

cutting hopefully the task of exploring the dark and long neglected island of New Guinea. Their agents have reached far inland; their reception was hopeful; and teachers have been located in distant places. In England, the Confessional scandals continue to create agitation. The opposing parties in the Established Church are doing what they can to make their respective antagonists uncomfortable in their position. The Romanizing party shows much tact and courage, but it does not appear to be making any real headway in the country.

In France, the Church is lending all its influence in favour of the re-actionary political policy of the President. It is reported that the Pope has sent special agents to Paris to promote the cause he has so much at heart, namely, the overthrow of the Republicans.

In Hungary it has been the habit for the past few months to order services of praise in the Roman Catholic Churches to celebrate the victories of the Turks. This has been stopped through the influence of Cardinal-Archbishop Strossmayer.

The Emperor William has again spoken words of cheer to the pastors of the Evangelical Church in Prussia, while his great minister, Prince Bismarck, insists that Presbyterianism is essential to the well-being and success of Protestantism.

The battle of the Sabbath rest is being fought with vigour in Philadelphia. The directors of the Permanent Exhibition have broken faith with the public by opening their Exhibition on the Lord's Day.

Sabbath Observance.

DR. Andrew Thomson, reading a paper before the Council at Edinburgh, counted as a hopeful sign of the times that "the Dominion Government had issued an order forbidding the running of railway trains on Sundays, except in cases of great emergency." We fear that the order spoken of has not in its results realized the expectations of the people in response to whose remonstrances it was issued. All winter, mail-trains thundered over the lines on the Lord's day. If no change be made in the days for dispatching the English mails, the same scenes will recur on our railways next winter. Would it not be well to consider in time what can be done to remedy an acknowledged evil? We are bound to believe that the Government will gladly do all in its power to meet the views of the people, what then is the will, what are the views of the Christian people of this Dominion? Shall the English mails

leave Halifax steadily on the Lord's day? Will the mail train from the Upper Provinces be continued due at Halifax between 2 and 6 P. M. every Lord's Day? The matter surely demands most serious consideration.

Dr. Thompson states that in Germany the Council of the Protestant Church had addressed a note to its district Synods requesting them to consider and report to the provincial Synods on the following points, viz.:—The causes of prevailing Sabbath desecration; its results on the moral, social, and religious life of the people, and the means which should be adopted to ensure the proper hallowing of the Lord's day.

By one of its most recent votes, the British Legislature refused to be drawn into concessions, the first effect of which would be to degrade the Sabbath into a day of mere æsthetic enjoyment or animal pleasure, and the next, to turn it into a day of toil. And looking for a moment beyond strictly Christian lines, it is noted as a fact of unique interest that the Government of the Japanese people, who are only beginning as yet to grope their way to Christ in light, recently passed a law enjoining a Seventh Day rest. But by far the most important special movement in the interests of the Lord's-day has been that which was initiated by the Sabbath Congress held at Geneva in the closing days of September last, for the purpose of forming an international confederation for the revival in Europe of reverence for and observance of the Lord's-day upon the basis of Holy Scripture. Between 400 and 500 deputies were present from almost every country in Europe, the greater number representing societies and Churches, more than one of them commissioned from crowned heads, to express the interest of their Royal or Imperial master in the sacred cause for which the Congress had met. A spirit of cheerful devotion pervaded the discussions, and no doubt helped much to bring about the unanimity in which the deliberations issued.

The first of a series of resolutions was moved by Professor Gudet, of Neuchâtel, and with two exceptions, carried the consent of the whole Congress. I distinctly traced the action of the confederation not upon mere humanitarian grounds, but upon the fact of the Sabbath's divine institution, and its universal and perpetual obligation. It was an appropriate close to the proceedings of the Congress, and had a true historic fitness about it, that when on the following Lord's-day the deputies once more assembled, along with many of the Christian people of Geneva, in Calvin's old Cathedral of St Pierre, crowding its vast space to its very gates, they pledged themselves anew,