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EDITORIAL NOTES.

SOME months ago we wrote a very forcible editorial upon the Jews in which we condemned, in no measured terms, the unjustifiable persecution to which they are being subjected in Russia. We did not at that moment foresee that our plea for the Jews would soon apply to our own people and that Catholics would become the objects of similar tyrannical treatment at the hands of the semi-barbaric government of the land of the Czar. The world has read of late the accounts given of the cruel treatment of Catholic working people, and the manner in which they have been ostracised in Russia. Above all in the railway departments the Catholics have been almost entirely cut out of all work and have been most unmercifully treated in other ways. In Russian Poland Catholic clergymen have been arrested without rhyme or reason. The priests are accused of the crime of having baptized the children of the Orthodox Church. General Gourka has "suppressed" the Catholic diocese of Klodno, in Volinia, and turned the Cathedral into a Russian Orthodox Church. It is evident that in Russia there is yet no room for the spirit of tolerance, either religious or national, and inevitably that land will yet be shaken by an earthquake that will bring ruin to its autocratic institutions. No wonder there are so many Nihilists and other dangerous socialistic organizations. Heaven help the people of that icy region!

THE Liverpool Catholic Times calls attention to three very striking facts. The cause of death in seventeen persons in London was recently noted officially by the Registrar-General as due to alcoholism. Bad enough this; but what would it be if the true cause of death were always unambiguously given? Drunkenness is declared by Colonel McHardy to form the great bulk of magisterial and prison work in Scotland; and in a recent lecture delivered in Edinburgh, Dr. Andrew Baxter said he has been in communication with the officials of fourteen of the largest poor-houses in the country, and they all joined in stating that drink was the cause of a great deal of pauperism. Now take a Swiss fact. Medical statistics show that fifty per cent. of the young men in Switzerland, who would otherwise be eligible for military service, are rendered unfit for that service owing to the marked physical deterioration produced in them by excessive drinking. Every country seems to have its alcohol problem; and Canada has one that must be solved.

A SHORT TIME ago the Star received a despatch from New York announcing the signing of articles for a prize-fight, and the first words of it seem to us so exact, so appropriate, that we cannot refrain from reproducing them. "If the announcement, officially made by the man known as Judge Newton, President of the Coney Island Athletic Club, can

be credited, two brute beasts, wearing the outer semblance of humanity, will, on December 18, belabor and disfigure each other for the edification of a select collection of 'sports.'" We find that this language exactly describes these characters. But we do not see that they are much more brutal than are the barbarians who encourage them and make money in the most dishonest and un-Christian of all ways, by betting upon the would-be murderers. As long as prize-fighting is permitted we need not be surprised at lynching and other similar outrages against human and divine law.

THE following extract from the Child's Guardian not only speaks for itself, but contains a lesson that may find practical application in our country:

"Judged by some of our correspondents' statements of their reasons for withdrawing their support, a Protestant scare has been produced by the generous support which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children receives from Catholics. Children are to be left in their mortal agony because Cardinal Vaughan is one of the society's trustees. Whatever may be the merits of such Protestantism, it is clear that it is not un-Christian alone—it is unjust and inhuman."

It is a strange fact that in almost every language of the world the name of God is spelled with four letters. The English seems to be about the only one in which three letters are used to express the Deity. In Arabian it is Alla; in East Indian, Zuel, or Esgi; in Egyptian, Zeut or Aumn; in French, Dieu; in Vaudois, Diou; in Tahitian, Atua; in Hebrew, Adon; in Irish, Dich; in Japanese, Zain; in Latin, Deus; in German, Gott; in Malagan, Eeal; in Persian, Syra; in Peruvian, Llan; in Tartaran, Tgan; in Turkish, Addi; in Scandinavian, Odin; in Spanish, Dios; in Swedish, Oodd; in Syriac, Adad; and in Wallachian, Sene.

WE learn that a priest of the diocese of Columbus has conceived the project of establishing in Florida a sanitarium for invalid and superannuated priests. "At present a priest who is sick and in need of a change of climate, knows not where to go, hesitates about hotels, and has not the means of going to other countries. The Ohio priest wishes to purchase a property in the Catholic colony of San Antonio, Pasco county, Florida, for the establishment of a home to be conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the planting of an orange grove to give pleasant occupation to the inmates of the institution, and to bring in an income for their support." We take this piece of information from one of our contemporaries. We hope sincerely that the project will be put into execution, as it is certainly a most timely and laudable one.

