

BULGARIA has at last secured an occupant for her vacant throne. Prince Alexander had more than enough of royalty and declined to offer for re-election. The Sobranje has decided upon Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a relative of Albert the Good. He has indicated his willingness to accept the doubtful honour of nominally guiding the destinies of the Bulgarian people. Russia may be expected to be friendly or hostile to the new ruler, as it may best suit her purposes. The Bulgarian throne is lacking in stability.

SEVERAL years since a believer in spiritualism, Mr. Henry Seybert, offered \$60,000 to found a philosophical chair in Pennsylvania University, on condition that the Faculty should appoint a commission to investigate alleged spiritualistic facts. The commission, composed of competent scientific men, have completed their investigation, and published the results. They are not flattering to believers in the spiritualistic delusion. Slate-writing, "spiritual" photography, summoning limbs from the spirit world, rapping, etc., were demonstrated to be deceptions of the most palpable description. The day of the spiritualistic fraud is over.

SYMPATHY is usually extended to those overwhelmed with misfortune, especially if disaster has overtaken a man who fairly and honestly tried to achieve success, but failed. There are some, however, who make visible success the sole criterion of merit. If a man prospers, they pay court to him; if he recedes on an adverse billow of misfortune, they neglect and despise him. Jacob Sharp, the notorious but wealthy New York schemer, has been found out in his villanies, and a pitiable spectacle he presents. He has amassed millions, but in his old age he has been discovered and disgraced. It almost appears that the worldly-wise maxim, "honesty is the best policy," may again come to be believed.

THE *Christian Leader* states that there is a ladies' society in Victoria for the rescue of men from the public houses. They visit them in companies of three, two gentlemen accompanying them, but waiting outside. Their method is to distribute tracts, and persuade the customers to leave the house. One Boniface, however, refused a Mrs. Dowie entrance, whereupon her husband came up and demanded refreshments for them both, which the publican was bound to supply. He also informed him that next Saturday twenty ladies would require tea in the evening. They came and drank their tea; they also sang temperance songs, and carried off a good portion of the customers. To all this the publican was obliged to submit. He is thus planted between two horns; he must either let ladies in to sweep away his custom, or he must pay a fine of \$50 for every refusal—say \$1,200 for a party. Rather hard this on a rotund Boniface.

THE *British Weekly* is of opinion that the French Government ought at once to recall the Governor of New Caledonia. The good name of France as a civilized power is losing what little fragrance it had in the Southern Hemisphere after the Madagascar business, and Romanism is showing itself as ready as ever to employ the coarsest means for the smallest triumph. We might have expected that the natives of the Loyalty Islands would be left to hold any religious faith so long as they did not hinder the expansion of the great French Republic. We might also have expected a friendly Government to pay all due honour to the work of the London Missionary Society. But Mr. Jones, who has given a lifetime to the people of Maré and neighbouring islands, is obliged to report the practical cessation of his work, and the brutal persecution of the native Christians. One and another officer sent with an armed force to suppress what was called a revolt, that is to say, the assertion of religious freedom, refused to do the Governor's bidding; but the Governor is still in power, and many innocent persons are suffering imprisonment and exile. All the native churches are closed.

RECENTLY, a largely attended "At Home" Jubilee missionary meeting was held in the Granite Rink, Toronto. The various Evangelical Churches in the city were well represented in the large building, and those prominent in the ministry of the respective denominations occupied places on the platform. The Mayor, W. H. Howland, presided, and gave the opening address. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Thomas and Rev. John Burton. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. Dr. Kellogg, Dr. Castle, Professor Clark, Dr. Potts and Hugh Johnston. The Massey band were stationed in the gallery, and discoursed sweet music. Mrs. Bradley sang a solo, and subsequently gave as a solo and quartette "Go Teach All Nations" in which Mrs. Shaver, Messrs. Sims and S. T. Martin took part. The rink was resplendent in profuse Jubilee decorations. Refreshments were served after the addresses. As a whole, the meeting was a great success, but it must be confessed that the Granite Rink on a warm summer night is not a favourable place for speech-making. Those seated well back in the audience had great difficulty in hearing the addresses. When all was still, a sentence, or part of a sentence, could be caught, but continuous hearing was impossible. It could be clearly ascertained that the speakers were addressing the audience in English, that was about all. The footfalls, and they were frequent, on the resounding floor, did not help the acoustics. Subdued conversation individually very quiet, but collectively forming a very audible hum, made it difficult to catch the speakers' words. They spoke distinctly and with animation, but for quite a few they evidently spoke in vain.