

Notes of the Week.

PRINCIPAL CAIRNS, uncle of Rev. John Cairns, junior pastor of the Church, preached at the anniversary in Buccleuch Street, Dumfries; at the soiree Rev. W. McDowall, of Kirkmahoe Free Church, expressed a hope that the day was not far distant when they would not be able to say there was a Free and United Presbyterian congregation in the one town but when there would be one large congregation including both. Principal Cairns said that Union with the Free Church might now be regarded as practical politics.

THE Chicago *Interior* disposes of "Robert Elsmere" in the following neat fashion: Mrs. Ward shows how a man can renounce his faith in the philanthropy of the highest type of the virtue that the world has yet seen, and still continue to be a philanthropist. Not finding any such instance in history, she has given us one in fiction. But it is a little too much to ask of Christian women to abandon the faith and the examples of the thousands of philanthropists whom God made, and follow the imaginary one which she has made.

THE death was recently announced of Dr. Robert Young, of Edinburgh, the well-known Biblical and Oriental scholar. He died a short time ago in his sixty-sixth year. He suffered from an aggravated form of heart disease, and had latterly been in a very weak condition. Dr. Young was best known by his most admirable and well arranged book, the "Analytical Concordance to the Bible," a work of high utility; and in the field of Biblical translation and research he was an untiring worker, as is attested by the long array of volumes which he published. He was conversant with more than a dozen languages.

DR. CHRISTLIEB states that the Protestant Churches raise five times as much money for missionary purposes as the Roman Church. The income of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, established at Lyons in 1822, amounted last year to 6,462,276 francs, 4,000,000 of which came from France alone. As France was the backbone of the Crusades so she seems to be the stoutest champion of the Roman Catholic mission cause of to-day. No other country gave as much as 500,000 francs in 1887. The order after France was Germany, Belgium, Italy, Alsace and Lorraine, and North America. Ireland contributed 165,305 francs.

THE question whether the spirit and principles of our government and people are, says the *Interior*, adequate to penetrate and permeate the native and incoming vast masses of ignorance, is the question of a rising or falling nation. We have means adequate to the education of all. The printing press was never so potent as now. But the sensationalism and immorality of the daily press are not helpful in this work. They afford the means of mental dissipation. And yet it is not easy to get even some Christian families to take for themselves, and aid in sustaining for the common welfare, those papers which devote themselves to the intellectual and moral enlightenment of the people.

THE leading paper of Western Ontario, the *London Advertiser*, has been in existence now for a quarter of a century, and it has celebrated the fact by issuing a mammoth illustrated memorial number. The London of 1888 is vastly different from the same city of 1863, when not a few were alive who could tell you all about "The Forks" and its primitive hostelry. From the start the *Advertiser* earned a reputation for enterprise and consistency, and, under its present and prospective management, there is every guarantee that its reputation will be enhanced. It has ever been the unflinching advocate of moral and social reform, and under the judicious and experienced editorial supervision of Mr. C. D. Barr, a representative Canadian journalist, there is good reason for the belief that the *London Advertiser* will be more than ever a power for good in Western Ontario.

WE learn, says the New York *Independent*, the following important facts from the *Churchman*: The Methodists do not possess the Historic Episcopate, nor, except for controversial purposes, have they ever appeared to claim it. Nor has there been among Congregationalists or Presbyterians any recognition and use of the Historic Episcopate. Then Presbyterians and Congregationalists are greatly in error. They imagine they have one Historic Episcopate even if it be not the Historic Episcopate which the *Churchman* is talking about. If the Bishops at the General Convention two years ago and the Lambeth Council Bishops the other day, meant to make the Historic Episcopate, as possessed now by themselves the condition of Church Union, and meant to deny that other bodies have it, then negotiations might as well cease.

THE following is translated from a recent issue of *Le Monde*, published in Montreal. We extract from a speech lately delivered by M. Le Jeune, minister of justice in Belgium, the following figures which show what frightful progress alcoholism has made in the kingdom of Leopold II. Belgium counted 50,000 saloons in 1850; in 1886 there were 140,000, one saloon for every forty-three inhabitants. In some localities they had even one saloon for every twenty-four inhabitants, which makes one saloon for every five or six adults. The consumption of brandy is six times greater in 1885 than it was in 1851. In 1885, the consumption of alcohol was, in round numbers, 700,000 hectolitres, which would give nearly twelve litres to each inhabitant, and which represents a sum of about 120,000,000 francs per annum, twenty francs for each person, 109 francs for each family.

