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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

AN appeal to all the shopkeepers in Paris will shortly be issued, to invite them to close their shops on Sundays, the address to be signed by a certain number of shopkeepers who already shut their shops.

A MOVEMENT for the evangelization of the people is in active operation in Geneva, five halls being used for the purpose in different parts of the city. During the last twelve months 365 meetings have been held, at which 1,000 addresses were delivered.

THERE are but nine theological students in the Old Catholic college at Berne, and for their benefit five professors are maintained. One of these students, who is shortly to become an Old Catholic curé, has just fought a duel with a fellow-student.

THE Canadian students attending classes in Edinburgh, Scotland, have formed "The Edinburgh Canadian Students' Club," and procured rooms at the Literary Institute in that city, where Canadian visitors are requested to register their names.

ON the fourth Sunday in Lent, the Pope invariably blesses a golden rose, which he sends as a mark of special favour to some Catholic princess. This year the token was bestowed upon Stephanie of Belgium, who was married, in May last, to Rudolf, the Crown Prince of Austria.

THE Bible used in the United States Senate for swearing in senators has been stolen. It has been in use for fifty-three years, and every senator admitted in that period was sworn in upon that Bible and had kissed it. The supposition is that it was taken by somebody as a relic.

THE school authorities of Baltimore are seriously considering the question of abolishing the Peabody prizes and medals in the public schools. It is said to be an established fact that, in the struggle to win these prizes, pupils have to work too hard, and in many cases at the cost of serious injury to the health.

THE Syrian Protestant College in Beirut has now 152 students, of whom the great majority pay for their education. Twenty years ago it was hardly thought possible to induce a Syrian to buy a copy of the Scriptures. Last year there were issued from the American press in Beirut 15,715 copies of the Scriptures, every one of which was sold.

THE Moderator-elect of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England is the Rev. Wm. McCaw, of Manchester, who has been Clerk for many years. The Synod, which met in Regent Square Church, London, on the 24th ult., consists of a minister and elder from each of 273 congregations, together with the missionaries and professors, making in all somewhere about 550 members.

INTELLIGENCE has been received in Edinburgh of the massacre, in the latter days of December, of nineteen natives who were engaged by Mr. Jas. Stewart, C.E., as carriers on the new road which he is constructing between Lake Nyassa and Lake Tanganyika, Africa, and over which it is proposed to carry a steamer in pieces, to be launched in Tanganyika, for the London Missionary Society.

THE New York "Independent" is rejoicing over two signs of the millennium. One is that three Presbyterian churches in Paterson, N.J., have raised over \$2,000 to save from the hammer the house of worship belonging to the one Congregational church in the place; the other, that the Ontario Congregational Association has received into full membership two Free Baptist ministers, on the full understanding that they retain their Baptist principles.

ACCORDING to recent investigations made by the Free Church Presbytery of Glasgow, it appears that in that

city there are not less than 200,000 people unattached to any Christian Church. The Presbytery have appointed a committee to consider what steps should be taken in view of these revelations, and to enter into communication with the other evangelical denominations for the purpose of forming and carrying out some well-defined plan of united and systematic effort in this direction.

UNDER a law recently enacted in the State of New York, profanity on the public streets is punishable by immediate arrest and fine, or imprisonment. It is pleasing to learn, not only that such a law has been enacted, but that it actually "went into operation" a few days ago. A Canadian official or two ought to be sent over to see how the thing works. Perhaps when they came back they might be able to coax our old law to follow the example of New York's new one by going "into operation."

AN official statement has been issued in reference to the position and work of the Established Church of Scotland. It states that in connection with the Church there are 1,552 congregations and 515,000 communicants, being an increase in five years of 55,000. During the nine years ending 31st December, 1880, the Church raised a sum of £2,588,702 19s. 1d., or an average annual amount of £287,633 13s. 3d. The amount for 1880 was £310,847 12s. 7d. The above sum did not include the donation of £500,000 by the late Mr. Baird, of Cambusdoon.

LAST week's despatches from Britain indicate a marked change in the Irish policy of the Government. The parliamentary suspects, Parnell, Dillon, and O'Kelly, have been released from Kilmainham gaol and permitted to resume their seats in the House of Commons; the release of the remaining suspects has been promised, with the exception of those who were arrested on suspicion of having been personally concerned in outrages; and it has been announced that instead of renewing the Coercion Act, which expires shortly, the Government will introduce a new measure to remedy the administration of justice in Ireland. In connection with this new departure, Mr. Forster, Chief Secretary for Ireland, has resigned.

