

Notes of the Week.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States last year recommended \$800,000 for Home Missions. The receipts, the *Interior* says, foot up to within \$16,000 of it. That is the best approach to an estimate yet made. It is an increase of \$130,000 over last year. Will the report presented to our Assembly at Halifax present a like gratifying increase?

THE College Students' Summer School and Encampment at Northfield, Massachusetts, is announced to begin on June 30, and continue till the 15th of July. The course of Bible study is to be conducted by Mr. D. L. Moody, who has invited a number of prominent men from the United States and elsewhere to take part in the meetings. The advantages to be derived from this gathering are not confined to college students, but are open to all who desire to attend.

DR. MITCHELL of South Leith, preaching the annual sermon on cruelty to animals in Tron Church, Edinburgh, lately, spoke against the neglect of pet animals, but added that some people were more careful of these than they were of human beings. They provided special premises for their hunters, while their cottars lived in places resembling pig-sties. They occasionally saw a lady who allowed her child to be carried behind her by a nurse, whilst she herself tenderly carried some blear-eyed brute of a lap-dog.

ALTHOUGH the latest letters from Rev. D. Clement Scott are of a reassuring character so far as the immediate future of the African mission is concerned, an impression appears to have been created among the English and Portuguese that Great Britain has abandoned her people in East Africa, and they are hastening to strangle the missions by closing against them the River Zambesi, which was opened thirty years ago at an expense to British tax-payers of over \$50,000. Will British rulers allow the work of Livingston to be thus undone?

WHILE the Rev. Walter C. Smith, of the Free High Church, Edinburgh, is on his American tour, the following ministers have agreed to supply his pulpit: Principal Caird and Dr. Cameron Lees, of the Established Church; Principal Cairns, Dr. James Brown and Rev. John Smith, M.A., of the United Presbyterian Church; Principal Miller, of Madras, Dr. Alexander Whyte, Professors A. B. Davidson, Laidlaw, Lindsay and Salmond, and Revs. Lewis Davidson, George Steven, David Somerville, Alexander Martin, George Smith, of Aberdeen, John Neil, H. Falconer and Macrae Stewart, of the Free Church.

AN outside opinion on a matter that keenly interests combatants on the spot is not without its value. The *Christian Leader*, published in Glasgow, has this to say on the location of McMaster University: To any disinterested observer in the Old Country, it must seem very strange that the Canadian Baptists are divided on the subject of where they ought to have their university. The late Mr. M'Master's magnificent bequest and the metropolitan character of Toronto clearly point to that city as the most appropriate location; and yet some are contending that Woodstock has a vested interest in the affair and must be selected.

THE Bishop of Rochester is not ignorant of the bones and banjo entertainments cultivated by some of the ministers in his diocese, with a view of attracting young men to the Church. "The Church," he says, "has a great moral and religious work to do in reclaiming the victims of intemperance, and this cannot be done only by the tea, the banjo, and humorous recitations. To vulgarize our great cause in the eyes of the public is to destroy it. Some well-meaning persons are, un-

consciously no doubt, doing their best to make it very vulgar even now." We have taken occasion, says the *Christian Leader*, to denounce such a policy as demoralizing, and are thankful that our case is now very much strengthened by Dr. Thorold, who is of opinion that such proceedings are positively vulgar.

THE sudden death of the Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, has given a temporary truce to the severity of political vituperation. The good qualities of the deceased Minister have been generously recognized, and frank tributes to his many excellencies have been paid by the press without distinction of party. As a journalist and politician, Mr. White occupied a high rank and sought faithfully to discharge the duties he had undertaken. He was an indefatigable worker, and to overwork is in a measure attributed the weakness of his system to resist the indisposition with which he was at first attacked. He was highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends, and his removal has occasioned profound regret throughout the country.

THE united service on the centennial Sunday at Sydney was a truly national thanksgiving. Representatives of all the different branches of Protestant Christianity took part along with Bishop Barry. Dr. Steel, on behalf of the Presbyterians, gave an address crowded with facts, in which he showed the creative hand at work in the beginnings of the nation; while Dr. Jefferis, a leading Congregationalist, sketched the future lines of Australian development, insisting on Christianity as the indispensable base for the national superstructure. Dr. Jefferis seems to have carried off the palm for oratory at what is described by the *Australian Independent* as the most memorable religious gathering ever witnessed in Australia. That the best efforts of all the Churches, says a contemporary, will be needed to keep New South Wales from relapsing into barbarism is made apparent by the fact that during the centennial week some 5,000 people assembled at the Carrington grounds at Sydney, and paid from five shillings to a pound of entry-money to witness a prize-fight between two Irishmen, the godless herd including doctors, lawyers, influential business men, members of parliament, and even ex-cabinet ministers.

