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Notes.

THE latest offence under the crimes Act is that of using abusive language to a donkey. Five shillings is the penalty for calling a stubborn ass "Balfour." The insult was grievous, but then it was rather officious on the part of the policeman who brought the charge to interfere without a complaint from the donkey. The report does not say whether the animal swore he was intimidated. However, even if he did not, there was stronger evidence before the Court than that which Judge Henn deemed sufficient; for, after all, the silence of a donkey is held to be stronger evidence in support of a charge under the Crimes Act than sworn deposition of men supposed to be intimidated that they suffered from no such interference.

THE Italian missionaries in China lately received a circular from the Italian Ambassador to China warning them that they ought to be provided with Italian passports, instead of remaining under the protection of France. Crispi is quite willing to enjoy the services of these gentlemen abroad, while robbing their communities at home, and his representative urges upon them that they will receive no diplomatic representations in their favor unless they be made through Italian Consuls, because an agreement with the Chinese Government has been made to that effect. Moreover, by refusing to get Italian passports, they put themselves outside of the law of Italy and of China, give the Chinese a bad impression, and may be arrested and handed over at any time to the nearest Italian Consulate. This is the last warning the missionaries are to receive, and they will be given a certain time to make up their minds. It is said, however, that the Italian missionaries will continue to remain under the French protection, because their own government has already declared the destruction of religious teaching in all the schools under its power. The insolence of the Italian Government is something to admire, what annoys us most is, that it does not receive sufficient Catholic insolence in return for its own.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York *Herald* writing from Rio Janeiro says:

"A meeting has been held at Rio, at which the 'Catholic party' was organized for the purpose of contesting at the polls for the rights of the late State Church. A committee was also appointed, of which the Bishop of Para is the chairman. This prelate is a man of great ability, and will probably be our next archbishop. Army and navy officers also appear on this committee, and there are several names of men promi-

nent under the empire. Nearly all the journals have attacked the organizers of this Catholic party. The *Diario de Noticias* charges that the organizers are conspirators and monarchists, whose spite has been roused by the declaration of the Republic.

"That the clericals are determined to read the provisional government a lesson is pretty certain. The precipitate, separation of Church and State, preceded by the more than precipitate Electoral law, has furnished the clericals with a strength in the body politic of Brazil which they are not likely to throw away. The admirers of Combe, who have abolished the taking of oaths, and would, I believe, recreate the Goddess of Reason were it not for the fear of ridicule, form but a small minority in Brazil, and the main body of voters have the same regard for the Church and its ministers that they have always had.

With such material at hand no sensible man could suppose that the priests would remain idle, and I am satisfied that some of the positivists will cry "peccavi!" before they have seen the last of the priests and their congregations.

THE Annual Meeting of the Archbishops and bishops of Ireland was held on the 26th ult. in St. Patrick College, Maynooth, at which nearly all of the hierarchy of Ireland were present.

After sweeping resolutions on the National and Intermediate systems of Education as now conducted, and demanding reforms, the following were passed:

2. "We wish to reiterate the expression of our thanks to Thomas Sexton, Esq., M.P., who in the last session of Parliament brought forward, in a speech of singular power, the claims of the Catholics of Ireland as set forth in the foregoing resolutions; and to the other members of Parliament who so ably supported him."

3. "We request our representatives to continue their efforts to secure for their Catholic fellow-countrymen justice in this important matter of education. Furthermore, we request the Irish Parliamentary Party as a body to press this question on the attention of Parliament by every effectual means in their power, even to the resistance, if necessary, of the annual votes to the Queen's Colleges."

4. "We regret that the expectations raised by the declaration made on behalf of the Ministry, in reply to Mr. Sexton's speech last session, still remain unfulfilled, and that in one most important matter the fulfilment of them has since been declared to depend upon conditions which must be regarded as practically impossible."

5. "We request the Bishop of Arlath, our representative on the Senate of the Royal University to resign his place on the Senate as a protest against the continued neglect by the Ministry of the interests of the Catholics of Ireland in the matter of University Education."

6. "Regarding the 'Custody of Children' Bill, and 'Protection of Children' Bill, recently introduced into Parliament, as most dangerous in their tendencies, we feel called upon to request the Irish Parliamentary Party to give to these Bills the most strenuous opposition, unless they are safeguarded by the insertion of such provisions as will secure the children against the dangers of proselytism."