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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE "Liberta" declares that a *concordat* has been settled upon between Germany and the Vatican.

WRITING from Livingstonia to the "Free Church Record," Dr. Laws says that the slave trade is effectually stopped in his old headquarters by the mission. A number of boys have been sent in for Christian instruction.

ONE of the scandals of the previous pontificate was brought to a close in the Roman courts during the past year. This was the rejection of the Countess Lambertini's claim to a share in Cardinal Antonelli's estate. The final decision rested on the ground that, as a sacrilegious child she would be entitled to nothing, even if her case was well-founded.

THE "Invalide Russe" contradicts the sensational telegrams relative to the alleged Russian military preparation on the Western frontier, and points out that only last December Russia's love of peace caused her to reduce her army 36,000 below a peace footing. Further peace measures and a further reduction of the army, that journal says, are contemplated.

AT a meeting of the Glasgow Free Presbytery recently, the Rev. Mr. Campbell gave notice of a motion, asking for the appointment of a committee to investigate certain views expressed by Professor Candlish in his opening lecture at the Free Church College. A conference to consider the matter was held in private at the close of the Presbytery meeting.

THE Society for Irish Church Missions to Roman Catholics has raised \$3,225,045 within the last twenty-six years for its work in Ireland; has been the means of erecting nineteen churches, thirty-three school-houses, and a few parsonages and orphanages; and employs 386 agents. It works largely by controversial methods and distributes its documents profusely.

THE Free Presbytery of Edinburgh lately met in private conference to consider the matter of the teaching in the New College, and, after a discussion extending over nearly four hours, adopted a resolution proposed by Principal Rainy, refusing to go on with a line of inquiry suggested to the conference. Dr. Moody Stuart afterwards gave notice of a motion for overture on the whole question of theological training in the Church's Colleges, and asking for the appointment of a special commission of inquiry.

THE American Board is quietly pushing on towards Central Africa. They have an offer of a capital leader in the ministry, and a medical associate, to lead the expedition when matured. New men are offering. The Secretaries have just replied to another physician offering for Central Africa, also to another applicant from the Presbyterian Church of Canada. There is a decided missionary movement at Hartford; and two seniors from Andover Theological Seminary, have made application to be sent. An expedition is now organizing to enter from the western coast for the region of Bihé and the Coanzo River.

IT is a fact that is every day becoming more patent that the most bitter foe to the progress of the New Testament teachings is the Roman Catholic Church. It is in Papal lands that the Christian missionary suffers the severest persecution. Austria, Spain, and Mexico bear witness to this fact. Ireland is not far behind in its opposition to the Gospel. The School of the Irish Protestant Church Mission at Belleek, in the west of Ireland, was recently broken up and the building burned. Those in charge of the mission were so cursed and threatened by the priests that a special police had to be sent to protect them.

WOMAN'S work in the mission field is illustrated by the following extract from a letter of a lady mission-

ary in Central Turkey: "It is astonishing what a fear these old church priests have of us women. As long as we keep out of a place they are on reasonably good terms with the native preachers and pastors, and even friendly with our missionaries. They have worldly wisdom enough to understand that as long as they can have the control of the women their "craft" is in no danger. Experience has taught them that few of the women are reached by the best of male teachers, or by preachers unaccompanied by female helpers." The women of those eastern countries can be reached only by women missionaries.

DR. E. DE PRESSE, in "The Christian World," expresses much anxiety on the coming phases of the religious controversy in France. The extremes on both sides are very bitter, and seem to be ready to do all they can to provoke each other. The Municipal Council of Paris, composed of rigid Republicans, undertook, recently, to suppress its part in the Budget for Public Worship by withdrawing all the subsidies which it is bound by law to furnish to the various churches, basing its action on the ground that it was necessary to strike a blow at the very foundation of religious schools and to suppress superstition and belief in the supernatural. The action was cancelled by the Minister of the interior for illegality.

THE annual meeting of the Presbytery of Ningpo, China, was held in October. Eight native ministers, two foreign missionaries, and nine native elders were present. The various reports given of the progress of the cause were most cheering. The Presbytery has in all eleven churches, of which five are self-supporting, twenty-seven out-stations, nine native ministers, three foreign missionaries, nine licentiates, 620 communicants, two boarding schools, with 51 scholars, and nine day schools, with 200 scholars. The members gave \$836. Seventy-two persons, including seventeen children, were baptized. The Presbytery licensed three young men, and a committee was appointed to consider a project for establishing a Presbyterian High School, to be supported by native funds.

