

of the treasures of God's mercy and love have been poured into our souls. Hasten, then, oh! sinners, to the bosom of this Refuge of sinners, our common Mother."

Such is the intense hatred of the Roman Catholics in some parts of Ireland, that meetings for the relief of the Lancashire sufferers have been broken up by the people.—Dr. Moriarty, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kerry, however, and some of the priests have shown a noble spirit.

At the late annual meeting of the Dublin Young Men's Christian Association, Archbishop Whately, who presided, remarked, that "if any body had prophesied such a meeting as this thirty years ago, he would have been thought mad."

France.

Whilst the Roman Catholic Bishops and priests are making their usual amount of noise, the Protestants are working quietly. During the last few months six places of Protestant worship have been opened.—Good books are multiplying. Bungenier's *Life of Calvin*, and Bonnet's *Life of Oonio Paleiro*, both admirable popular books, are well received.

Professor St. Hilaire's Course of Lectures at the Sorbonne, on the History of the Jews from the Babylonish Captivity to the time of our Lord, opened with a large and sympathizing audience.

A Protestant Missionary has been sent to the French colony of Senegal (on the Western coast of Africa), under the auspices and at the request of the Protestant and Christian governor of that settlement.

The Lutheran Church (or Church of the Augsburg Confession) now has in Paris 15 pastors and assistant pastors, 9 places of worship, and 1800 children in its schools.

Spain.

There seems now to be little hope of procuring the deliverance of the excellent Matamoras, Alhama and their fellow-martyrs for the truth. Indeed, some of them are already at work in the galleys at Ceuta, a Spanish possession in Africa, opposite to Gibraltar. But all this persecution will be overruled for the extension of Christ's kingdom—a kingdom that has ever made progress by suffering.

Japan.

The Missionaries of the several Societies that are laboring, or rather preparing to labor, in this important Group of Islands, are diligently engaged in their work. Dr. Hepburn refers in his letters to the cruel assassination of a Mr. Richardson, an Englishman, and expresses the opinion that there are many signs of an approaching revolution, or disruption of society. The Tycoon is fast

losing the power and influence which he and his predecessors in office, during 262 years, have exercised. The Rev. Mr. Ballagh, (of the Reformed Dutch Church Mission) gives some striking delineations of the nature and extent of idolatry among the Japanese. Mr. Brown, of the same Mission, gives, in the February number of the *Missionary Recorder*, very valuable facts bearing on the probable future of these Islands.—All the Missionaries agree in the opinion, that the way of the Lord is preparing among the millions of the Japanese.

The Pope at Home.

• FLORENCE, Dec. 22, 1862.

The readers of the "World" may be interested in knowing something of the private life of the present Pope. Though in these days he is a very public character, and his reign is likely to mark an epoch in the history of politics and religion in Italy, and though as a public administrator he may have much to vex him, yet as an old bachelor at home, he evidently enjoys life, and has a "good time" generally.

It must be known as preliminary, that the private apartments of the Vatican are very beautiful and very rich, overloaded with gold and silk. There are, however, occasionally seen a few painted wooden chairs, very simple, not to say miserable souvenirs of the apostolical plainness of another age. The same may be said of the Quirinal, Castle Gandolfo, and all other pontifical residences.

The Pope usually rises at six o'clock in the morning; about seven he says mass in a chapel which joins his sleeping room.—The Cardinals and Roman Bishops generally have the same habit. At Rome, when a prelate rents a furnished apartment, he places in a closet a small portable altar, where he says mass. In many of the apartments now rented to strangers, the remains of these temporary altars and vestiges of these masses are found. The *valet-de-chambre* makes the responses on these occasions; for the Pope, this valet is a prelate, a priest or a deacon.

In the Vatican there are ten private *valets-de-chambre*—the most intimate are classed according to age, passing from the eldest to the youngest. Monsignors Stella, de Merode, Talbot (an Englishman) and Ricci, are the four persons always near him.—They keep him company, and amuse him, and make him laugh; which is not a difficult thing, for in private life Pius IX. is always laughing and happy.

At eight o'clock the "holy father" takes breakfast, which consists of coffee and some very simple accompaniments. At that time Monsignor Stella alone is present; he opens the correspondence, reads it or gives a summary of it. It is the most private moment