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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE marriage of a man to a deceased wife's sister has been the source of much debate and no little trouble in the Southern Presbyterian Church. An overture is now before the Presbyteries legalizing such marriages.

IT is worthy of note that the largest contributions made last year to the missionary work of the Protestant Episcopal Church was made by a Chinaman, Mr. Charles Ping Lee, of Shanghai, who gave \$5,000 to St. Luke's Hospital in that city.

A SECULAR paper says a good thing about the Jews. They are never found in the liquor business. It is believed that out of 60,000 Hebrews in New York city not one is the keeper of a grog shop. Is that why the Russians kill them so frequently in Russia?

THE efforts of the Presbyterian women of Scotland for the increase of female education in India have brought forth fruit. T. M. Russell, Esq., formerly of Calcutta, and therefore well acquainted with the wants of India, has made a gift of \$17,500 in furtherance of this department of missionary labour.

IN the capital of Belgium the other day, an experiment of this kind was made: A mob had gathered outside the Chamber of Deputies to protest against certain legislation. Instead of bringing the militia to the front to aggravate the evil, the civil guard were called out, and the firemen played the hose upon the excited throng at the doors with excellent results.

SPEAKING of the French interference in the affairs of Madagascar, a French paper says: "It is sad for true patriots to have to confess that, under pretext of preserving a doubtful treaty, our French Colonial policy should be influenced by the Jesuits whose expulsion took place about three years ago. It is sufficient to note the energetic intervention of Count Mun, President of the Catholic Workmen's Society, and of Bishop Freppel, in the Chamber, to be convinced that our action against the Hovas is purely anti-Protestant."

THE time has come says, the *Presbyterian Banner*, when some of the religious newspapers begin their annual blowing about their unexampled greatness, increasing circulation and extraordinary popularity. Everything of this kind is a confession of weakness and does not deceive the public for a moment. No greater mistake can be made by the publishers of religious journals than to give such exhibitions as these or to offer their papers at one price in the immediate vicinity of publication and at another in places more distant.

SEPTEMBER has brought thousands of people home from their travels and set them to work again. Boats and railway cars have been crowded, and about depots and hotels there have been a jostling of crowds that hardly anything short of a popular movement could occasion. Not to discount in the least the pleasure of the various excursions, whether long or short, it is safe to say that only a few of the tourists are sorry that their season of recreation is ended. Home is home, and there is nothing to take its place, and the duty of life is stronger with all earnest people than its easy gratifications.

SEVERAL hundred small frame houses are now building in Belgium for use at Vivi and other stations established by Stanley along the Congo. As Stanley possessed no facilities for making lumber, his European assistants were compelled to live in tents or huts, and the discomfort of living in that way added largely to the sick list. The International Association is building at Boma, ninety miles above the mouth of the Congo, a sanitarium, to which it proposes to send its invalid agents for treatment. Better facili-

ties for preserving health and caring for the sick are among the innovations to be introduced on the Congo.

OUR friend of the *Interior* makes a neat point, as follows. Archdeacon Farrar, in his commendable zeal to promote the spiritual welfare of the "lower classes" in London, recommends a new order of clergy in the Church of England, who shall be bound by vows of "celibacy and poverty." So obviously opposed to the Scriptural idea of the ministry are both these requirements, that one is surprised to hear them seriously proposed in this day. It is not good for man to be alone, the labourer is worthy of his hire. Therefore the minister should have a wife and be supported in his labours; two considerations forbidding celibacy or poverty.

THE Old Catholic and other Reformed bodies, which have come out from the Church of Rome since the promulgation of the Vatican decree of Infallibility, make something of a showing in numbers. The Old Catholic Church in Switzerland has a bishop, Dr. Herzog, fifty clergy, and over fifty thousand adherents. The same body in Germany has a bishop, Dr. Reinkens, forty-five clergy, and nearly fifty thousand adherents. The movements of Pere Hyacinthe, in Paris, are familiar to all. In Spain, and in Italy, also, individual ecclesiastics of prominence have renounced Vaticanism, and are not without followers is a contest for purer doctrine.

LAST week the *Kankakee Times* published a correction of a statement that the picnic was held to celebrate the eighty-second birthday of the Rev. Chas. Chiniquy. Mr. Chiniquy is seventy-six years old, and so gently has time dealt with him that he is as erect, active, and vigorous as a man of thirty-five, while his mind is bright, his intellect brilliant and strong, and his power of discussion forcible and logical enough to make him a match for any theologian of the day. The reverend gentleman bids fair to attain the fullness of years and the ripeness of wisdom of the octogenarian, unless his useful career is cut short by some of the murderous and ill-advised mobs which frequently try to kill him.

