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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

DURING the last year the Gospel was preached in one hundred towns and cities in China where it had not been previously heard.

DEAN STANLEY refuses to alter his decision in the matter of the proposed monument in Westminster Abbey to the memory of the Prince Imperial.

THE Greek Church is appropriating large amounts for missionary work in Japan. A Russian man-of-war has been specially detailed for the transportation of missionaries.

THE negotiations between Germany and the Vatican are at a complete standstill. Prussia, therefore, proposes to deal with ecclesiastical affairs in an independent manner.

IF the churches were as light and cheery, and open as often, as the theatres and saloons, young men coming to the city would be drawn to them as readily as they are now drawn away from them.

AN ardent evolutionist says: "How the universe ever came to exist evolution is as powerless to tell as any other theory." Why not, then, accept the words with which God's Holy Word opens and say with it, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth?"

THE Continental Committee of the Pan-Presbyterian Council propose to raise \$60,000, so as to add \$100 to the income of each of the twenty-two pastors of the Waldensian Church, who now receive \$300 a year. The Scotch have raised \$15,000 towards the amount.

Two Irish Catholic bishops are able, in this season of poverty and famine which has come upon their country, to send £850 to the Pope as Peter's pence. Could they not have found any needier recipients at home? Maybe Leo will return it. Couldn't he remit Peter's pence for a little while?

IN the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church the missionaries extended the hand of welcome last year to over 5,000 persons who have abandoned the worship of idols and professed themselves Christians. On one Sabbath Rev. Jared Scudder baptized 307 and on the next 227 persons, converted from Hindooism.

THE desire to learn English is the great motive which induces Chinamen to attend Sabbath school and meetings, but, being brought thus under Christian influences, many are led to Christ. About twelve hundred reliable converts have been made already on the Pacific coast, many of whom have proved their sincerity by undergoing persecution for their faith. They find it harder to abandon the worship of their ancestors than that of their idols.

A REMARKABLE amount of personal liberty is now enjoyed in France. The Republican Government is strong, and feels it can afford to be tolerant. Legitimists and Bonapartists are, therefore, allowed to hold celebrations undisturbed, provided they disturb nobody else; and the prevailing benignity of the Administration has caused even some of the unpardoned Communist refugees in Switzerland to think of returning to their native land. At a meeting of the body held in Geneva, however, they have decided to remain in exile for some time longer, lest the officers of justice should not yet have forgotten their misdeeds.

IT is a good sign that pastoral visitation which has been in many places for years one of the "lost arts," is giving evidence of new life. It is good for the people, and it is of no less advantage to the pastor himself. Rev. W. M. Taylor, D.D., of the Tabernacle Church (Congregational), New York, at the close of a day spent in this way, writes in the "Christian at Work"

to his brethren in the ministry: "Brethren, preach the Word with all the earnestness and ability you can command, but neglect not the work of pastoral visitation, for if you do, you will be like one who seeks to row with but a single oar, and will go round and round in a routine circle instead of making steady progress."

DR. E. DE PRESSE writes of M. Freycinet, the present head of the French Cabinet, and a Protestant, that he is "a man of quick intelligence and resolute will, and he has also at command the talents of a true debater," and he adds: "He is one of the best business speakers we have—clear, animated, convincing. He proved himself a political orator of the first rank at the time of the debate on the return of the Chambers to Paris. No one can wield better than he the weapons of argument; no one knows better how to aim a blow at the enemy's unguarded side. He has continued the close friend of M. Gambetta after having been his most important ally in the war of 1871, and he can rely now upon his powerful support."

A MISSIONARY having lately returned to Berlin from Asia, reports an interesting discovery which he and two or three friends and co-labourers made in Galilee. In the mountains of Galilee, between Acca and Nazareth, and north of Shefa-Anner they found a village called Bucnah, which is inhabited almost exclusively by agriculturists, professing Judaism, who appear to have been there from olden times, and have no tradition of the exile by Titus. They are distinguished from their brethren in the east and west by several peculiarities: first, they speak only Hebrew and Arabic, not being acquainted with the Spanish or the German languages, as the rest of the Jews are; and second, that they limit themselves to agricultural pursuits without having any communication with others.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY says: "I am in great hopes that the settlement effected in Zululand may open up that country to missionary enterprise; and although I, for one, should always be opposed to forcing upon any nation the Gospel of Christ, 'the Man of Peace,' one would rejoice more than I to see Christianity making rapid progress beyond the Tugela frontier of Natal. Such progress is not, in my opinion, to be secured by force, nor by bullying the Zulus, nor by Government interference. It can, I think, be only satisfactorily arrived at by the quiet, unassuming, and patient enterprise of really godly men bent on doing good work—by men who are indifferent to personal emoluments and to the profits of trading operations."

