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EDITORIAL NOTES.

EUROPEAN SOCIALISM seems to be making considerable headway of late. The recent election in Germany most positively proves that the socialists, in the urban districts at least, are increasing. Whatever may be the ultimate result of the second balloting for the Reichstag, the Emperor must feel that there is abroad a spirit very antagonistic to monarchy and centralized government. In Paris, at the municipal elections in 1881, the socialists secured 11,185 votes; in 1884, 34,293; in 1887, 54,138; in 1890, 48,292; and in 1893, 66,744. So we see that in twelve years they have increased six-fold in Paris. The day is fast approaching when the stand will have to be taken against this enemy of national stability, and the one from whom the orders must come is none other than the Vicar of Christ, the immortal statesman who sits upon the throne of St. Peter.

WE NOTICE that an Ontario firm announces by way of advertisement that by Royal warrant they have been appointed "Purveyors of Whiskey to Her Majesty the Queen." Our Canadian liquor must be very choice if Her Majesty prefers it to the good old Highland brewing. It strikes us as very strange how the Queen has so many specially appointed tailors, harness-makers, carriage-builders, milliners, bakers, butchers, and other tradespeople throughout her vast dominions. But when it comes to the question of whiskey we hope that our Sovereign issues these warrants of appointment merely as a matter of form and courtesy, otherwise she would be setting a very bad example to her subjects and would be furnishing an argument to the advocates of four per cent lager.

REGARDING the vacant Prothonotaryship for the District of Ottawa, of which we spoke the week before last, we desire to call the attention of the Government to a very great mistake which might possibly be committed. By the temporary appointment of Mr. Grondin and the holding over of the permanent appointment of a successor to Mr. Driacoll, it looks very much as if the local member were anxious to get the place for himself and that he is working to delay the appointment until he has so trimmed his sails that he may be wafted into port. The last election in that county was carried by the present local member by a mere accident; any man, provided he were a Hull man and a French Canadian, could have won that county against a Mercier candidate. The present member owes his seat to the accident of those circumstances, and if he makes use of that mandate which he received to work out his own private ends, to secure a berth which he neither needs nor for which he would be acceptable to the Bar of the district, the Government may draw a red mark across the name of Ottawa county in the next contest. All the water in the Ottawa would not wash the party of the act in the eyes of that constituency, nor would

it be able to carry another Conservative election in the district. We know whereof we speak; and we point out before hand the pitfall that might be dug by the hands of the Government's own friends. We repeat that it is the only office connected with the courts of that district that is not filled by a French Canadian, and that a mighty grave mistake will be made if the only Irish Catholic who ever was a candidate for a place of consequence in Ottawa County is not recognized. To be forewarned is to be forearmed!

AS NEARLY all the school examinations and distributions of premiums take place upon the same day, and as it will be impossible for us to attend more than one of these interesting entertainments, we respectfully request the directors of the different schools to send us in, as soon as possible, their lists of prizes and their programmes, with any descriptions they may choose to furnish.

IN OUR next issue we hope to be able to furnish our readers with a full account of the grand celebration of the French-Canadian national festival. This year it will be on a gigantic scale, extending over four days. This is the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Montreal by Sieur de Maisonneuve. On the 24th June, the Church celebrates the birth of St. John the Baptist; the death of every other saint is considered to be the day of this greatest triumph, his entry into eternal life; but St. John the Baptist, who was the precursor of Christ, the voice crying in the wilderness, the one destined to pour the waters of baptism upon the Saviour, and the martyr whose head was to be severed from his body to satisfy the wickedness of a dancing girl, was holy from his first entrance upon the scene of life, and his feast is therefore kept in commemoration of his birth. As to the national celebration on that occasion we will speak more fully next week. The subject is one that deserves our most serious attention.

THE SPANISH CARAVELS have come and gone. They created quite an excitement both in Quebec and Montreal. Although not the identical ships in which Columbus and his fellow-voyagers sailed for the New World, still they are so perfectly imitative of the originals that the moderns can form some idea of the style of vessels in which the people of the fifteenth century ploughed the seas. Wonderful as the caravels may appear to us, what would be the astonishment of Columbus were he to revisit this world and behold the majestic steamers in the docks of Montreal? After a successful trans-Atlantic trip, the caravels have started upon their inland journey; up through the Lachine Canal and by way of the St. Lawrence and the Lakes to Chicago—to the World's Fair. When Columbus sailed upon his voyage of discovery it was to find a "round the globe" route to China; when this region was afterwards discovered by the French

mariners they imagined that the land of the Celestials was reached, and in consequence was LA CHINE (China) named by them. Just imagine the astonishment of those ancient discoverers were they to see the caravels of Columbus—four hundred years after his first great expedition—ascending the Lachine Canal, and entering the portico of the immense continent that owes its civilization to the Catholic sailors, heroes and missionaries of the past.