CAREFUL analysis of Mr. Gladstone's speeches in the House of Commons shows that on an average he uses seventy per cent. of words of Saxon, thirteen per cent each of Latin and French, and the remaining four per cent. of miscellaneous,—including less than one per cent. of Greek—derivation. Sir Stafford Northcote uses about the same proportion of Saxon words, rather more Latin, and fewer French. John Bright uses about seventy-four per cent. of Saxon, twelve of Latin, and ten of French. Sir William Harcourt uses the largest proportion of Saxon—seventy-seven per cent., to fifteen of Latin and seven of French. Lord Randolph Churchill expresses himself in seventy-two per cent. of Saxon, sixteen of Latin, six of French and two of Greek.

THE "insolence of the liquor traffic," is well stated by the *New York Christian Advocate*: "While demanding protection from the law, it is perpetually evading and breaking the law. It ships goods abroad to avoid the payment of taxation, and sells secretly to evade license fees and police inspection. It bands itself together to dispute the execution and constitutionality of offensive legislation, and shirks its share of the burdens which fall on legitimate traffic. More than great corporations, even, does it scrutinize candidates and employ legislative attorneys. No evidence can convince its agents of the social evils of which it is the parent, or raise them to the comprehension of what society would be were the traffic stamped out. It is manifest that society endures more from the liquor domination than from any other tyranny.

THE hundredth birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore will be an occasion of general interest. The Jewish people throughout the world are preparing for the event. At Montreal they have made arrangements

for the presentation of a congratulatory address to the venerable philanthropist, who has for so long been one of the worthiest representatives of their race. They have formed a Montefiore club, and invited their co-religionists throughout Canada to contribute to the centennial. When this has been provided for, the intention is to devote the surplus to the endowment of a berth in the Montreal General Hospital. Such a mode of testifying esteem will best accord with the wishes of the illustrious Hebrew they design to honour. The Jewish people have acquired the reputation of being very charitable, especially towards the helpless sufferers of their own race.

REMARKABLE revelations are reported at a recent meeting of the Medical Committee at Marseilles. Experience has shown that cholera will rage during two consecutive years in the same place. It has been ascertained that cholera made its appearance at Marseilles last year, a case followed by death having occurred at the hospital, in a room containing numerous other patients. The disease made a good many victims. The Mayor, who was immediately advised of the fact, proceeded to the hospital. Energetic measures were taken to prevent further contagion, and in order to avoid panic in the town the Mayor solicited and secured the silence of all persons aware of the facts. The chief surgeon, two house surgeons, a warder, and two Sisters of Mercy took an oath to divulge nothing, which oath was strictly kept till the whole proceeding was made known to the Medical Committee.

THE statistics of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, read at the General Assembly held at Liverpool, have been published. They show an increase in every item of importance during the year 1883. Churches, 1,200; chapels and preaching stations, 1,371; new chapels built during the year, thirteen; enlarged and improved, fifty-seven; ministers and preachers, 973; deacons or elders, 4,448; communicants, 124,505; on probation, 4,636; children of members in the churches, 60,000; received into church fellowship, 14,000; teachers in Sabbath schools, 23,355; scholars, 184,800; hearers, 276,000. The total collections for all objects amounted to £173,000; the present debt on the chapels is £326,000; and the value of the whole property belonging to the connection is £1,250,000. Considering that it is only seventy years since this church came into existence in its present form, its progress in the Principality has been marvellous. The net increase, after deducting deaths, expulsions and removals into foreign lands, is 2,400; while that of the great Wesleyan body throughout Great Britain has been only 3,200; the United Methodist Free Church, 264; and the Methodist New Connexion, 86.

STATISTICS of the price of wheat in England show that the average price (4s. 8½d.) per bushel for the first half of the present year was lower than the average for any year in the present century. In fact not since 1780 has wheat been so low. In the century the nearest approach to present figures was in 1851 when the price in Great Britain was £1 18s. 6d. per quarter, or 4s. 9¾d. per bushel. The highest price was in 1812, when 15s. 9½d., over \$3.90, was the average per bushel. In recent times the highest prices known were in 1854-6, in the time of the Crimean war. The average for the middle year of the three was 9s. 4d., \$2 31 per bushel. In 1867-8 prices again approached or exceeded \$2 per bushel. In the past sixteen years prices have had a downward tendency, and with the increase in the number of wheat exporting countries, and the substitution of America for Russia as the chief source of supply, little disturbances in Europe which formerly sent wheat up with a bound has now but little influence on the market. The present year shows a marked decline from the average of 1883, and the first week of July a decline of over 3d. a bushel on the first week of the year. It is not improbable that wheat may fall to its figures of 104 years ago, when the average price was only 4s. 6d. (\$1.10.)