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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

MATTERS do not appear to be going on very smoothly in Rome. The Jesuits, apparently in a state of alarm as to the continuance of their influence in the Papal Court, are said to have started a factious opposition to the visible embodiment of "infallibility." The consequence is, that the Pope has threatened the general of the order that he will expel certain members of it from Italy. The nest of parasites, we noticed some time ago as having been encouraged during the Pontificate of Pius the Ninth, have created a difficulty on the question of their being turned out of their comfortable berths. And further, the latest telegrams state that attempts are made, by those who wish to maintain the old order of things, to drive out Father Pecci, the Pope's brother, from the Vatican. It is felt that they have quite as much as they can do to manage the Pope, without any interference from his brother.

In connection with the large assembly of Bishops in the mother country, a very important and interesting missionary conference was held in St. James' Hall, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair. Many of the Bishops from all parts of the world were present. The only non-episcopal speaker was Mr. Winter, of Delhi, who read a paper by his wife on Zenana work. According to Mrs. Winter, the greatest mischief is done by the mistaken meddling of "Ladies' Committees" at home, and she shows that one result of mission work on Puritan and Plymouth principles is sending their converts over wholesale to the sects or "denominations." The Bishop of Barbadoes and the Windward Islands gave a melancholy picture of the West Indian churches, which are undergoing disestablishment and disendowment. They have almost lost the sympathy of Churchmen at home, and, moreover, have most unsatisfactory material to work upon. The negro seems to combine the maximum of religiosity, or religious excitement, with the minimum of religious principle. He appears

to see no incongruity between rapturous devotion on the Lord's Day at church, and lying, pilfering, and impurity elsewhere. Archbishop Tait made a characteristic speech. He seemed startled by the papers of Bishop Milne and Bloemfontein, and indicated that, while the experiments of young missionaries and young bishops might be good, he put his trust in the restraining influences of the Church at home. Archbishop Thompson appeared shocked at the suggestion of the Bishops of Adelaide and Ontario that emigrants took out with them Church-and-State principles, which made them think they ought not to be asked to pay for their religion. He seemed to hint something of a doubt whether our emigrants had any religion to pay for. A number of remarkable addresses were made, which we hope to be able to give on a future occasion.

The "spirit of the age" is showing itself in the Free Kirk of Scotland. The Presbytery of Edinburgh spent three hours, a little while ago, discussing a motion to deal with D. Walter C. Smith, of the Free High Kirk, for holding a prayer meeting in his meeting house on Christmas day, interspersed with a few hymns appropriate to the occasion. Grave fears were expressed that this was a distinct approach to "Ritualism," and would lead to further "prelatical and popish innovations!" Dr. Begg characterized Christmas day as a Romish fable; for it was, he said, utter nonsense to believe that Christ was born on the 25th of December! The Presbytery, by 14 votes to 6, refused to condemn the minister.

The English papers give an account of the ordination of a Congregationalist minister of some standing into the English Church, in the town of Legh, Diocese of Manchester. And more recently they record that a Mr. W. Impey, who has labored for forty years in South Eastern Africa, and for some years has been the superintendent of about sixty flourishing Wesleyan Mission Stations, returned a few weeks since to England, and has sent in his resignation to the Wesleyan Conference, with a view to ordination in the Church of England. The more intelligent Non-conformist ministers, becoming convinced of the utter want of validity in the pretended ordinations among separatists, continue to press into the ranks of the clergy in considerable numbers. The Bishop of Rochester ordained Professor Wells, formerly of the Congregational College, at Cheshunt, and Mr. Thomas G. Wilson, another ex-Dissenting Minister, on Trinity Sunday last. It is said also that several students now in the Lincoln College, came from the ranks of the Wesleyans.

But little is known as yet of the proceedings of the Pan-Anglican Synod. The first session took place in the Library at Lambeth, none but bishops being present, except Dr. Isambard Brunel, the Chancellor of Ely,

the lay secretary, as the Bishops of Gloucester and Bristol and Edinburgh are the episcopal secretaries, and the short hand writers. It is stated that the Archbishop in his opening address urged the importance of letting the great question of promoting Gospel truth, in face of prevalent infidelity and ignorance, stand foremost, rather than the comparatively small questions of Church government and details of organization and order, which must of necessity vary in different lands. The subject first selected was, "The best mode of maintaining Union among the various Churches of the Anglican Communion." Speeches on the subject were made by the Archbishop of York, Bishop Perry of Iowa, Bishop Perry, late of Melbourne, and the Bishops of Pittsburg, Albany, Adelaide, Louisiana, Barbadoes, Dunedin, and Peterborough. The subject was referred to a committee.

It is remarked that, whereas the Bishops of Chester and Sodor and Man, were the only Bishops of the northern province present in 1867, Bishop Baring is the only absentee this year. The following retired Bishops have not been invited, as holding no direct episcopal commission: Bishops Abraham, Anderson, Chapman, Beckles, Staley, Tuffnell, Alford, Mackenzie, and Jenner. Dr. Colenso was not invited, nor has he attempted to present himself.

The Berlin Treaty has not given universal satisfaction. The French are jealous of the increase of British influence in the Mediterranean, which the Italians also do not much admire. And more than that, Her Most Gracious Majesty's loyal and faithful opposition in England do not entirely approve of the enlarged indefinite responsibilities thrown upon the country. But—given the respective positions of the several parties concerned, and we would ask, What more satisfactory arrangement could have been made? Perhaps the coming debate on Lord Hartington's resolution, will bring out some better proposals: until then, we opine the Treaty is upon the whole as satisfactory as it could have been made. Some would have given more territory to Greece; but she cannot keep banditti out of the small tract of land she has at present. We would rather Bessarabia should not have been given back to Russia; but on the other hand we hardly expected the Earl of Beaconsfield to consent to giving so much self-government to the Christian provinces of Turkey. The dash as well as the judicious union of stern firmness and the necessary amount of concession has done much to condone past mistakes. The occupation of Cyprus by the British has already taken place and will be a great blessing to that Island. Advantage will no doubt be taken of the increased facilities that will be afforded for conducting important archaeological investigations there.