

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

ONE of the most singular freaks of the eruption in Java was the carrying off of an enormous bed of solid ice from a subterranean lake in the midst of molten lava. The bed of ice was surrounded by a thick envelop of sand scoria, which are such non-conductors of heat that a red hot stream of lava running over it will not melt the snow.

It is said that the Prince of Montenegro, who some time ago closed all the cafés and drinking shops in his dominion, regarding them as schools of effeminacy, extravagance and corruption, and abolished all titles, so that while formerly every other man in Montenegro was an "Excellency," now even the Ministers have to be content with plain "Mr.," has recently issued an interdict against all "luxurious wearing apparel," including cravats, gloves, walking-sticks, parasols and umbrellas.

EVEN Hodge occasionally has "summat to say." A vicar of a west of England parish was interrupted in the course of his sermon, on a recent Sunday, on referring to the festivities in connection with the coming of age of the lord of the manor. He expressed regret that beer had been furnished where so much drunkenness prevailed, whereupon an agricultural labourer asked the preacher what it mattered to him, and said they would require to wait a long time for any token of the vicar's liberality.

WITTENBERG celebrated on Thursday week the quatre-centenary of Martin Luther's birth. Fifty thousand visitors thronged the streets, which were appropriately decorated. The Crown Prince of Germany opened Luther Hall, placed a laurel wreath upon the great Reformer's grave, and delivered an address, exhorting the people to uphold and defend the evangelical faith. Lectures on Luther's life and works were delivered in various parts of the town, and there were banquets and other festivities in the evening.

THE Belfast "Witness" says that at a recent meeting of the Committee of Arrangements in connection with the forthcoming Pan-Presbyterian Council in Belfast, reference was made to the death of the Rev. Dr. Knox, and a resolution was passed expressing regret at his loss to the Church, and especially in connection with the meetings of the Council, of which he was the prime promoter. The Rev. Dr. Watts was appointed convener in his stead. It was arranged that the reception in connection with the Council should be held in the Ulster Hall, and the subsequent meetings in St. Enoch's Church.

THE agnostic lecturer and publisher, Mr. Bradlaugh, has got a large amount of gratuitous advertising. Prebendary Row, in a letter to the London "Guardian," expresses the opinion that nothing has been more unadvised in the interest of Christianity than the manufacturing of Mr. Bradlaugh into a political martyr. "It has trebled his influence among working men as an opponent alike of Theism and Christianity, and vastly increased the sale of his pernicious publications. The admission of ten Bradlaugh's into the House of Commons would not have done an equal amount of mischief."

THE Rev. R. Thornton, of Wellpark Free Church, Glasgow, a Canadian by birth and educated in Toronto, has recently accepted a call to Camden Road Church, London. At the meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery, at which he intimated his acceptance of the call, after detailing the prosperous condition of the congregation he was about to leave, Mr. Thornton said: "Blest with good health and spirits, and encouraged by a fair measure of success, it has been a real pleasure to me to preach at Wellpark, to teach a Bible class, and to visit the people. My only reason for going to London is the conviction that having laboured for more than eight years in

my charge, I shall be able, with God's blessing, to do more work, and do it better, by removing to a new field.

REV F. W. AUSTIN, rector of All Saints, Berbice, home on leave of absence, secured a comfortable living in Wales, but deferred his resignation of the colonial charge until next year, when he would be entitled to a pension thus endeavouring "to make the best of both worlds," the old and the new. Through the intervention of the colonial secretary, however, he has been ordered to resign his Welsh benefice or his colonial rectory. Not wishing to forfeit the pension, he has given up the living in Wales. Mr. Austin's cousin, who gave him the Welsh living, in an angry letter to the papers, insinuates that the person who called the attention of the Government to the matter was a clergyman who hoped to get the Berbice rectory, and declares that he is "no gentleman."

IN discussing the Franco-Chinese difficulty, the "Moniteur Universel" makes the following sensible observations: We are, therefore, set face to face with the alternative either of resuming negotiations with the Celestial Empire or of doubling, even tripling, the forces commanded by General Bouet. We do not believe we are wrong in asserting that the immense majority of public opinion in France would prefer the first course to the second. With a treasury empty, with the marked ill-will of most of the European powers arrayed against our colonial policy, on the eve of grave complications, perhaps, in the north-east of Europe, if the Government has any foresight it will not neglect to reduce the expedition within the limits of an ordinary police force, whose operation would be speedy and cost little.

