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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that the engagement will soon be announced of Princess Louisa Margaretha of Prussia, third daughter of Prince Frederick Charles, nephew of the Emperor, to the English Duke of Connaught.

INSTEAD of there being a falling off in the number of Congregational Churches in the United States, as stated in one of our British and Foreign items a few weeks ago, we are glad to learn from the "Canadian Independent" that they have more than doubled in twenty years; and now number 3,564.

A RECENT report made to the British Parliament shows that 1,334 steamships have been idle during the twelve months, representing a carrying power of 159,000 tons. The total number of sailing vessels of all kinds in the United Kingdom last year was 25,090, of which 20,319 found employment.

THE peace party in England numbers among its members the Dukes of Bedford and Westminster, the Earls of Cowper and Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Exeter, Lord Arthur Russell, Mr. Carlyle, Mr. Froude, Mr. Robert Browning, Mr. Thomas Hughes, and many others, embracing representations of all the liberal professions, and of the intellect and culture of the nation.

THE Kingston "Whig" says: "Mr. C. Blackett Robinson (of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, Toronto,) has issued three pamphlets, each containing a series of lectures by Rev. Jos. Cook, of Boston, one of the most eminent divines of the day. What a fund of reading! What elegant diction! What philosophy, theology and metaphor! Get the lectures and read them." The three pamphlets, containing these unabridged lectures, will be forwarded to any address, postage prepaid, on receipt of fifty cents.

WE understand that the closing exercises of the Presbyterian Young Ladies' College, Brantford, take place on Monday and Tuesday evenings, the 24th and 25th June. On Sabbath evening previous, Dr. Cochrane will preach the sermon to the graduating class in Zion Church. On Monday evening the concert will be given in Wickliffe Hall, and on Tuesday evening the essays of the graduates read, prizes and diplomas presented, and addresses given, in Zion Church. We shall give full particulars of the exercises in next week's paper.

THE General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland met in the new Public Halls, Glasgow. The retiring moderator, Rev. Dr. Gould, of Edinburgh, preached from Eph. iii. 21: "Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." An opening address was delivered by the new moderator, Rev. Dr. Andrew Bonar. On motion of Dr. Gould, seconded by Principal Rainy, it was unanimously agreed to forward a loyal address to Her Majesty on her birthday, and a committee was appointed to draw it up. Some matters of routine having been disposed of, the Assembly adjourned.

IT is the custom in the Presbyterian churches of Pittsburgh for the congregations to stand during prayer with folded arms, raised heads, and open eyes, gazing directly at the speaker. On a recent Sunday in one of these churches the Rev. Dr. Junkin in making the long prayer used the words, "We are guilty—guilty—guilty!" An Eastern clergyman, who was also occupying the pulpit, and who tells the incident, felt a curiosity to see if the congregation responded to the confession, and uncovered his own eyes. At the first "guilty," he says, the heads were still erect; at the second, they scarcely moved; but at the third, as though by a common impulse, every head was bowed.

THE General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland met in Edinburgh, on May 23rd. Rev. Dr. Phin, the retiring moderator, preached in St. Giles' Cathedral from 2 Tim. iv. 3, 4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." At the close of the service, the Lord High Commissioner (the Earl of Rosslyn) went in procession to the Assembly Hall, the streets being lined with the 50th regiment. There was a large attendance at the opening proceedings. The ex-moderator nominated Principal Tulloch, of St. Andrew's, as his successor. Her Majesty's letter was read and received. An address was delivered by the Lord High Commissioner; and after other formal matters were disposed of the Assembly adjourned.

ON the opening day of the Exposition more than 15,000 people, among them Arabs, Turks, Chinese and Japanese, received copies of the Scriptures. No sooner were the windows of the Bible stand open than crowds flocked to share in the distribution. "Language," says a witness, "utterly fails to adequately depict the solemnity and impressiveness of the scene. Let the reader imagine thousands of men and women, soldiers, sailors, officers, policemen, priests, rich and poor, persons of all ranks and from all countries, struggling for a portion of the Word of God, with, in almost every instance, an expression of joyful thanks as the prize was borne away. Perhaps the best idea of the eagerness of the populace may be gathered from the fact of the windows of the kiosk having to be closed more than a dozen times to lessen the pressure."

IN the Assembly of the Church of Scotland the Rev. Dr. Charteris called attention to the grant which is given in aid of Queen's College, Kingston, and spoke of an internecine war in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We have only to say to this distinguished divine and others who like him are suffering from a misapprehension, that if they would take a trip across the Atlantic they would behold a Church united in all its sections, and bidding fair to become national in a sense to which even the Church of Scotland cannot pretend. If Dr. Charteris refers to the position taken

by the Anti-unionists, it is a poor argument for taking away a grant from Queen's College. But if the Colonial Committee is instructed to remove this grant, they cannot take away the Grant who is at the head of the College, and they will only furnish the respected Principal with an additional argument for the prosecution of his great Endowment scheme.

THE case of the Rev. Fergus Ferguson, of Glasgow, has been finally issued by the U. P. Synod. A committee of Synod appointed to confer with Mr. Ferguson brought in a report to the effect that they were satisfied with his explanations regarding his views on the atonement, justification, the covenants, and the punishment of sin, but a majority were unsatisfied with the explanations as to the ultimate penalty of sin. Dr. Calderwood moved a resolution to the effect that the Synod should restore Mr. Ferguson to his ministerial functions, with an affectionate admonition to present his doctrinal positions in such a manner as to set forth their harmony with the great fundamental doctrines of the Church. Only one other motion was made, and that merely asked for further conference with Mr. Ferguson. After a long discussion, Dr. Calderwood's motion was carried by a majority of 142 to 90. Dr. Marshall and others dissented from the finding of the Synod.

A WEEK ago last Sabbath morning, says the Perth "Courier," the Rev. Mr. Sym, pastor of the Anti-Union Presbyterian congregation in Perth, announced from the pulpit that he had identified himself with the Union party, and advised his hearers to do the same, as from later experiences he considered more good could be done through union than by standing aloof from it. This announcement took his hearers by surprise, and for a time completely "dumbfounded" them. They were, however, after a little equal to the situation, from their point of view, and a few days after peremptorily released Mr. Sym from his charge, and paid him a month or so's salary in advance. The Rev. Gavin Lang, of Montreal, was announced to preach the next Sabbath, but failed to connect. What will be the course of the "Antis" now we are not in a position to predict. It seems that at the late meeting of the Presbytery, which sat in Montreal, Mr. Sym applied for admission thereto, and was duly received into it, in compliance with his expressed wishes.

A ROMAN Catholic paper—the "Tribune" of this city—referring to public demonstrations of Orangemen and Roman Catholic Societies, takes a thoroughly sensible view of the matter, and gives good advice. It, of course, believes that the Catholic societies and Orangemen both have "the right" to walk in procession, but thinks "these nonsensical and mischievous displays" should not be encouraged. It says, "It is a matter of the most sincere regret to every lover of peace and good order that indiscreet men on both sides should have the opportunity of inflaming the minds of the people," and "in any case and under any circumstances, the Catholics of Montreal have no right, either moral or legal, to interfere with an Orange procession." Again it says, "a procession is an obstruction, and may be an offence to the public." We can cordially agree with all that our contemporary says, but are the Roman Catholics of Montreal willing to give up their Corpus Christi processions which are not only offensive, but also a serious obstruction to traffic and business?