

## Notes of the Week.

It is charitably said of an editor recently dead, remarks the Pittsburgh *United Presbyterian*, that articles written by him not long since did not fairly represent him, but were due in their spirit to his condition of ill health. It is good when such kindness can be expressed respecting one who was bitter when he ought to have been gentle, but it suggests how much they have to answer for who, without ailment, are still abusive and treacherous.

THANKSGIVING DAY in Toronto was well observed by the Churches, good congregations generally assembled. In St. Andrew's Church classic music formed a specialty, and the pastor, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, delivered an appropriate and able discourse. At Old St. Andrew's Rev. G. M. Milligan preached a timely sermon. Dr. Kellogg in St. James Square preached a comprehensive discourse on the relation of Church and State, and the necessity of forming all national legislation in obedience to the revealed will of God.

A SUCCESSFUL Sabbath school institute has just been held in Knox Church, Montreal. A number of prominent Sabbath school workers took part in the proceedings. The Rev. John McEwen, Lakefield, who in this department of church work has earned a good degree, rendered important service and contributed to the profit and success of the gathering. Mr. William Drysdale strongly advocated a greater circulation of Sabbath school literature in the country districts to counteract the trashy and impure literature so largely circulating there.

ANOTHER sad instance of the awful demoralization caused by intemperance has occurred in Toronto. A father has been killed by his son in a drunken quarrel. The evidence adduced at the coroner's inquest reveals the depths into which the drinking habit in many cases leads its victims. The inquest ended in a verdict of manslaughter being returned against the son who, by his brutality had caused his father's death. Is it any wonder that the movement for the suppression of the liquor traffic should grow stronger when these and similar instances are of such frequent occurrence?

IF the despatches relating to Bulgarian affairs are to be taken as reliable, it seems clear that Russia has been pursuing a policy of irritation. The mission of General Kaulbars has been one entirely fitted to rouse resentment. Not a solitary instance of an approach to a conciliatory course has been credited to him. Whenever there is an appearance that the difficulties may be bridged over, under one pretext or another the Czar's emissary utters a new threat. Is it that the Russian Emperor, bent on the absorption of the new Balkan nationality by keeping up a constant irritation, may have an excuse for setting his legions in motion in the spring?

FOR forty years Dr. Richard S. Storrs has been pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn. Sabbath week he preached two remarkably able discourses relating to the past history of the congregation and its future work and prospects. He began his ministerial career in the Church to which he still ministers. The Church was organized at the time of Dr. Storrs' settlement. Both have developed wonderfully. The Church of the Pilgrims has been a mother of churches, and Dr. Storrs is one of the most honoured and respected ministers not only in the City of Churches, but far beyond it. When a pastor possesses gifts and graces, is earnest and devoted to the great work to which he is called, the pastoral tie binding minister and people is close and strong. In the United States congregations may be fickle, but when they get good men they want to keep them.

THE papal brief restoring the order of the Jesuits to all the faculties, prerogatives and powers which

they had grasped before their suppression by Pope Clement XIV. is a document deserving of more attention than it has received. In getting Pius IX. to pronounce "all papal decrees infallible and irrevocable," the Jesuits committed a blunder, for this of course revived the Clementine anathemas against themselves in all their force, but, self-stultifying though it be, they have now made the present Pope issue another "infallible" decree which utterly annuls all that Clement did in the exercise of his infallibility. The Jesuits have been banished from every papal kingdom in Europe as insufferably aggressive toward all Governments and constitutions. At present no European state except Britain and a few petty Protestant governments gives them any quarter.

GREAT BRITAIN for many years has been comparatively free from Socialistic agitation. Of late those who profess a communistic creed have been making themselves heard. The reality and strength of the movement cannot be known from the noise it makes. The recent attempt at a demonstration on Lord Mayor's Day failed to be impressive. The threats directed against the Prime Minister will not help the cause of labour. It does not say much for the leaders of the movement that they expect to accomplish anything by dictation and brow-beating. Why they should demand that Sabbath be the only day on which they will hold an interview with Lord Salisbury is a mystery, but there is no doubt that it is a very foolish proceeding. The folly of these agitators will do the cause they profess to champion far more harm than the batons of the police.

THE only distinctively religious journal for natives in St. Petersburg is the *Russian Workman*, and is edited by a lady of high rank who devotes herself unreservedly to Christian work. In simple garb and living in their own humble fashion, she dwells among the poor; and as nurse, adviser, teacher, Bible reader in hospitals and private houses, her services are invaluable. Her journal, of which she is the publisher as well as the editor, enjoys a large circulation all over the Russian Empire, including the Caucasus and Siberia. Every article it contains has first to be submitted in MS. to the Government censor, who is described as a kindly monk, but responsible to the bitter and persecuting Holy Synod. Certain terms are prohibited, including revival, regeneration and the like; but the thought is often put in other language. Though sometimes almost crushed by her burden, the fair editor preserves a cheerful and animated spirit. She is highly cultured and deeply spiritual.

