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## Notes of the Week.

It is stated that in consequence of the withdrawal of the Government grant from the five Catholic Theological Faculties of Paris, Lyons, Rouen, Aix and Bordeaux, twenty-eight professors have lost their positions. They cannot offer themselves as candidates for the Chairs in the new Theological Faculties about to be established by the Catholic bishops, because they do not belong to the Ultramontane school whose doctrines will prevail in these Faculties. Meanwhile, the Government offers a small annuity to all who have no claim to a pension on the score of twenty years of service.

SERIOUS anti-Jewish riots have broken out during the Reichsrath election in Vienna. The inciting cause was the excitement of the people, growing out of the election agitation. The Carmelite Platz was filled with a howling mob, and free fights were frequent. The shops of the Jews were raided and ruined, and their owners violently assaulted. Not less than forty persons were severely wounded. The police made many arrests, still they were powerless to repress the rioters, and were obliged to call for the aid of the military. Other riots, of like violence and destructiveness, have taken place in the Wieden and Nuebau districts.

THE Toronto Diocesan Synod at its meeting last week discussed a number of questions of denominational and general interest, among others a term-service in missionary work. The committee on the permutation of the missionary clergy reported, recommending that licenses to clergymen shall only be for three years, but that the Bishop may at the end of that time, in conjunction with the mission board, continue missionaries in the same place if desirable; also that it shall be the duty of the Bishop, with the Mission Board, to sever the connection of a minister with a mission when the interests of the Church demand it, and that in considering such cases the views of the wardens and delegates shall be called for.

THE demoralization in social life caused by the degraded estimate of the home existing among certain classes in the United States and the system of easy divorce prevalent in some of the States are leading all people who value social order and national prosperity seriously to reflect on the dangers sure to arise from such a condition of things. At the Diocesan Convention held in Reading, Pennsylvania, last week, Bishop How, speaking of the lax divorce laws of that State, said it was time that an organized attempt should be made by Christian men to abrogate these licentious laws which breed iniquities. We have in easy divorces and frequent re-marriages polygamy as bad in essence though not so openly proclaimed as among the Mormons.

A TREATY of peace between France and China has at last been signed. What at one time threatened to be a great and destructive conflict has come to an end. The conquest of Tonquin by the French has been relinquished, as the war fever has been replaced

by more prudent counsels. Annam is to be under a French protectorate, and China has renounced all claims to that province and will refrain from further interference in its affairs. The hand of an overruling Providence will many be gratefully recognized in the peaceful solution of a contest that would have seriously interfered with missionary effort in China. In Formosa we may expect that the severe trials to which our missionaries and their converts were subjected will be blessed to them, and it is devoutly hoped that these trials will be followed by greater results than ever in that most promising field.

THE Roman Catholic Church neglects no opportunity of impressing the masses of her people by scenic displays on a great scale. The death of Archbishop Bourget has afforded just such an occasion. The decorations must have been very costly. Notre Dame Cathedral, Montreal, was draped in mourning, and a gorgeous yet sombre catafalque was erected on which the remains of the deceased prelate were placed in a sitting posture. Archbishop Tache delivered the funeral oration in which the virtues of the deceased were greatly extolled. An immense procession was formed, and a vast crowd of spectators lined the streets along which it passed. All manner of societies took their place in the procession, and the City Council, having passed resolutions eulogistic of the Archbishop, fell into line.

THE *Moravian* well says: It seems to be more and more clearly realized that a gift made while living is worth double the one made after death. It is safer, because it is in no danger of being contested, divided, or misapplied. The giver can personally see that it goes directly and immediately where he intends. This is often not the case with posthumous gifts. It is more satisfactory, because the giver can himself enjoy the good his gift is doing. It is more just and righteous, because, properly speaking, only what a man has while he lives is his own; when he dies, it no longer belongs to him. It is more purely unselfish, more truly Christian, because he denies himself of what he might have used. After death he has no more use for it. To give to Christ's cause only what we have no more use for ourselves is not the highest form of charity. Therefore, do not wait till death, but give while you live.

