

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Free Church of Scotland is under the necessity of changing its mission in Livingstonia, Lake Nyassa, to a more healthy location.

THE Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin has issued a pastoral against the prevailing fashions in woman's dress, and immoral publications, which has some strong language. He says the costumes of the present day seem to have been designed by the goddess of paganism, rather than by the "Queen of Heaven."

DR. RYLE, the newly-appointed Bishop of Liverpool, said the other day that Wesleyanism would not have existed as a separate body one hundred years ago if the bishops of that day had been alive to the nature of the times, and taken Wesley and his companions by the hand and provided them with work, and given them encouragement in the Church of England.

A ROME despatch states that in the consistory held lately the Pope pronounced his allocution. After enumerating the grievances of the Church in Belgium, his holiness declared that he was quite prepared to suffer personal insult on behalf of the Holy See, but would never allow the apostolic dignity of the papacy to be insulted, even though its defence might cost him his life. He said injuries to the Church were not limited to Belgium. On a future occasion he would refer to some other circumstances which were a serious source of anguish to the Church.

At the meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, held in Knox Church, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 2nd inst., Mrs. Dr. Murray Mitchell gave an interesting account of her mission work in India. She described what is known as zenana work, a mission work among the native women, and related several instances of conversion, and of homes created in the English sense of the word "home." The general result of the mission work of the Christian Church, she stated, was very satisfactory, and she appealed to the ladies of Toronto to assist in promoting its success.

THE United Presbyterian Synod's Committee on Disestablishment has passed the following resolution. "That the by-elections ought now to be carefully watched, and candidates favourable to Disestablishment brought forward. That the circumstances regarded by some as warranting temporary silence on the question no longer exist. On the contrary, vigilance and fidelity are demanded on the part of all friends of Disestablishment, both in and out of Parliament, in order that other questions, still multiplying, do not indefinitely interpose to retard its settlement. That it is not wise on the part of Liberals to delay this question; that the policy of assuming an obligation on the present Parliament to postpone Disestablishment to a Parliament of the future is promoted in the interests of the Kirk, and is to be firmly resisted."

THE Church of Scotland is receiving very cheering news from its oriental missions among the Jews. At Smyrna, the missionary, the Rev. W. Charteris, writes that he has baptized a whole Jewish family, consisting of father and mother and two children, and two young men. There are, he says, some inquirers who are eager for baptism, and the bonds of Rabbinism appear to be loosening. The schools in Constantinople have been crowded, and a new and vigorous opposition has been excited, in consequence, and parents have been ordered to remove their children by the Hahamim. A report upon the state of the Jews in Calcutta, printed in the August number of the "Record" of the Church of Scotland, says they are very accessible to Christian workers. The adults do not hesitate to form friendships with Christians, and the children are eager to learn, and have the whole Bible in their homes, to read and study.

REV. J. G. HAWKER, of the London Missionary Society, has been systematically visiting every town, village, and hamlet in the district of Belgaum, in Southern India, everywhere finding a hearty reception, and not only no opposition to the preaching of the Gospel, but an acquiescence and a desire to hear more. "In some places the whole population, men, women, and children, have turned out to see and hear. It is unusual and gives me special pleasure to observe so many women in the audiences. Generally, the Word is listened to with great gladness by those simple, ignorant villagers. In my last two trips I have visited all the hunters' hamlets on the hills stretching away to the east of us. They are a wild, lawless class of men, very ignorant, and having the reputation of being violent highwaymen. They, however, heard of the Gospel very gladly, and one of them said: 'My father and mother never taught me anything that was good. We have heard this now for the first time; but what must we do?' He, like others in different villages, begged for another visit."

THE Ritualistic trouble is not yet over at St. James', Hatcham, England. The vicar applied recently for a summons against a churchwarden for riotous behaviour in the church and for malicious damage. The vicar said that on the previous morning the festival of St. James was celebrated, the sermon being preached by the Rev. G. Jackson, of St. Thomas'. The sermon was extempore, and witness had no idea what the preacher would say. Mr. Jackson went into the vestry, and Mr. Saunders followed and told him (the vicar) it was a scandalous shame that he should allow a clergyman to preach as Mr. Jackson had done. He also spoke to Mr. Jackson, and having opened the vestry door, called in about forty men. Witness told Mr. Saunders to close the vestry, as it was his private room, but he replied that he would not, adding that it was a public room of the parish. A small emblem of the cross, worked in flowers, was suspended from the pulpit, and this Mr. Saunders displaced and threw on the ground. He also tore down some hangings used to cover a wall near the communion table. There was a great disturbance, and Mr. Saunders addressed the people from the vestry door.

