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INTERNATIONAL LESSON SCHEMES

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Notes of the Week.

THE Rev. Dr. Stalker is sceptical about the alleged departure of the working classes from the Church, his impression being that in Scotland, at least since the beginning of the century, attendance on ordinances has increased. The growth of indifference seems to him rather at the other end of the social scale. His remedies are the old and simple methods of good preaching and diligent visiting.

MR. J. IVERACH MUNRO, M.A., divinity student of the Free Church of Scotland, who has been appointed interim tutor of Hebrew at the theological college, Bala, delivered an opening address recently on the Higher Criticism. Mr. Munro said men now see that questions of criticism must be tested on their merits and not by reference to a confession of faith. If they could be settled in agreement with the confession, so much the better.

SINCE the passing of the Declaratory Act a number of students have left the Free Church theological halls and gone to Belfast to complete their curriculum at the college of the Irish Presbyterian Church. Others have betaken themselves to Princeton, the conservative Presbyterian college of the United States. A few wealthy members of the Constitutional party are liberally supporting the students. The contingent of Irish students attending the New College, Edinburgh, is this year larger than ever.

SPEAKING to his Young Men's Class on a recent Sunday night, Dr. Whyte, of Edinburgh, said that scarcely a post had reached Edinburgh for the last week or two without bringing letters from all quarters and all sorts of people, thanking him for introducing them to William Law's "Serious Call," till he had blushed at his very desk. Dr. Whyte's class meets after his Bunyan lecture, and is attended by 500 or 600 men. Most of them are young, but there are many grey-haired veterans who take notes as assiduously as the youngest.

THE Rev. John Ingram, senior minister of Unst, died on 15th ult. in his eighty-fifth year. Mr. Ingram was ordained to the ministry in 1838, and celebrated his jubilee on June 14, 1888, when he was presented with his portrait and also with an address. Mr. Ingram came of a long-lived family, his father, Rev. James Ingram, who died in 1876, having attained the great age of 103. It is a remarkable fact that both father and son celebrated the jubilee of their ministry in the same parish. Mr. Ingram practically retired from active work in 1888, when an assistant and successor was appointed.

THE ministerial jubilee of Rev. A. L. Simpson, D.D., at one time of Forres and latterly of Derby was celebrated recently by a meeting in Edinburgh, at which he was presented with £300 and a piece of silver plate. A gift was also made to his daughter, Rev. Dr. Andrew Thomson, who was in the chair, after dwelling on Dr. Simpson's ministerial work, referred to his capacity as an art critic and the great interest awakened by his lectures on Turner and Wilkie. Congratulatory addresses were presented to Dr. Simpson from the U. P. Presbytery of Elgin and Inverness, the Presbytery of Birmingham, and the congregation at Forres.

THE plans of the new church at Crathie show a cruciform building in the early Scottish Gothic style, the chief external feature being a low tower with squat spire resembling that of Corstorphine. The Queen's pew is to occupy the whole of the south transept, for which there will be a special entrance. The north transept will contain the vestry and three pews for the heritors; the chancel, which

is semicircular, will accommodate the elders, the communion table, the choir and an organ; whilst the nave will be seated for about 300, the Queen being visible only from a few of the front seats. The pulpit is turned towards her Majesty.

THE Rev. Dr. J. Marshall Lang, of the Barony, Glasgow, is to be the next Moderator of Assembly. Fifty-seven years of age, he is the eldest of three brothers, all of whom are ministers of the Church of Scotland. His first charge was the East Church, Aberdeen, to which he was ordained in 1856. After spending two years there he was presented to Fyvie; and five years later he became minister of Anderston, Glasgow. Thence he removed to Morningside, Edinburgh, and a few years afterwards he was settled in the Barony, Glasgow, which he has held for nearly twenty years. He was chiefly instrumental in getting the new church erected, which cost \$135,000, and he is chairman of the Assembly's commission on the religious condition of the people.

THE Rev. R. H. Walker, M.A., who has arrived in Scotland from Uganda, says all parties there are anxious for peace, but our withdrawal will be the signal for an outbreak which must end in victory for the Mohammedans, and as a result in the raiding of the country for slaves, who form the only articles of commerce that pay. King Mwanga is at heart with the heathen party. The Roman Catholic chiefs are at the will of the priests, two or three of the leading ones having been mission boys. The Protestants would long ago have left Uganda had not the British missionaries refused to give their sanction to their doing so without the approval of the Company's agents.

THE Rev. Dr. Walter C. Smith, Edinburgh, has been chosen as next Moderator of the Free Church Assembly. Principal Douglas and Rev. Dr. J. H. Wilson were also nominated, but only received ten and thirty-one votes respectively, whilst the majority for Dr. Smith was so large as not to require a count. A native of Aberdeen, Dr. Smith was first settled in Orwell, Milnathort, his ordination taking place in 1850. Thence he was translated in 1858 to the Roxburgh Church, Edinburgh. Four years later he removed to the Tron Church, Glasgow, and while there he was subjected to a prosecution for heresy, which excited great interest in the city. He returned to Edinburgh in 1876. His "Olrig Grange" and other works prove him to be a poet of no mean rank, and as a preacher he is cultivated and eloquent.

