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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE death is announced of Hannes Arnason, Professor of Philosophy at the Theological School of Iceland. He has left 30,000 crowns for granting stipends to theologians who wish to study philosophy abroad, especially in Germany.

THE French missionaries in Basutoland have promised to send as a delegate to the General Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia one of their number who has been labouring twenty years in Africa, and who is about to visit England to superintend the printing of the Bible in the Basuto language. This noble band of missionaries have done excellent work in South Africa, and are about to begin a mission among the Barotse, near the head waters of the Zambesi.

THE American Missionary Association has published its thirty-third annual report. One good feature which it has to mention this time is its freedom from debt. The total income of the year was \$215,431, nearly \$20,000 more than that of the previous year. The Association labours among the negroes of the Southern States and Africa, and is controlled by the Congregationalists. The churches under its care are sixty-seven with a membership of 4,600. Its academies and schools are numerous, and they do a good, thorough work.

THE general results of the Greek census of last year have been published. The total population of Greece is now 1,679,000 souls, against 1,457,000 in 1870. The increase per annum has accordingly been 1.69 per cent. From 1860 to 1870 the annual increase was 1 per cent. The official report draws the conclusion from these figures that national prosperity is augmenting, but it is very probable that the later census was more thorough than its predecessor, and that in an eastern country like Greece greater familiarity with a western administration has rendered the taking of the census easier, and therefore, more complete.

A STORY is told in Rome as to the cunning of the Jesuits in connection with the new Vatican paper, the "Aurora." The Pope was anxious to establish a paper directly representing his views, and while the matter was being discussed a gentleman came to certain cardinals with references, large funds, and an offer to take the business management of the paper, promising that it should represent the views of the Pope. His offer was accepted, and the paper appeared; but it soon began to advocate opinions opposed to those of the Pope, who was compelled to disavow connection with it. It is now said that the Jesuits were anxious to start a newspaper, and as they knew they could not get the consent of the Pope took this means of making the Pope's intended paper their own.

FATHER McNAMARA, the recent disturber of the peace of the Romish Church, explains how many priests of the communion he has left "lump" their masses. An "intention" in the Church of Rome means the purpose for which any person requests a mass to be said and pays for it; and a law of the Church is that no mass shall be said unless its specific "intention" be in the mind of the officiating priest at the time. But Father McNamara declares that the practice is quite common for a priest to receive the money for one hundred intentions, and then to clear them all off with a single mass. He says no political schemers come near the Roman Catholic priesthood in the wholesale character of their dodges. The deception of saying one mass for a hundred or so was exposed in Germany several years ago.

CHRISTIANS have a difficult position to maintain in California. There are, in all only 30,000 members of Protestant denominations and the entire native-born American population amounts to only 250,000. There are 75,000 Irish, nearly all of whom are Romanists; 29,000 Germans, four-fifths of whom recognize no

church connections (and who, with other foreigners, violate the Sabbath with parades and beer-garden festivities); 7,000 Spaniards, Italians and Portuguese; 8,000 French; 9,000 Mexicans, who are Romanists or Materialists; 100,000 Chinese, etc. In all there are some 475,000 foreigners, and of the 250,000 native Americans mentioned, probably one-half have one or both parents of European birth. We get these figures from the "Catholic Presbyterian." Of the Chinese, 900 are members of Christian churches.

MUCH has been said of late about changes in Palestine and the immigration of the Jews in large numbers. Mr. F. S. De Haas, late United States Consul at Jerusalem, writes in regard to these statements: "The facts are, there is not a railroad in all Palestine. There is not an American missionary in the Holy Land nor a Sunday school. But one Protestant church in Jerusalem, another outside of the walls, and one at Nazareth. The Jewish population has increased during the last few years, but the population of the country has more rapidly decreased. The Jews have no intention of re-occupying the land. They go there to die, not to live. No Jew around Jerusalem owns or cultivates an acre of ground. The Jews of Europe and America will never return to Palestine, unless forced back at the point of the bayonet."

THE English Baptist missionaries in India have united in a stirring appeal to the churches at home for re-inforcements. They speak very candidly of the present condition of their work. "Owing," they say, "mainly to the fewness of eligible candidates for missionary work in India during the last few years, the mission has sunk into a very enfeebled state." They shew how insufficient is the force at the various stations, there being, for example, but two missionaries in Calcutta, the great metropolis, and but one aged brother in Benares. There are also vast country districts with from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 population, without a single preacher. The missionaries appeal for help, in view of the vacant places in the stations and of the advanced intellectual, social and moral condition of large bodies of natives who are in a state of mind highly favourable to the reception of the Gospel.

