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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

IT is remarkable that Pope Leo, the second Pope since Infallibility was pronounced, has not yet made an *ex cathedra* utterance of doctrine. He is wary and wise.

THE opposition lately raised in Calcutta to the preaching of missionaries in the streets has been withdrawn, on conditions that are acceptable to both parties. The opposition was ill advised from the first, as is now generally felt.

THE United Presbyterian Presbytery of Berwick have unanimously recommended that the several brethren of the Presbytery should draw the attention of their congregations to the excellencies of the Revised Version of the New Testament as often and in such wise as they may deem most profitable.

A CHINESE hospital has been opened at Hankow, which, though wholly under native management and support, is conducted on Christian principles, and religious services are daily held in it. It was organized by the chief native assistant of the hospital under the care of the London Missionary Society.

THE Rev. R. S. Scott, D.D., Home Mission Secretary of the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland, has been presented by fifty-nine of his friends and admirers with the handsome sum of £3,560, or very nearly \$18,000, as a token of friendship and as an expression of their estimate of the value of his labours to the Church.

ITALY is in a dilemma about the Pope. He is not a ruler, not a subject, not an ally, and yet he is a very troublesome resident. When the temporal power was finally wrested from him, the Government settled upon him an annuity of \$645,000. That was in 1871. Not a dollar of that has he ever accepted. Just now one political party claims that the whole sum has been forfeited; another party, the Monarchists, in order to beat their opponents, are anxious to conciliate the Pope. One thing, we think, is certain—he will never leave Rome.

THE Irish question has now reached a crisis, and authority and anarchy are in a determined death wrestle, with the chances all in favour of the former. Never was there a British minister so thoroughly anxious as Mr. Gladstone to do the right and fair thing by Ireland, and never, therefore, was it so much the bounden duty of any one before him to shew that well-regulated liberty is one thing, and wild defiant lawlessness quite another. The most of the Land League leaders are under arrest, and the League itself is to be broken up. The foolish rant about the British Government being as bad as the Russian is too absurd for serious answer.

THE Universities' Mission to Central Africa, which was first undertaken in 1860 through the influence of Dr. Livingstone, and afterward suspended, has entered upon a very hopeful career. Bishop Steere has now a well-equipped staff of thirty-one European missionaries, of whom seven are ladies. He already understands the language of the tribes among whom he labours. The present work of the mission is threefold: First, that on the island of Zanzibar, which is now of a comprehensive character, including many agencies; secondly, the work at Magila and its surroundings, some forty miles from Pangani, on the mainland to the north of Zanzibar; and, thirdly, the missions on the mainland to the south, in the Roman district.

THE Church of Scotland, according to the October number of the "Record," has nineteen European missionaries in India, all of whom are doing good successful work. In Calcutta there is an educational institution with 500 students, and 700 in the school department. The native church there has sixty communicants, with fifty-one adherents. In the Madras

institution there are 600 students, and the native church has 100 communicants and seventy adherents. In Bombay the institution has 370 scholars, and the native church 16 communicants. In the Punjab, at the different stations, as many as 1,190 boys and forty-two girls are under instruction, with a native church with thirty-eight members. The other stations are equally promising. In Africa there are two stations, viz., Blantyre and Zomba. In China there are three missionaries, all at Ichang. The interest in the work is spreading in the home church, and the contributions are consequently increasing.

IN the colony of New South Wales are 300,000 acres of land, yielding an annual revenue of £10,000, constituting an estate originally granted by King George IV. to provide funds for religious and educational purposes. Although the colony has long since adopted a policy opposed to State aid to religion, ecclesiastical influences have been too powerful, or the friends of voluntarism too apathetic, to allow of the necessary steps being taken to put an end to the anomaly. The Rev. J. Jeffries, LL.B., of Sydney, having aroused public attention to the matter, a Bill, introduced by Sir Henry Parkes, passed through both houses of the Colonial Legislature, declaring these lands waste lands of the Crown; and information is just to hand that the Royal assent has been given to the measure, which is entitled the "Church and School Lands Dedication Bill." The revenue arising from these lands will henceforth be used solely for educational purposes.

INTERESTING facts in the report of the Punjab and Singh Missions of the Church Missionary Society for 1880 are: The total of adult Christians in these missions is 730, and of children 697. The communicants are 418. Fifty-seven adults were baptized last year, and the native Christians contributed 2,308 rupees, or about \$1,500, for religious and charitable purposes, or \$1.80 for each adult. At Kafirah they contributed nine rupees, or over five dollars apiece. There are only four native Christians in Kashmir, where three missionaries are at work; but 7,071 patients were seen, and 922 in-patients were cared for in the hospital. Great obstacles are encountered in this state, the most formidable of which are the nominal Christians, who come to Kashmir "merely to abandon themselves to the worst vices from which Christ came to deliver." On the extreme frontier (a hard field) there are sixty-seven native Christians, including children and the persons employed in the missions.

