

## Notes of the Week.

IN the last number of the Glasgow *Christian Leader* there is a remarkably accurate and well-written paper on the late Professor Young. It is easy to trace the hand of a young Canadian in the sketch, and it is more than likely that when these lines appear in print the writer of the article referred may be met in the corridors of Knox College.

MAYOR GRANT, of New York, permitted the Irish to fly their flag from the city hall on St. Patrick's Day. Ex-Mayor Hewitt, it will be remembered, refused thus to do a year ago; he would not recognize any nationalities but the American in America. If Mayor Grant is consistent, he will fly the Union Jack on the Queen's next birthday, if solicited, in honour of those of her Majesty's English subjects resident in New York.

THE committee of Bala Calvinistic Methodist Theological College have offered the post of Principal to the Rev. T. C. Edwards, D.D., of Aberystwyth. His acceptance of the Principalship would be hailed with satisfaction and delight by all Presbyterians, and by North Wales Presbyterians in particular. The Lord-Lieutenant of Anglesea and the Rev. R. H. Morgan, M.A., were appointed to wait upon Dr. Edwards, and urge his acceptance.

A BILL has been introduced into the Legislature of New York State, which provides that a mere impression, derived from rumour or newspaper reports, or otherwise, as to the guilt or innocence of an accused party, shall not necessarily disqualify a person to serve as a juror in that case. This is common sense and ought to be the law. It is about time to give up the theory that one must be either a simpleton or an igoramus, in order to be fit to serve as a juror.

PROFESSOR HARNACK'S address at the recent celebration at Berlin of the centenary of Neander's birth claimed for his illustrious predecessor that he opened a new epoch in the treatment of ecclesiastical history. He broke with the negations and negative methods of the eighteenth century and inaugurated a positive and strictly historic treatment. Dr. Harnack is a pupil of Neander and occupies the chair of his master. Although only thirty-eight years of age he stands at the head of the living Church historians of Germany.

IT was stated last week that Archbishop Fabre, of Montreal, had issued a private circular to his clergy instructing them upon what constitutes the true Catholic press. His Lordship, it appears, declares that the Catholic press is that which speaks in harmony with the teaching and views of its bishop, and not that which opens its columns to more or less dissatisfied individuals who thus find means to criticize duly constituted authority. This circular, it is asserted, will produce quite a commotion among a certain portion of the clergy. In the Province of Quebec it is really remarkable how reactionary Roman Catholic authorities are becoming.

THE *British Weekly* says: We are glad to learn that the degree of Doctor of Divinity has been conferred on the Rev. Norman L. Walker, of Dysart Free Church, by Edinburgh University. No man has rendered more literary service to the Free Church of Scotland than Mr. Walker. The great promise of his early books, "Life in the Spirit" and "Christ at Sychar," would have warranted the hope of more important work than has proceeded from his pen; but Mr. Walker, in a most self-sacrificing spirit, devoted his energies to religious journalism. He has made the *Free Church Record* the largest and the best magazine of its kind.

SOME of the leaders of the Woman Suffrage movement in the British House of Commons feel sure that the second reading of the Bill giving a Parliamentary vote to widows and spinsters, otherwise qualified, will be carried next month when the Bill comes before the House of Commons. The question as to whether women can sit upon the newly established county councils is now before the courts. Two women, Lady Sandhurst and Miss Cobden, daughter of the famous economist, were elected in

London, and have sat and voted, and Lady Sandhurst has been made an alderman. The candidate next below Lady Sandhurst on the poll now petitions the court for her seat.

REV. GEORGE A. SMITH, of Aberdeen, says that next to the sin of making gain out of our religion he knows nothing more satanic than the sin of making gain out of our amusements. It is a prostitution of the most heinous sort, a poisoning of the wells. Of course, every great club needs its professionals, men who gain their livelihood by teaching or directing sport; but to-day we are threatened very alarmingly by the spread of professionalism among those who do not depend on amusements for livelihood, who have no pretence to look to our sports for anything else than amusement or recreation. The pure athletics of our youth are being polluted by the unclean feet of men madly scrambling for gain.

BISHOP TEMPLE, of London, relates that when he was once worshipping in an East end church where a hearty musical service is a distinguishing feature, he joined in the singing to the best of his ability. He has a stentorian voice, and the effect of his efforts on those sitting near him may be imagined. At the conclusion of the second verse of the hymn the patience of a workingman on his immediate left seemed fairly exhausted. Not recognizing the dignitary beside him, the poor man, in sheer desperation, gave the Bishop a sharp dig in the ribs, and the latter, on turning round for an explanation, was thus addressed in subdued but distinct tones: "I say, gub'ner, you dry up; you're spoiling the whole show."

THE Chinese press is stirring up missionaries to undertake medical work. The *China Medical Mission Journal* contains articles of Dr. J. G. Kerr, and Rev. A. W. Douthwaite, M.D., on the value of medical work as an aid to evangelisation. Commenting upon them, the *China Overland Mail* says: We think it is becoming more and more apparent to religious workers in this part of the world that the masses of China cannot be reached by merely preaching to them; that their best chance of success is in imitating the example of the Master they serve, who inculcated His teaching while going about doing good. Of course one does not wish to see all the missionaries turned into sick nurses pure and simple, but only that they should realize that by discriminatingly helping the natives in their sufferings they can best reach their hearts.

