

Notes of the Week.

THE Scotch-Irish Society of America will hold its next annual congress in Pittsburg, in May, 1890. The claims of New York, Philadelphia and Nashville were strongly urged, but the scale was turned in favour of Pittsburg, by the fact that she is the most distinctively Scotch-Irish city in the United States.

A LONDON paper says: Dr. Munro Gibson has gone for his three months' visit to America, which he left nine years ago on accepting a call to St. John's Wood. A few days ago a deputation from the congregation waited upon Dr. Gibson at his home and, with hearty and good wishes that he and Mrs. Gibson might have a pleasant holiday, presented him with a cheque for \$1,000. Dr. Gibson receives the highest stipend paid to any Presbyterian minister in England.

IN heathen countries Protestants occupy 500 separate mission fields, containing 20,000 mission stations, supplied by 40,000 missionaries. In these 20,000 mission stations there are 500,000 Sunday school scholars—an average of twenty-five to each station. In the 20,000 Protestant mission stations there are 1,000,000 of native communicants, or an average of fifty to each station. There are also 2,000,000 of adherents who are friends of the evangelical faith and hearers of the Gospel preached from the Bible—an average of 100 to each station.

CANDIDATES for the Toronto University chair of Metaphysics and Logic, left vacant by the lamented death of George Paxton Young, are beginning to appear. One is Professor Edward J. Hamilton, D.D., of Hamilton College, New York. He has had a lengthened and successful experience in teaching the special subjects for which the chair was instituted. Dr. Hamilton has made valuable contributions to philosophic literature. His works on "The Human Mind," and "Mental Science," have received the approbation of a number of the most profound thinkers on this continent. Should the choice fall on Dr. Hamilton, Toronto University will secure the services of a most competent instructor in Metaphysics and Logic.

THE General Assembly of the United States Southern Presbyterian Church has transferred its missions among the Indians from its Foreign to the Home Mission Committee. The Indian Churches constitute a Presbytery, which belongs to the Synod of Arkansas. The growth of membership in the Southern Church is much larger than usual. The average increase, from year to year, is about 5,000 per annum: this year it is 7,105. This reveals the activity and earnestness of both ministers and members last year, and God's blessing on their efforts. But while the increase in membership is about seven per cent., the increase in benevolent contributions is from \$1,463,478 to \$1,612,865—an increase of ten per cent.

MR. D. L. MOODY forwards the following: A convention of evangelical ministers and laymen is to be held in Chicago for ten days, commencing about the 20th of September, the exact date of which will be announced as soon as definite replies are received from the speakers who have been invited from abroad. The singing will be led by Ira D. Sankey. It is hoped this will be one of the greatest religious movements of the season, and a good preparation for winter work in all the churches. The Bible Institute will open about the 1st of October. Information about the Ladies' Department may be had by addressing Mrs. S. B. Capron, or about the men's Department, by addressing F. G. Ensign, 154 Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

THERE are said to be at present 3,064 languages spoken by the inhabitants of the globe, whose religious convictions are divided among one thousand Confessions of Faith. The number of males is equal yearly to that of the females. One-fourth of the population of the earth dies before attaining the seventeenth year. Of one thousand persons, only one reaches the age of one hundred years, and not more than six that of sixty-five years. The entire

population of the globe is upward of 1,200,000,000, of whom 35,214,000 die every year; 96,480 every day; 4,020 every hour; 67 every minute, and one and a fraction every second. On the other hand, the births amount to 36,792,000 every year, 100,800 every day, 4,200 every hour, and 70 every minute.

THE Toronto Industrial Exhibition has proved itself to be one of the most successful enterprises ever attempted in Canada. Toronto possesses many advantages that contribute to its success. At the same time it is plain that the energetic, skilful and wide awake management has been steadily maintained since its commencement to the present time. Every succeeding Exhibition has shown a marked advance in all respects on its predecessors, and, judging from present indications, the eagerness with which all the available space which enlarged accommodation has provided has been competed for, and the efforts of committees to secure new and more numerous attractions, it is now certain that the forthcoming Exhibition will be the finest that has yet been seen.

IN the Vatican—a magnificent palace—there are 11,500 rooms. The total number of persons connected with the Papal Court and depending upon his Holiness for their bread and butter is 1,160. Leo's XIII's household, according to the last *Annuaire du Vatican*, consists of twenty chamber-servants, 120 house prelates, 170 privy chamberlains, six chamberlains, thirty officers of the Noble Guard and sixty guards, 130 supernumerary chamberlains, 200 extra and honorary chamberlains, fourteen officers of the Swiss Palace Guard, fourteen honorary chaplains, twenty privy scribes, ten attendants and stable masters, fifty doorkeepers, etc. The Pope, the cardinals and prelates of the palace, the privy chamberlains, the privy chaplains, the sacristan and the chief of the Papal chancery, constitute the Sacred College.

