

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society put in circulation in China last year 120,000 copies of the Scriptures.

FOR a while last week there was great anxiety felt in reference to President Garfield. The danger, however, was averted, though it may return again.

DUELLING will not last long in France under the present regime. The widow of a victim of the "code of honour" has been awarded 100,000 francs from the estate of the duellist-murderer, and he has been also sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

A MEETING was held a few days ago in London (England) to take leave of the Rev. Narayan Sheshadri, the celebrated Free Church missionary, who is returning to India, and also to hear from Miss Beilby an account of her medical and zenana work among the women of Lucknow. Lord Shaftesbury presided.

THE English Presbyterian Foreign Mission Committee have adopted a new plan for new missionaries to China. They send them to Professor Legge, at Oxford, to study Chinese, and are convinced that three months spent at Oxford would equal a whole year's study passed in an unhealthy region like China.

EDMUND YATES writes to the London (England) "World" that he saw "more intoxicated women at the Derby races than on any former occasion, and not merely the female with whom inebriety is normal, but decent looking women, apparently the wives and sweethearts of artisans and small shop-keepers. Perhaps the heat of the weather upset their calculations as to the amount of liquor they could take with impunity." But of course it is a part of the cost of "improving the breed of horses"—and they must be improved!

POPE LEO has taken occasion of a popular disturbance in the streets of Rome during the removal of the remains of Pope Pius IX. from St. Peter's to their final resting-place in the Church of San Lorenzo, to protest to the European governments, and to declare that he must still longer continue his so-called and self-imposed "imprisonment" in the Vatican. If a man—whether Pope or "private party"—will persist in a wrong-headed and absurd course it can't be helped. It is to be supposed that he will tire of such a thing when he finds it to be as useless as it is unnecessary.

THE greatest triumph of Mr. Gladstone's life seems to be just about to be achieved in his successfully carrying through Parliament the Irish Land Bill, practically unimpaired. It is still possible that it may be stopped by the House of Lords, but that is by no means likely. It is said that the plan agreed on by the majority in the Upper House is to throw the whole responsibility of the measure on its promoters by allowing it to pass as it came from the Commons, and thus under the persuasion that it will in practice be found perfectly unworkable and will thus tend to complicate matters and discredit the ministry that promoted it. It will be wise if such a course is followed whatever be the motive.

KING KALARAU is on his travels—as some reports assert, to sell his kingdom if he can find the right bidder; according to others, to replenish it. The native race is rapidly dying out, and the king is probably looking for new subjects. It ought not to be a difficult matter to turn the tide, or at least a rill, of emigration in the direction of those depleted but beautiful islands. The climate is unequalled for its salubrity and fruitfulness, the location—on the great highway between the continents—is very desirable, and the acknowledged prevalence of Protestant Christianity is in itself a potent attraction. No heathen or Catholic country to-day is drawing to itself emigra-

tion. Rich in resources as are Brazil and Mexico they fail to attract the swarming populations of other lands. Protestantism promises safety and freedom, and its domination in the Hawaiian Islands will probably be one of the strongest inducements to emigrants to turn their steps thither.

IN France "even the domestic servants contrive to save money. They deny themselves all but the necessities of life. The head servant of an acquaintance of mine has saved enough to bring him in \$3,000 a year. He has been for twenty-five years in the same situation, and does his duty as strictly as he did the first day of his service. He seldom goes out, never takes anything between his meals, and all he gains is carefully put aside. I have met with so many examples that I am bound to believe this thrift to be the rule. A careful observer, who has occasion to mix with the middle classes in France, will be even more struck by the qualities I have indicated. The whole mode of living is made subservient to the children; the baby has hardly seen daylight before the parents are already saving for him. Every child's future is provided for at his cradle by the earnest efforts of his parents, and it is rarely their fault if they do not succeed. The better paid artisans in towns and cities are the only improvident people to be met with. Among them you find drunkenness and subsequent improvidence."

AN Organ correspondent says, in connection with the troubles in Algeria, that letters were sent from Mecca in 1880 to all Mohammedan countries, vigorously appealing to the sentiment of the brotherhood uniting all Mussulmans; declaring that Islam was threatened with complete destruction; that England was mistress of India, France of Algeria, and Russia of Turkestan; and it therefore behooved Mohammedans to awake and everywhere to throw off the Christian dominion. The Tripolitan tribes, which annually migrate to Tunis at this time of the year, have joined the insurgents and raided within twenty miles of the capital. Spies report that the rebels declare they intend to fight both the Bey and the French. They plunder and massacre the Christians by wholesale. The Sultan of Morocco has appealed to the Sultan of Turkey to put a stop to the agitation in northern Africa, lest the insurrection result in the expulsion of himself from the throne of Morocco, and the complete separation of the Barbary States from the Turkish hegemony. It is stated that these representations have produced a profound impression at Constantinople.

