

## Notes of the Week.

THE *British Weekly* says: The English Presbyterian Church is noted for the large number of influential and public-spirited laymen which it includes within its eldership. Amongst five deputed by the Synod (along with five ministers) to visit the northern congregations of the London Presbytery in the course of a week or two, we observe the names of Mr. Thomas Matheson, a well-known citizen of Liverpool, Dr. MacLagan, of Berwick-on-Tweed, a brother of the Bishop of Lichfield, and Mr. Thomas P. Dods, of Hexham, a brother of the Rev. Dr. Marcus Dods, of Glasgow.

IN Aberdeen Presbytery a heated discussion took place on the question of students occupying parish pulpits. It was complained that a student whose certificate was under consideration had broken the Church's law in this matter, and further, that the law was being increasingly violated by ministers in the North. Mr. Macdonald saw little difference between a student preaching to some old ladies in the Gallowgate and preaching from the pulpit of a parish Church; but Mr. Cooper thought the student had shown a spirit of insubordination which did not augur well. Ultimately the offender's certificate was sustained by twenty-two to four; but an appeal was taken to the Synod.

THE *British Weekly* says: Our bloated towns are responsible for much of the trouble between classes; they are unhappily the cause of that unchristian representation of the Master—a mission hall, maintained by the rich for the poor, because distance and mutual shyness make it well-nigh impossible for them to sit together and kneel together in their Father's house. Sad is the burlesque of our great uniting Gospel, none the less so that many of the most zealous are spending themselves in home mission work. Well might Dr. Landels ask if the haughtiness and the "distance" of worldly society have any part or place in the Church. We should all know that they have not; but we have "mission halls."

IN presence of a very crowded audience, Professor Elmslie opened the session of the English Presbyterian Theological College with a lecture on "The Bible and Modern Thought." Principal Chalmers presided. Professor Elmslie devoted attention mainly to the first chapter of Genesis, which he took as typical. In a singularly fresh, brilliant, learned and original paper, he contended for the full inspiration of the chapter, and showed that it had no bearing on the shifting theories of geologists. Professor Elmslie is a student of science as well as of Hebrew, and he contrived to throw fresh light even on his well-worn theme. The lecture was received with enthusiasm. Principal Chalmers announced that there were seventeen students in attendance.

TWO hundred and seventy-eight Mormon converts arrived last week at New York from Europe on their way to Utah, in charge of Mormon elders. It is by this sort of propagandism and immigration that the Mormon leaders have added to their political strength in Utah. An organized system of importation has for years been one of their chief reliances, and in this respect they have shown not a little worldly wisdom. If the case of the admission of Utah were to come up by itself in Congress next winter we would have little fear of the result. But it will come up in connection with the cases of Dakota and other Territories applying for admission. The opportunity for deals will be presented, and it will not be strange if Democrats and Republicans of the more partisan sort shall agree to let in Republican Dakota if Democratic Utah be admitted. The *New York Independent* says: We have a most serious apprehension that this will be done, remembering that two of the five Utah Commissioners, both Democratic politicians, have been won over.

THE *New Glasgow Chronicle* says: No part of the Maritime Synod's work was more heartily enjoyed or more enthusiastically carried out than the appointment of the Union Committee. Dr. Macrae, with characteristic fervour, and that rare eloquence of which he is master, asked the Synod distinctly to understand that the latter portion of the resolution had special reference to any overtures toward unity of action and union which might emanate say from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, or (and very particularly) from that portion of the Kirk of Scotland in this Province, hitherto separated from us. The ringing applause that greeted Dr. Macrae's references showed that the common brotherhood of our divided Presbyterianism is after all better understood than some are willing to believe. All good men will most cheerfully say amen to all the Synod said and did, and thank Dr. Macrae for his kindly Christian utterances.

CANADA has just been favoured with visits from two eminent English Nonconformist divines. The Rev. Jackson Wray has preached and lectured to large and delighted audiences in several towns and cities. Dr. Joseph Parker attracted great numbers in Toronto and Hamilton. The Metropolitan Church was crowded to its utmost capacity on Sabbath afternoon, and numbers went away disappointed because they were unable to enter the building. His Monday evening lecture was also well attended. The general impression formed of the minister of the City Temple is that he is possessed of great ability and has attained to a high degree of perfection in elocutionary art, enabling him to present to his hearers fresh and vigorous thought in a most attractive form. It is also noticed that whether consciously or unconsciously there is great prominence given to his own popularity. The lecture as an institution is not now so popular as it was a few years since, but man of marked ability are always sure of a large and attentive audience.

