

THE CHURCHES.

THE other week the anniversary of Bishop Jamot's elevation to the episcopate was celebrated with great *éclat* at Peterborough.

THE Western Association of the Congregational Church will hold its half-yearly meeting in London on the 24th and 25th inst. Considerable opportunity will be afforded for the discussion of religious questions, both of practical and speculative interest.

PREPARATIONS have been made for the erection of an English church on the Island, Toronto's place of summer resort. The design of St. Andrew's, *super-insula*, is a neat unpretentious but classic English Gothic. The island church will be a great convenience to summer residents.

It is now confidently expected that the various Methodist Churches of Canada will be united in one organization. The movement has for the most part been very favourably regarded. The Dominion and Provincial parliaments have been applied to for the legislation necessary for the accomplishment of the union. There is just the possibility of a slight, but influential secession, from the united church.

THE Bishop of Ontario, about a year ago, delivered a lecture on Agnosticism, which was afterwards published. Mr. Le Seuer, of Ottawa, wrote a pamphlet in reply, which has called forth a rejoinder from the Bishop. It was delivered as a lecture, two weeks ago, in Christ Church, Ottawa. Its publication is expected. The discussion on both sides has happily been conducted in a proper and becoming spirit.

THE late Father Stafford endeared himself to an admiring flock in the town of Lindsay. By active and intelligent efforts he did good work in the promotion of education and temperance among his people. To find a worthy successor was no easy task. The clergyman who was appointed to the church in Lindsay found the burden too great for him. On account of enfeebled health he has been relieved from his charge.

THE Evangelical Alliance meets in Stockholm, Sweden, in the last week of August in the present year, and the Pan-Presbyterian Council assembles at Belfast in June. The former includes among its members all sections of the Evangelical Protestant Church; the latter comprehends the various branches of the Presbyterian body. It is designed that fewer elaborate papers will be read than was customary at former meetings, and more time devoted to the discussion of practical issues. It is obvious that one important member of the Presbyterian family, the venerable Church of Scotland, is disposed to look coldly on the approaching Council.

HOWEVER religious beliefs may be modified by changing circumstances and by the results of scientific investigation, religion itself continues to be a subject of deep interest to most thoughtful minds. Thomas Carlyle was deeply alive to the value of a *credo*. In this age of conflict and doubt there are throughout Christendom all varieties of spiritual belief, comprehending the most materialistic conceptions of man's being and destiny, the varying degrees of formalism, and the contemplative tendencies of the mystic. It is not in this column designed to discuss theories, but to narrate facts, and to chronicle current events in the religious world as they arise.

A DECISION has been given by the Hon. Justice Ferguson in the case of *Langtry v. Dumoulin*. It is in favour of the plaintiffs. As was to be expected, the decision has been generally received with favour. The financial affairs of St. James' Cathedral are not as flourishing as could be desired yet many people believed that it was never intended that the income derivable from the rectory lands should all be lavished on one church. The judge before whom the case was tried, with a proper sense of congruity, suggested the settlement of the dispute by friendly arbitration. This wise counsel was not accepted. He has bestowed the utmost care in considering the case, and his decision is obviously the result of honest and painstaking endeavour, yet it seems that it is not to be accepted as final. It is to be submitted at once to the Court of Appeal.

PEOPLE are wondering why Dr. Wilson, late of Kingston, has been so persistently held up before the public view as a hero-martyr. He has deservedly obtained the reputation of being a most devoted worker in the Christian Church. His connection with the Salvation Army has caused all the trouble. Whatever good that body has been the means of accomplishing, it cannot be questioned that many of its methods do not, and cannot commend themselves to people of cultivated tastes and pure Christian feeling. It may be very reprehensible, but it is too much to expect that people will do violence to their feelings and say that what appears at variance with the sacredness of religion should be pronounced admirable. And yet many broad-minded men have been highly eulogistic in their pronounced estimates of the Army: why?

