

Notes of the Week.

THE movement, advocated for some time, for the establishment of an industrial training school for girls corresponding to the Victoria Industrial for boys, at Mimico, is beginning to take practical shape. A meeting at which a number of those who take an interest in philanthropic work were present was held for consultation last week, and an influential committee of ladies was appointed to further the movement.

THE *Witness* informs us that a Jesuit "mission" is announced as shortly to commence in Belfast. Some of the services placarded would put easy-going people of all creeds to shame. How many Protestants could be got to attend a religious meeting at five o'clock, a.m.? At that hour every morning there is to be service in chapel during the continuance of the mission. Whoever is at ease in Zion, these Jesuits are not.

M. BERSIER, the eminent and eloquent French preacher, is dead. With his death one of the pillars of Protestantism in Paris has fallen. At the Pan-Presbyterian Council in London last year, pastor Bersier was one of the chief figures. No one would have thought that he was only fifty-seven years of age. But life began early with him, and it was busily filled up to the very last night. His loss is deeply mourned.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: In the obituary columns of the Belfast papers we note with regret the announcement of the death of the Rev. Hugh Blair, A.M., one of the earliest, and, we may add, one of the worthiest of the many men whom the Colonial Mission of the General Assembly has sent abroad. He laboured successively both in Canada and Australia. His health failing he returned home and has lived at Belfast or its neighbourhood for some years.

A CONTEMPORARY says: It is the doctrine of Tolstoi that everybody must be poor; but he hangs on, with the grip of a miser, to every kopeck of his wealth. And he tries to justify his meanness and to explain the inconsistency by asserting that to give any of his gold to the poor would be giving them the root of all evil! Such is the man who is regarded by some foolish sentimentalists as the greatest exemplar of Christianity since the departure of its divine founder.

DR. ARTHUR T. PIERSON, of Philadelphia, received a warm welcome in the Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, at a large representative gathering over which Principal Cairns presided. Addresses of welcome were delivered on behalf of the various churches by Rev. John M'Murtie, Prof. Lindsay, Mr. Duncan M'Laren, Rev. Robert Craig, M.A., and Lord Kinnard. Dr. Pierson pointed to the great activity prevailing in commerce and science, and maintained that the Christian Church ought to prosecute mission work with corresponding energy and ability.

AT the close of the Free Church Commission the members remained to nominate the Moderator of next Assembly. It is understood that Dr. Rainy and Mr. W. Ross Taylor suggested the name of Prof. W. G. Blaikie, but a large majority supported the nomination of Dr. Thos. Brown, Dean Church, Edinburgh, editor of *Annals of the Disruption*. Dr. Brown was ordained at Kinneff in 1837, his presentation to the parish being the first official document signed by the Queen. At the Disruption he carried the greater part of his congregation with him. In 1849 he removed to Edinburgh, and last year he received the degree of D. D. from Edinburgh University.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a Christmas Eve entertainment for poor children, under the auspices of the Children's Fresh Air Fund. It is expected that over twelve hundred children will be given a free entertainment consisting of music, refreshments and a panoramic exhibition, on Tuesday

evening, December 24, 1889, in Shaftesbury Hall. Subscriptions to defray expenses will be received by Mayor Clarke, City Hall. Donations of provisions, warm clothing, or toys, may be sent to Miss How, College Avenue Mission Hall, Mr. Edward Taylor, corner of Simcoe and Richmond Streets, or left at Shaftesbury Hall on Tuesday or to the Sec.-Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Kelso.

THERE is no society in this city, says the *New York Independent*, that is doing a nobler service than the Young Women's Christian Association. Recently the corner-stone was laid for a Woman's Lodging House, to be controlled by the Association. It is the gift of Mrs. E. F. Shepard, whose husband was present at the recent Evangelical Alliance meeting in Toronto, one of the noblest of the Vanderbilt family, who has given the munificent sum of two hundred thousand dollars to erect the building. There is a special need for just this form of gift, and the Young Women's Christian Association of New York, not only by its religious instruction, but by its free classes, and now by this lodging-house, sets an example to similar associations in other cities.

THE *New York Independent* says: Cardinal Lavigerie's proposed Anti-slavery Congress was given up, chiefly, it will be remembered, because it was evident that the French would not have in it the controlling voice that was desired. The present Congress, now in session at Brussels, called by the King of the Belgians, has the same object in view, the abolition of the slave trade in Africa. This Congress has evidently held important sessions, and may bring forth valuable fruit, in the union of the States of Europe to put an end to the slave trade in the interior, as well as to the export of slaves from the Eastern coast. But the rapid settlement of the interior and the partitioning of Africa between the great powers of Europe will really do the work. The slave trade has not ten years to live.

