

Notes of the Week.

A VERY striking evidence of the revolution which is taking place in Scotland, says the *Christian Leader*, in respect to the service of praise, is furnished by the fact that the congregation of Great Hamilton Street Free Church, Glasgow, has adopted the hymnal. This will be heard with interest by many who were formerly connected with the old Cameronian congregation, and who can recall the time when the Paraphrases were regarded with strong antipathy in the historic church of the Symingtons.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting of the International Missionary Union will be held at Binghamton, New York, July 5-12. Ministers and others interested in foreign missionary work are invited to be present. All foreign missionaries, of either sex, temporarily or permanently in this country, are eligible to membership in the Union, and will receive free entertainment during the meeting. Those who propose to attend are requested to communicate as soon as possible with the President of the Union, Rev. J. T. Gracey, D.D., 202 Eagle street, Buffalo, New York.

FATHER DAMIEN'S successor in the leper island of Molokai is to be Father Conrardi, like Father Damien, a Belgian. A German priest will also share his toils and dangers. There are some nuns already at Molokai, and a young Roman Catholic lady, Miss Flavin, it will be remembered, left Liverpool a short time since to devote her life to the heroic work of succouring the lepers of Molokai. Work has been carried on among lepers by the English and German Moravians for more than half a century. It was commenced among the Hottentots by a missionary and his English wife in 1818, and has extended to Robben Island and Jerusalem. Four Moravians are now consecrating their lives to this service.

THIS is the *Christian World's* note of rejoicing over the election of Dr. Marcus Dods. All the true friends of the Free Church of Scotland will rejoice unfeignedly to learn that Dr. Marcus Dods has been elected by a sweeping majority to the Professorship of New Testament Exegesis at Edinburgh. When the matter came up for consideration before the Assembly on Tuesday afternoon, the densely crowded state of the Assembly Hall told of the keen interest being taken in the appointment. Up to the eve of the election it was thought that Professor Salmond would stand the best chance, but the result showed how ill-advised he was in persisting in his candidature.

NEARLY all the Scottish papers had leading articles dealing with the election of Dr. Marcus Dods. The Glasgow *Herald* remarked that the power of the Conservative party in the Free Church is now completely broken, and that by Dr. Dods' appointment the new departure of the Church is definitely marked. The Dundee *Advertiser* says. The forward party in the Free Church have good cause to be proud of their victory. To them and to their Church it is a pleasing and promising victory in more ways than one. The *Scotsman*, while heartily approving of Dr. Dods' election, declares. It is almost startling to see the proof afforded by the election of Dr. Dods of the progress of free thought in that Church. The 165 votes which were given to Mr. Cusin represent the now small orthodox section.

THE Rev. Dr. Robb, of Kingston, Jamaica, is removing to Australia on account of the health of his family. The *Australian Independent* says: We congratulate our Presbyterian friends on the expected arrival in the colonies of the Rev. Dr. Robb, the friend and college companion of the Rev. Dr. Bruce, of Huddersfield. Dr. Robb's work at Old Calabar, and also at Jamaica, has brought him prominently before the Christian world, and we have no doubt his scholarly attainments, genial disposition and pronounced evangelical faith will make him a valuable addition to the working power of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Robb has been for eleven years professor of theology in the Presbyterian College, Kingston, Jamaica, and removes to the colonies on account of the health of his family.

THE Belfast *Witness* says.—The Free Church Assembly has elected Dr. Marcus Dods, of Glasgow, as successor to the late Professor Smeaton in the Chair of Exegetical Theology in the new College Edinburgh. Professor Salmond, of Aberdeen, and the Rev. Mr. Cousin, of Edinburgh, were also proposed, but he polled considerably more votes than both put together. The significance of this election is evident. After Dr. Dods' famous paper at last meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council on the question, "How far is the Church responsible for present Scepticism?" the question asked in many quarters was, What will the Free Church do? This election is her answer. Notwithstanding Dr. Dods' admitted scholarship and high position in the Church, we cannot refrain from saying that we think his appointment to this chair at the present juncture a grave mistake.

TORONTO is a splendid centre for holding conventions. This is fully recognized by the fact that last week several most important assemblages have met in the Queen City. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church began its sitting on Wednesday evening last. On the two previous days the Anti-Jesuit Convention was held, and a convention of great importance to the social, moral and religious progress of the People, the Women's Temperance Union, also held its meetings here. The attendance of ladies from various sections was large and the proceedings were of great interest. Questions of great practical importance received earnest and intelligent consideration and the cause with which they are identified received an impressive stimulus. A lady whose personal worth and admirable work in the cause of righteousness is widely and favourably known contributed much to the success and effectiveness of the convention. Miss Frances Willard has a personal influence that is powerfully felt.

