

Notes of the Week.

MANY people are of opinion that Sunday funerals are far more numerous than there is any necessity for. Ministers of different denominations have sought to discountenance them as much as possible. The ministers and undertakers of London have agreed to restrict the custom of Sunday burial, excepting of course cases where immediate interment is a matter of necessity.

THE *Christian World* says: Lord Tennyson's new poem, "The Throstle," is short and sweet. It is a little burst of spontaneous melody that seeks to express the wild gaiety of the songster at nesting time, when all nature is awakening after the dreariness of winter. Our young-minded laureate of eighty must have dashed off these simple lines, that sing themselves, with all the delight of the thrush in the fulness of life, on some bright day in the open air. We are forbidden to quote from the *New Review*. They appear, however, in another column.

THE *British Weekly* says: Mr. Arthur Guthrie, Ardrossan, whose literary gifts have earned him more than a provincial reputation, has in the press a volume entitled "Robertson of Irvine, Poet-Preacher," a recasting and expansion of his series of papers on "Memorials of Trinity Church, Irvine." His recollections of intimate personal intercourse, and the large number of reports in his possession, of sermons, lectures, speeches, etc., by Dr. Robertson, have enabled him to produce a volume of distinct value, supplying in several respects what has been found defective in the "Life" written by Dr. James Brown.

A MEETING and conference are to be held, under the auspices of the Protestant Alliance, in London, early in November, to protest against any Government endowment of Roman Catholic education in Ireland. Mr. A. H. Guinness, M.A., Secretary of the Alliance, in its "Monthly Letter" for September, shows to what extent the Roman Catholics have already got education in their hands in Ireland, largely at the public expense. By means of Catholic reading-books, hymns, pictures and teachers, the most active propagandism is carried on, in many cases Protestant children having to be sent to the Catholic schools.

MR. SPURGEON, referring to the report of his intended resignation, writes in his magazine: No idea of giving up my beloved work has crossed my mind of late. To whom should I give it up? Who will carry on the orphanage, college, colportage, evangelists, etc.? Who will minister to that tremendous throng which crowds the great house as constantly as the doors are opened? When the Lord sends the manifest successor the original worker will cheerfully give way; but why should he do so while as yet his years are only fifty-five, and he is no worse in health than he has been wont to be, but, on the contrary, has had a better year than usual?

IN the Maritime Provinces of Canada the railways and steamers carry the members of the Presbyterian Synod to and from the meeting-place, which is Pictou this year, for a single fare. Even the wives of the members receive the same privileges on all the routes except two, where a charge of one-third is made for the return journey. So says the *Glasgow Christian Leader*. The practice of giving reduced rates is not confined to the Maritime Provinces. To those attending religious and philanthropic conventions the railway and shipping companies arrange for reduced rates of travel. The same custom prevails over the whole North American Continent.

THE Rev. A. Decoppet, of France, in an article in the *Observer* on the failure of Father Hyacinth's work, attributes that failure to several causes. 1. His work is too exclusively ecclesiastical. He gives too much attention to the Church question and too little to the feeding of his people and the quickening of their hearts. 2. He occupies an equivocal position, claiming to be a Catholic, when he is no longer such in the popular, historical sense. He is Protestant in reality, but he disclaims that appellation. 3. His attitude towards the Protestants alien-

ates them from him. He fails to see that they are his natural allies. "His Church is without hope in the future, and may be said scarcely to have an existence in the present."

THE Rev. Alfred Rowland is the Merchants' Lecturer in London, for October. His subject is "Ecce Homo." In the course of his first lecture Mr. Rowland said: It is the fashion to laugh at Calvinism, and so far as its harsh, stiff setting of religious truth in metaphysical phrases is concerned, I have much sympathy with that feeling, but depend upon it that at the back of all that artificial system lay the eternal truth of the Divine Will recognized and gloried in by men who were ready to live or die as God might appoint. Far nobler, far truer, is that conception of life than the modern theory that we drift about aimlessly on the current of life taking our chance as best we may. Another illustration that thoughtful men who have not been trained in the Shorter Catechism can recognize the strong points of the system of doctrine known as Calvinism.

THE Bankers' Safe Deposit Warehousing and Loan Co., who have secured the most suitable and completely equipped premises possible in the new Bank of Commerce building, make the announcement that they are now ready to commence business. They are prepared to receive applications for space in their main security vault "constructed of consecutive layers of five-ply, drill-proof chrome steel and iron, exceeding in thickness any yet used in Canada," for all kinds of valuables to be kept in safety. The utility of such institutions has been abundantly and successfully tested in large business centres elsewhere, and there is ample room and need for such in Toronto. In the list of officers appear the names of prominent and well-known business men in the city. The management is entrusted to Mr. William Kerr, a gentleman of unimpeachable probity.