IF WE ARE rightly informed the two pillars, on which reposes the structure of Presbyterian belief, are, individual interpretation and predestination. If such be the case we fail to see what right a Presbyterian Synod has to try or to condemn as heretics either a Dr. Briggs or a Dr. Campbell. If there is no infallible guide duly authorized by Christ to interpret the Bible (for so they argue), and if each individual has the privilege, according to his conscience and the light within himself, to read and interpret the Holy Scriptures, in all consistency, Dr. Briggs or Dr. Campbell has as much right as any of the learned divines of the Synod, to put what ever construction he pleases upon the inspired word of God: If these reverend gentlemen, Dr. Briggs and Campbell, are conscientious (and no man has a right to doubt them on that point), then may not their judges be the heretics and they be perfectly right? If the Synod denies them the right of "liberty of conscience" and "private interpretation," then the first pillar of that sect comes to the ground. If we are predestined from the beginning to be born, to live a certain time, to perform certain acts and to die in a certain way and at a certain time, then Dr. Briggs could not help doing exactly what he did, he was only fulfilling that which he was predestined to accomplish, consequently the Synod is flying in the face of God, in condemning a man for that which he could not help. If the Synod will not accept that position, then the second pillar of their belief, predestination must fall. Both columns being shaken the whole edifice must crumble.

LAST WEEK a correspondent in the Daily Witness called the attention of the authorities to the number of tramps and strange characters that congregate at night in the vicinity of Fletcher's field, and make forays upon the back yards and kitchens of the Park Avenue residences and the private dwellings in the neighboring streets. In case the letter above referred to has not been seriously considered by the police authorities we desire to emphasize the remarks of the writer. We are aware that it is very unsafe for people residing in that locality to leave their houses, even for half an hour, in the evenings; it is dangerous for ladies living alone in the tenements; it is uncomfortable for every person inhabiting that part of the city. You never—or hardly ever see a policeman up there; above all after sunset they are as scarce as eagles, and the

tramps are as numerous as flies. When the morning papers will have reported some Borden or Edy tragedy in that section of Montreal, perhaps the city authorities will commence to look into the matter.

THE DAILY PRESS, during the past ten days, has furnished the reading public with most elaborate and detailed accounts of the Borden trial and the Edy triple murder. These two cases are most mysterious and most horrible; in fact scarcely ever has this country been shocked by such a barbaric deed as that of Beach Ridge, and perhaps never before was there a more puzzling case than that of Lizzie Borden. The reading of all the details in these cases may be exceedingly interesting and very sensational, but we doubt if it is conducive to a better state of mind or a greater sense of security and happiness. We really believe, as in the Edy case, that the ends of justice are defeated by an absence of systematic work and by an over-eagerness, on the part of enterprising journalists, to send broad-cast over the country every petty detail of the movements made by those occupied in the work of detection. There is something so shocking in deeds like those referred to that the mere recital of the circumstances surrounding them makes one shudder. It is wonderful how brutal human nature can become and how little above the ferocious beast is the one whose passions are ungoverned. In crimes like these we can easily perceive the absence of religious training and dire effects of indifference, irreligion, socialism and license.

In connection with our editorial on "Rum in India," we think that the following, from the Liverpool Catholic Times, will prove interesting.

In a Blue-book issued lately on the "labour traffic" between Kanaka and Queensland, the Government agent gives a very different account of the conduct of the Protestant missionaries from what one hears at Exeter Hall. He says in effect that in my case the agents of the Protestant propaganda are not so much missionaries as traders; and that they deal, not in useful articles, but in those goods which only a man of questionable moral character would supply to natives—arms, ammunition, and strong drink. We should not have dreamt of repeating this grave charge against the ministers of a rival creed if it had been established by an official report. At one mission store the writer of the Report found not Bibles and hymn-books, but a case of gin, several cases of beer, two large bags of shot, and eight boxes of percussion rifles! This is tolerably plain evidence of the real character of these so-called missionaries. Needless to say, no such goods were found on the premises of Catholic priests; indeed no better testimony to the purity and zeal of the Catholic, as contrasted with the Protestant missionaries could be found, than that which appears in this report of the agent of a Protestant Government. Of course the friends of the missionaries in this country have only one answer—that the author of the report is not to be believed but what object he could have in inventing these statements it would be difficult to imagine.