SABBATH SCHOOL conventions have recently been held in Brantford, St. Stephen, N. B., and Ottawa, the latter being strictly denominational. At these places the attendance of delegates was good, the proceedings full of interest and instructiveness to those engaged in the great and good work of Sabbath school teaching. Last week the Provincial Sabbath School Association of Ontario held its annual meeting in London, where the proceedings were of more than usual interest. Mr. Reynolds, of Peoria, Illinois, a devoted Sabbath school worker of eminence, has been present at most of the recent gatherings, and was enabled to render important service to the great cause in which he is so deeply interested. Many others prominent in Sabbath school instruction were also present and rendered effective service. Such meetings are helpful to all who are engaged in one of the most important departments of Christian work. They are guided, stimulated and encouraged by what they hear from those whose range of experience has been extensive.

THE *Christian Leader* says: There was a touch of true pathos in the brief address delivered by the Queen on the 6th inst., at the unveiling of Boehm's statue of her Majesty erected at Balmoral by the tenants and servants at her northern home. It was evidently no conventional piece of ministerial work but a genuine product of her Majesty's own heart and pen, reminding us indeed very much of the simplest passages in the journal of her Highland life. The statue gives her pleasure because it will be a lasting memorial of the affection she bears for her Highland home. "The great devotion," said the Queen, "shown to me and mine, and the sympathy which I have met with while here, have ever added to the joys and lightened the sorrows of my life; but I miss many kind faces of old friends now no longer with us—friends who would have rejoiced so much at the proceedings of this day if they had been present. I heartily reciprocate your good wishes and trust that we may all still look forward to many happy days to-

gether." It is the woman rather than the Queen who speaks at Balmoral.

SENTIMENTAL methods of dealing with dangerous criminals are not in so much repute as they were some years since. When punishments disproportionate to offences were inflicted there was public sympathy for offenders, and, as was natural, there was an inclination to go to the other extreme of not only punishing lightly but making a pet of the gaol-bird. The law of compensation is ever at work, and now the convicted criminal is in a fair way of getting his just deserts. Lately our Toronto Police Magistrate sentenced a man to a life term in prison for the dastardly crime of vitriol throwing, and the general sentiment is that the penalty though severe is just. Another exemplary meting out of punishment is just recorded. Two Kingston roughs, who had been on a drunken spree, set fire to the Salvation Army barracks, and afterward attempted to burn down a Methodist Church. They were speedily brought to justice and were sentenced, one to twenty one years and the other to imprisonment for life in the penitentiary. There is hope of a country where criminal offenders get the punishment they deserve.

THERE is every prospect, says the *Christian Leader*, of a deeply interesting and important gathering, really representative of the Presbyterian Churches of the world, at the General Council to be held in London next year, between June 26 and July 6. The Churches everywhere appear to be impressed with the importance of sending some of their best men. Since the preliminary meeting held in July at the Presbyterian College, Queen's Square, further steps have been taken to push forward the local arrangements. Three sub-committees have been appointed—one charged with seeing to the reception and public accommodation of the council; the second to arrange for the domestic accommodation of the delegates, and the third to raise a large local fund to meet the expenses. The laymen of the London Churches include, as is indeed only natural, an unusually large proportion of able business men; and we know of no equal number of business men anywhere who are ready to consecrate their powers to the service of the Church with the same enthusiasm. We may therefore expect to find the arrangements for the next Pan- Presbyterian Council made on a scale which will reflect credit on the metropolitan representatives of Presbyterianism, and be worthy of the bi-centenary year of the glorious Revolution of 1688.

THE *United Presbyterian* comes to us in the habiliments of mourning. Dr. David R. Kerr, after an editorial service of forty-two years, has entered into his rest. We have known him personally, remarks the genial editor of the *Chicago Interior*, for the most part of that time, and we recognize the fidelity of the descriptions of his character which largely fill the last number of his journal. His biographer says of him: "Those who read him for any considerable time will remember his careful poise and judicial view he took of all questions agitating the public mind. This, combined with his uniform amiability, made his paper a dignified and courteous one; and no matter how widely men and contemporaneous prints differed from him, they could never honestly accuse him of passion and bitterness. It was a principle with him to resist all temptation to incivility—of which there is so much in editorial work—and he counted it both Christian and good policy to avoid angry disputes on any subject. If men reviled him, he passed it in silence. Under fiercest and most shameless misrepresentations he maintained a cheerful tranquillity. Sometimes, when accused and calumniated, and charged with all kinds of infidelity to sacred truths and duties, his friends would urge him to repel aspersions so injurious; but he would only smile, and say they were wholly harmless and did not give him a moment's uneasiness." Under Dr. Kerr's control the *United Presbyterian* has taken rank with the very best of the religious press, and has been a high honour to its denomination.