A VERY respectable and most intelligent, though not so large an audience as could have been desired, met in Erskine Church, Toronto, on Thursday, the 2nd inst., to listen to an address on India, by the Rev. Dr. Murray Mitchell, so long and so favourably known in connection with the Bombay branch of the Free Church Indian mission. The address was an exceedingly interesting and instructive one, giving a very clear and distinct idea of the characteristic features of the country and its inhabitants—their race, social, and religious distinctions; the difficulties to be met with in the mission work in such a country and among such people, and the amount of success which had crowned the labours of the different societies that were conducting operations there. The native Christian population in India has been for some time past doubling every ten years, and now exceeds half a million. Dr. Mitchell said that since he remembered the number was not a fifth of this. He very naturally anticipates that this rate of progress will not only be maintained but greatly accelerated, for the Hindoos are largely gregarious, and are apt to move very much in a body when the impulse in any direction has acquired a certain amount of power.

THE Governor of New Zealand, Sir Hercules Robinson, characterizes the system of education adopted there, and which it is hoped will be carried out, as "the most ambitious yet adopted in any country in the world." It is proposed in New Zealand to provide the whole juvenile population with instruction free of charge in the following subjects: reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar and composition, geography, history, elementary science, drawing, object lessons, vocal music, drill, and, in case of girls, needlework and the principles of domestic economy. The scheme includes also provision at the public ex-

pense for a system of scholarships, for the maintenance of normal schools for training teachers, for the efficient inspection of public schools, and for the erection of suitable school-buildings. As soon as sufficient school accommodation has been provided, the Education Act contemplates that attendance at public schools shall be made compulsory on all children between the ages of seven and thirteen who may not be otherwise under efficient or regular instruction. While Sir Hercules thinks the programme may be too varied and too costly, he attaches little weight to the objection that there is a risk of overeducating the masses above their occupations, and so making them discontented with their lot in life. While he criticises the scheme in some of its details, still he says: "I think that your scheme of national education is one of which any country might well feel proud, and that it is being administered with an earnestness and an ability which is deserving of all praise. I have been much struck, in travelling about the country, with the deep interest which is universally taken in this most important question, and with the determination which pervades the whole community that the blessings of education shall for the future be placed within the reach of all."

THE Rev. William Adams, D.D., President of the Union Theological Seminary, and one of the foremost men in the Presbyterian Church of the United States, entered on his rest and reward on Tuesday morning, the 31st ult., after a short, and what till near the close was not thought a very formidable, sickness. Dr. Adams was born at Colchester, Conn., on the 25th of January, 1807; entered Yale in 1823, and graduated four years afterwards. He then studied Theology in Andover Seminary, and in 1831 was settled over the Congregational church, at Brighton, Mass. In 1834 he was called to the Central Presbyterian Church, New York. In 1853 a strong colony from this congregation went up town, built a church in Madison Square, and took Dr. Adams along with them as pastor. In this position Dr. Adams continued till 1873, and during this pastorate he built up one of the largest and most flourishing congregations in the city. After having been a city pastor for nearly forty years the Dr. became President of Union Theological Seminary, and filled the position with the same degree of tact, ability, and success which had been so conspicuous in his career as a pastor. It had been arranged that he should conduct the opening services at the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia, and possibly his absence will be felt as so far detracting from the interest and even the success of that assembly, at least so far as such a meeting could be influenced by the presence or absence of any single individual. One who knew Dr. Adams well gives the following sketch of some of his more characteristic excellences in the New York "Evangelist," of the 2nd inst. "He was a man of striking personal appearance. Tall and erect, he could not be seen in any company without being distinguished as above the common stature of men. If he rose in any assembly to which he was a stranger, whether at home or abroad, that commanding figure instantly arrested attention; and, heightened as the effect was by that fine intellectual countenance, and a natural dignity and an easy grace of manner, all at once turned to see and to hear. The charm of this personal presence was increased the moment he opened his lips. For to the grace of his manner he added a certain indefinable quality, which, for want of a better word, we call *fact*—which in such perfection as he had it is one of the rarest of intellectual gifts—the gift of a nature at once sensitive and sympathetic, which seizes, as by instinct, the spirit of an occasion, which feels as it were the pulse of an audience, and adapts itself to the mood of the spirit on which it is to act, as a master touches the organ to every variety of tone. Hence he was always happy on special occasions, whether of joy or sorrow; at a wedding or a funeral, 'bridal or burial.' And for more important services—on what were truly great occasions—his brethren turned to him as the one of them all best fitted for the difficult task. And in this he never failed."