

GENERAL NOTES.

THIS being the holiday season, our young people's department is more extended than usual. As it will afford pleasure to the young it can hardly displease the old.

SUCH great English dailies as the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Morning Post* and others complain of the existence of "homicidal mania" in England. Homicidal mania is a pretty expression, but then it happens in England. When it occurs in Ireland the *London Times* calls it a "brutal murder."

NOR all English papers are unreasonable; at least, they do not seem so. The *London Spectator* thinks the Government ought to make "permanent modifications" of the criminal law in Ireland, and not pass such "exceptional and unconstitutional" measures as the Coercion Act. Whether this means a permanent establishment and enforcement of oppressive measures is not clearly shown.

GAMBETTA is angry because he has not yet conquered the ladies of France. They will not attend the official *salons* of the *Grand Ministere*. All honor to the French ladies, Gambetta and his chief *confreres* are infidels; so were the leaders of the First Republic, and their vicious and immoral principles are yet remembered with horror by those who love honor and virtue.

OUR American neighbors are great advocates of liberty, but do they not push that noble principle too far when they allow complete latitude of expression to Guiteau? Fancy the feelings of Canadians who are accustomed to decorously conducted courts of law, if they saw in this country some caught-in-the-act assassin allowed to abuse, insult and curse all witnesses against him, ladies and gentlemen included.

THE suppression by the Government of Irish papers is a sad commentary on the liberty of the press. It is now quite clear that "liberty of the press" means for British papers to abuse Ireland and the Irish as much as they please, but for Irish papers to accept the abuse and offer no complaint.

THE *Atlantic Monthly* is trying to prove that there never was a primitive mother tongue. Some of the best philologists differ from this opinion, and have almost converged the sources of the living languages to a point. Besides, we have the authority of Moses for the existence of a common language before the building of Babel, and we think he is entitled to at least as much respect as the editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

WHEN Bismarck conquered the great empires of France and Austria, he felt certain he could make short work of the Pope. He declared war against the Roman Catholic Church, and prosecuted it with all his might; but, like many a tyrant before, he has utterly failed. He is now about to enter into diplomatic relations with the Vatican, which means a treaty of peace. Behold the picture! The conqueror of the emperors Napoleon and Francis Joseph, the ruler of fifty millions of people, and the virtual commander of a million warriors, beaten by a feeble old man, without a single soldier, a single article of warlike munition, or a single political friend!

THE month of January contains many important church festivals. On the 1st the Circumcision of Our Lord; on the 6th the Epiphany; on the 14th St. Hilary; on the 15th St. Paul, the first hermit; on the 17th St. Antony, patriarch of monks; on the 21st St. Agnes; on the 24th St. Timothy, disciple of St. Paul; on the 25th the Conversion of St. Paul; on the 26th St. Polycarp; on the 27th St. John Chrysostom; on the 28th St. Cyril and St. Margaret; on the 29th St. Frances of Sales.

WE thank our contemporaries for the complimentary notices which they have paid the HARP, under its new management, and trust to make it still more deserving of their good opinion.

STUDENTS should remember that early morning is the best time for work. Studying by the midnight lamp is always disagreeable, frequently painful and generally unproductive. In the morning, body and mind are fresh and vigorous. Work then, if possible, and keep the evenings for necessary recreation.