WE have all read of Dr. John Hall's witty remark in his lecture on "A Thriving Congregation." When ridiculing the current ways of paying church expenses, he pictured "the walls of Jerusalem placarded with announcements that a sacred concert would be given under the auspices of King Rehoboam, the proceeds to be devoted to paying off the debt of the temple." The "Congregationalist" repeats the witticism of Dr. Hall, and the "Evening Post" has the further supposition of the temple at Jerusalem being "knocked down to the highest bidder by the auctioneer's hammer at a foreclosure sale," and adds: "These side-lights in skilful hands do sometimes help us to see things very clearly; but who supposes they would actually have sold the Lord's house when the high priest could have sent out easily for some ancient circus rider to fill the pews and 'lift' the debt."—*United Presbyterian.*

AMERICAN missionaries in Persia are interfered with by missionaries of "S.P.G."—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, supported by the Anglican hierarchy. The same ill-judged and injurious policy of interference is pursued towards Madagascar Churches. The fine missionary work in the Island, one of the most marvellous works done in modern times, was done by Congregational missionaries in the service of the London Missionary Society. They were the real authors of the wonderful change wrought among the people, and they have been respected as such by all Christian bodies. So the field was largely given to them, until a bishop of England, ordained by the Scotch bishops, was sent out, who was called then the Bishop for Madagascar, but is now billeted as "Lord Bishop of Madagascar," and is asking for money in England to build a cathedral in the capital of Madagascar. And yet there are

eight hundred millions of heathens who have not heard the gospel.

A FRENCH exploring expedition has arrived at Cairo, Egypt. The first steps have been taken toward establishing wayside stations for travellers at Onsagara, a mountainous country to the north of the Roubeho Hills, leading out of the desert of Bitter Water. They are the idea of the French Committee of the International African Association, who desire that travellers may have some place to recruit their caravans, engage porters, seek information about the locality, and it is hoped that in a little time they will be self-sustaining, and will so far clear the roads of robbers and marauders as to give a new impetus to African exploration. The German Committee of the same Association is also building a station between Zanzibar and Lake Tanganyika. Many of the transport difficulties which Speke, Grant, and Stanley encountered will thus be obviated, and substantial assistance will be rendered to the second Belgian expedition, which is now on the march under the leadership of M. Poplin.

WE find the following statistics in the English "Methodist Recorder." In France, Protestantism is numerically weak, the total number of Protestants being but 650,000—namely, 560,000 Reformed, 80,000 Lutheran, 10,000 belonging to other bodies. Rationalism is a further weakening element. The constitution of the present French Cabinet, however, is sufficient to shew that mere numbers do not adequately represent the influence of French Protestantism. The scholarship and ability of its ministers have always stood high, and names like Pressensé and Bersier continue the tradition. In German Austria Protestants number about 367,000—namely 249,000 Lutheran and 118,000 Reformed, being two per cent. of the population. In the Hungarian dominions they form twenty per cent. of the population—viz.: 2,000,000 Reformed, and 1,100,000 Lutheran. Through the organization of the Gustavus-Adolphus Union and the British and Foreign Society, Vienna is the centre of a multifarious evangelical activity. In Germany, where Rationalism was once as dominant as at present in Switzerland, evangelical faith has decidedly the mastery in the pulpit and university.

THE Jesuits seem determined to maintain their well established character for meddlesomeness in the political affairs of the countries in which they are tolerated, and it also appears as if they were destined to experience much the same treatment as they met with in bygone days. By their opposition to the 7th clause of the French Education Bill and its rejection, through their influence by the Senate, they are beginning to find France too hot for them, so that they are already preparing, if necessary, for a flight from that country to Spain. They were expelled from Spain in 1767 on account of treasonable writings discovered in one of their colleges. They were again tolerated in that country and were again expelled, to be restored again in 1874. We are afraid their troubles, even in that priest-ridden land, are not yet at an end, for the Ethiopian will sooner change his skin and the leopard his spots than the Jesuit will cease to conspire against every Government and every system that do not help forward his cause. It is long since it was said by them "Let us be as we are, or let us cease to be." Modern Governments are less and less inclined to adopt the former idea, and will more and more turn to the latter as the true solution of the difficulty. In the meantime it is well that the Jesuits have so far provoked the ruling powers in France as to lead to the question of their expulsion being seriously discussed. It is possible that by-and-by there may be another and final clause added to the celebrated description of this redoubtable fraternity: "They come in like lambs, to ravine like wolves, to be driven out like dogs, and to return like flying eagles." Freedom in its proper sense is one thing, freedom to conspire against free thought and free Governments, with impunity, is something quite different. Dealers in treason must not be surprised if they meet with the traitor's fate.