WILLIAM II. of Germany has taken a new fantasy. He wants great preparations for his coronation as Emperor in Berlin in December. The London Uni-

verse says: "We were under the impression that he was as much of an Emperor as he could be already. The French propose assembling Russian guests and French hosts in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles to drink to the Republic and the Czar and the coming alliance. But that will not wipe out the fact that the present German Monarch's grandfather was crowned Emperor there in January 1871." There are strange and unforeseen changes yearly taking place, and truly the map of Europe is not a fixture.

STRANGE are the contradictions in this world. When the present King of Wurtemberg dies the Catholic line will come into power. Now over two thirds of the people of Wurtemberg are Protestant. In Saxony, there are only 128,509 Catholics and about 337,850 Protestants, yet the reigning house is Catholic. On the other hand in Baden, where the three fourths of the population is Catholic, the ruling dynasty is Protestant. Bitter as is the struggle in Germany, and over the continent, between Catholic and Protestant principles, still there seems to be more tolerance, as far as rulers and legislators is concerned, than in our country. If we could only get rid of the spirit that is kept alive by the McCarthyite class of political men, we might yet see the day when a better and more truly patriotic sentiment would prevail in this land of freedom.

A CORRESPONDENT signing "Desire" asks us two questions, one regarding the free will of man and the other about the condemnation of secret societies. We will answer the first one, but as we do not quite understand exactly what is required by the second question, we would request "Desire" to repeat it for us in other words, explaining a little more fully what the point is upon which the writer desires an explanation. In the hurry of writing the short letter, evidently "Desire" has left out some words that, if present, would make the question clear. As to the first one it runs thus: "Has the Almighty, in giving free will to man, limited the same, that is, man goes so far and no further?" The Almighty gave man a free will, and accompanied that gift with the means whereby man can gain salvation. Man of course, is not bound by the chain of a destiny nor harnessed to a predestined fate; but having received that God-like liberty of a free-will, he is not forced to use it for either good or evil. He is placed in presence of two roads, he has the liberty of choice between them, but he has every inducement; every grace necessary to select and persevere in the right one. In one sense there is no limitation to that free will, inasmuch as God will not interfere with it, nor deprive man of the full enjoyment of that gift. But in another sense the will of man is necessarily limited, in as much as it is finite, and everything created being finite must necessarily have certain limits. God alone is infinite, and He alone is uncreated, uncreated by either time, space, or any

other limitation. "Thus far shalt thou go and no further" has been said of all created objects; of the sea, the tempest, the planets, man, the soul, philosophy, science and all human knowledge. Inside the circle of the finite the will of man is perfectly free and with its operations God in no way interferes. The will may decide for itself but the execution of its decision is impossible, if it soars beyond the limits of the finite. Man is perfectly at liberty to will the destruction of God, but he is powerless to execute that will; he may will universal knowledge, but before he can even commence the execution of his desire death steps in and prevents it; he may will all he pleases—and he is perfectly free to do so—but only inside the limits of the finite. Were it otherwise man would be infinite and equal to God. Yet had he not a free will, in his own sphere, he would be a mere creature of destiny, a slave to a certain fate, and not the image of his Creator and a being born to immortality.

IT seems to us that there is nothing so calculated to attract the Christian, to elevate his soul and to give an inspiration to his devotions than the altar of the Catholic Church. So unlike the cold, hollow, silent temples of Protestantism, where nothing speaks, where the eloquence of all things, animate and inanimate, is unknown. The Catholic Telegraph thus expresses itself on the subject:

"The altar before which a Catholic has spent many days from infancy to old age is inexpressibly dear. Before it Baptism was received; there the act of contrition was made before the first Confession; there the happiness of the first Communion was enjoyed; there the Holy Ghost was received in Confirmation; there the sacrament of Matrimony brought out the fullness of life in linking two hearts together; before it the blessed remains of loved ones have been laid to receive the final absolution; before it one's own lifeless body will come some day for the holy water and the incense preparatory to interment. So from the cradle to the grave, the soul's life of the Catholic is associated with the altar of the parish church."

CONGRESSMAN BRICKNER has proposed a joint resolution which was to be introduced lately in order to have it reach the President as soon as possible. The following is the text of the resolution and it speaks for itself:—

"Resolved, That the State of Wisconsin be and hereby is authorized and granted the privilege of placing in Statuary hall at the Capitol a statue of Pere Marquette, the faithful missionary and explorer, whose work among the Indians and explorations within the borders of said State are recognized over the civilized world."

The State of Wisconsin deserves great credit for this step. It is one certainly in a direction that deserves applause. The great and noble missionaries, who sowed the seeds of civilization and scattered the light of the Gospel in the days of America's infancy, deserve a recognition which has been too long withheld. Every move in the direction of honoring their memories should receive the marked and unanimous support of all Catholics.