

NOTES.

The recent attempt on the life of President Garfield has stirred up the American mind as no event has done since the awful tragedy of the 14th of April, sixteen years ago, when the good Lincoln fell by the bullet of an assassin. All sections of the country, and all political parties seem, for the time being, to have lost sight of their distinctions, and are united in the bonds of a common sympathy. It is stated that the great national day—the fourth July—was this year a fast day, rather than a festival. Some of the strongest expressions of sympathy for the President and his family have come from the South. It should be the subject of much fervent prayer that the dastardly attempt at assassination which has, through the tender mercy of God, been so happily defeated, may be overruled for good to the President himself, and to that great country over which he has been called to preside.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland had the subject of Instrumental Music in Churches again before it, at its late meeting in Dublin. The common law of the Church prohibiting all instrumental accompaniment in the service of praise was re-affirmed, and those congregations which had introduced the organ were required to abandon it. It is creditable to the Irish Assembly that it is the most conservative of all the great branches of the Presbyterian family, in regard both to the recognized doctrines and worship of the Presbyterian Church. Henry Cooke is dead, but his spirit still lingers in Ulster.

It is very gratifying to note the interest which the authorities, in France, are beginning to take in the subject of *Education*. A Bill to compel parents to send their children to school has passed the first reading in the Senate. In that Bill it is enacted that parents who give their children no education at all shall be prosecuted. Would it not be well if a law of that kind were in operation in Britain and America, as well as in France?

In the House of Commons, the bill introduced by Mr. Pease for the abolition of Capital Punishment, was rejected, on a motion for a second reading, by a vote of 175 to 89. It is a gratifying to know that the tendency of public sentiment, in many countries, is towards the maintenance of capital punishment, and its revival in those countries where it has been abolished. In this, as in all other matters, nations cannot afford to contravene the law of the Eternal Ruler.

The Prohibitory Liquor Law in Kansas proves to be a grand success. The Governor of that State declares that, "in Topeka, a city of 20,000 inhabitants, there has been but one arrest for drunkenness since May 17, when the law went into effect." What prohibition can do for Kansas, it can do for every country where it is properly enforced.