MR. GLADSTONE has sent a noble letter of sympathy to Mrs. Garfield. After referring to the general feelings of the British people as well as his own, he says they were "in the first instance of sympathy and afterward of joy and thankfulness almost comparable and, I venture to say, only second to the strong emotions of the great nation of which he is the appointed head. Individually I have, let me beg you to believe, had my full share in the sentiments which have possessed the British nation. They have been prompted and quickened largely by what I venture to think is the ever growing sense of harmony and mutual respect and affection between the two countries, and of a relationship which from year to year becomes more and more a practical bond of union between us, but they have also drawn much of their strength from a cordial admiration of the simple heroism which has marked the personal conduct of the President, for we have not yet wholly lost the capacity of appreciating such an example of Christian faith and manly fortitude. This exemplary picture has been made complete by your own contribution to its noble and touching features, on which I only forbear to dwell because I am directly addressing you."

THE Scottish correspondent of the London "Non-conformist" states that quiet has settled down in the Free Church, and that the danger of disruption is all past. He also says that the friends of liberalism are now inclined to believe that Principal Rainy, without

intending it, has done a service for freedom of discussion. The conclusion come to was simply this that the Free Church could not consistently or prudently maintain Professor Smith as a teacher of her students. She has not said that she cannot tolerate him within the ranks of her ordinary ministry. The only other course that had a chance of being followed was that of trying Mr. Smith for heresy. If that course had been taken it is almost absolutely certain that in the present temper of the Church a conviction would have been given forth at next Assembly that Mr. Smith and all who agreed with him had gone beyond the limits of toleration. The result would in such a case have been a split, to a certainty, for the liberty now allowed would have been deliberately taken away. It is acknowledged, therefore, that, *quantum valent*, Dr. Rainy has for the time saved at once the integrity of the Church and the freedom of inquiry within it."

WE have received a report of the Twenty-fourth International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations and the "Year Book" for 1881-82. It is a book of 250 pages, and contains a report of the Convention held in Cleveland with the address of Rev. John A. Broadus, D.D., on "The Study of the Bible by Books, with Illustrations," papers and addresses on phases of Christian Association work, the report of the International Committee and its agents, giving the details of work among railroad men, in colleges, among Germans, commercial travellers, coloured young men, and at the West and South; the reports of seven hundred American Associations and eight hundred Associations in Europe and other parts of the world. Also a list of secretaries, buildings, libraries, etc. The Associations now own buildings free of debt to the value of \$2,022,334, and building funds and other property to the value of \$653,469 additional, a large increase on last year; 210 men are now employed as secretaries or assistants, an increase of thirty-two during the year. The book gives in a very compact form a report of what Associations all over the world are doing for young men. The price of it is fifty cents, postpaid, and may be had of R. C. Morse, Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue, New York.

KING JOHN of Abyssinia is nominally a Christian ruler, but it would be impossible to find a more cruel sovereign among the most barbarous of peoples. His persecutions of missionaries and all who do not agree with him rival the brutalities of the King of Dahomey. The Rev. J. M. Flad, a Swedish missionary, writes of a trip made from Suakim, on the Red Sea, to Galabat, on the Abyssinian frontier, with a supply of Bibles in the Amharic language. Five agents of the Mission Society met Mr. Flad secretly at Galabat. Others did not dare to come, because the king prohibited every Abyssinian from going to Galabat, under penalty of having one leg and a foot cut off. This barbarous threat was carried out in the case of four merchants. Mr. Flad writes further, "From our native missionary agents I learned that King John is a most fanatical Coptic Christian, who never will tolerate European missionaries, either Protestants or Roman Catholics. By his order he had had baptized all Moseims and Kamants, and even part of the Falashas, with some Galla tribes. Many Abyssinians whom I met at Metama [Galabat] assured me that King Theodore was a far better man than John. I am glad to say that he is not against the circulation of the Word of God and good tracts, and so I hope that some good will come from the Scriptures and tracts I have brought this time into Abyssinia in such large numbers. To our native Scripture readers and teachers who carry on the mission work among the Falashas he has always been kind. They belong, as you know, to the Abyssinian Church, and their converts from the Falashas have by baptism become members of that Church." To one of his tributary kings, Tekla Hailemanot, at Godjam, King John has given orders to subject all the Galla tribes as far as Kaffa, and have them baptized by Abyssinian priests.