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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE church founded by Edward Irving in London, called the "Catholic Apostolic," is about to pass into the hands of the Romanists. This step, it is said, has been rendered necessary by the death of nearly all the apostles, which was not contemplated by the founder.

A STRANGE story comes from Bartlett, Tenn., that a coloured woman, named Isabella Jackson, while giving false testimony in a magistrate's court, was suddenly struck dumb, and it was found that she was paralyzed in every part of her body. She never moved nor spoke afterwards, and died in a few days. The incident is vouched for as true.

A PRETTY story is told about the Princess Eugenie, sister of the King of Sweden. She recently sold her diamonds to raise funds in order to complete a hospital in which she is interested. When visiting this hospital, after its completion, a suffering inmate wept tears of gratitude as she stood by his bedside, and the Princess exclaimed: "Ah! now I see my diamonds again."

It is a matter for congratulation that intemperance in the British army is showing marked signs of diminution. According to the official statistics, it appears that about one soldier in eight is convicted of drunkenness during the year, while the number of convictions had been reduced from one hundred to twenty-five per cent. on the total number.

THE plan of a Baptist Ecumenical Council has apparently not been entirely given up. A committee appointed last year to consider the matter has reported unfavourably, on the ground that the Baptists are not ready for it; but this report, after a long discussion, was laid on the table, from which it would appear that the sentiment of the meeting was in favour of the Council.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the New York "Observer" that in his opinion one reason for a falling off of candidates for the ministry is that "Intellectualism has been allowed to suffocate the old-time passion for saving souls." It is certain that there is no enthusiasm, no emotion, no passion in the merely intellectual, and, without strong emotion, few will give themselves to the work of the ministry.

THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Spain, recently held in Madrid, comprises upwards of twenty churches or missions which have adopted a Presbyterian organization. By reason of distance, or from want of pastors in some cases, only twelve ministers were present, four of whom are ex-priests. A liturgical form of service prepared by the Presbytery of Madrid was sent down to the churches for examination.

"COMPLAINT was made at Châtauaqua of the great length of the programme. The exercises began at 7 a.m., and lasted, with intermissions, to 10.30 p.m. There were days with forty-eight meetings and department sessions crowded into them; and yet some complained that forty cents was too much to pay for all this." They were right. The price was too much for such high pressure in summer. We are glad we were not there.

AN exchange says: "Vandalism appears to have got the upper hand at Niagara, and the intervention of the press is again invoked by lovers of the natural sublimities of the place. The coloured light nuisance, by which the Falls on the American side are made every evening to assume a grotesque and cheap Fourth of July appearance, is not the only abomination which shocks everyone's taste. It has even been proposed to erect a distillery on Goat Island."

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY, who has taken command of the British forces in Egypt, is very quick and brisk in his ways, with a trim military appearance, and

great readiness of adaptation to change of circumstances. He possesses Napoleon's faculty of taking at a glance the measure of a man, and knowing how best to use his ability. He has succeeded in every position in which he has been placed. Like Sir Frederick Roberts, England's other great general, he is an Irishman, from near Dublin.

THE Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Association states that there are, in the United States and Canada, 779 Associations, and 82,375 members. The property owned by these Associations is valued at \$3,330,000, and their annual expenditures aggregate \$500,000. The International and State Committees expended in the work of supervision and caring for the Associations, in 1881, \$43,000; 255 persons are employed as General Secretaries and Agents of local Associations and of the State and International Committees.

THE "Jewish Messenger" says: "Of late years there has been a marked change in the manner in which many of our young ladies regard their relations to society and to themselves. They desire to be useful outside of the family circle, to assist in charity and synagogue work, to join their sisters in movements for the benefit of humanity, and the alacrity that they have thus far shown gives reason to hope for great results hereafter. They do not renounce the pleasures of life, but they look more keenly than heretofore upon their higher and nobler duties."

A SAD case has occurred in Bombay, which illustrates the difficulties affecting the marriage law as regards converts from Hinduism. A Hindu girl married a European. She had been married, when six years of age, to a Hindu lad, but had never lived with him; and he was married to another wife at the time of her marriage with the European. She was married to the European by the Christian rite, and lived as his acknowledged wife till she became the mother of eight children. At last her husband became tired of her, and the High Court of Bombay decided that the marriage was illegal, and her children illegitimate.

THE sensation which continued to follow Mr. Moody in staid Bible reading and Catechism studying in Scotland was certainly remarkable. Here is a Dumfries paper of Wednesday, August 6th, giving a long account of his visit to that place and of the services which he held—his last in Scotland during that visit. Morning and evening meetings were held. The largest churches were crowded long before the hour of beginning. Established Church, Free Church, United, Baptist, Wesleyan and other ministers assisted in his services; and the reporter exhausts his vocabulary of adjectives in describing and reporting Mr. Moody and his utterances. He was sustained in singing, not by Mr. Sankey, but by Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins.