A HEATED discussion took place in Fordoun Presbytery, on the report of a committee appointed to consider a sermon preached and published by Mr. J. Robertson of Stonehaven, said to be copied from Canon Wilberforce's "Trinity of Evil." In the course of the discussion Mr. Robertson admitted that he had made an "illegitimate use" of the Canon's paper, but many of his replies to questions were deemed by some of the members to be much too qualified to be perfectly honest. Eventually Mr. Robertson's acknowledgment was accepted, but judgment was adjourned. On a recent Sunday, however, it is said that Mr. Robertson, at the close of the afternoon service, created a scene in his own Church by reading a recantation of his admission, coupled with a strong protest against the unfair treatment he had received from the Presbytery and a threat to leave the Church if the Assembly did not reverse their finding. He read a letter from Canon Wilberforce, expressing the opinion that what Mr. Robertson had done did not amount to plagiarism. Mr. Robertson was so overcome that he had to be assisted to the vestry by some of the elders, and while many wept, several ladies in the congregation fainted.

AN influential meeting, presided over by the Hon. G. W. Allan, Speaker of the Senate, to promote Sabbath Observance, was held in Ottawa lately. The various Evangelical Churches were ably and well represented. The following resolutions were adopted: That a circular be issued to the directors of the various railway companies, calling their attention to their duty in regard to the Lord's Day, to the wrong and hardship of asking men to work on that

day, depriving them of their weekly day of rest, preventing them from joining with their fellow-citizens in the public worship of God, placing them in the temptation either to do violence to their consciences or give up their situations. That a committee be appointed to consider the possibility of obtaining such legislation as will bring the employers of labour, whether individual or corporations, within reach of the law with regard to the observance of the Lord's Day. That it is desirable that suitable measures be adopted whereby public opinion will be enlightened on this important subject, so that such action may be taken as will bring about the objects for which the alliance is formed. Such influence, for example, as can be exerted by the pulpit, the press and petition. The following officers for the year were appointed: Hon. Speaker Allan, president; Hon. John Macdonald, Toronto, Mr. John Charlton, M.P., Archdeacon Lauder, Senator Macdonald, British Columbia, vice-presidents; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, secretary; Mr. George Hay, treasurer.

THE fifty-fifth annual meeting of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society was held in Toronto last week, the Rev. Joshua Denovan presiding. The report showed that substantial progress in the good work had been made during the year. Interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. W. H. Howland, Professor McLaren, Mr. Roland Mellish, Halifax, and Mr. Bone. Rev. Messrs. Coverdale Watson, D. G. Sutherland, John Burton and Mr. J. K. Macdonald took part in the proceedings. These officers were elected: Rev. Joshua Denovan, president; Rev. William Reid, D.D., Right Rev. M. S. Baldwin, D.D., Bishop of Huron; Daniel Wilson, LL.D., President University College; Right Rev. A. Sweatman, D.D., Bishop of Toronto; Hon. John Macdonald, Rev. John Burton, B.D., Hon. Chancellor Boyd, Rev. J. A. Williams, D.D., vice-presidents; Mr. J. S. Playfair, treasurer; Mr. John K. Macdonald, Rev. A. F. McGregor, B.A., honorary secretaries; Revs. John Neil, B.A., G. M. Milligan, M.A., T. C. Desbarres, M.A., T. Cullen, E. A. Stafford, M.A., LL.B., D. G. Sutherland, LL.B., Charles Duff, H. P. Hobson, W. Patterson, D. G. McDonald, S. H. Kellogg, D.D., H. Johnston B.D., Messrs. James Brodie, George Pim, J. J. Woodhouse, E. J. Joselin, A. M. Roseburgh, M. Nasmith, Thomas Bengough, Herbert Mortimer, A. E. O'Meara, Frederick Walker, John Kent, James Knowles, jun., directors.

THE following from the *British Weekly* is worth reading and thinking over: The Bishop of Winchester has endorsed, apparently without reserve, the advice given a few days ago by his Dean to a number of candidates for ordination not to preach short sermons. He is of the opinion that there is a mischievous tendency in the present day to preach exciting sermons, and to appeal to people's feelings rather than to their reason and judgment. The divines of earlier generations, from whom we obtain the major part of our best theology, did not preach short sermons, and to yield to the prevalent clamour for such sermons would involve a great loss. The most popular preachers of our own day, whether in the Established or the Non-Established Churches, do not comply with this oft-repeated demand. Neither Canon Liddon, the Bishop of Peterborough, nor Archdeacon Farrar; Mr. Spurgeon, Dr. Maclaren, Dr. Parker, nor Dr. Dale preach what are called short sermons. We do not think there is any need to occupy a specified time. Still less should preachers talk against time. If they have nothing to say let them say it and be done. But if they have solid Biblical instruction to impart, and are bent on applying the great principles of the Gospel to all questions that affect the present and eternal interests of men, it is absurd to expect that their sermons shall be warranted not to exceed twenty minutes in length. Men should go to service not for amusement, but for stimulus and instruction; not for self-gratification, but for the worship of God. And this primary end must never be made secondary.