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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

OF the present ministry of the Free Church of Scotland there are 120 who joined in the exodus in 1843.

THE English Presbyterian Church has ten Presbyteries, 278 congregations, 53,000 communicants, and 267 ministers.

EFFORTS are now being made in the Free Church of Scotland to raise the lowest stipend of the minister to £300 a year.

THE Rev. David Laird Adams, M.A., B.D., has been elected to the Professorship of Hebrew in Edinburgh University.

FATHER IGNATIUS has published a list of miracles that have occurred recently at Llanthony. He is evidently determined that Lourdes is not to have all the spoil.

IN Sweden, a man who is seen drunk four times is deprived of his vote at elections. The adoption of that principle would considerably restrict the franchise in this country.

THE Archbishop of San Domingo has given to the University of Pavia, Italy, a reliquary containing some fragments of bone and a small quantity of dust, supposed to be a portion of the mortal remains of Christopher Columbus. The gift will be deposited in the library of the University.

PRESBYTERIANS are shewing great activity in Spain. There is a Presbytery there, that of Andalusia. It is small, consisting of eight churches, of which the membership is small and oppressed with poverty. Nevertheless it proposes to found a school for training pastors, evangelists, and teachers, and has purchased a building for a college and a centre of missionary work.

THE house of refuge on the top of Mount St. Gothard, founded in the fourteenth century, will be permanently closed two years hence. The opening of the tunnel will render it useless, as not even beggars will then cross the mountain on foot. At present the hospice affords shelter, food, and a bed to 20,000 people yearly, and is supported by private and public charity. The ride through the tunnel will cost only twenty cents.

THE "Jewish Messenger" says that a hundred well-to-do heads of Jewish families in Roumania have petitioned the "Alliance Israelite" to purchase land for them in Palestine, where they may found an agricultural colony. The same journal notes a marked change among the Jews in regard to the desertion of wives and children by men of the lower class. Once such things were unknown. Now they are frequent. One alleged cause is the knowledge that the family will be provided for by charitable societies.

ONE of the secular journals of Chicago gives a very clear opinion on a subject which some of the religious journals are trying to muddle. After referring to Dr. Thomas and the Methodist authorities it says: "We do not desire to interfere in the ecclesiastical controversy among our Methodist brethren, but as an humble layman we cannot suppress a feeling that if a member either of a political party or a Church cannot indorse its formulated or known creed, it is due both to it and to him that he should lose no time in taking himself out of it."

DESPATCHES from Persia shew that the Kurds are losing ground. The kind treatment by them of missionaries is, in part, a result of the liberality of American Christians in relieving the distressed famine sufferers. This kind treatment has brought on them some suspicion of complicity in the insurrection. A despatch from Teheran says the excitement among the inhabitants of Ooroomiah against the Christians,

especially American missionaries, for their supposed complicity with the Kurds, is increasing. The missionaries, however, have convinced the Persian authorities that these suspicions are baseless.

WE recently listened to a sermon, the burden of which was that the great work of life is to prepare for death. If that were the great motive of life we fear that it would make a selfish and worthless life, and an unhappy death. The true work of life is to honour God and do good to our fellow-men—to live a life of usefulness. Death will take care of itself. We need not distress ourselves about it. The messenger will most probably be welcome when he comes to call us—the point is to redeem the time before he comes, to do the most good and to confer the most happiness possible.—*Interior.*

LATELY a very successful literary and musical entertainment was held in the lecture room of West Presbyterian Church, Toronto, which was crowded by an appreciative audience. The pastor, Rev. R. Wallace, presided. Readings and recitations by several students of Knox College, and by Miss Alexander; music by the choir of the Church. Since then, on Thursday, 18th inst., a bazaar was held in the same place, the object of both to assist the Ladies' Aid Society of the congregation in paying off the balance on the upholstering of the new church. The articles remaining will be sold at the annual soiree on Thursday, 9th December, of which due notice will be given through the papers.

THE printed report of the missionary conference for South India, held at Bangalore, last year, gives complete statistical tables, which shew that the 59,613 baptised Protestant Christians of South India (exclusive of Ceylon) in 1859 have now become 168,432; and the 31,780 adherents, 127,497. The total of members and adherents is now 295,929, shewing a three-fold increase in twenty-one years. Of the 295,929 some 89,618 belong to the Church Missionary Society, 51,183 belong to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 58,977 to the American Baptist Missionary Union, 49,360 to the London Society, and the remainder, about 46,000, to various English, American, and German societies.