THE Catholic Church in the Province of Quebec is at present in a divided state. Within its bosom are two antagonistic parties. Though not originating in the movement to establish a branch of Laval University in the city of Montreal, the strife has been intensified by that proposal. The friends of Laval and their opponents have strenuously endeavoured to compel a triumph over each other, though in time it is pretty certain that the former will gain the object for which they have long contended. The papal authority has been invoked by both parties, and deputations have been sent to the Vatican. Leo XIII. does not err by being too impulsive. It is generally understood that he has deputed Dom Smuelders to solve existing difficulties, and if possible reconcile contending factions. Archbishop Taschereau is supposed by many to be too liberalizing in his tendencies, and the Cercle Catholique was formed to counteract his influence, and that of his following. Though embracing influential clergy and laymen in its membership, it is said to possess many sympathizers throughout the province. Whether Dom Smuelders will be able to evoke harmony from the prevailing discord remains to be seen.

ASTERISK.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Gus.—Not before the public.
F. and H.—Next week.
J. B. M.—Too late.

CO-EDUCATION.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—It is a matter of gratification to me, and no doubt to those who think with me in the matter, that the columns of THE WEEK are evidently thrown open for the discussion of woman's rights. Mr. Houston's article on University Co-Education and the letter from "Sex" on "English Women in Public Life"—a misleading letter, by the way—go to show that, at last, "Bystander" has come to the conclusion that there is something more in the ugly subject than he credited it with, and is willing to hear the other side. Accepting this concession gratefully, I desire to give the letter of "Sex" a rejoinder as short and to the point as I can.

"Sex" quotes the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is, he says, "a very liberal journal." If the fact that a paper entitled "Justice for Northampton," by Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, M.P., may be found in the issue of February 4th is to be counted as among the proofs of the liberality of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, then no doubt it is a liberal journal, yet I do not think that all who call themselves Liberals would care to acknowledge it as an expositor of their views, or as a recorder of their successes.

It is, however, a mistake to assume that the question of Women's Suffrage is only a Liberal question, either in England or Canada. That its first promulgators belonged to the Liberal party in England I may concede, because I am not able to show otherwise; but the Somerville Club, now and for several years in existence, was formed in order that the Conservative and Liberal friends of Women's Suffrage might have a common centre of communication. Scarcely any question has more distinctly won its way to favour on its merits than has Women's Suffrage, nor is there any other that has had less sweeping support from a party point of view. All Liberals are by no means supporters of Women's Suffrage. Mr. John Bright, notably, is no friend to it. Nor in Canada is the movement supported alone by the friends of the Reform party. On the contrary, a large number of the members of Sir John Macdonald's government are members and friends of the Canadian Women's Suffrage Association, the work of which at present remains free from party trammels—the women who were its first promoters and are still its warmest advocates holding that a question is greater than a party.

"A Good Liberal," as quoted by "Sex" from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, says: "The advocates of Women's Suffrage and of Women in Public Work are fond of taking it for granted that their opinions are gaining ground in the Liberal party," and he "doubts it." Whether Women's Suffrage is gaining ground in the Liberal party especially I cannot tell, but that it is gaining ground generally is shown by the review of the past year in the *Women's Suffrage Journal* for January, 1884, where the opening paragraph runs thus:—"The year that has just closed has been marked by greater advances in public opinion in regard to the franchise for women, and more significant manifestations of such advances than have occurred during any similar period since the movement began." And the writer proceeds to cite these manifestations, the first of which is "the presentation to Mr. Gladstone of a memorial signed by 110 Liberal members of Parliament, stating that in the opinion of the memorialists, no measure for the assimilation of the borough and county franchise will be satisfactory unless it contains provisions for extending the suffrage, without distinction of sex, to all persons who possess the statutory qualifications for the Parliamentary franchise."

The next event cited is "the debate and division on Mr. Mason's resolution, when the hostile majority, which had been 116 on the last division, was reduced to sixteen—a result which seems to have been accepted among members as an actual success." * * * It would be trespassing unwarrantably on your space, Mr. Editor, to quote further on this point, and perhaps enough has been said to show that "A Good Liberal" has little cause to "doubt" the advance, even among Liberals, of the Women's suffrage question in England.

The same authority (?) proceeds to say: "The experience of the