

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE SENTENCE passed on Louise Michel has aroused a strong feeling on the subject. The notorious woman attended a demonstration on the Boulevard St. Germain, and led a procession clamouring for "Bread or Work." Black flags were carried and bakers' shops pillaged. This coarse and objectionable form of socialism was somewhat distasteful to the more sober Parisians; consequently Louise Michel was arrested and received the severe sentence of six years' imprisonment with hard labour and ten years of police supervision. It is but proper that a deterrent sentence should be passed on such agitators, but care should be taken lest more is lost than gained by too harsh a punishment. The proper and only way to silence such agitators is to remove the evils complained of. Severe sentences are likely to lead to retaliatory outrages when the madness of the Commune comes.

SOME very amusing touches are often given in the speeches of the Public Orator at Cambridge, England. Distinguished persons honoured with the presentation of degrees are supposed to be characteristically portrayed in felicitous Latin phrases. The Royal Academician, Mr. G. F. Watts, was praised for his delineation of the mind as well as the matter; and Mr. Matthew Arnold, the Apostle of Culture, was noted as a brilliant slashing critic who had not yet failed as an author.

THE spread of Cholera in Egypt is likely to do no little damage to Egyptian interval prosperity. Already Egyptian stock has fallen very perceptibly. The withdrawal of so many workmen from the canal, and the consequent paralysis of trade with the East are felt by English shippers. Large supplies of grain are taken from the East to England, and should Cholera still rage in Egypt grain dealers on this side of the Atlantic will find prices go up for American grain.

So far, accounts of crops are very satisfactory. In the best of seasons there are blanks as well as prizes in the agricultural lottery; but a general survey of the reports from all sides show that the harvest of 1883 will be one of more than average fruitfulness. Nearly all the European countries send in favourable crop reports; and even grumbling John Bull assumes a genial face as he gazes on his smiling fields. Scotland's crops have been more or less injured by ungenial weather. The Potato crop in Ireland is full of bright promise. In the United States a defective wheat crop is certain, but the prospects of a prolific general harvest are said to be good. Canada's fields are rich. The world may feel certain of the continued cheapness of bread-stuffs, and the governments, large and small, of the day will not be backward in claiming their share in this general prosperity.

LAYMEN wishing to shew respect to the dead, should consult some clergyman of taste before putting inscriptions upon tomb-stones. Every person knows how laughable some of those solemn inscriptions are. We saw, last winter, a tomb-stone in a churchyard with the inscription, "— is an *angle* now." Fortunately the bad spelling saved that which would have been worse theology.

BUT the transgressor this time is the Queen herself. The inscription on Earl Beaconsfield's monument was considered to be a little beside

the mark. Now, at Craithie, the Queen is putting up a memorial to John Brown "the devoted and faithful attendant and beloved friend of Queen Victoria," and then comes the text, "Well done good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Far be it from us to wish to be facetious over sacred things, but the inscription reads as if Her Majesty possessed an infallible power of granting indulgences and rewards to the departed souls of her faithful servants.

BISMARCK has evidently felt the force of the adage "doggedness does it." He has just secured the passing of the Ecclesiastical Bill in the Prussian Landtag by 224 votes to 107. After much trouble and vexation he at last induced the Assembly to accept a measure in almost the same state in which it was first proposed, although the Bill had often been rejected. But Bismarck's bed is not one of roses. The Ultramontane Allies are now clamouring for more concessions and only voted on the Chancellor's side on the principle of getting as much as they could first and looking for more immediately after.

THIS manoeuvring of the Vatican with Germany, and the success of the growing power of Roman influence in that direction stands in contrast with the failure and decline of the same in France. Bismarck offers concessions to the Vatican, and gains a temporary political conjunction with the clerical party. Rome is pleased, and at once writes a letter to the President of the French Republic, vigorously protesting against the growing hostility to every thing clerical which characterizes French politics. It certainly looks as if the Pope wished to strike France on her weakest side, viz., her hatred of Germany. His Holiness would say—"See, Mr. President, *you* treat us so badly, now we throw ourselves into the arms of "Bismarck." Vaticanism always goes with the winning side, and as Vaticanism means absolutism, the Pope and Bismarck form a fitting pair.

