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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that to sundry persons who have for some time past been urging the Pope to re-open the Ecumenical Council, he has replied that since the proclamation of infallibility there is no need of councils, because the Pope can create even new dogma.

PRINCE BISMARCK is said to view with disfavour the growing substitution in Germany of the Latin type for the more intricate German characters. So strongly is he opposed to the change that he refuses to read any article in the German language printed with our type.

THE anxiety concerning the condition of the President of the United States, which filled all hearts last week, has passed away, and the assurance that he will finally recover is daily gaining ground. The danger point is not fully passed, but all the signs, as we write, are favourable.

THOUGH the Roman Catholics have had a mission at Monastir, European Turkey, for more than fifty years, they have not a single convert there. One priest said the only hope he had was that Austria would take Macedonia into her hands.

THE Rev. Dr. Moffat, who sixty-one years ago went to Africa as a missionary, has lately been visiting at his native place in Scotland, and was received with great enthusiasm. Mrs. Bruce, the daughter of David Livingstone, the African explorer, was present, and Africa was the theme of talk and prayer.

THE Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Presbyterian Church received a tender of service from the entire graduating class of the Union Theological Seminary, Prince Edward County, Va. Perhaps this is the true principle—that the call to the ministry is first to the foreign, and only after that to the home field.

IN the last forty years one hundred and twenty missionaries on the West Coast of Africa have fallen victims to the climate; but this sacrifice of life has not been without its over-payment of reward and blessing, as appears from the fact that the converts to Christianity on the field now numbers thirty thousand or more, and thirty-three missionary societies are at work now in Africa.

THE anti-clerical feeling in France finds its expression at present in a law to establish universal compulsory secular education in every part of the Republic. Every father is to be required to send his child to the school set up by the State. He is to have no choice between that and any other school. He is to have no right of judgment as to the amount or the quality of education which is best for his child.

ALREADY five students of Fisk University have gone to Africa as missionaries. They all went to the Mendi mission, on the West Coast, where three of them are still at work. During the present year a pupil from the Mendi mission has been completing his course of study at Fisk University, preparatory to his life work among his own people in Africa. Here is a practical illustration of the effect of the education of the freedmen upon the evangelization of Africa.

LORD KIMBERLEY, a cabinet minister and the owner of 11,000 acres of land, with an annual rental of \$125,000, has just declared for the abolition of all laws impeding the free distribution of landed property, the repeal of the law of primogeniture and security for the capital which tenants invest in their holdings. Simultaneously comes an interesting disclosure concerning a parish in the city of London, which consists mainly of twenty-six houses in Bishopsgate street. For attending to the spiritual needs of their inhabitants the rector receives \$5,500 a year. He has not been seen in his parish for three years, and his duties are discharged by a curate, who re-

ceives a stipend of \$600, out of which he has to pay the organist, the sexton and the gas-bill!

THE Roman Pontiff—whom Padre Curci, the ex-Jesuit, calls "the highest authority on earth"—wisely endeavours to conciliate the European powers and re-establish friendly relations with them. He feigns to forget that they deserted the Papacy in its hour of need, and all, openly or tacitly, permitted Italy to take possession of Rome. He pretends that they are all still the faithful sons of the Church and that the modern spirit of progress is not dominant in all. Notwithstanding the friendship of Austria with Germany, and the now liberal character of the Government, he continues an interchange of civilities with his former ally and co-oppressor of Italy. At the recent marriage of Prince Rudolph of Austria and the Princess Stephanie of Belgium he was represented by the Papal Nuncio, and his wedding present consisted of two magnificent mosaic pictures. One of these represents the Virgin of Sasso Ferrato and the other a lovely vase of flowers. These were accompanied by an autographic letter from Leo XIII. A Te Deum chanted in the German church near the Basilica of St. Peter was attended by all the Cardinals and high prelates. It is said that the bride and the groom will come to Rome during the year to make a visit to the Pope.

A GREAT sensation has been caused in England by the discovery of infernal machines loaded with dynamite concealed in barrels of cement, and shipped from Boston to Liverpool in two of the Cunard steamers. The English authorities attribute them to American Fenians, and O'Donovan Rossa's name has been connected with the shipment, but he stoutly denies any complicity. The English Government was anonymously warned of the shipment. One of the machines at the Liverpool head constable's office is said to be beautifully made and designed. The machine is enclosed in an oblong case of zinc, of which it occupies the upper portion. There is a clock-work arrangement which, upon being set, runs about six hours; then it causes a lever to descend upon a tube bearing a cap and communicating with the lower half of the case. The tube is filled with the explosive material, which, upon being fired, sets off a detonating cap placed in the middle of the dynamite compound in the bottom of the case. The presumption is that the machines were intended to be used for the destruction or injury of the public buildings throughout the country. Unfortunately the Government has reason to believe that the same warning voice which conveyed an intimation of the expected arrival of the machines, also gave a hint to the senders and consignees.