THE committee appointed by the Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist, Free Methodist, and Bible Christian churches to consider the question of Methodist Union in New Zealand, met at Christ Church in July last. Seventeen representatives were present. It was unanimously agreed that there is absolute unity as to doctrines held. Much time was spent in considering the construction of the connectional Church court. Great interest in the subject was manifested, and a disposition to make the necessary concessions was shown by all. Considerable progress was made in forming the basis of the union for submission to the respective churches. Unanimity was practically arrived at on all the important questions. The committee have made a series of recommendations as to the various funds, settlement of properties, and duties of church officers. It was affirmed that all ministers would be profitably employed, and no serious difficulty is apprehended concerning finance.

THE following recently appeared in the "Independent": A French writer, M. Andre Berthet, has issued a "Lay Catechism" for the instruction of young agnostics. Here are some of the questions and answers:

- Q. What is God?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Who created the world?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Whence comes humanity, and whither does it go?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. When and how did man come on earth?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. What will become of us after death?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Are you not ashamed of your ignorance?
- A. There can be no shame in being ignorant of what no one could know.

We now understand a passage of Scripture: The ox knoweth his owner, but the ass knows only his master's crib, without knowing his master, and that is the case with M. Berthet. He knows the crib where he gets his food, but not the Master who provides it.

THE union of the Methodist Churches in Canada will lead to concentration of effort in various directions. Our old and familiar friends, the organs of the numerically smaller branches of the Methodist Church, will merge their identity in our good neighbour, "The Guardian." The "Canada Christian Advocate," published in Hamilton for many years as the organ of the

Methodist Episcopal Church; the "Christian Journal," Toronto, organ of the Primitive Methodist Church, and the "Observer," Bowmanville, organ of the Bible Christian Church, will be discontinued. The publishing interests of the united body will be centred in Toronto, with Rev. Wm. Briggs at the head of the business department, Rev. Dr. Dewart, editor, and Rev. Dr. Stone, associate editor of the "Christian Guardian." There will be a similar consolidation of the educational institutions connected with the various churches. Work, it is said, will be found for Victoria College at Cobourg, and for Albert College at Belleville; and a scheme is on foot to endow a Methodist University at Toronto.

COMMENTING on Bishop Ryle's preaching in a Presbyterian pulpit the "Christian Leader" says:—A pleasant contrast to the conduct of the late Bishop Wilberforce, who turned his service at Glengarry into an insult to the Presbyterian Church, is furnished by the appearance of the Bishop of Liverpool in a Presbyterian pulpit in Perthshire. Last autumn Dr. Ryle was taken to task very severely by certain Scottish Episcopal clergymen, and also by the High Church papers, for daring to preach in a parish kirk; but the censors of the bishop have not succeeded in frightening him from a renewal of the fraternal service. The truly catholic spirit of this Evangelical leader of the Anglican communion was made all the more apparent by the manly simplicity with which he conducted public worship in the kirk of Moulin. Entering the pulpit in the ordinary walking dress of a bishop, he followed the usual Presbyterian mode throughout the whole service, and showed his respect for the place in which he stood by making no reference whatever to the exceptional position he occupied. This is as it ought to be; and we trust the day is hastening when such a simple brotherly act will be regarded as a commonplace calling for no special remark.

WEEKLY-HEALTH BULLETIN.—The weather of the week has exhibited a sudden and marked change, so much as to lead us to expect some considerable change in the relative positions of several diseases. Such, in some degree, has been the case. Thus diseases of a diarrhoeal character have, on the whole, decreased, and influenzas have increased. Regarding diseases of the respiratory organs in general, no marked increase has occurred, at least in comparative prevalence, although the total of diseases reported this week is much in excess of last week. Amongst fevers, the lateral expansion, if we may so call it, of Intermittent, is very marked. It occurs in five Districts amongst the six most prevalent diseases, noticeably in District V., along the south shore of the Georgian Bay, where it has seldom, if ever, appeared before. Fever Enteric deserves special notice. Last week it appeared amongst the six most prevalent diseases only in one district. This week it occurs in three. Last week its total degree of prevalence in a comparatively small number of reported diseases was 2.6 per cent. This week, with a much larger number of diseases reported, its prevalence amounts to 3.3 per cent. Scarletina, noticed last week as having again appeared, persists still in this week's reports. Asthma again appears in one of the two districts in which it was last week. It is somewhat noticeable that both of these districts lie to the extreme west of the Province. More extended statistics must be received, however, before any conclusions regarding its cause can be given. The great increase of Typhoid Fever must again direct our attention to the facts of its causation. Professor Buhl has stated that so long as underground water continues to rise, the number of fatal cases of Typhoid Fever steadily falls, and vice versa. It is the vice versa which is present now, as after the very wet summer, the dry month of August has greatly lowered the underground water, and hence has allowed the organic matter carried down with the rains to become decomposed by air being drawn into the soil. The later rains of September will serve in again draining such matters in a decomposing state into the wells.