PRINCIPAL CAIRD and Professors Edward Caird, Knight and Campbell have signed a letter in which they state that as they were among those who testified to the fitness of Dr. Menzies for the chair of Biblical Criticism in St. Andrew's, they feel bound, from a personal knowledge of him for more than twenty years, to express their conviction that his slight deafness will be no hindrance to the discharge of the duties of his professorship. They also add that Lord Lothian made "the most careful inquiry as to the alleged physical defects of Dr. Menzies." Several of the members of Dr. Menzies' congregation have written to say that they have never had the slightest difficulty in hearing his sermons, and they speak most warmly of his personal qualities. In a lengthy reply to his critics Professor Flint virtually admits that his action in this regrettable incident was prompted by the ignoring of the claims of Rev. W. Hastie to the vacant chair.

THE first of a series of popular concerts was given in the Pavilion last week and in every respect was a most successful affair. The promoters of these concerts evidently have a proper conception of what is the right thing to attempt in this direction. Toronto is becoming a musical city and it is well that the people generally should share the benefits of the refining influences of good music. An effort was made to suit the varied popular tastes, yet all within the limits of strict propriety. There is a wide interval between selections from "Tannhauser" and a comic ditty, but so well managed were matters that there was no apparent incongruity. All was well sustained. The Chautauqua Orchestra produced fine music and made a most favourable impression. The performances of the youthful violinist, George Fox, more than fulfil the expectations entertained years ago. The other contributors to the concert's success amply sustained their individual reputations. This endeavour to popularize good music and minister to healthy and rational enjoyment is deserving of cordial support.

THE Italian nation has had able and comprehensive statesmen since it entered on the modern and progressive phase of its existence. The name of Cavour will long live in history. He has a fitting successor in Premier Crispi, whose firmness bears evidence to the depth of his convictions and clearness of vision. At a banquet given in his honour at

Palermo last week he is reported to have said that it was necessary to combat all persons, high or low, who were seeking to undermine the political edifice of Italy. The temporal power of the Pope, although it had existed for centuries, had been only a transitive period. Rome existed before it and would continue to exist without it. Complaints or threats either from home or abroad would have no effect. He declared unassailable the utterance of King Humbert that Rome forms an integral part of Italy just as law forms a part of the modern world. After asserting that the Pope possessed perfect religious liberty and was only restricted, and less harshly than in other Catholic states, from encroaching upon the sphere of national right, which is the right of reason, Signor Crispi exclaimed: Let the Church now free, endeavour to frighten Prometheus with the thunderbolts of heaven. Our task is to fight in the cause of reason.

THE *London Christian World* says: Mr. John Burns and Mr. Tillett said some hard things about Nonconformists to a representative of the *Baptist* the other day—things harder than we think the truth entirely warranted. They gave the first promise for help and sympathy to Cardinal Manning, to the Salvation Army and to the Christ Church Mission and Mr. Chadburn. "The Nonconformist body as a body have been conspicuous by their lukewarmness and dictatorial manner." Mr. Tillett excepted Dr. Clifford, Dr. Lunn, and Mr. McNeill, and a few others; but described the City Temple meeting as an empty thing, and united with Mr. Burns in protesting against Dr. Parker's dictatorial manner assumed towards the working men as a class. Mr. Tillett's advice to Nonconformists, if they want to win the good-will of such men as dock labourers, was to "identify themselves more with the homes of the people, and be less gushing on the platform." "We can't stand Dr. Parker at any price," he repeated, and rudely described Mr. Spurgeon as "an old autocrat." It is unpleasant to know that such feelings are entertained, whether altogether justified or not. We have reason to know that the Nonconformists did very much in the way of relief work that may not have come under the direct observation of the strike leaders; but it is evident that, as was confessed at the City Temple meeting, the Nonconformists generally were caught napping.

THE *Christian-at-Work* says: Canada has had a very quiet time with the Indians; and among other reasons because she has treated them fairly, and they have not, that we are aware of, been fleeced by villainous traders and "agents," nor has the whiskey trade flourished among the Canadian Indians as it has among the Sioux, Chippewas and Blackfeet. Yet there must be something wrong or we should not have the news of the great numbers of Indians starving in the Mackenzie River basin. As is shown, a missionary, Rev. Mr. Black, who arrived in Winnipeg last week from Fort Simpson, says the provisions gave out there early in January this year, and we would have given \$200 for a bag of flour. We have said there is something wrong in the matter. The explanation is easily had. They and the white hunters have recklessly destroyed the greater part of the herds of reindeer, moose and buffalo of the woods, and now those living near the Hudson Bay Company alone find some relief in the meagre rations of bacon and flour doled out by the Government. "The Indians are doomed," said Dr. Bain before the Senate Committee at Ottawa last year. "They are deteriorating physically, and in fifty years there will be scarcely be any of them left." Missionaries are at work among the Indians, but even they are often reduced to extremities themselves, and have lived for months at a time on a diet of fish and a little barley soup. Mr. Black says there is reason to fear that the mortality among the Indians next winter on account of the scarcity of food will be very great. One thing is very clear, the Canadian Government is doing nothing whatever for most of the Indians of the Mackenzie River basin. They have suffered much from disease brought among them by the whites, who are doing almost nothing to ameliorate their bitter lot. Probably a more hopeless and wretched lot does not live to-day than these Mackenzie River Indians, whose final extinction is rapidly approaching, unless the Canadian Government rises to the high place of its opportunity and its duty.