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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A PARI's despatch says the Jesuits, with a view to the action against them by the Government, have purchased several buildings in Monaco and Jersey, whither they withdraw in case of expulsion.

MRS. PEDDIE, editor of the new magazine, "The Evangelical Advocate and Protestant Witness," relates the case of a Free Churchman in Scotland, whose three children were perverted to Rome by a Jesuit servant, who was kind to them.

HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX says: "Let me prophesy: In less than five years from to-day no man of intelligence in the United States will advocate the present license system, nor will the traffic of whiskey be tolerated by the American people."

It is stated that the munificent bequest left by Mr. Muter for the Sustentation Funds of the English Presbyterian Church and the Free Church of Scotland, and which fell into Chancery, is in a fair way of being secured, and that each Church will receive something like £40,000.

THE Polynesian Islands are almost wholly Christianized. There are in these islands 350,000 native Christians, who have their own well organized churches, that support themselves; they have their own pastors and teachers, and even sustain foreign missionary societies among themselves, that send missionaries of their own to other heathen countries.

IN illustration of the improved feeling of Mexicans toward Protestant missionaries, it is stated that "a missionary recently passed the night in the town of Ahualulco, where the Rev. Mr. Stevens was murdered by a mob, in 1874. He slept on the bench where the dead missionary had been laid, and was guarded during the night by the man who led on the mob that killed Mr. Stevens."

THE great fire in Chicago in 1871 left only one church standing in the city. There are now according to a recent enumeration, 213 churches in the city, besides about twenty missions and eleven Adventist and Spiritualist societies. The Roman Catholics have 35 churches; the Baptists, 24; the Evangelical Lutherans, 24; Methodists, 19; the Presbyterians, 18; and the Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and Hebrews, 10 each.

ANOTHER interesting discovery is reported from Olympia. To the south-west of the Metroon were found the foundations of the great altar of Zeus, forming an ellipse of forty-four metres in circumference; and the ground plan of Olympia can now be laid down with mathematical certainty. In addition, there have been found a head of Augustus, a bronze plate with an Elic inscription, and an important fragment belonging to the Nike of Paionios.

THE expedition under Mr. Stanley for rendering the Congo route practicable to commerce is making some progress. The latest information shews that Stanley's first station is opposite the second rapid of the river, above Noki. It is sixty metres above the river level, on a small plateau surrounded by precipices. Along the northern ridge are the magazines, a movable wooden house, sheds, etc. To reach this height Mr. Stanley has made a road 400 metres long. The engineer of the expedition calculates that to reach by land the Yellala Falls will require the construction of a road 200 kilometres long, over a rough and difficult country.

IN East India there are now more than 400 native ministers regularly ordained, and about 4,000 teachers, who are not yet ordained catechists. In the South Sea Islands, the London and the Wesleyan societies have 324 ordained, and 1,180 unordained native helpers. In Madagascar, more than 3,000 natives are

active in promoting Christianity. The English Church Missionary Society have a total of 2,850, and the American Board 1,178 native helpers. The Gossner Mission among the Kollis, a mountain tribe in India, consists of 6 ministers, 11 candidates, 88 catechists, 83 teachers and 4 colporteurs, a total of 194 native helpers. On a moderate calculation, there are between 20,000 and 24,000 native Christians connected with the various European and American Missions, as preachers, catechists, teachers and colporteurs.

JULES FERRY, in a report on the progress of primary education in France during the last forty years, states that, while in 1837 the school attendance was only 752 per 10,000 inhabitants, in 1877 it was 1,281. The number of schools in that period has increased by 36 per cent., that of the public schools 75 per cent., and that of girls' schools has almost quadrupled. In 1837 there were 5,667 parishes without a school; in 1877, only 312; in 1879, only 298. In 1827 only 42 per cent. of the conscripts could read; in 1877, 85 per cent. In 1820 only 34 per cent. of brides could sign their marriage register, whereas there are now 70 per cent. In 1872 there were 70,179 schools, with 4,722,764 scholars; in 1878 there were 73,110 schools, with 4,980,650 scholars. Between 1871 and 1877 the ordinary expenditure of primary schools rose 34 per cent., and the State grants from 8,620,000f. in 1871 to 15,647,000f. in 1878, and close on 20,000,000f. in 1880. M. Ferry urges continued efforts to eradicate the still remaining proportion of illiteracy.

PROFESSOR DAVIDSON of the Free Church College, Edinburgh, was attacked in the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Free Church on the 25th of February, for his views on the Pentateuchal History, Law, and Prophecy, published in a review in 1879. Rev. Mr. McEwan moved that a Committee of the Presbytery be appointed to examine the article, with power to confer with Professor Davidson and report. Mr. Cattnach, elder, seconded the motion. Sir Henry Moncrieff deprecated the introduction of such a motion in the present condition of Professor Smith's case. He moved as an amendment that as it might be open to members individually to obtain explanations from Professor Davidson by private, friendly communication, the meeting decline to take Presbyterian action in the matter. Mr. E. A. Thomson seconded the amendment. Principal Rainy explained his understanding of the argument in the article referred to, and Professor Davidson, when appealed to, stated that Dr. Rainy had correctly represented his views. On a division, Sir Henry Moncrieff's amendment was carried by thirty-eight to fifteen votes.

