

Germany.

As it had been foreseen, the Education bill so favorable to the Catholic principle of free religious education met with an explosion of hostile criticism from the atheistic, liberal and Protestant broad church schools. The Emperor and cabinet, notwithstanding outspoken declarations, have been forced to a back-down. The measure is withdrawn for the present, and non-sectarian school education will hold the field till further uprisings of socialism and anarchism will compel the government to come to terms again with the Centrists. The day is not far distant, judging from the recent outbreaks of European anarchism.

Norway.

Norway was one of the earliest countries torn from the Church by the Reformation, and so complete and lasting was the break, so severe the penalties excluding Catholicism, that only recently missionaries have been able to enter. It has remained like a glacial region withdrawn from the genial influence of the sun. Protestantism like a carcass was preserved whole by the ice in which it was frozen. But the light has at last penetrated, the light of preaching, of learning, of history, of religious inquiry, and with it the warmth, and behold the black monstrous form is beginning to give evidence of decomposition. "The number of Catholics has doubled in five years; Catholic marriages may be solemnized without the intervention of the civil authority; Catholics are partially relieved from taxes destined for the maintenance of the established church and schools. The Catholic churches are crowded with Protestants, the multitudes that flock to hear a Dominican Father lecture on religion cannot find standing room; Protestants subscribe enthusiastically to the support of the Sisters of Charity, and earnest Lutherans begin to despair of arresting the advance of the ancient faith."