RECENT political events in England verify the adage that it is the unexpected which happens. It was the general expectation that the Gladstone administration would continue in office till November, when an appeal would be made to the country on the basis of the new franchise. A constant fire by Parnellites, extreme Radicals, disaffected Whigs, and rabid Conservatives of the Lord Randolph Churchill stamp was kept up. It was by the fortuitous conjunction of antagonistic political elements that the overthrow of the Gladstone ministry was secured. It is impossible that such diverse parties can agree upon a united course of action for the administration of national affairs. Nothing definite can now be expected until the general election has taken place, and there will be feverish anxiety until the result of the appeal to the country is known. Meanwhile the reputation of Mr. Gladstone will suffer no eclipse. He is one of those who will rank in history as a Christian statesman who rendered valuable service to his country in unsettled times.

THE Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church has been enthusiastic in its maintenance of temperance principles, as is evidenced by this strongly worded resolution: That this Conference desires to take the earliest opportunity of expressing profound regret and dissatisfaction at the reprehensible action of the Senate of Canada in amending the Canada Temperance Act in a way that would destroy its value as a prohibitory measure and render the successful efforts for its adoption in a large number of places fruitless and unavailing; and while we fully appreciate the fidelity of those members of the Senate who have opposed

this unjust amendment, we hereby declare our strong and earnest conviction that if the House of Commons should so far forget its duty to the country as to sanction this unpatriotic and treacherous mutilation of the Scott Act, it would by so doing break faith with the people, greatly injure the cause of public order and morality, and show itself to be unworthy of the confidence of all who have at heart the social and moral progress of our country.

As an indication of the superstitious notions prevalent among Roman Catholics, it is stated that while the remains of the late Archbishop Bourget were lying in state in Notre Dame Cathedral, Montreal, the greatest eagerness was manifested by those who pressed forward to touch the remains, either with the hand or with some article. The sisters of the institution, the convalescent patients, large numbers of priests, and many outsiders all pressed forward to press their beads against the garments or the face of the deceased, in every case previously prayerfully kneeling. After the large crowd which filled the hall had been satisfied in this respect, the remains were again lifted and conveyed to a large inner chamber, where they were deposited upon a lofty catafalque, which was immediately surrounded by twelve large lights, set in twelve large candlesticks, and subsequently encircled by a band of acolytes, also bearing lights. "The service for the dead" was chanted, the remains were again touched by as many as could get near enough to do so, and were once more removed, this time to the hearse.

IN spite of the late Mark Napier, says the *Christian Leader*, the Scottish people still believe in the story of the Wigtown martyrs, the authenticity of which the hot Jacobite sheriff only assisted to confirm; and on Saturday Wigtown was crowded with such a dense mass of people from all the country round as the old burgh has seldom seen assembled to celebrate the bicentenary of the two women, old Margaret MacLachlan and young Margaret Wilson, who sealed their testimony beneath the waters of the Solway. First there was a procession to the martyrs' graves, these including the tombs of the three men who were hanged at Wigtown in the Killing Time as well as those of the two memorable women. A band played sacred airs on the march, leading the Sabbath school children as they sang appropriate hymns. Then addresses were delivered from a platform in front of the county buildings by Sir John Hay, Sir Herbert Maxwell, and Sheriff Nicolson. At a dinner in the afternoon "The Memory of the Wigtown Martyrs" was proposed by Dr. Logan Aikman, Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod.

AT the unveiling of the monument to the Pilgrim Fathers in Central Park, New York, last week, George W. Curtis said: Here in this sylvan seclusion, amid the sunshine and the singing of birds, we raise the statue of the Puritan, that in this changeless form the long procession of the generations which shall follow us may see what manner of man he was to the outward eye, whom history and tradition have so often flouted and traduced, but who walked undismayed the solitary heights of duty and of everlasting service to mankind. Here let him stand, the soldier of a free Church, calmly defying the hierarchy, the builder of a free state serenely confronting the continent which he shall settle and subdue. The unspeaking lips shall chide our unworthiness, the lofty mien exalt our littleness, the unblenching eye invigorate our weakness; and the whole poised and firmly planted form reveal the unconquerable moral energy—the master force of American civilization. So stood the sentinel on Sabbath morning guarding the plain house of prayer while wife and child and neighbour worshipped within. So mused the pilgrim in rapt sunset hour on the New England shore, his soul caught up into the dazzling vision of the future, beholding the glory of the nation that should be. And so may that nation stand forever and forever, the mighty guardian of human liberty, of God-like justice, of Christ-like brotherhood.