

Notes of the Week.

A COMPANY of Morimons, it seems, have been prospecting with a view to the formation of a settlement in the North-West Territories of the Dominion. Their difficulties in Utah have, of late, been increasing, and there is no sign that they need expect peace so long as they cling to polygamy. Their settlement in Canada with that institution is impossible. Neither the laws nor the moral sentiment of the people would tolerate a polygamous settlement in the North-West, or anywhere else in the Dominion.

At the meeting of the Synod of the Original Secession Church of Scotland, some time ago, a committee was appointed, on the motion of Professor Spence, to consider the whole question of the condition of their Church, and to report to next meeting of Synod. The Professor said in his speech that if things were to go on as they had done, and at the same rate, there was great danger of their losing their identity. It appears from the report laid before the Synod that the entire number of members amounts only to 3,475, and of adherents to 1,049.

It is expected that the chair of Church History in Union Theological Seminary, New York, rendered vacant by the death of President Roswell D. Hitchcock, will be filled by Dr. Philip Schaff. His life-long studies in this department of sacred literature eminently fit him for the position. Hitherto, his branch in that institution has been New Testament Exegesis. The name of Dr. Marvin Vincent has been mentioned as Dr. Schaff's successor in the exegetical chair. Such appointments will in nowise impair the prestige of Union Theological Seminary.

THE statistics for the Presbyterian Church (South) for 1887 give the following contributions. Sustentation, \$42,944, evangelistic, \$42,434; invalid fund, 11,921; foreign missions, \$67,204; education, \$39,250; publication, \$9,084, Tuscaloosa Institute, \$4,152; Presbyterial, \$13,754, pastors' salaries, \$616,583; congregational, \$453,977; miscellaneous, \$114,015. Total, \$1,415,318. An increase is indicated in all these items except the first. The Church now has thirteen Synods and sixty-nine Presbyteries, the same as last year; 1,116 ministers, a gain of thirty-one; 2,236 churches, a gain of thirty-eight; 150,398 communicants, a gain of 6,655. The number received on examination—12,145—was the largest, we believe, in the history of the Church.

It is generally supposed that British Churches do not resort to doubtful methods of raising money for Church purposes. That American and Canadian Churches are not singular in this respect is apparent from the following statement in a British contemporary: Winstead Church, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, had once the honour of entering on its register a record of the baptism of Andrew Marvel. Things have changed since then. The building has lately been restored. This week an amateur dramatic company is announced to act for two evenings at the Hull Theatre Royal in order to raise money for the Restoration Fund. Andrew Marvel's name is flouted in connection with the affair; but we doubt if the permission of the incorruptible Puritan has been obtained. Shall we next have a "Benefit night for Poor Curates" at the Lyceum?

THE election of a bishop in the Anglican Church is a matter of serious difficulty. The Nova Scotia Provincial Synod, having failed to agree on a Canadian, united in offering the position of bishop to an English clergyman who is virtually the bishop of the military chaplains, but he has signified his declination of the office. Once more, the candidates of the opposing parties were again brought forward, only to discover that the election of either was hope-

less. Now it is announced that a compromise candidate, Bishop Perry, of Iowa, has been elected, and should he accept the bishopric of Nova Scotia, the difficulty will be solved for the present. It is the same conflict wherever the Episcopal Church exists, the High Church and the Low Church are irreconcilable. How will the conflict end?

THE recently published necrological report of the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary gives short biographical notices of thirty-one of the alumni who finished their course during the year ending April 1. The oldest of these was Rev. A. K. Nelson, of the class of 1832, who was nearly ninety-three years old at the time of his departure; and the youngest was Rev. A. T. Hays, who was taken away in his thirtieth year. The average age of these thirty-one servants of the Lord was sixty-six years and two months, ten had completed their eightieth year; fifteen—nearly one-half—their seventy-fifth, while the age of the oldest has been already stated. It certainly pleases the Lord to give remarkably long lives, upon an average, to those who give themselves to the preaching of His Word, though he favours a great many by taking them to heaven at a comparatively early age.

A CONTEMPORARY states that a visitor who knew Berlin before the great war is struck by the change in its appearance and the habits of the people. The outward look of Christianity has not advanced at an equal pace. The Dom Church is shabby in the extreme. The public debt is less than that of any other military power; the material interests of the nation are well considered; a religious cant marks the words of the Emperor and of Bismarck; but neither they nor the people think much of Churches except as a branch of the civil service. This sentiment tends to restrain the life there may be in the members of the Church; nor will the Church attain its full vigour till it is cast upon itself and its real Head. And German Christians are beginning to fall back upon the apostolic position that a Church is only strong as its members preserve their purity, and fulfil their responsibilities as preachers of the Word.

