

NOTES.

Respect for the doctrine of the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff does not seem to grow much with the years, even in the Eternal City. A late cable despatch states that: "The Pope, in an address to a company of Italian pilgrims, said that the deplorable state of affairs placed before him the alternative of enduring continual captivity, made harder daily, or of going into exile. He therefore asked Catholics to watch and pray for the liberty and independence of the Pope. He concluded by saying that he was no longer secure in his palace; that he was outraged in his person and dignity in a thousand ways. He closed his address with his arms raised to Heaven, as though imploring help. When the pilgrims left the church, the mob pelted them with stones and shouted, Down with the Vatican!"

The religious weeklies have been exercised for some time over the late trial of Dr. Thomas at Chicago, by a committee of the Methodist Episcopal Conference, and his consequent suspension from the office of the ministry. Among the charges for which he was condemned was that of holding loose views in regard to the eternal punishment of impenitent sinners, and the decision of his judges sets forth the important truth that in such weighty questions men must not permit themselves to be led by mere sentiment or feeling, but by the express declarations of revealed truth. At first thought the human mind almost instinctively shrinks from the contemplation of eternal punishment, and yet, on sober reflection, where is there, or how can there be any escape? A gifted writer once exclaimed: "Men say they cannot believe in eternal punishment. My trouble is to believe in pardon. I see man free and responsible. I see the fact of sin and the law of righteousness. A law is a law. It must take its course. How can a man escape its operation? What is there to exempt him in the fact that he is a free agent? Sin and punishment are to me the only certainties. I know nothing of pardon and cannot believe in it." This is the language of reason as well as of philosophy, and when men ignore the provision God has made for the pardon of sin, and deliberately refuse the offers of mercy, then there is surely for them nothing but "a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation."

The apathy of the general government of the United States in regard to the Mormon question seems altogether incomprehensible. Year by year Mormon missionaries with hundreds of their deluded victims are landed at the port of New York *en route* for the West, thus openly defying Christian sentiment and Christian law, while there is no hand raised to stop the nefarious traffic, or remove the cankerous ulcer from the Western plains. That the claims of Mormonism to be a religious system should exempt it from the justly merited penalties of criminal law, is not only absurd but monstrous. Crime perpetrated in the name