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EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is satisfactory to know that a recent judicial decision in England has declared ring-betting and bookmaking illegal.

THE regular Easter meeting of the Board of Management of the D. and F. Missionary Society will be held in Kingston on the 28th of April.

SLAVERY now can not exist long wherever Great Britain holds sway. Her beneficent influence in this way will soon be perceptibly felt in Africa, large portions of which seem to fall to her lot as if by destiny. The abolition of slavery in the Niger country has been decreed to go into effect on the anniversary of the completion of the sixtieth year of Queen Victoria's reign. What a fitting celebration of the great event this will be!

DEATH has taken away, recently, some conspicuous characters and men of note, among them the Crown Prince of Japan. The death of Prof. Henry Drummond will be mourned by multitudes of people who have read his thoughtful religious and scientific writings. The United States, in church circles, has lost the Rev. Dr. Charles Frederick Hoffman, of New York, a clergyman of great wealth and beneficence. He left behind him a substantial endowment for his church of All Angels in New York city. The death also of Dr. George S. Mallory, the editor of *The Churchman* (N.Y.), has removed a successful religious journalist, whose tact and wisdom secured the establishment of a church paper that is a credit to the great body that it represents.

THE classic land of Greece has come into great prominence before the world. The six great powers of Europe are watching her. The three despotic powers, Germany, Russia and Austria are hostile to her, while the other three, England, France and Italy, which are largely democratic and under the direct influence of the populace, look upon her with eyes of favour. The attitude of Greece is like her old self, heroic in the extreme, and in the struggle, should it reach an extreme point, she will have, no doubt, many friends. But from a general war we may well cry "Good Lord deliver us."

A LEADING journal in Australia, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, bears the following testimony to some of the results of missionary work in the South Pacific islands: "Nothing is, perhaps, more indicative of the work that has been done, and that is now being continued in the south seas, than the brief shipping reports which are published in the most unostentatious fashion, regarding the various mission ships. They call at many islands which were savage and inhospitable to the last degree within the memory of the present generation, and which have now been brought into peaceful connection with the port of Sydney. It is not merely that the domestic condition has been improved on a hundred islands, and that some most barbarous customs have been swept away forever; it is that lands which were thoroughly hostile to the white man have been brought within the pale of civilization, and that their inhabitants are in communication with the people of more advanced countries. . . . "It is only necessary for us to call attention to two points. The one is that nearly every island in the Pacific has been made accessible. The other is that the bringing of these island groups under the influence of civilization has led to a wonderful increase of trade with Australia. . . . On the whole, the civilization of the South Sea islands is principally due to the missionaries, some of whom, at least, have had no desire to encourage the presence of traders. The change, however, has brought these people into direct communication with Australia, and all the principal groups are now visited, not merely by mission vessels, but by steamers belonging to commercial firms. These are the facts, and the moral is obvious. "Bishop Selwyn, in referring to this testimony, says: 'I may, perhaps, be allowed to illustrate it from my own experience. When I joined the mission in 1873 the island of Florida was so wild that the traders shook their heads when asked to visit it. In 1880 a captain of a man-of-war and his boat's crew were murdered on it. At the present time it is the headquarters of Mr. Nelson, a most excellent trader, who has resided there many years in safety; our first branch college has been founded on it, and Mrs. Welchman, the first of our ladies who has gone to live in the islands, resides there with her husband.'"