THE Government agents in British Columbia, says the *Christian Leader*, are bringing discredit upon the Empire of Queen Victoria by their abominable attempts to discredit the work of the Methodist and other devoted missionaries among the Indians on the coast. Some of their charges against the Methodists are peculiarly disgraceful; and at a recent meeting of the Mission Board in Winnipeg it was decided that the honour of the Church demanded an immediate investigation. Three experienced members have been despatched to the field; and we have no doubt it will be made apparent that the charges against the missionaries are vile slander. The record of the civil power in British Columbia in connection with Metlakatlah is the reverse of creditable; the *Presbyterian Witness* of Halifax probably does not exaggerate when it declares that the exodus of the converted and civilized Indians from Metlakatlah is "a disaster and a disgrace."

THE *Sunday School Times* properly classes the practice of carping at the preacher among methods of devil-serving, says a contemporary: We trust that practice is not as common among church-goers, as it said to be by outside gossips. Count up the churches of whose congregation life you may have some knowledge, and see if it is not true that in most of them the people generally praise their preacher at every opportunity. Those who carp are very few compared with those who compliment. But compliments are not enough. A pastor has a right to something more than the praises of his people. He has a distinct claim on them for help in the doing of his parish work. A parishioner whose heart has been stirred within him by the preaching of the Word, should go to the preacher with an appreciative and practical question—"Can I do anything this week to further your plans for Christian service, in the direction indicated in this sermon? Or, can you, out of your richer experience, suggest a way in which I may utilize the fresh impulse to devotion and self-denial, which your utterance of God's message has implanted in my breast?" A heart full of willingness to do something would bring more joy to the preacher than a mouth full of personal praise.

RECENT judicial promotions were thus announced in the *Empire*: The vacancy on the Supreme Court bench caused by the death of Mr. Justice Henry, has

been filled by the appointment of the Hon Christopher S. Patterson, of Toronto, one of the Justices of Appeal for Ontario. Mr. Justice Patterson, has been one of Ontario's Justices of Appeal since June, 1874, having been appointed to the position by the Mackenzie Administration. His career as a judge has been such as to earn for him the warmest encomiums from the Ontario Bar, and it will be generally recognized that his promotion is well deserved. The vacancy thus created in the Court of Appeal has been filled by the appointment of Mr. James MacLennan, Q.C., of Toronto. As one of the leading members of the Ontario Bar, and associated in business partnership for many years with Hon. Oliver Mowat, the experience Hon. Mr. MacLennan has gained admirably qualifies him for his new position. By these appointments the Government have again exemplified the principle that in the filling of judicial vacancies less regard is had to political proclivities than to the securing of competent men for judges. Though the judicial bench should be as free from sectarianism as from politics, the cause of justice will in no wise be impaired by the fact that both judges are good, sound Presbyterians.

AT the autumnal meetings of the Scottish Church Synods, the question of Sabbath observance received much attention. Mr. Blair, of Cambuslang, submitted to the Church of Scotland Synod of Glasgow and Ayr the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance, which deplored the growing tendency to relax the sacredness of the day. The strictness with which it was wont to be regarded in Scotland is a thing of the past. The laxity is seen in more work being done in some public works than the legitimate demands of trade require and also in the readiness with which farmers employ the day in harvesting. The committee are persuaded that one very powerful cause of non-churchgoing is the amount of labour demanded in some quarters on Sabbath and the inclination with many to make it a day of frivolous amusement. In the Free Church Synod of the same district, Mr. Gillespie, of Airdrie, submitted the report on Sabbath Observance. Deprecating harvest preparation on Sunday, it pointed out that the uncertainty of the weather was not an exceptional but a universal fact, in the light of which all husbandry had ever been carried on. The committee deplored a tendency of visitors at summer resorts to neglect the services of the Church, and also the practice of persons of high social standing devoting the Lord's Day to pleasure, in which the middle classes were only too ready to imitate them.

RECENT Australian papers give a very full report of a very interesting and instructive lecture delivered by Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston, at a public meeting held in Melbourne, Australia. Sir James Bain presided, and on the platform were a number of distinguished gentlemen. Dr. Grant took for his subject "Canada, Australia, and Britain." He combatted the idea that Imperial Federation was a mere fad. Entering into quite a lengthened description of Canada and Canadians, he said that in this half of the North American continent, while calling ourselves Canadians, we always remembered that we were Britons also. Touching on the subject of the union of the Mother Country and the Colonies, Principal Grant contended that the present union should not only be maintained but made closer. The links that now bind the Colonies to the Mother Land were: The appointment of governors by the Imperial Parliament; the right of veto of the legislature, and the right of appeal to the Imperial Privy Council, as the highest court of law. The Colonies were represented by the whole consular staff of the Empire, and in time of war they had a claim to be defended by the whole force of the army and navy. He did not consider it advisable to concoct a scheme just at present. The conference of Colonial and Imperial delegates held last year in London, was one step in that direction. We must not be impetuous, or wreck the ship in the hope that we might save some of the pieces. The Australian press speaks of the effort in terms of high praise.