it into an orphanage. Mr. Quarrier has been engaged for many years in the work of caring for the fatherless little ones, and God has greatly blessed the work. The Rev. Mr. McGillvary, of St. John's Church, Brockville, has kindly agreed to assist all he can in the work, and Mr. Quarrier also desires me to say that in the meantime he will receive applications for children. Any desiring children for adoption or as helpers should enclose a minister's certificate as to Christian character and fitness.

To inaugurate its winter work, the London, England, Presbytery held a Conference on Evangelization recently. The work this year will be carried on by

ministers and laymen belonging to the different congregations, several of whom have already volunteered their services. The Conference was presided over by Rev. W. H. Edmunds. Dr. Edmond read a paper on "The Spiritual Life of Congregations in Relation to Evangelistic Work." Warm spiritual life, he said, would naturally lead to evangelistic work, and such evangelistic work would react with stimulus on the spiritual life of a congregation. The subsequent speakers included Rev. W. Michael Smith, Dr. Kennedy Moore, Mr. Robert Whyte, Mr. R. Wales, Rev. D. Fotheringham, Rev. Hugh McIntosh, Rev. N. A. Ross, Rev. Walter M. Roger, of London, Ontario, the results of the Conference being gathered up by Dr. Monro Gibson, Convener of the Evangelistic Committee.

THE *Christian Leader* states that when clergy and moralists inveigh against racing it is thought they don't know or have the puritanic prejudices of the Philistine middle class; but this criticism cannot apply to a letter signed "Edward Sullivan" which appears in a morning paper. After the wise remark, "My experience is that most people are wrong, especially those who are most positive that they are right," he says: "Horseracing is the most demoralizing kind of gambling that exists in the whole world; for three reasons—because it is gambling on credit, because it is impossible to prevent cheating, and because it pervades all classes. The turf has a morality of its own. It may be good, it may be bad; I think it peculiar. The fringe of the racing community is a disgrace to civilized mankind. I know nothing so ghastly." So of the men: thus of the horses: "We talk of the turf improving the breed of horses. We don't allow them even to become horses. The turf is the very grave of horses."

THE *Christian World* says: The important subject of a fuller theological culture for students for the ministry was discussed at Leeds. And undoubtedly it is a matter deserving the careful attention of those responsible for the conduct of our colleges. But there is a question of equal, perhaps of still greater importance—the selection of men who will profit by such culture, and by means of it be prepared to preach the Gospel effectively. Unless the right kind of men are found, the choicest theological training will not make them able preachers. It may prepare them to be professors, secretaries and schoolmasters, which a very considerable number of our students become, because they cannot preach, but unless the genius for preaching be there, no culture will produce it. A candid survey of successful ministries in the Free Churches would show how comparatively little scholarship has to do with making preachers. Where the faculty exists, culture will refine and strengthen it; but if it be wanting all will be in vain. It will no more make a preacher than will classical verse writing a poet.

THE New York *Independent* remarks that the movement for statehood for Utah evidently is to be pushed desperately. A gentleman who was once an officer in the Mormon Church, but who is now anxious to give his family the benefits of Christian schools and churches, says. The Mormon Church calls for \$400,000 to be used in Washington during the next session of Congress. When I consider the methods used by the Mormon Church to secure its ends, I know that such an amount of money will be a great power; and I sometimes fear that we shall soon see Utah a State under the absolute control of Mormons. Men who are not thoroughly acquainted with Mormon ways may feel that this question is of little importance, but there are those who are not so indifferent to the present efforts. Fair promises, reckless disregard of facts in the argument of lobbyists, and the persistent influence of lady delegates will court in Washington, and unless those who want to prevent having a polygamous State in the Union are on the watch, Utah will become a State. This case must not go by default. What is the United States Congress to do with the \$400,000?

THE Rev. Mr. Silcox, of the Congregational Church, Winnipeg, has undertaken to conduct the religious department of the *Sun*, published in the Manitoban capital. He makes a good start by saying: I do this partly because I have an innate love for doing newspaper work. If I was not a preacher I would be an editor; that is, provided I had brains and money enough. There is no higher throne—outside the pulpit—than an editor's chair. It is a position that an angel might covet to fill. We who are not editors sometimes think we could make a better paper than our editor does, just as some people think that they could make a better sermon than the preacher. On the same principle, old maids are quite confident that they would make better wives than do the most of those who are elevated to these serene heights. We sometimes think the editor is not religious enough, and that he gives too much space to the baseball brigade, the slugger, etc. We forget that the paper is a condensed history of every day's doings, and must therefore record deaths as well as births, and chronicle the deeds of demons as well as narrate the exploits of angels. In this department I will try, in the space allotted to me, to keep the readers of the *Sun* posted on the most important doings in the religious world. I am sure there are many who will gladly turn to this department to know how the King's cause prospers. I will do my best to make it wholly unsectarian. I will not push my own denomination prominently before you. In this column we may from time to time be able to say words that will comfort the sorrowing, strengthen the wavering and turn the wanderers back to their Father's home. Our Saviour used a boat for a pulpit. We may turn a newspaper column into a pulpit, and from it preach to a larger audience than the church will accommodate.

THE *Kingston Chronicle and News* says: The condition of affairs disclosed at the recent meeting in the Convocation Hall of Queen's University, was in some respects reassuring, and in others slightly depressing. Of the quarter million dollars required to put the institution on a permanent foundation \$190,000 have been subscribed, chiefly owing to the unexampled labours of the Principal. If that gentleman had been possessed of nerves of steel and a constitution of adamant the remaining sum would have been collected by this time. But as he is merely human, his attempts to do the work of ten ordinary men have resulted in a serious injury to his health, and for a month past he has had to refrain from prosecuting his scheme, knowing that the alternative would probably have been fatal. The sum already promised by friends of the college is marvellous, considering all the circumstances,—the repeated calls made upon them, the shortness of the time, the stringency of money; and it shows the powerful hold that Queen's has upon the reverence and esteem of the country. The residue still to be gathered is, however, large: \$60,000 must be had, and must be had at once, for until the quarter of a million is fully completed not a cent falls due. How then is the project to be brought to a successful termination? There is only one way,—the friends of the institution must relieve the Principal of his burden and do the rest of the work themselves. He surely has done enough; his life is too precious to sacrifice. Can there be any hesitation on the part of the graduates and benefactors to undertake the task? If their professions of loyalty are not mere lip-service and mockery; if their deeds in the past are an index of their feelings, this last campaign is already virtually fought and won. It cannot be supposed that a half century of usefulness, a long career of struggles and triumphs, a marvellous growth and progress to a commanding position, a future of splendid promise, are to be quenched in an endless night of oblivion! No, only one more effort is required. A long and toilsome race has been run, and the goal is within reach. A tempestuous voyage has been sailed. Shall the ship be allowed to go down in smooth water, under a sunny sky and in sight of port? The noble spirit invariably displayed when Queen's College has required work and sacrifice of her friends permits only one answer.