THERE has been a grand time at Harvard. The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of that renowned institution was the occasion of a celebration extending over four days. Speeches, orations, processions, poems, games, sermons, banquets, receptions, etc., supplied a succession of interest to the many distinguished and undistinguished personages who assembled to assist at the historical celebration. Most of the leading American and one or two European colleges were represented. Princeton had President McCosh; Dr. Lyon Playfair was there on behalf of Edinburgh University, and Rodolfo Lanciani presented the greetings of the University of Rome. The higher education of Canada might have had a representative, but had not. The President of the United States produced a very favourable impression by the speech he delivered. Honorary degrees were conferred on men who have become illustrious in various walks of life. President Eliot described the attitude of Harvard when he said they look backward with exultation and thanksgiving, and forward with confidence and high resolve.

A DISCUSSION has been going on in the *Christian Leader* as to the founder of Sunday schools in Scotland. Here is one of the latest contributions to the controversy. The first Sunday school in Scotland was instituted by Rev. David Blair, parish minister of Brechin, in 1760, fully twenty years before Robert

Raikes commenced his in Gloucester. Mr. Blair was minister of Brechin for thirty-six years and died in 1769. His remains were interred in the parish church there, and a tablet was erected to his memory by his son, David Blair, laird of Cookstone. This tablet, which is placed on the south wall inside the church, states that Mr. Blair, his wife and seven children are interred "between this monument and the opposite pillar." In 1791 a Sabbath school was started in Airthroath, but it was looked upon with disfavour by the clergy, and the Presbytery caused it to be closed within a few weeks of its opening. Seven years thereafter Sabbath schools were started under the sanction of the parish ministers, and although subjected to much adverse criticism in the early years of their existence they took deep root, and flourished and have continued to do so till the present day.

THE proceedings at the annual ceremony of the conferring of degrees by the Royal University, says the *Belfast Witness*, show that the institution continues to make marked progress. It seems now to be firmly established. The fine new buildings which it now possesses will not only give it stability, but will afford facilities for carrying on its work which it much needed, and the successes of its students are reflecting the utmost credit on their *alma mater*. In Lord Dufferin the University has now obtained a Chancellor well worthy in every way to succeed the late Duke of Abercorn, and he may be proud to preside over a seat of learning which, in spite of difficulties, is contributing so satisfactorily to the higher education of the country. One department in which it is the only Irish university at work is the education of women, and the Vice-Chancellor brought before the meeting last week the curious fact that on each of the three occasions since the examinations were thrown open to them, nine candidates have presented themselves, a mystic and suggestive number. This year we have for the first time a female Master of Arts. (Mistress of Arts, must it not be?) All honour and success to the young lady who thus leads the advance. May she soon have a goodly following!

IN the death of Rev. Dr. Wilkes Montreal has lost one of her best citizens, and the Congregational Church one of her most distinguished ministers. He passed peacefully away on the 17th inst. The deceased was born on the 21st June, 1805, in Birmingham, England. He came to this country with his parents in 1820, landing at New York. Thence they proceeded by stage to Toronto, at that time known as York. They shortly afterward went to Brantford. In 1822 Dr. Wilkes went to Montreal and entered the employ of Mr. John Torrance. In a few years he became a partner. In 1828, being then twenty-three years old, he decided to study for the ministry, and proceeded to Glasgow to study in Glasgow University, and theology under Dr. Wardlaw. After finishing his course he was pastor of Albany Church, Edinburgh, for three years. In 1836 he was sent to Montreal by the Colonial Missionary Society as their representative in Canada. He became pastor of St. Maurice Street Church, the congregation of which erected Zion Church on Beaver Hall Hill, to which they removed about 1845. Only a few years ago he gave up the active pastorate of Zion Church to become the Principal of the Canada Congregational College, and about two years ago he resigned that position on account of his age, and was followed by Rev. Dr. Stevenson. Dr. Wilkes had a strong desire to visit the Old Country, and in April last he crossed the ocean to visit his eldest daughter, the wife of the Rev. J. Munro Gibson, D.D., in London, and to participate in the jubilee meeting of the Colonial Missionary Society last May. It is believed that the exertion of the trip proved too much for him, as since his return he has been gradually failing and has suffered more recently from congestion of the brain. Dr. Wilkes was highly esteemed and respected for his works' sake and for his personal attainments and worth, and his name will long be cherished in affectionate remembrance.