A CONTEMPORARY states that the Rev. A. A. Bonar, of Glasgow, conducted anniversary services in Peel Road Presbyterian Church, Bootle, recently. In the morning he preached one of his characteristic sermons on Enoch: he spoke of Enoch's father and contemporaries, his family, his office, his faith, his walk, his translation. In the evening he took for his text Rev. xxi. 8-15. A flower service was held in the afternoon, the flowers being forwarded to the Bootle Hospital. A short address was given by the Doctor. He remarked that at the time of the flood, and at the dedication of Solomon's Temple, flowers were in bloom, it being the month of May. Notwithstanding that Dr. Bonar has entered on his eightieth year, he spoke with much vigour and great power, and was listened to by large congregations, some of his auditors having come a long distance.

A DISPATCH from London gives extracts from letters of African missionaries concerning the effect of the international blockade on the east coast of Africa. The blockade has prevented the export of slaves, but it has not diminished the slave traffic in the interior. Mr. Robson, of the Church Missionary Society, writes from Mombasa, near the coast, north of Zanzibar: If the blockade is preventing the transportation of slaves in boats it has not arrested the trade. The crimes committed by the Arabs in the interior are worse than ever. No longer able to export the negroes, they drag them far north by land, and scarcely, one in ten slaves reaches his destination. Many of the slave bands that are passing north through this country come from the Makua district east of Lake Nyassa. By the time they reach this region they have travelled several hundred miles.

ON the new appointment to Edinburgh University the *British Weekly* says: Dr. Henry Cowan, of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the chair of Divinity and Church History in the University of Aberdeen. No more hopeful and satisfactory choice could have been made. Dr. Cowan is not merely a sound scholar and accomplished theologian. He has shown himself efficient in the highest degree as a pastor, and deeply interested in Christian work of every kind. While firm in his views he is also a man of catholic temper, and enjoys the respect and

good-will of all parties in Scotland. Although the number of students is not large, in point of efficiency the theological faculty in the University of Aberdeen will compare favourably with any in Scotland. We count it a matter for congratulation that the difficult and delicate problems immediately before the Scottish Churches, in connection with their theological education, will be dealt with by a man of Dr. Cowan's experience, ability, and genuinely Christian spirit.

THE *Christian Leader* tells the following story: Mr. McNeill has been the unwitting instrument in leading to the discovery of some diaconal peculations. Preaching one day for a brother preacher, his popularity drew large congregations; and the deacons at night looked for a large collection, especially as Mr. McNeill urged his countrymen present to act worthy of true Scots. The offerings, however, proved less than usual. The deacons could not suspect the Scotsmen of meanness; they were compelled to suspect some nearer home. Means, therefore, were adopted for tracing a subsequent collection; when, to their grief, it was discovered that part of it had gone into the private account of one of their own number. The proof was complete; and, confronted with his embezzlements, this unhappy holder of the bag confessed to having been a robber of the church for at least twenty years! Church officers should check church accounts with as much care as those of a bank or a business. Even then a cunning hand may misappropriate funds; but careful checks save weak men from strong temptations.

THE Confession of Faith bids fair, says the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, to be in great demand before long. Even in this hot season there are numerous inquiries for it in the book trade. Our Board of Publication will doubtless be able to relieve its shelves of its surplus stock in this line. The discussion already started in regard to its proposed revision is the cause of this revived interest in this old, and, as some have thought, effete book. When people begin to read and study it as our fathers did, when the press and pulpit set it forth in its logical connection and its biblical character, they will have a higher respect for it and see how little ground there is for the hue and cry inaugurated for a change of phraseology or of doctrine. It has stood the test of ages and must now go through the sifting process of the nineteenth century scrutiny; but it will come out of the fire like pure gold, all the better for the crucial experience. Providence may be permitting the present investigation into its statement of truth in order to quicken the Church's faith and to bring the mind and heart to a more intelligent and earnest reception and vindication of the Calvinistic system of doctrine, which we regard as more Pauline than that of any other Church.

THE *Young Man* contains a letter from Mr Gladstone on the study of the Bible, addressed to the leader of a men's Bible class in Manchester. In this epistle Mr. Gladstone says: Two things especially I commend to your thoughts. The first is this—Christianness in Christ, and nearness to Him and to His image is the end of all your efforts. Thus the Gospels, which continually present to us one pattern, have a kind of precedence among the books of Holy Scripture. I advise your remembering that the Scriptures have two purposes—one to feed the people of God in "green pastures," the other to serve for proof of doctrine. These are not divided by a sharp line from one another, yet they are provinces on the whole distinct, and in some ways different. We are variously called to various works; but we all require to feed in the pastures and to drink at the wells. For this purpose the Scriptures are incomparably simple to all those willing to be fed. The same cannot be said in regard to the proof or construction of doctrine. This is a most desirable work, but not for us all. It requires to be possessed with more of external helps, more learning and good guides, more knowledge of the historical development of our religion, which development is one of the most wonderful parts of all human history, and, in my opinion, affords also one of the strongest demonstrations of its truth and of the power and goodness of God.