THE Peabody Trust is proving the wisdom as well as the generosity of the princely donor. In how many humble homes, brightened and blessed by his beneficence, is he held in grateful remembrance. The vast sum, one-half million, might easily have been squandered in paltry gifts and miscalled "charities," leaving nothing to shew for it. But now, wisely administered, it has not only accomplished a great benefit, but has actually increased in the process. The erection of vast structures, called Artisans' Dwellings, has not only provided healthy and comfortable homes for the working classes, but has proved remunerative. The addition of the profits to the original capital has increased it to nearly three quarters of a million. The trustees have, according to their last report, provided, up to the present time, for the artisan and labouring poor of London, 5,170 rooms, exclusive of bath-rooms, laundries, and wash-houses. These rooms comprise 2,355 separate dwellings for families, and are occupied by 9,905 individuals. So good and reproductive an expenditure of money is this, that the trustees have now on hand the erection of six more of these vast structures, in some of the poorest and most crowded parts of London, which will cover as much as nine acres of ground. When these are completed, accommodation will have been provided for about 10,000 persons more. This is practical proof of what can be done to improve the dwellings of the lower

classes in all cities. Could any capitalist seek for a better investment? It will bring him profit; it will bring him present pleasure in building up homes, promoting the health and welfare of his fellow creatures; and he will rear for himself a more enduring monument than painted window and chiselled stone.

THE pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, Mo., Rev. R. S. Campbell, and Mr. W. P. Sanders, an elder in the church, have been fined \$5,000 for their action in suspending and afterwards excommunicating Mr. Israel Landis, a member of the church. Mr. Landis was at variance with one of his sons, and the scandal caused thereby was so great that the authorities of the church attempted to effect a reconciliation. They not only failed in this, but in their dealing with Mr. Landis were forced to take such action that he sued them in the civil court for damage done to his "good name and credit"—the damage being his suspension from the communion of the church. The civil court has inflicted a heavy penalty for the exercise of church discipline. The case is to be appealed, we believe, to the higher courts of the State, as certainly it ought to be. If every one who is arraigned by a spiritual court may flee to a civil court all discipline in the Church must come to an end. Every man condemned by the authority of a Church is damaged to some extent in reputation—has the Church, therefore, no right to cast out an offender against its law, and the law of God? Can a thief or an adulterer get his reputation sheltered by the State, so that the Church shall not be allowed to pass judgment on his offences? A judgment like this surely cannot stand. The weak point of the church's case, however, is apparent. The session does not seem to have been scrupulously observant of the rules made and provided for the conduct of judicial cases. But if they were in error the ecclesiastical court to which they were responsible was the court to which an appeal should have gone, and all ecclesiastical remedies should have been exhausted before resort was had to the civil court.

AN eminent *savant*, Dr. Delamotte, we learn from a French journal, who is thoroughly conversant with the geology and geography of Egypt, gives it as his opinion that the Nile was not the only river which watered ancient or prehistoric Egypt. The country was then watered, according to him, by all the rivers now dried up, and which the Arabs of the desert call *Bahr-el-Abiad*, "rivers without water," great beds of sand, in which shells had been found long ago. When these rivers were dried up Dr. Delamotte does not pretend to indicate. But as to the geological phenomenon which has led to this drying up, and, as a consequence, the change into a desert of vast fertile regions, Dr. Delamotte believes he has discovered this, and after twenty years of work, he has gone to Egypt to verify the *data*, which ought to justify his theory. In prehistoric times, according to him, all the plateau of Khartoum, the rise of which is scarcely sixteen metres, was a great lake, similar to the Victoria Nyanza and Lake Tanganyika and from which the Nile issued, as it issues to-day, from its two lakes; but the cataracts were then much higher than they are to-day, and when the river reached them, instead of precipitating all its mass of water on these cliffs of granite and porphyry, it divided into different currents which formed the *Bahr-el-Abiad* of to-day and which watered the region now changed into a desert. After long centuries, then, the granite and the porphyry of the cataracts were insensibly worn, their level lowered, and immediately the Nile retired from the *Bahr-el-Abiad*, to precipitate its entire volume into the single channel which it follows to-day. But the scientific proof of this is not the sole object aimed at by Dr. Delamotte; he is also of opinion that to fill again the *Bahr-el-Abiad*, and thus to increase tenfold the arable land of Egypt, it will suffice to raise the cataracts—that is, to establish at each of them a system of dams and locks. The Khedive, it is said, is greatly interested in these fine schemes, and has promised his support to Dr. Delamotte.