

cial paper, contain on the subject just now !

'Kings flat. A sudden demand for 'Emperors, but the supply not being 'capable of a corresponding increase, a 'general tightness is felt in this commodity.' (The 'demand' in question being an armed Nihilist, we cannot wonder at the 'commodity' feeling 'tightness' or any other unpleasant sensation.) 'Princes, best quality 'scarce and high,—lower grades plentiful but tough, and no buyers. Patent constitutional monarchs regarded with shyness,—or, if fitted with 'the latest Imperial-Chancellor attachment, quite unmerchantable. A 'wide-spread dullness reigns in this 'market.'

I notice that most people put all this down to the account of those naughty, naughty Nihilists, who can't be trusted alone with their pretty Czar, and those silly, sulky Socialists, whose views are so abhorrent that nobody exactly knows what they are ! Our friends the Pope and his Bishops

are widely proclaiming (some voices from Quebec swelling the chorus) that Kings and Kaisers had better return to their old partnership with the Church, the firm bulwark of the State, the buttress of authority, the pillar of Government, and the only true, drastic purge for these repugnant Socialists and blood-thirsty Nihilists. All this is very pretty, and will, no doubt, prove a great temptation to many little Kings who cannot manage their people, especially when they reflect that they cannot all afford to keep a Bismarck to do it for them. But there is one monarch who will probably *not* be caught by chaff. This is the King of Belgium who is being threatened with assassination if he assents to the Bill taking the control of education out of the hands of the Ecclesiastics. Poor Kings ! one could almost pity them, attacked as they are on both sides. But after this, a little less abuse of the *Rouges* will surely be the order of the day, *Messieurs les Ultramontanes* ?

F. R.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Our Religion as it Was, and as it Is*, by the REV. ROBERT J. LAIDLAW, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton. Toronto : Hunter, Rose & Co., 1879.

This work is written by an earnest man, in a thoughtful style, and with sustained eloquence. In many respects it is a work in advance of any which have been issued from a Canadian press by a Canadian author. But it is one of those books which cannot be criticised by an acknowledged standard. *Tot Homines tot sententiae*, applies with overwhelming force to anything bearing on Religion, its force or character : the letters which appear in the daily press show the diverse training, the imperfect knowledge, and the deep convictions of Canadians on everything appertaining to theological

belief, so that any remarks which are made in this journal on this and similar books must be read and taken as the utterance or opinion of the writer only.

The aim of Mr. Laidlaw is to shew the necessity of a Reformation, not by any individual, but by the outpouring of the Holy Ghost ; that men may be taught true religion ; that it does not now prevail in any country in the world, and that it is not the religion of the Bible ; but that we have made models of and copied our fellow-men. He holds that we have the same stumbling block before us over which the Scribes and Pharisees fell and were broken—self-righteousness ; that we must examine ourselves, our creeds, and confessions, in the presence of Christ and in the light of His work, and remember that Churches, Sabbaths, and Bibles