THE full accounts of eye-witnesses of the Sunderland tragedy strengthens the impression that the mischief arose from the want of caretakers amongst such a mass of young children. In any crowd of children there should be a sufficient number of grown-up persons to direct action in case of emergency, and we press this point on the attention of Sunday School Superintendents and those who love to make life pleasant for little ones.

A CHURCH contemporary calls special attention to one important lesson to be gained from this terrible disaster:—"The determining cause of the downward stream of child-life, which ended so fatally, was the operation of two stimulants only too familiar to children of a larger growth, cupidity and envy. Eagerness to possess some of the playthings they saw, jealousy of those others whom they noticed receiving them, impelled them to their destruction. It was a tragic rehearsal of abortive revolution in all ages of the world's history, the attempt of those who have not, to put themselves on the level of the fortunate ones who have, often finding death the only end of their struggle."

THE cure for these passions is careful Christian teaching. Strict teaching of unselfishness in the home and in the school. Daily life and daily lessons must go hand in hand with Christian les-

sons and Christian duty. The growing carelessness of parents towards the Christian culture of the children, and the almost complete divorcement of religion from the school, are too plainly shewing unacceptable fruit, and strengthening the cankering worm which bids fair to destroy our young saplings.

ANOTHER instance has occurred which demonstrates too well the danger of travelling in England and on the Continent in the ordinary closed railway apartment. Telegrams from Paris report a murderous attack in the mail-train from Calais upon the Rev. George Ferris Whidborne, curate of St. Pancras, N. W. Mr. Whidborne was on his way to Chamounix to act as English chaplain for the Colonial and Continental Church Society. According to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, he travelled alone in a first-class compartment as far as Boulogne, where a second passenger—a perfect stranger to him—got in. Mr. Whidborne after a time fell asleep, but when near the station of Ailly-sur-Somme, five miles from Amiens, he was aroused by a blow on the head, and his blood began to stream. He saw his fellow-passenger standing over him brandishing a chisel, from which he received several more blows before he could tackle him. Mr. Whidborne, however, struggled with his assailant, and cried out for help. The people in the next compartment gave the alarm to the driver, and the train was pulled up. According to one version, the man opened the door and tried to fling the clergyman out of the carriage, but he clung to the footboard, and made his way to the next compartment. Another version is that on the train being stopped several officials and passengers rescued Mr. Whidborne from the grasp of his assailant, who offered a desperate resistance, drew a revolver from his pocket, and tried to shoot himself. He also attempted to spring out, but was overpowered and secured. On the train reaching Amiens the criminal was handed over to the police. Mr. Whidborne stayed there to have his wounds dressed. He had received five wounds on the head, but happily none were serious. The prisoner is stated to be an Englishman, and his motive is supposed to have been robbery.

THE action of the French Admiral in Madagascar in subjecting the British residents at Tamatave to gross indignities, and in one case, that of the consul, causing the death of an Englishman, has created the most profound indignation in England. Mr. Gladstone was obliged to make a statement in the House of Commons in answer to inquiries in which he had to admit that gross outrages had been committed by the French upon English subjects, and that he awaited explanations before taking action.

THE papers are commenting on the rapidity of construction on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is said that the progress made in the first week of July is without parallel in this or any other country. On Saturday week the rails were laid upon six miles of road, and in the week no less than 25.86 miles, exclusive of sidings, were completed, an average of about  $4\frac{1}{3}$  miles per day the highest ever obtained. The track is now completed for a distance of 728 miles west of Winnipeg, of which 161 miles have been constructed this season as follows,—April 18th to 30th, 17.58 miles, May 31.97 miles, June 65.69 miles, July 1st to 7th 25.86 miles.