

GEMS RE-SET.

Thou art, and shalt be ever ;
 But we are shadows flitting by,
 Which passing winds can sever.
 Lord, Thou art rich, but poor am I.
 Thy soul is unpolluted,
 No guilt may near Thee stay ;
 But sin in me is rooted,
 Full oft I fall away.

Yet, since Thy presence blesses one like me,
 My Soul must sure possess some gift for Thee.

A heart repentant, broken,
 A contrite heart that mourns for sin,
 Thine own sure word hath spoken,
 Is, Lord, the gift that Thou wouldst win ;
 For, Christ, Thou never spurnest
 A struggling heart and weak ;
 Then help me, meek and earnest,
 Thy blessed face to seek.

Nor yet, Redeemer, take my heart and thoughts alone,
 But cause my lips to praise Thy love in thankful tone.

From the German of Johann Rist. Born 1607, died in 1667.

Oh, weary heart, why fix thy home
 Where ocean's waves tempestuous come ?
 Say, canst thou safe and peaceful dwell
 Where stormy billows rave and swell,
 On human reason's rock so bleak,
 Where none e'er found what thou dost seek ?
 Why carnal wisdom make Thy nest,
 Or seek through lore to win the light,
 While doubts thine own weak heart molest,
 And earth-born clouds obscure thy light ?

But seek the vale where, meek and mild,
 Faith sits at rest a happy child ;
 Content, though light doth slowly dawn,
 She knows at last 'twill bring the morn.
 There, sheltered by unfading trees,
 Thou, too, canst sit at rest and ease.
 That vale thy happiest home will prove,
 For though e'en there skies oft are dim,
 Still on it shines the Sun of Love :
 No mists shut out light shed by Him.

From the German of Schmidt von Lubick.

Upon a hill a tree doth stand,
 (Sprung from a never-withering root,)
 And countless tribes from every land
 Have come and plucked its golden fruit ;
 To it have come both young and old.
 The leaves they've gathered for their health,
 The boughs they've shaken for the gold,
 And gone back rich with boundless wealth.
 Who finds this tree hath amplest store,
 Without it, e'en the rich are poor.
 And, strange to tell, this wondrous tree
 Through all these years hath ne'er grown bare ;
 How'er despoiled its boughs may be,
 Fresh fruit and leaves grow always there ;
 This tree which all that wealth can yield,
 Say, springs it from material soil.
 Where grows it, on the world's vast field ?
 'Tis, questioner, the Word of God :
 This glorious plant sheds health and grace
 And riches o'er this earth's wide space.

From the German of Barth.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

MR. H. M. STANLEY'S reception has been most enthusiastic since his return to England. He has given explanations of the extreme measures which he occasionally adopted with antagonistic tribes, and which he considers were demanded by "necessity and justice."

The Rev. Robert Thomson, of Well Park Established Church, Glasgow, and Convener of the Glasgow Presbytery of the Established Church, telegraphs thus to the Vatican :—
 "If your proposed Papal Hierarchy in Consistory be

promulgated, an interdic' against it will be demanded from the Supreme Civil Court in Scotland, and the laws of the country rigidly enforced against it."

During the last four years the average of cases of accidental deaths among railway servants was 740 a-year, and the yearly average of serious casualties 2250. A crowded meeting has been held in Exeter Hall for the purpose of urging Parliament to pass a measure entitling railway servants to compensation for injuries, and to adopt other recommendations of the Royal Commission on Railway Accidents.

The Bishop of Rochester, in a recently-published letter, has expressed himself thus :—"It depends far more upon the English laity, and especially the heads of families, than on all the bishops and clergy put together, whether in the course of the next generation the English people go back to Rome or abide by the principles of the Reformation."

The centenary of Voltaire's death, which falls in May, will be celebrated in France.

The bicentenary of the publication of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" occurs in the present year. The first edition was issued in 1678, by Nathaniel Ponder, at the sign of the "Peacock," in the Poultry.

George Cruikshank, caricaturist, painter, social reformer, has passed away, at the ripe age of 85 years. One-half of his life he was a total abstainer from all intoxicants. Beginning his career as an artist when only a child, while his character as a humourist was early developed, it was not long before the moral purpose of his sketches was recognised ; and when he espoused the principles of temperance he entered vigorously into the ranks of its most devoted workers, and his pencil achieved more than the most eloquent advocacy of his tongue. Consistently he persevered to the end, and in his 86th year, with almost youthful elasticity of spirits, he still did his daily portion of work. The announcement of his death has been received with much and wide-spread regret.

The "Merchants' Lecture" has been delivered in the Weigh House Chapel, on the Tuesdays of the month of February, by the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.

It was reported at the annual church meeting connected with the Metropolitan Tabernacle that there were 3,045 members. During the year 337 have been removed, and 437 have been added, leaving a net increase of 100 members. Mr. Spurgeon is improving in health, and hopes to be able to resume his pastoral duties about the middle of March.

From the "Wesleyan Chapel Report" we learn that eighty-five new chapels have been completed during the past year, the cost, with schoolrooms, ministers' houses, etc., being over £290,000.

General Garibaldi has been reported "alarmingly ill," but later reports announce that he is considerably better.

Cleopatra's Needle, after a stormy voyage, and not a little misadventure, now lies safely moored in the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

The Rev. Dr. Bousfield, vicar of Audover, has been consecrated to the Bishopric of Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal. The Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by six bishops, performed the ceremony.

The Bishop of Manchester lately consecrated the new church of St. Cuthbert's, Over Darwen. In the course of his sermon he cautioned the clergy not to "lord it" over the people, and urged them to live on terms of affection with their dissenting brethren.

The announcement of the death of the Pope was scarcely felt as a surprise, as it could not be expected that Pío Nono would live to be a much older man than he was when he succumbed to the common foe. The vital spark often sank low of late, but as often revived ; and the mental vigour of His Holiness was as unmistakable as it was astonishing. Occupying the papal chair longer than any of his predecessors, none of them experienced more revolutionary changes. The temporal power destroyed, the Pope at Rome on sufferance only, the Church divided on the subject of Papal Infallibility, the old persecuting spirit held strongly in check, but the spirit of aggression, emboldened by questionable concessions, strongly at work—such, briefly, is the position in which Pope Pius the Ninth has left the Romish Church at his demise.

A proposal has been made to establish a lectureship in connection with the Irish Presbyterian Church, similar to the Baird and Cunningham Lectureships of the Scottish Churches, the Fernley Lectureship of the Methodists, and the Congregational Lecture of the Independents.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Duff, well known to the Church as a zealous and successful missionary in connection with the