THE papers issued to the members of the Free Assembly showed that thirty-three overtures had been forwarded regarding the Confession of Faith, twenty-one in favour of revision, and twelve against it. The financial returns showed an increase of £46,000 this year in the funds of the Church. There were three overtures in favour of a union between the Free and U. P. Churches. The nominations for the vacant professorship were as follows.—Dr. Dods was recommended by five Synods and forty-three Presbyteries, Professor Salmond by three Synods and twenty-five Presbyteries, Mr. Stalker by one Synod and thirty Presbyteries, the Rev. A. Cusin, Edinburgh, by one Synod and nine Presbyteries, the Rev. D. D. Bannerman, Perth, by two Synods and eight Presbyteries; the Rev. James Denney, Broughty Ferry, by one Synod and two Presbyteries, the Rev. John Macpherson, Findhorn, by one Synod and two Presbyteries; the Rev. J. J. Glen Kippen, Pitcairngreen, by one Presbytery.

PRIVATE patronage in religious benefices has many evils, but we doubt if its worst abuses have a more shocking effect than the election of a minister by household suffrage as carried out in one of the parishes of Birmingham. Since the fourteenth century the chaplain of St. John's, Deritend, has been elected by the householders. Originally, no doubt, it was intended that the congregation should choose their own minister, but now the electorate comprises the greater part of two Parliamentary Divisions, women householders as well as men being qualified to vote. The election was fought with all the vigour and more than all the disorder, of a Parliamentary contest. The voting was open, and as the Corrupt Practices Act did not apply, it is said that a large amount of treating took place. Election placards and squibs were freely used, party colours were seen everywhere, men and women were driven up to the poll in a state of intoxication, and betting on the result was largely indulged in. No wonder that the "returning officer" expressed a hope that before the next vacancy some rational mode of election might be substituted for the present mode, "which has every vice that an election can have."

THE following is the *Presbyterian Messenger's* comment on the appointment of Dr. Dods to the vacant chair in Edinburgh Free Church College:

The Rev. Dr. Marcus Dods was elected Professor by the Free Assembly on Tuesday in place of the late Prof. Smeaton. Only three names were proposed for the chair, with the following result: Dr. Dods, 165, Rev. A. Cusin, 161, Prof. Salmond, 115. As Dr. Dods had a large majority over the combined votes of the other two candidates, no second division was taken, but he was forthwith declared to be duly elected. This is not by any means the first time that the name of Marcus Dods has been spoken of in connection with vacant theological chairs. So far back as the time when Dr. William Chalmers was elected professor in our own college he was thought of for that position, and he would doubtless have been appointed to a Free Church Professorship long ago had he been willing to accept of the position. He has now accomplished twenty-five years of work in his ministry at Renfield Church, Glasgow, and has been most successful in his labours there, while his scholarship and literary gifts have secured for him a world-wide reputation. However some may dissent from his statements of opinion on some points, all must acknowledge that he is one of the foremost men of the time in connection with the Presbyterian name.

A PASTORAL LETTER, prepared by Principal Dykes, was read from the English Presbyterian pulpits on a recent Sunday. It deals largely with the question of amusements. There is no need, it says, to discourage outdoor exercises or games that are fairly conducted, under rules which admit of gentlemanly and courteous play. On the contrary, young men are to be congratulated on the increased opportunities and leisure for healthy athletic exercise which the present generation enjoys. At the same time, there is such a thing as an excessive pursuit even of this—as when the Saturday afternoon leaves muscle and brain too overtaxed for Sunday's duty. Moderation in everything is the Christian rule. Physical exercise is intended to be a minister to mental and spiritual well-being, not destructive of it. As to indoor entertainments during the winter season it must be left to each one's conscience to judge what is helpful and what hurtful. Two rules, however, may be laid down. First, the time given to amusement of any sort ought never to absorb one's whole leisure, but the best hours at one's disposal ought to be jealously reserved for employments of higher value. Next, the quieter descriptions of recreation, and such as can be enjoyed at home or with a few companions in private, are to be preferred over those which involve late hours, heated rooms, crowded assemblies, or the frequenting of public places of resort.

THE tactics of the Romish Church are the same wherever it has the opportunity. The same dominating tendency is apparent in every part of the world where it can get a foothold. The Rev. J. Jones, the devoted missionary who has suffered such bitter persecution on the Island of Maré, sends us a statement which most effectually disposes of the assertion transmitted through our ambassador at Paris by the French minister of foreign affairs to Lord Salisbury. M. Goblet has had the audacity to declare that there is no justification for the uneasiness felt in Britain, "inasmuch as the measure complained of was resorted to merely as a measure of local police directed against a person who had continued in spite of warning to stir up the population of the island against the French authorities." Letters just to hand from natives of Maré show that so lately as January 14th of the present year a native pastor was seized at a wedding by the police, handcuffed, taken to prison, and sentenced to cease from administering the Lord's Supper to his congregation. The bride was also cast into jail, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment, her only crime being that she had been zealous in gathering the young together for the purpose of reading the Bible! A man named Polawa has been imprisoned for writing a letter to the English missionary simply giving an account of the Church's work. It is now nearly eighteen months since Mr. Jones was expelled by the French; so it would seem that they have been able to find other persons against whom they can direct their "measures of local police." The word "political" is nothing but a cloak for religious persecutions instigated by the Romish priests.