IT is stated that the now defunct *Presbyterian Review* is to be in part replaced by another review under the direction of Professor Warfield of Princeton, who has selected as his associates a number of professors in the Presbyterian theological seminaries. Thus Professor Shedd will represent Union Seminary; Professor Morris, Lane Seminary; Professor Welch, Auburn Seminary; and Professor De Witt, McCormick Seminary. But it must be understood that there is here no official representation of the seminaries, as in the case of the former *Review*, but only of the individuals. At the same time an effort has been made to have the new *Review* represent both the Old School and the New School or what remains of those wings as they were fifty years ago; but on the questions now in discussion its conservative position is assured.

THE fourteenth annual report of the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children has just been issued. The blessed work of this institution is steadily carried on with most excellent results. The new building, now in course of erection, will soon afford better facilities than have yet been possessed in this city for the relief and comfort of a most interesting class of little sufferers. It may be well to bear in mind that donations of worn-out table, bed or other linen, articles of children's clothing, children's books and toys, will be most acceptable to the Charity. The hospital is supported by contributions, voluntary in the fullest sense of the word. And, as there is no canvassing for funds, friends will kindly send such subscriptions as their generous hearts, guided by God's Spirit, may prompt, and state whether their gifts are for general expenses, Building Fund, or Lakeside Home.

DR. ADDISON P. FOSTER says in the *Advocate*, that what is called Liberal thought is no longer in the ascendancy in Boston; that Unitarianism is growing no more, and that several of its leading churches have, during a few years past, felt obliged to disband or unite. The great names among its ministry, like Dr. James Freeman Clarke, Dr. Ellis, Starr King and Dr. Bristol, as they are removed, are not replaced by any others. The noble Dr.

Edward Everett Hale still remains among us, universally honoured and loved, but he now stands almost the only representative of a former race of giants. The *New York Independent* adds: The balder infidelity has even more lost its power. Parker Memorial Hall has been lost to Free Thought. The Spiritualists, once so rampant, no longer make any stir, and even the *Mind-Curists* have passed by. He says that the religious progress of Boston is in the hands of the Evangelical churches, which are active and successful.

THE tendency to carry things to excess is exemplified in the absurd length to which the matter of floral decoration has gone. A correspondent of the *Christian-at-Work* has this to say on the subject: The flower presentation cranks were in full force at the opening of Congress. One representative had a floral chair five feet high placed near his desk, besides an immense horse-shoe surmounted with a star. On another member's desk was placed a tree of roses, near another a floral man-of-war. One member was nearly hidden from view by an immense screen of flowers. The question may be asked, What insanity prompts men to waste money and violate all good taste in this manner? The answer can generally be found in some personal favour which the donor expects from the recipient. Like the ancient heathen they propitiate the favour of their political god by offering him floral tributes. The nuisance has grown so great that it is almost a wonder Congressmen do not tack on their desks the announcement so frequently appended to death notices—"No flowers."

THE religious press of the United States has lost one of its most learned writers, and the editorial brotherhood one of its highly honoured members, in the recent death of Robert Patterson, of the *Pittsburgh Presbyterian Banner*. Mr. Patterson was engaged in the customary labours of the sanctum in Pittsburgh, when he was stricken with the fatal illness, paralysis, and he died a few days later, on Friday, November 29th. Concerning him the senior editor of the *Banner* says: 'As a Christian gentleman Mr. Patterson was a model. He was modest and retiring, though adhering strongly to his own opinions and always ready to support or defend them, but never obtrusively. In the community where he lived he was held in the highest esteem. To the many whom he met he was invariably attentive, courteous and pleasing, ever quick to assist the needy and comfort the sorrowing. In looking back over the twenty-five years in which we have been so closely associated, we cannot discover one unpleasant thing associated with him on the pages of our memory. To us the history of that period in all that concerns him will be ever without the least speck of a cloud, always bright and cheering.'

THE *Chicago Interior* is quite right when it says: Statements concerning the growth of Roman Catholicism in the United States, made public at the time of the recent centenary services at Baltimore and Washington, have made a deep impression on the *London Times*. That ponderous authority foresees a great future for the "mother church" in the States, with an increase in numbers which will outstrip the growth of all other churches. The steady stream of Irish immigration, and the strong tendency of that race-stream to flow in Catholic channels, are the main factors in forcing the *Times* to this conclusion. "And further," says the pessimist, "when we consider that South America is almost wholly peopled by races traditionally Roman Catholic, we shall see that the new world bids fair to be, in matter of belief, not very unlike the old." Now we respectfully decline to accept the situation, as outlined by the *Times*, either for ourselves or for our posterity. This country is not in danger of becoming overwhelmingly Roman Catholic. We all know the cheerful extravagances of priestly assertions, when it comes to the matter of church adherents, and we are used to making the necessary discount. The *Times* has not learned that lesson yet, apparently. Besides, the growth of Protestant churches, which can be accurately ascertained by a comparative examination of membership records for a series of years, is so great and so steady as to render all fears of Catholic supremacy groundless.