AT the recent meeting of the Free Church Presbytery of Paisley, Scotland, a report from the Temperance Committee was adopted, which recommended to the Presbytery that "in order to set a salutary example and to the putting forth of effective efforts to reduce and remove the evils of intemperance, it was the duty of ministers, office-bearers, and people to give the whole subject their most solemn consideration, and to determine how far they could conscientiously go, whether by abstinence or otherwise, to discourage not only the excessive, but also the unnecessary and injudicious use of strong drink; also to approve of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution." In the very warm discussion which followed the reading of the report, strong ground was taken in favour of abstinence.

THE Rev. John MacIntyre, of the Scottish United Presbyterian Mission in China, writes to the "United Presbyterian Missionary Record," Scotland, announcing the translation of the New Testament into the Korean. He says: "Mr. Ross has with him the Gospels, Acts, and Romans; and I have four Koreans at work, and, by dint of strenuous application, am now in a position to make my influence felt in the translation. I have worked up a Korean Grammar, and Analysis of Sentences, through copious extracts from the books translated; and as Chinese is the medium of communication, I have no difficulty in discussing the finer shades of meaning, which, I am sorry to say, without foreign help, they could not be trusted to render fairly. It was this conviction that shut me up to the conclusion that, if one will touch this work, it can only be as a master of Korean. But it is most gratifying to find one's dearly-acquired Chinese of so much real use. The Koreans, I fear, will not hold a candle to us Westerners in the critical knowledge of Chinese, so essential in translating from one language to another. They are constantly led into mistakes which we would con-

sider only possible in the grammar school, and even then in the lower forms."

THE "Pall Mall Gazette" gives a view of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain which must be anything but inspiring to those who are solicitous about the progress and strength of that religious organization. The "Indifferentes," it says, are continually on the increase, just as they are in Quebec. These can't be said to be hostile. They are simply indifferent and leave the whole matter of religion to their wives and children. The "Indifferentes" are made up chiefly of the educated and intelligent classes, and their defection has had a deteriorating influence on both the intellectual and moral character of the clergy. Scarcely any of the better classes now go into the Church. All the clerical recruits are from the lower ranks of the population. Says the "Gazette:" "Likely lads of well-to-do families no longer go into the Spanish Church. Within the last half century that body has undergone an immense change. A hundred years ago it was the nation, and even within the memory of man it controlled the politics and daily business of the administration; while now its power is small compared with that of the army or of the intriguers in the Cortes. It was very rich, owning vast districts in the country and rows of streets in the cities. Now it is dependent for daily bread on irregular payments from the treasury and the steadily cooling charity of laymen. Its loss of intellectual activity and influence has more than kept pace with its loss of wealth. Lord Macaulay dwells in one of his essays on the number of men in Spain's great days, 'eminent at once in literature and in the pursuits of active life.' He might have added that a majority of these men found their home in the Church. In no country have so many sovereigns, so many famous warriors ended a life of stormy activity in the cloister. All learning was tinged with a theological character, even when not immediately exercised on theological matters. The jealous activity of the Inquisition compelled the most secular literature to affect a religious object, and the least pious of writers, sooner or later, to assume the priestly tonsure. Cervantes, Lope, Calderon, and a host of smaller men, who had all been soldiers, all died priests or, at least, members of some religious body bound by vows. Plays and novels had to cover their plots of worldly intrigue with a sacred cloak." The education of even the higher classes of the priesthood is shamefully neglected, and the result is that generally the clergy are vulgar, noisy, ignorant fanatics. Of course, this makes the progress of Protestantism only the slower, for what the priests want in intelligence they make up in denunciation of heretics and in praise of the Pope. As the better classes more and more withdraw from the priesthood there is manifested an increased readiness on the part of the clergy to take up lads of any kind in order to recruit their ranks. On this the "Gazette" says further: "Lads who have been brought up in the hospitals established for foundlings are often taken by the bishops, in their need of recruits. When these authorities overlook the bar of bastardy, it may be supposed that they are not exacting in the matter of learning. Indeed, it is not an exceptional thing to see poverty-stricken lads of this class employed by pious families to do odd jobs, as a means of support, till they can scrape together as much knowledge of the four declensions as will carry them through the mockery of a Latin examination. Some learning the Church must have. The ancient tongue being the official language, one canon, at least, in every chapter must be able to write and speak Latin, while a few of the prelates are cultivated men; but these are the exception. They are generally veterans who received their education in one of the more learned monasteries, and spent long years in Italy after the suppression of the monastic orders." In short, the Church in Spain, like that in France after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, relieved from outside pressure and mental activity seems, in the words of Robert Hall, "to have drawn the curtains and retired to sleep."