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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A SUMMARY of the Minutes of the Home Mission Committee which met recently will appear in our next issue.

THE British Consul in Peking puts the deaths from famine in China at 7,000,000. The province of Shansi alone lost 5,000,000.

THE pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Ningpo, China, is a native who has promised to provide for his salary without aid from the missionaries.

THERE are about 400,000 persons connected with the Christian churches in India, China and Japan, besides 200,000 children receiving a Christian education.

THE Central Presbyterian Church of Detroit has extended a call to the Rev. Robert Scobie, of Strathroy, Ont. This church has been without a pastor since the resignation of Dr. Stephenson.

VIRGINIA is troubled with an empty treasury, an impaired credit and closed schools. The late movement to repudiate a part of her debt is producing its legitimate result. The bankers of Richmond decline to advance money on the credit of the State.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC priest in New Orleans was recently refused admittance to the house of a parishioner by the attendant physician, on the ground that it would endanger the patient's life, and thereupon applied to the Chief of Police for assistance. His request, however, was denied, the doctor's authority being regarded as paramount.

THE "London Methodist Recorder," whose editorials on French affairs are always worthy of attention, says, in an article on "The French Conservative Republic": "Popery in France, as a political institution recognized by the State, is doomed. But it will die a hard death." And, further on, it affirms confidently, "No Englishman who studies France can doubt the bright indications of her religious future."

THE City of Glasgow Bank closed its doors on the 2nd inst. Its liabilities are \$50,000,000. The failure caused great excitement through Scotland and on the London Stock Exchange. Much of the stock is held by ladies and gentlemen who lived retired on a mod-

erate competence, and now find themselves reduced to absolute poverty. Seven hundred and fifty persons, employees of the bank, are affected by the failure.

THE story is revived that many colored citizens of the United States are held in bondage on the Island of Cuba, having been kidnapped from the State of Florida and Louisiana and sold into slavery. A Washington despatch says that the Government of the United States will promptly act on all representations from responsible sources charging kidnapping of American citizens or any other gr. offence against them.

JUDGING from their own statements, the Unitarians are not very popular. "The Christian Life," a Unitarian paper of London, lately said: "In the Unitarian Almanac we have a list of 370 churches. Of these we unhesitatingly say 100 are in much peril. The one-third of this 100 is virtually closed. We may hear that this is the fate of another one-third before many months, and the remaining one-third appears to be steadily decreasing in numbers and influence. This is a faithful, but not a pleasant picture."

THE Presbytery of Aberdeen has held another session and disposed of the fifth particular of the libel against Prof Smith, which charges denial of the spiritual character of Solomon's Song. The vote taken on the particular resulted as follows: For relevancy, 22; against, 25. Of the opposing vote 12 ballots were cast by elders who defeated the motion of the prosecution. Of the 28 ministers present, 15 voted relevant and 13 not relevant. 6 elders voted relevant and 12 not relevant. The trial was to be continued September 26th.

THE yellow fever continues its ravages. It seems to be spreading now through the country, following and attacking those who fled from the cities. It appeared last week at several of the watering places along Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi shore, whither thousands of the New Orleans residents had gone. The refugees returned to the city in large numbers, and the week closed with a considerable increase in the number of cases and of deaths. The Howard Association of Vicksburg appeal again for aid, in which they say, "The fever is spreading with fearful rapidity through this county on farms. According to the best information, there are eight hundred cases in the county and outside the city. A large percentage of these are bad cases and many deaths have occurred, though the disease was unknown outside ten days ago. There were sixteen deaths at Bovino yesterday, a village of seventy-five inhabitants."

A LARGE meeting of clergymen and laymen has been held in Dr. Stephen H. Tyng's church to prepare for the holding of a premillennial conference. The conference is to be held in Holy Trinity Church, New York, October 30th and 31st. Mr. Tyng stated that he had received letters from several bishops and prominent clergymen consenting to the use of their names, and that, if his father's health would permit, he would preside at the conference. Among those present were Drs. Gillespie, Herr, and Kenion, of New York. It is understood that letters favoring the conference have been received from Bishop Vail, of Kansas, Dr. Creamer, of Wilmington, Del., Dr. Joseph Wild, of Brooklyn, Dr. Grammer, of Balt-

more; Dean Bond, of Montreal; Dr. Edward O. Sullivan, of Chicago, and Dr. Bonar, of London. Mr. Moody's name was mentioned as among those likely to be present; but it is thought that it was a mistake and that Mr. Moody will not think of attending.

THE "Michigan Christian Advocate" thus checks the inordinate zeal of those who preach the pre-millennial advent instead of the Gospel. "To assert the certainty or probability of the immediate coming of Christ as a motive to influence unconverted men to embrace religion, is utterly unwise, because no such certainty exists, and its probability is apparent only to a few fanatical advocates who have a personal vanity in the doctrine, and who are more zealous to make converts to their theory than to save men from perdition. If it be true that men can be aroused from indifference and induced to become Christians by this appeal, it would be utterly unwise to employ it, because the faith excited by a falsehood must react, and no motive but the absolute facts of sin, perdition, and atonement can penetrate human hearts to a sufficient depth to inspire true and lasting repentance, faith and consecration. Whoever succeeds in attaching men to the church by any other motive than that they are lost through sin, but redeemed in Christ, is the enemy of religion. We want no transient religious excitements operating upon the credulous and fanciful by the prospect of the 'Second Advent.'"

IT is vain to call upon the civil government to protect the Sabbath from open desecration as long as professed Christians neglect its proper religious observance. When the visible Church evinces due respect for the Lord's Day and applies it to its proper use, there will not be so much difficulty experienced in keeping the world from secularizing it. The following apposite remarks on this subject are from the "Christian Intelligencer." "The laws protect the civil Sabbath only. Its religious observance is rightly left to the individual conscience. Ecclesiastical and voluntary public worship are regulated by those who have the authority and the will to observe it. But after all, the main support and defence of the Sabbath is in the homes of the land. The family and the Sabbath are coeval with the race. They are primal institutions, which fit into each other as do the wheels of a watch. Rest, recreation, education, reverence, praise and prayer, retirement, doing and getting good, domestic quiet and happiness, the family altar, public worship, these and many other refining elements enter into the idea of a true Sabbath keeping. Body and mind, soul and spirit, daily habits, personal and domestic relations come regularly and irresistibly under the peaceful and purifying influences of the Sabbath at home. Parents, children, and servants and visitors all feel its charm. Even the cleanliness, the change of clothing, and other common preparations of the person which the Sabbath brings with it to the dwellings of the people, breed a self-respect and a family habit which are socially invaluable. The Sabbath school, too, stands midway between the household and the sanctuary with its far reaching beneficence. But these blessings are only incidental to the supreme religious purposes of the Lord's day, its spiritual agencies, its constant outflow of sanctifying and saving influences, its direct relations to the salvation of the soul and to those works of mercy and goodness, of faith and love which make this world better and bring heaven nearer."