THE Rev. Dr. Field met and conversed with Arabi Pasha during his recent visit to the East, and speaks of him as follows—after, as he says, having studied him very closely: "He is a man of courage and capacity. . . . There is in him an element of fanaticism, which makes him in dead earnest in whatever he undertakes. His countenance is grave and serious; we never saw him smile. . . . Putting all things together, our estimate of Arabi Pasha is that he is compounded of about equal parts of three elements, which are the master-passions of his nature—hatred of foreigners, religious fanaticism, and personal ambition. These different impulses are so mixed up in him that probably he does not know one from the other. He does not stop to analyze his motives (the Arab intellect is not given to such fine distinctions), and so he may well think he is acting from one when he is really acting from another." His conclusion is that he is not a man to give proper promise of being a saviour of his country.

THE Pope's Ecclesiastical List is published at the Vatican every summer. The list for this year has

been recently issued; it describes Leo XIII. as the 263rd successor of St. Peter. The College of Cardinals, the full complement of which is seventy, has now sixty-five members (six of whom belong to the order of bishops), forty-six priests, and thirteen deacons. Cardinal Schwarzenberg is the only one of these cardinals created by Gregory XVI., forty-six were created by Pius IX., and twenty-one by the present Pope. Four of the cardinals, one of whom is Cardinal Newman, are over eighty years of age; twenty-nine, among whom is Cardinal Manning, over seventy; fifteen over sixty; and thirteen over fifty, while only two are under fifty. The Catholic hierarchy consists of 1,289 titles, including sixty-nine cardinals, ten patriarchs of the two rites (Latin and Oriental), 145 archbishops and 618 bishops of the Latin rite, forty-five archbishops and bishops of the Oriental rite, fifteen prelates with a diocese, twenty-nine apostolic delegates or legates, 102 apostolic vicars and twenty-nine apostolic prefects. Since Leo XIII. came to the Holy See, three archiepiscopal sees have been created, and two episcopal dioceses have been raised into archiepiscopal sees, while fifteen fresh bishoprics have been formed, among which is the bishopric of Portsmouth, England.

THE numerous alphabets that have been used or are now in use in India may all be traced back to two, which are styled the North and the South Acoka alphabets. The first, of undoubted Phœnician origin, has disappeared, without leaving any successors or developments. The origin of the second hitherto has never been settled, it being impossible to trace the same further back than about B.C. 250, or its introduction into India earlier than about B.C. 300. But, of late, in investigating some Babylonian contract tables in the British Museum, written chiefly in an unknown character, Professor Sayce detected the name Urmanû in the cuneiform parts of the document, as the name of one of the contracting parties, and, thereupon made the suggestion that the unknown portion might be an Aramaic character, subsequently imported into India. On sending a specimen to Mr. A. Burnell, it was immediately recognized to be a character closely resembling the South Acoka alphabet, with vowels marked as in the Indian alphabets. Besides the identical letters *k, m, r, s* at the end, the signature again appears to be Urmanû, as before in the cuneiform. Here, then, is the original, long-wished-for of these Indian alphabets. The document is dated from the reign of Artaxerxes II. (?) Some other tablets of still greater antiquity, inscribed in similar character, but with the vowel system not fully developed, date earlier than B.C. 640.

THE temperance people in England have been stirring up the Church officers about the scandal involved in the Church ownership of land on which liquors are sold. The "Pall Mall Gazette" says: "Canon Wilberforce's letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury illustrates the connection between Beer and Bible in a way that must be very awkward for the Primate. The Church as a whole, being the largest landowner in the kingdom, is naturally the largest owner of public-houses. This is bad enough, but Mr. Wilberforce avers that public-houses are, in proportion, more numerous on church lands than elsewhere. The Bishop of London, riding between his two town houses, would, it is said, pass one hundred taverns which are the property of his Church. One of the largest public-houses in London, which sells £10,000 worth of drink every year, is part of the Bishop's endowment. Here and there in London you may see a church flanked on either side by a gin-shop—all three, of course, being church property. The publican appears to take instinctively to the vacant land in the neighbourhood of a church. Is this sort of thing to go on, asks Mr. Wilberforce, or is the Church to continue pretending to fight against the intemperance which it helps to produce? The Archbishop is an Ecclesiastical Commissioner, and the London 'Times' has ordered him to answer the Canon's interrogatories without delay. We shall be curious to see what the answer will be."