THE fifth triennial meeting of the Presbyterian Federal Council, which embraces the Free, United Presbyterian and English Presbyterian Churches, was held in London the other week. Principal Rainy presided at the business meeting, and Dundee was fixed on as the place of next meeting. A conference presided over by Mr. William Nairn, of Edinburgh, discussed various subjects, leading to a resolution moved by Principal Dykes and seconded by Principal Rainy that the supreme courts be asked to approve of a more extensive employment of probationers and students as assistants to ministers, and another, moved by Rev. G. L. Carstairs, of Glasgow, suggesting to the Free and United Presbyterian Churches the desirableness of applying the principle of mutual eligibility to training for the ministry.

THE *Christian Leader* says: One of the most notable features in the recent conflict in America is the fact that the educated and fair-minded people of the Northern States have been chiefly in favour of Mr. Cleveland. In fact the New England professors in the great universities of the North, who used to be the mainstay of the Republican party twenty years ago, in the days of Emerson, Lowell, Longfellow and Holmes, have now almost unanimously become Cleveland men. They are disgusted with the "practical politics" of the machine Republicans. At Amherst, twenty-five years ago, there was not a single Democratic professor. Now the following

manifesto was signed by twenty-three out of its thirty professors. "With Mr. Cleveland's views on public questions we agree. We admire his courage, his consistency, his public spirit, his studious neglect of merely personal interests when they conflict with the calls of public duty. We therefore urge all our fellow-citizens to give Mr. Cleveland their hearty support." At both Harvard and Yale the Cleveland men beat the Harrison men by four to one. It is, indeed, an uprising in favour of intellect and probity, personal and national.

IN order that as many poor children as possible may be remembered by Santa Claus, the Toronto Children's Aid Society has decided to open the building, 49 King Street West, for the reception of toys—old or new—dolls, dolls' clothing, picture cards, books, childrens' clothing, candies, or, in fact, anything that can give pleasure or benefit to poor children. These gifts will be received on and after Tuesday, December 6, and will be labelled and placed on exhibition. On Tuesday, December 13, the building will be opened to the general public. On Friday, December 23, all the articles contributed will be distributed to the children at their homes, through the agency of the Mission workers, and a large staff of ladies, who have volunteered their assistance. Manufacturers, storekeepers, citizens generally, and all boys and girls are invited to contribute. The co-operation of Sunday and day schools solicited to make this collection a grand success. Mayor Fleming, City Hall, or Mr. C. P. Smith, Treasurer of the Children's Aid Society, Confederation Life Chambers, will receive cash contributions, to be applied to the improvement of the condition of neglected children, and to be known as "The Toronto Poor Children's Christmas Fund." No poor child in Toronto need be overlooked in the distribution, as the Society invites all citizens to send in the names and addresses of deserving children on or before December 20, addressed to "Santa Claus," 49 King Street West, Toronto. Telephone 1490.

A CONTEMPORARY says: The Australian delegates to the General Council of Presbyterian Churches, recently held in Toronto, Canada, have now reached Great Britain, with the exception of Dr. John G. Paton, who remains in America, for some time, to lecture on the New Hebrides. Before leaving the United States, Professor Rentoul and the Rev. James Megaw, of Melbourne, had an interview with the U. S. Secretary of State at Washington (the Hon. J. W. Foster) with reference to the declinature on the part of the United States Government, up to the present time, to take part with Great Britain, Germany and France in prohibiting the sale of alcohol, arms and ammunition in the New Hebrides Islands. Mr. Foster seemed a good deal nettled that this matter had been discussed publicly in the Council at Toronto, and that the United States Government had been criticised before a British audience. He also spoke severely and at length regarding the persistent action of Great Britain and Germany in parcelling out amongst themselves the Pacific Islands, and then expecting the United States Government to help them in "acting as police" for them. The Australian delegates, however, pointed out that it was American delegates of the General Council who were acting in this matter. The members of the Committee which was to wait on the Government at Washington were influential Americans. And, further, neither Great Britain nor Germany had annexed any land whatever in the New Hebrides. Mr. Foster then stated that he had already notified Dr. Ellinwood, of New York, that the United States Government had communicated to the Government of Great Britain its willingness now to act in the matter. Two days after this interview the large Committee appointed by the General Council met in New York, Dr. Rentoul, Dr. Paton and Mr. Megaw being also present. On the statement of these gentlemen being heard, and Mr. Foster's correspondence with Dr. Ellinwood being read, it resolved to thank the United States Government heartily for its promised action in the matter.