A CIRCULAR signed by the Mayor and the Warden of the Central Prison has been addressed to the ministers of Toronto, suggesting that in connection with the meeting of the National Prison Association of the United States congress in this city next month, they take as the theme of their discourse on the evening of September 11, the subject of crime, reformatories, penal institutions and the work of prison reform, and then to grant the committee the use of the manuscripts for publication in the proceedings of the Congress. By this means the association would be put in possession of much valuable diversity of thought on the subject of its work, which, from the large number of young people constantly being added to the criminal roll, has been one of great public interest. At a meeting of the Local Committee held on the 28th ult., Messrs. Howland and Massie were instructed to address a circular letter to all the clergy in the city, and ask their consent to the foregoing proposal, in so far as they can conveniently do so.

FRENCH encroachment on the New Hebrides has given rise to fresh diplomatic complications. The English Government has asked the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to name the date for the evacuation of the islands by the French troops. To this M. Flourens replies that he cannot do this till England gives a satisfactory account of its Egyptian occupation and its policy in relation to the Suez Canal. In the House of Commons, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in reply to inquiries, stated that England had never acquiesced in the presence of French troops in the New Hebrides, expressed his belief that the French occupation would only be temporary, and that the Government declined to consent to the proposal that the withdrawal of the French from the New

Hebrides should be contingent on the settlement of difficulties as to the neutralization of the Suez Canal. One reason why such interest is taken in this matter is, that missionary operations are seriously interfered with while French occupation continues.

ANOTHER awful railway disaster occurred last week. A large excursion train from towns in Western Illinois to Niagara Falls ran on to a burning trestle, and a large number of the unsuspecting excursionists met with instant death. The prairie fires raging unchecked, had seized on the trestle, which went down with a crash when the long train came dashing along. Hundreds of people bent on an enjoyable excursion, and seeing one of the grandest sights on the continent, were suddenly stopped in their journey, and their lives ended prematurely there. Over one hundred were killed outright, and many more received injuries from which they will never fully recover. What invariably happens occurred in this instance, the wrecked cars took fire from the oil lamps with which they were lighted. Fortunately, the prompt efforts of passengers and trainmen soon extinguished the blaze. The terrible disaster near Piper City, Ill., adds another to the many arguments why railway cars should be illuminated by some means less dangerous than coal oil.

THAT no little scandal has been occasioned by the unseemly scenes and profane language which have characterized the present session of the British Parliament is obvious from the following remarks in the editorial column of the *Christian Leader*: It is the ideal of representation that those chosen to represent should be alike able to lead, and worthy to follow. Their words should guide to action, and their manners both lend dignity to their conduct and add sweetness to their speech. The House of Commons should contain men of this stamp, and none else. It is one ill-result of the white heat of recent political life that public language has lost much of its grace, and been decorated in some cases with a disgusting garniture. The voluble harridans of Billingsgate may be pardoned the coarseness and ribaldry of their speech; they know no better. There is a notion in some quarters that you cannot get work out of certain classes of men without swearing at them—it is the only language they understand. There has been much to irritate individuals of both parties in recent politics, but nothing can justify the manner in which some of the members adorn or envenom their utterances, they do know better, and their opponents can understand pure language. It was high time a public protest against this base and useless practice should be firmly and authoritatively made.

THE *British Weekly* states that a meeting convened by circular was held recently in the Presbyterian College, Queen's Square, with a view to local arrangements for the fourth meeting of the General Presbyterian Council, which falls to be held in London next year, between June 26 and July 6. Mr. George Duncan presided, and there were present many of the leading ministers and laymen of the English Presbyterian Church and the Churches of Scotland. Rev. Dr. Blaikie, of Edinburgh, and Rev. Dr. Mathews, of Quebec, secretary of the European and American branches respectively, were also present. After explanations as to what had been done in preparation for previous meetings of Council, it was agreed that immediately after the holidays steps should be taken to form a large local fund for the expenses of the meeting, and that a representative committee should be named, out of which sub-committees should be formed to arrange for accommodation of the Council, hospitality to the members, a great reception meeting and such other matters as might be found necessary. It is understood that there will be two daily meetings of the Council, one in the morning and the other in the evening. There is every prospect of a most interesting and important meeting, as the Churches seem impressed with the importance of sending some of their best men to London.