

NOTICES OF PUBLIC EVENTS.

It appears that the case of Professor Smith, which has so long agitated the Free Church of Scotland, is not yet settled. At the meeting of the General Assembly in May, he was restored to his Professorial Chair, with a solemn admonition tendered by the Moderator. Although many persons in and outside the Free Church felt that the interests of precious truth were not sufficiently conserved by the Assembly's decision, yet all were disposed to hope for the best, more especially as the learned Professor had accepted the admonition in a spirit that gave promise of greater loyalty in future to the recognized Standards of the Church. It will astonish many of our readers, therefore, to hear, that at that very time, an article from his pen was on the eve of publication, in which his old offence is repeated in a more aggravated form. One of the most prominent leaders in the Free Church has stated, in regard to that article, that its "appearance, after all that is come and gone, after the termination of the previous case, is an event that is deplorable." A new process for heresy is about to be instituted against the Professor, and it is to be hoped that it will be conducted in a spirit of uncompromising loyalty to the Word of God and the subordinate standards of the Presbyterian Church.

In France, according to the recent decree of the Government, more than forty Jesuitical establishments have been broken up, embracing more than five hundred inmates. The justification of the measure is found in the fact that "the existence of the Jesuits as a distinct class is inimical to the civil and religious interests of the country. This is proved by the nature and laws of the order, and by the facts of their history. No country prospers where the Jesuits are supreme; and though the act of expulsion may seem arbitrary, the French Government is to be commended for its decision." It would be well, however, for France and every other country to consider, as *The Christian Statesman* observes, that "no mere decree of authority, backed up by force, can ever prove a safeguard against moral dangers. A false religion can only be supplanted by the true. The main reliance of the Government in all such cases ought to be on moral and religious forces. Only the Protestant religion can rid France of her most dangerous foes."

The cause of Temperance has recently gained two signal triumphs in the British Parliament, in the passing of the Local Option Bill, and more recently, the Bill to shut Public houses in England on the Sabbath. By the former measure, somewhat similar to the Permissive Bill of the Dominion of Canada, it is left to the people of any particular district to determine whether or not they need any places for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The experience of Ireland, where public houses have been closed on the Sabbath for some time, and where, as a consequence, convictions for crime committed on that day have fallen off seventy per cent., no doubt greatly facilitated the passage of the latter measure. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant, when the legislators in all

Vol 1, No 5, Sept 1880