A CONSIDERABLE number of German Lutherans, some thousands in all, particularly in the province of Hanover, are reported to have left the State Church, and to have established themselves on an independent basis. The reason assigned for the movement is that the interference of the State is not confined to external regulations, but is felt, also, in matters of doctrine; and the members, while they respect the secular authority of the Government, are unwilling to have pastors imposed upon them with whose theological views they are widely at variance. The new churches are established avowedly on the American model. No State aid is sought or expected. The congregation choose their own pastors, and contribute the means for their support, and the churches are said to be in a very flourishing condition.

SPECIAL services on an extraordinary scale have been provided for among the Anglican churches of Brighton, England. The bishop of Chichester issued a pastoral inviting co-operation in the work of the mission, which was designed, he stated, to counteract the prevalent "frivolity and worldliness in the upper classes" and the "gross immorality in the lower classes" of the population of that town. The pastoral letter urged that, in view of the solemnity of the occasion, convivial meetings should be retrenched or suspended during the mission, and that employers

should close early each evening, in order that their assistants might attend the services. No less than twenty churches, including both Evangelical and Ritualistic parties, in response, arranged for separate missions, calling to their aid preachers from various parts of the United Kingdom.

THERE are in the regions of the great lakes in Africa countries quite as thickly peopled as many of the states of Europe. Stanley tells us of countries of relatively small extent, and which yet possess millions of inhabitants. When we shall have succeeded in making an approximate census of all the populations, we shall probably reach a figure considerably higher than the present estimate. German geographers suppose that Africa contains somewhat more than 200,000,000 inhabitants; the latest English publications estimate the population at 186,000,000 which for an area of 11,500,000 square miles gives an average of sixteen inhabitants per square mile, or a specific population 11½ times less than that of France. The suppression of the slave trade and the influence of European civilization may lead to an increase of population very rapid and very great. According to Belna, the negro regions are by far the most populous parts of the continent. If the populations are sparse in the desert parts, they are very dense in other regions. Thus, in the Soudan the population is estimated at 80,000,000, or about 53 per square mile; the town of Bida, on the Niger, has a population of 80,000 inhabitants. The population of East Africa is estimated at about 30,000,000, and that of Equatorial Africa at 40,000,000. One of the latest authorities divides the population of Africa as follows, among the great families into which ethnologists have divided the peoples. Negroes, 130,000,000; Hamites, 20,000,000; Bantus, 13,000,000; Fulahs, 8,000,000; Nubians, 1,500,000; Hottentots, 50,000. This would give a total population of 172,550,000. These figures are, of course, only approximate, and may be much modified by new and more precise information. The Bantus, for example, who according to F. M. Muller, form at least one quarter of the population of Africa, might be found to number 50,000,000.

THE Edinburgh Free Church Presbytery at its last meeting sat for several hours considering the overture proposed to be transmitted to the General Assembly by Dr. Moody Stuart, desiring the appointment of a commission to inquire into the theological teaching of the Free Church colleges. Dr. Moody Stuart was himself unable to be present, but in a letter to the Moderator he characterized the inquiry as a matter of greater moment than any that had ever been before the Church. Mr. Edward Thomson, of Free St. Stephens, moved the transmission of the overture. He alleged there was a widespread suspicion respecting professors in all the colleges together, and in replying afterwards, he said that they were not slow to speak out if heresy was believed to be in the Established or Episcopalian Churches, but when it came to be in their own they defended the men through thick and thin. Dr. McLauchlan seconded the transmission. The opposition was led off by Principal Rainy, who pointed out from the experience they had had with Professor Smith's case, what the result would be to the Church by the appointment of such a commission, which simply meant the libelling of other professors already suspected, while the Professor Smith case was yet in abeyance. He defended Dr. Davidson from the suspicion held regarding his writings in the "British and Foreign Evangelical Review," and asserted that the teaching in the colleges was the same as it had always been, according to his knowledge and experience. The Rev. Mr. Thomson, Leith, seconded the refusal to transmit, and after a long discussion, in which Sir Henry Wellwood Moncreiff, Professor McGregor, Dr. Begg, and others took part, the Presbytery divided, with the result of refusing to transmit the overture by a majority of 36 to 26. A motion by Mr. McEwan, calling in question the writings of Dr. Davidson, was held over till the ordinary meeting of Presbytery.