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER states that two Buddhist priests of the Shin-shu sect have for more than a year been established at Oxford, not to gain converts for the religion of Amitabha, the being of immeasurable light, but to learn Sanskrit. "They came to me," says the Professor, "from Japan, and have been hard at work learning not only the ordinary Sanskrit, but that peculiar dialect in which the sacred books of the Northern Buddhists are written, and of which we have neither grammar or dictionary. These sacred books were translated into Chinese, and from Chinese into Japanese, and during that process of translation and re-translation they have undergone a good deal of deterioration. My two Buddhist students are naturally anxious to learn to read their Bible in the original, and then to translate the most important texts of the Northern Buddhist canon direct into Japanese; and, hard as the work has been for them, I must say I have seldom had more devoted, more painstaking, and persevering pupils at Oxford."

THE "Jewish Messenger," premising that it is the custom in some churches "to have the services diversified by songs not exactly sacred and yet hardly profane" specifies: "Only last week the familiar chords of Abt's 'When the swallows homeward fly' followed the sermon in a Fifth avenue church, and we have heard operatic airs chanted by bold choirs in other shrines. It is claimed that the airs only are appropriated, 'sacred' words being sung, and the sanctity of the place respected. Yet we think that a church that has its hymns of a high order, stirring melodies set to familiar words, airs of traditional and genuine merit, need not venture into the realms of the opera and music hall for its music. Dancing is an innocent amusement, yet who would think of a *trois temps* in

church after Dr. Hall had closed one of his fervid sermons? Let the church be kept within its proper limits, and the worshipper be as free from worldly thoughts as is possible in the brief space of time that he devotes to the unworldly."

PROFESSOR W. ROBERTSON SMITH has addressed the following letter to the Rev. Dr. Wilson, clerk of the Free Church Assembly: "Aberdeen, 2nd Nov., 1880.—Sir,—I have received the extract minute of Commission instructing me to abstain from teaching my classes during the ensuing session. As this instruction is *ultra vires* of the Commission, and was obtained by unconstitutional practices, I have felt grave doubts whether I can, in conscience, permit it to come between me and the work regularly laid upon me by the Church. But I feel that, were I to teach, I might probably bring my students into conflict with a strong party in the Church, which has already put a strain upon the Constitution in order to silence me. On this ground, I have determined to obtemper the instruction of the Commission, under protest that I hold them answerable for the whole consequences of their action, and reserve to myself the right to use all constitutional means to reduce the finding of the Commission and call the authors of it to account.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully, WM. ROBERTSON SMITH."

THE Waldensian Synod met at Tour, on Monday, Sept. 6th. Public worship was conducted by the Rev. Daniel Gay, of Prarustino. Afterwards five candidates for the ministry were ordained. After the constitution of the Synod the first business was the election of the *Bureau* by ballot. This took two hours. By the reports presented and read it appears that there has been more or less of advance in each department of Mission work, as will be seen from following table:

	1879.	1880.
Communicants .....	2,813	2,911
Attendance at Public worship...	4,584	4,987
Occasional hearers .....	15,379	33,186
Admission .....	332	406
Catechumens .....	410	619
Attendance at Sabbath schools..	1,636	1,645
At day schools .....	1,684	1,789
At night schools .....	118	282
Contributions, .....	£ 46,747	£ 49,469.

The above has reference merely to stations and mission work in Italy. A considerable number of deputies were present and delivered addresses.

ONE of the most promising results of the Presidential election is the excellent spirit shewn in the main by the Southern press. They frankly declare their disgust with the management of the Democratic party and their distrust of its ability to aid them in securing any of the political results for which they are striving; and indications are not wanting that a large mass of the Southern Democracy are thoroughly alienated from their allies in the North. The Charleston "News," one of the most influential of the Southern papers, declares that if the Southern people can only be sure that "the National Government will not furnish the means for squeezing the South dry, as South Carolina was squeezed from 1868 to 1876," the solid South will become a thing of the past, and the Southern people will divide on agricultural and commercial questions; and it adds that "New England is nearer to the South Atlantic States in matters relating to finance and tariff than Mississippi and Texas are." "One of the first questions," it concludes, "that the Southern States will have to ask themselves is, Whether the welfare of the South has been and is likely to be hindered or advanced by alliances with the Democrats of the North?" and they will "make themselves heard on this question before the winter is past." The Memphis "Avalanche" declares that the result of the election will be "the dissolution of the two solid sections that are now arrayed against each other. In short by the time another Presidential election comes round the "solid South" both name and thing will have disappeared, and new questions will have made new divisions. It will then be also seen that the negro has neither been obliterated nor permanently bulldozed.