SINCE the publication of Professor Flint's address on the Disestablishment movement, from which we gave an extract last week, the Rev. A. C. Macdonald, of Queen Street Free Church, Inverness, has written to the Professor that it is the Church of Scotland, and not the Free Church, which should take the initiative towards reconciliation, saying in his published letter, that instead of this being in any degree humiliating, it would be the reverse, and would evince a desire on their part to have every good and reasonable ground of difference and separation removed, adding that if the present Established Church is to continue to be the Church of Scotland, she must adjust her constitution and adapt herself as much as possible to the feelings and sympathies, and even to the harmless prejudices, of the people of Scotland. Dr. Flint replies with much kindness, but says that while he, Dr. Charteris, and others feel the force of Mr. Macdonald's considerations, yet they cannot take the lead, because the controversy of the Free Church is rather with the State than with them; and that, therefore, the Church of Scotland cannot well do more than let it be known that she deplors the present separation and state of things in Scotland, and would gladly see the Highland endowments in the hands of those who have the hearts of the people.

IN its notice of the late Mr. Charles Darwin, the "Illustrated Christian Weekly" says: "We would do no injustice to Mr. Darwin's memory. Whatever is true of his theory, he himself was not an atheist. He expressly acknowledges the existence of God, and seems to feel the necessity of His existence to account for the origin of life. He needs God to call the living germ or germs into existence; but, having done this, God, on his supposition, has no more to do with the universe than if He did not exist. God started the

world; that was all. Practically this is atheism. It leaves the soul without God. Physical causes produce what the Christian assigns to the operation of the Divine mind. We venture to think that Darwinism has had its day. It will be quite time enough to be alarmed at it when we see the missing links in the chain beginning to be supplied, or when, as Dr. McCosh suggests, 'we can find a monkey on the earth capable, by domestication or otherwise, of producing a man.' So also the Boston "Congregationalist":—"Mr. Darwin has urged, among other things, the theory of the development of man from the ape. This notion he never succeeded in proving, nor has it ever won any general acceptance among evolutionists, and other positions of his are denied by men equally competent to judge. That there is some truth in the theory of evolution, however, most scientists, including those of Christian faith, believe, and Mr. Darwin certainly has done much to make the facts plain; but no scientific principle established by him ever has undermined any truth of the Gospel."

IN criticising the recent action of the Synod of Hamilton and London on the question of the use of the Bible in our public schools, the Halifax "Witness" says: "The teacher who is fit to give religious instruction, will give it without legislative compulsion; the teacher who is not fit—God forbid that he should be required to teach the Bible. There are no religious tests to guarantee the orthodoxy of Ontario teachers. No doubt a large proportion are men or women of the right stamp. Well, let trustees and parents help these teachers to give such religious teaching as is fitting; let them use the Bible lovingly and well. This can be done without any legal compulsion." That is just the way things were done among us twenty or thirty years ago, before the introduction of multifarious studies and cast-iron programmes; but it is different now. Although no positive legislation has been enacted to exclude the Bible, and although our educational authorities continually assure us that there is nothing to prevent its use where trustees and teachers are agreed, still the Bible is crowded out by being entirely ignored in the minute and exhaustive provisions and regulations made for conducting the schools. We have a programme; by that programme we must abide; and on that programme there is no Bible. All the books to be used, and all the studies to be pursued, are distinctly specified, and serious pains and penalties are suspended over those who use unauthorized books, or otherwise depart from the programme. Every available species of pressure is brought to bear upon teachers and pupils to make them devote all their energies and all their time to the cultivation of the branches prescribed; care being taken to have the branches so numerous and the standard so high as to preclude all tendency to works of supererogation. The result is that the Bible has almost entirely disappeared from our public schools. In these circumstances, is it any wonder that the Synod of Hamilton and London—nay, the whole Protestant population of Ontario—should seek fresh legislation on the subject? There is no "legal compulsion" desired. The aim is to give the Bible fair play by having it placed on the school programme. At present the Government virtually says to the people, "The Bible is out, but you are at liberty to bring it in if you can." We wish to have the position altered, so that the Government can say to the people, "The Bible is in, and you can put it out if you wish." Let the burden of action in the matter rest upon the shoulders of those who are opposed to the use of the Bible in the schools. Why so? Because we live in a Christian country, with all our laws, including those that relate to education, resting on a Christian basis and assuming the existence of Christian institutions. As to the moral and religious qualifications of teachers, that matter is already in the hands of the people. The teachers who are "not fit" to use the Bible as a text-book, ought to be superseded by "men and women of the right stamp." Would that every school in Ontario, and in all the other Provinces of our fair Dominion, had a good teacher and an open Bible!