

NOTES.

Mr. H. Rassam, a recent explorer of the ruins of ancient Babylon sets forth a fact which ought to be widely circulated, inasmuch as it is well calculated to strengthen the belief of God's people in the inspiration, and consequently the authority of the Scriptures as the only infallible rule of faith and practice. He says, "There is one fact connected with the destruction of Babylon and the marvelous fulfilment of prophecy which struck me more than anything else, which fact seems never to have been noticed by any traveler, and that is the non-existence in the several modern buildings in the neighborhood of Babylon of any sign of stone which had been dug up from its ancient ruins, because it seems that, in digging for old materials, the Arabs used the bricks for building purposes but always burnt the stone thus discovered for lime, which fact wonderfully fulfills the divine words of Jeremiah—namely: 'And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations forever, saith the Lord.'" (ch. li. 27.)

There is perhaps no country to-day to which the lovers of civil and religious liberty look with such peculiar interest as to republican France. Wielding such an immense influence in the past, in the political affairs of Europe, what might we not expect from her, if she should become truly Christian. Had the men and money lost on but one of her famous campaigns during the early part of the present century been devoted to the extension of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, how different might have been the condition of the old world to-day. Yet from present indications there would seem to be at no very distant day a bright future in store for her. A late incident occurring there would seem to point in that direction. A soldier among the number detailed to escort the procession of the Corpus Christie festival of the Roman Church notified his superior officer that owing to conscientious scruples he was unable to perform the service in the form usually demanded on such occasions. The officer however made no reply, so that when the time arrived the soldier, being a Protestant, was in his place, when the following scene took place: "At the first benediction [of the host] the chief of the escort commanded the soldiers to kneel. Corporal Taquet felt his Protestant conscience revolting and remained standing. When his attention was called to it, he answered politely, 'I am a Protestant, I do not kneel because my religion expressly forbids me to do so.' The same scene being repeated the captain commanding the escort was notified. That officer felt himself under the necessity of inflicting punishment as follows: 'Taquet, corporal, four days in prison, on the order of Captain X, commanding the escort to the holy sacrament on the *Fete-Dieu*, on account of his refusal to obey the command to kneel under pretext that it was contrary to his conscience.'"

At Auxonne, on the same day another Protestant officer was imprisoned for a similar offence. The old adage, that "a straw best shows how the wind blows" we think applies here. It speaks well for the