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The reception of Sir John Renals, Lord Mayor of London, by the French State and Municipal authorities, during his visit to Paris and Bordeaux, has been singularly cordial, and it is believed that the happiest international results will follow.

The report drawn up by the Armenian Inquiry Commission has, at length, been communicated to the European Governments. The report is not satisfactory. Meanwhile news from Armenia leads to the belief that cruel persecution of the Christians continues, especially in the case of any who have given evidence in the course of the enquiry.

The movement on the Ministerial Benches in favor of the abolition of the Lord-Lieutenancy and the substitution, if practicable, of a royal residence in Ireland, is (the *Standard* says) taking definite shape, and the question will be strongly pressed on the attention of the Government at the beginning of next Session. It is believed that the Government is not unwilling to give the subject favorable consideration during the Recess.

The betrothal of another of the Queen's grandchildren is announced by authority. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra Louisa Olga Victoria, third daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, is engaged to be married to His Serene-Highness the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenberg. The Prince, who is related to our own Royal Family, comes of a distinguished race owning considerable possessions in Germany.

Recent telegrams from China report considerable dissatisfaction at the action of the British Government in face of the farcical procedure of the Chinese authorities in connection with the inquiry into the massacre of the English missionaries. There is reason to believe that the Viceroy is engaged in minimising the results of the investigation demanded by Lord Salisbury. It is, on various grounds, earnestly to be hoped that measures more commensurate with the gravity of the case will be taken by the British authorities without further delay.

The settlement of the new Government at Chitral was inaugurated on Monday, and took the form of an impressive ceremony, Surgeon-Major Sir G. S. Robertson, installed as new Mehtar of Chitral, the young Prince Shuja-ul-Mulk, a member of the hitherto reigning house. The British representative made a formal declaration of the policy which would be carried out for the future. It was the intention of the Indian Government, he said, to assist the youthful Prince during his minority in governing the country. A political officer would also be permanently appointed at Chitral.

A most important announcement was also made by Sir G. S. Robertson, on the above-named occasion, to the effect that slavery in any form would be absolutely prohibited. This is highly gratifying, as furnishing one of the most valuable results of the late costly campaign.

If it is true that family worship is falling into decay, it is one of the most unpromising signs of the times. The home is the real stronghold of faith and

piety and patriotism. So long as the homes are full of the spirit of devotion and consecration to God, the country will be pervaded by true and healthful influences. Strong men and true women will be reared to bear testimony for God and righteousness. Trained in these schools of virtue and of prayer, they will grow up to practise what is good and to live for what is unseen and eternal. The home must be the centre of piety if the church is to be full of spiritual power.

The Bishop of Bloemfontein, says the *Southern Cross*, has had a narrow escape of being killed. Since he left Vryburg his lordship has been visiting Mafeking, Maritzani, and Kunana, and was crossing the Kunana hills in a cart, accompanied by the Rev. A. B. Stanford, of Mafeking. In coming down a rather sharp incline, the driver, a Kafir, took too short a turn at the bottom, with the result that the cart was capsize, and both the occupants thrown out. Beyond a severe shaking and a few scratches, his lordship sustained no injuries, while Mr. Stanford appeared to have escaped with only the shock of the fall.

A telegram from Shanghai states that sixteen of the prisoners convicted of participation in the massacre of the Missionaries at Ku-cheng, and sentenced to death, have been executed. But what of those who instigated the terrible sacrifice? Are they to go free? It will be remembered that when some of the affrighted victims sued for mercy at the hands of their murderers, the latter paused in their awful work, they were remonstrated with by their leaders who exclaimed—"You know your orders." It is to be feared that the miserable people who have been executed are the scapegoats of others who will altogether evade justice.

Whatever may be the cause—whether it be the despair of this agnostical age or the pressure of competition in the rush for life—the number of suicides lately has been appalling, even reckoning only those which are reported. Many in the country are never known out of the immediate locality. It is a terrible result of the progress of infidelity, and now wiseacres in the press are renewing their demand for a relaxation of the only safeguard against its still further progress—viz., the refusal of the use of the Burial Office. The subject is one which should far oftener be dealt with from the pulpit than is the case. The tendency to palliate things which were formerly regarded with severity is part of the sentimentalism—and scepticism—of the age.—*Church Review*.

Mr. Stopford Brooke is resigning the charge of Bedford Chapel, Bloomsbury, and it is improbable that a successor will be appointed. The Unitarian body seems to be in a decaying condition, if we may judge from the proposal to close this chapel as well as another important one of that connection, the Church of the Saviour, at Birmingham, which was founded by the late George Dawson. This is so far satisfactory, but we are much afraid that Unitarian principles are to a large extent held among ministers of denominations which are considered orthodox. Mr. Stopford Brooke was at least honest in leaving the Church of England when he ceased to hold its doctrines; it would be well for it if all its ministers were equally consistent. At least, so says the *English Churchman* of September 5th.