THE Radical press, not only of Rome, but of Italy, irritated by the unfortunate disturbances which occurred while Pope Pius' remains were being removed to their last resting-place, and more especially by the action taken by the Government against the rioters, are finding vent for their indignation in abuse of the Vatican. The *Lega Della Democrazia* especially is quite violent in its outspokenness. One of its recent articles is entitled—"The Carrion of Pius IX.;" and it thus assails the character of the chief priest whom many Roman Catholics think a fit object of worship:—"What a splendid subject for philosophers of history! Pius IX. initiated, with unconscious inspiration, the resurrection of Italy. He consecrated thirty years to repenting of it, and to killing again and re-entombing this, his country. When he returned from Gaeta he trod under foot, as he ascended to the Vatican, the corpses of 4,000 youths who had defended the Roman Republic, with the same seraphic smile with which he had imparted the benediction to the Roman people in happier days. He played at billiards, and as he pocketed a ball he condemned Pesroni and Ripari to the gauleys. He made a pun and ordered the massacre of Perugia or sentenced Monti and Tognetti to death. He composed a witticism, and then, getting into his carriage, drove outside Porta Pia to amuse himself with the

sight of the wounded Garibaldians on the morrow of Mentana."

THE London "Times" of Wednesday, 20th ult., contains a long article on the revised edition of the New Testament, from the pen of the late Dean Stanley—his last contribution to literature. The article concludes as follows:—"The general flow of the Sacred Narrative escapes any changes which, except by microscopic survey could affect a cursory perusal. Many of the changes are only expressed by the margin, but the margin, it is evident, in this translation rises to a level much above the place assigned to it in the time of James I., and not improbably often represents the impression of a strong and intelligent minority. It may be asked what are the prospects of this new version taking the place of that which already exists. To this no positive answer can as yet be given, but something may be augured from the history of that previous version itself. We have already seen that the translation of 1611 never received the sanction of Parliament, Convocation, or the Sovereign; it came in use, and by use it still holds its ground. There is no reason to doubt that, if the present version should win a general acceptance it will in its turn supersede the old; first in private houses, and then by public reading in church. By the Nonconformists it will be accepted as the substitute of the older version, in all probability, after a faint struggle. In the Church it will exist side by side with the earlier translation, in the same way as the Psalms already are dear to Churchmen in two versions, neither of which excludes the other. In any circumstances, it may be hoped that this revision, conducted, as it has been, with such singular harmony by the various bodies of Christians in these kingdoms and in the United States will act, not as a disintegrating, but as a uniting element to bring together the thoughts and the devotions of thousands into a nearer and more exact appreciation of the Book which, above all other books—above even the Hebrew Scriptures themselves—has been fitly called the Word of God."

THE annual monster temperance *fete* was lately held at the Crystal Palace, London, Eng., under the auspices of the Good Templar organization. There were some 50,000 persons present, and no intoxicants were sold in the Palace during the day. One of the speakers was Rev. Dr. Thos. Cuyler, of Brooklyn, whose earnest, manly words were greatly applauded. He said:—"Thirty years ago Maine passed a prohibitory law, and it stands at this hour on her statute-book untouched. That star never sets. Vermont strengthened her prohibitory law last winter. Kansas, the state of old John Brown, stained with the first blood shed to abolish the hideous curse of slavery—Kansas last year put it into the bedrock of her constitution that no man should have a dram-shop in her borders, and the people ratified it by 8,000 popular majority. Kansas has a law so sharp that it cuts the wolf's tail off right behind his ear! That is the law you will have by-and-by in Britain. I have just returned from the Continent, travelling from Constantinople to Christiana. I have discovered this—that no country in Europe shews the terrible scar of alcohol as badly as the land in which your forefathers and mine sleep to-day. Great Britain and Ireland have been wounded for eight centuries with the terrible assassin's stiletto of this curse. Ireland—poor Ireland!—you may pass a hundred of the best Land Bills that the greatest of living statesmen may devise, and yet Ireland can never know perfect peace and prosperity till she breaks that accursed whiskey bottle from the Giant's Causeway to Cork. We must be patient. It took eight centuries to teach Great Britain her drinking customs; and suppose it takes one century to uproot them, it will be the best and brightest century that ever shone on dear old England. God is patient, and so must we be. As I looked at the statue of Luther some days ago, I read the motto of that great Reformer—"If this be of man it will perish." Great truths never die. Popular surges roll in and roll out, but falsehood is left at low tide in the mud of oblivion. A great reform like this is imperishable."