THE Presbytery of Nassau, in the Synod of New York, brings to the attention of the Presbyteries in the United States generally its renewed proposition for a revision of chapter three of the Confession of Faith. This it does by a circular letter, containing the following overture: "The Presbytery of Nassau hereby respectfully overtures the General Assembly that a committee be appointed to revise chapter three of the Confession of Faith (with especial reference to the sections 3, 4, 6 and 7), on the ground that in its present form it goes beyond the Word of God, and is opposed to the convictions and repugnant to the feelings of very many of our most worthy and thoughtful members; and that said revision be sent down to the Presbyteries, and if accepted by them, be substituted for chapter three in the Confession of Faith.

THE last number of the *Christian Leader* received contains the following: The Rev. J. A. Macdonald, M.A., editor of the *Knox College Monthly*, sails from the Clyde for Canada this week, having completed his round of visits to the universities and theological halls of Scotland, where he has received a cordial welcome both from professors and students as a representative of the rising generation of Presbyterian ministers in the Dominion. The closing weeks of Mr. Macdonald's visit were spent in the London hall now presided over by Dr. Oswald Dykes, and at Oxford, where he had the advantage of meeting Principal Fairbairn and seeing the good work that is already being done in Mansfield College. Mr. Macdonald's tour cannot fail to be of enormous advantage to him as conductor of the able monthly which gives already such good promise of becoming a worthy representative of the Presbyterian scholarship of Canada.

CLERICAL interference with political affairs is very generally resented. All the more is this the case where the cleric entertains political opinions opposed to yours. At the outset of a brilliant paper in the current number of the *Contemporary*, Canon Wilberforce vindicates his treatment of the subject by denouncing the arbitrary assumption of a sharp cut division between the Christian religion and the social and political life of the nation. This, in his opinion, is a radical mistake, unspiritualising the mainsprings of national progress. "The constantly repeated aphorism that the ministers of the church overstep their functions when they actively participate in the political struggles of the time is as shallow as it is mischievous. The truth is that ordination, so far from emancipating an intelligent Englishman from participating in the responsibilities of political and social life, accentuates his obligations as a heavenly citizen to raise his voice against public vices which tend to undermine the stability of the commonwealth."

MR. F. STANLEY ARNOT, who recently recounted in the Glasgow Christian Institute his experiences as a missionary explorer in Central Africa, says the *Christian Leader*, left this country in 1881, when he was twenty-one years of age. Deprived at Natal through ill-health of the companionship of a young man who had accompanied him on his mission journey from Scotland, Arnot, unaided by any missionary organization, resolved to proceed alone to the interior, and he has succeeded in traversing the Dark Continent, with several protracted detours, from east to west. If the natives can be persuaded that a stranger's mission is peaceful, this new explorer avers that it is as safe travelling in some parts of Africa as would be a journey on foot from Glasgow to London. The young missionary in his seven years' sojourn in Africa has given evidence of his unflinching faith and of his powers of endurance; he has been welcomed with great cordiality—in a manner that he never dreamed as coming within the range of human possibility—by more than one powerful chief, and received substantial aid from them in his progress and missionary work. Mr. Arnot, who has much of Livingstone's heroic spirit, has seen old men in Africa who still retain, after an interval of twenty-five years, the impression made upon them by the sight of the illustrious explorer. A narrative of Mr. Arnot's mission work will be published about the middle of the month, and early in April accompanied by several young men, he leaves for Africa, with the immediate purpose of establishing a mission station in Msidi's territory, near the sources of the Congo and Zambesi.

THE *Christian Leader* says: The most open-handed lay leader of the constitutional party in the Free Church, who fought stoutly by the side of Dr. Begg in the Assembly, and was ever ready with purse as well as voice to resist the innovations of the modern spirit, has passed away by the death, in his seventy-sixth year, of Mr. William Kidston, of Ferniegair. No Glasgow merchant of his generation took a more active part in public affairs, and his best work was done in connection with the passing of the Forbes-Mackenzie Act, and at a later date as a member of the school board. He made one unsuccessful attempt to procure a seat in Parliament, standing for Caithness in the Conservative interest in 1874; and down to the day of his death, though for several years he had been laid aside by feeble health, he continued to take a keen interest in politics. The Broad Church party in his own communion had no more resolute opponent; and one of his last efforts to counterwork the liberal theologians was directed against Professor Bruce, though his elaborate preparations for an indictment of that divine missed fire, greatly to his disgust. Mr. Kidston was for some time Convener of the Temperance Committee of the Free Assembly, and in the battle against strong drink was allied with those from whom he differed on most other points rather than with his own political and ecclesiastical friends. His death removes the last prominent sample in the ecclesiastical world of a somewhat quaint type of Scottish character; and many good causes, as well as some that were of questionable utility, will miss the liberal benefactions with which he was always ready to back up his convictions.