It is said that Mr. Gladstone has telegraphed to the Boer leaders that they must either take the terms of the convention pure and simple or—war. We hope this statement correctly represents the facts of the case, and, if it does, that the Cabinet will adhere to its resolution. The Boers especially kick against the provision which gives the British authorities power to see that the natives get something like fair play. Any one that knew anything of the past history of these Boers could have told long ago that this was the point about which they were most sensitive. They have been a kidnapping, slave-making and slave holding people since ever they had an existence, and they rebel against the idea of any power coming, or having the right to come, between them and their victims. They have murdered the parents and enslaved the children of the native tribes, and they want to do so till the end of the chapter. They expelled the missionaries of the London Society because they protested against their oppressively cruel ways, and they do not wish to have any British Resident to see what they are about, or to have a right to ask "What dost thou?"

FROM a statement in the October number of the Scottish United Presbyterian "Missionary Record," we learn that the foreign missions of that Church are in a very encouraging condition. That in Rajpootana, founded twenty-one years ago, has a membership of 360, and 3,375 young persons are receiving a

Christian education in its schools. In the course of a single year as many as 85,253 patients had been attended to in the dispensaries, to very many of whom the word of life was spoken at the same time. In Northern China there are 111 members, and a translation of the New Testament into the language of Corea has been prepared. In Japan also the work is being hopefully prosecuted. In the older fields of missionary labour the prospects are also encouraging. In Jamaica the mission has grown to a fully organized Church, with its Synod, Presbyteries, Divinity Hall and Mission Board. The membership there now stands at 7,186, with nearly 10,000 persons regularly attending public worship. Good progress is being made by the congregations towards self-support. In Old Calabar the mission has been slowly but surely growing in the land as a power for good. The mission funds are also coming in liberally, the excess for the first eight months of 1881 over the corresponding period of 1880 being £1,715 5s. 10d., all tokens for good.

THE Rev. Narayan Sheshadri, writing from Poona under date of 8th August, gives some interesting details of his evangelistic tour round the world. He was about a year absent, and of course preached wherever he went. The last place in which he resided before leaving Europe was Brindisi. He mentions a curious and suggestive reason for the only religious Sabbath service in the new "Chinese Evangelical," being at eight p.m., viz., that most of those who attend are working men, and as they have to work all the Sabbath they can only come in the evening. "There is," says Mr. Sheshadri, "no Sabbath on the continent of Europe. No wonder there is such a deal of misery. When will the Church learn the 67th Psalm, and get blessings drawn upon herself?" We on this continent are going as fast as we can in the same direction. The coarse, crass, exacting Mammonism of the day is continually becoming to much more intrusive and intolerant of anything that seems to interfere with its money-making, that it would not be at all surprising if by-and-by, even in Canada, working men will be able to attend church only on Sabbath evenings when their regular ordinary day's work is over. Already, in New York and other American cities, bricklayers and others may be seen at work on Sabbaths. Our railway employees are gradually being deprived of part of their weekly day of rest, and if preventive measures are not applied it will soon all be gone.

THE murderer of President Garfield (quitting his place of confinement in a carriage) was arraigned in Washington on Friday, the 14th inst., and the trial set down for November 7th. There were no open demonstrations of feeling against him. Guiteau was very seedy and unkempt in appearance, and heard the indictment read with a listless air, although his great fear of violence rendered him at times almost helpless, and withal an abject and pitiable object. When called on to plead, the prisoner fumbled in his waistcoat pocket and drew out a soiled scrap of paper. The District Attorney (imperatively): "Enter your plea of 'guilty' or 'not guilty.'" The prisoner: "I enter a plea of 'not guilty,' if your Honour please, and I desire to make a statement." But the Judge said that a statement from him at that time would not be appropriate, and directed him to sit down. The District Attorney then asked that the trial be set down for Monday morning. Mr. Scoville (the prisoner's brother-in-law and counsel) asked a postponement, and read an affidavit by Guiteau stating that there were witnesses without whose testimony he could not safely proceed to trial; that he is too poor to pay the expenses, and asked that they be summoned at Government expense. Mr. Scoville also made affidavit stating that besides the points of law that may be made the defence will consist of two points: First, the insanity of the defendant; and second, that the wound was not necessarily mortal and was not the cause of President Garfield's death. He says that Guiteau's father, an uncle, and two cousins were insane.