

THE
Home and Foreign Record

OF

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

An address of sympathy and cordial approbation has been presented to Prince Bismarck by leading British Protestants. The address approves of the German policy towards the Jesuits, and the attitude of Prince Bismarck towards Ultramontaniam. Among the subscribers are Marquises, Earls, Lords, Archbishops, Bishops, and representative members of all the Protestant Churches.—The struggle between the Empire and the Papacy continues. The Jesuits are to be driven out of the German Empire. The Emperors of Germany, Austria and Russia have sent a joint note to the Pope, advising him to break with the Jesuits.

The "Old Catholics" have held a congress within the past fortnight. English and Jansenist Bishops met with them. They are making marked progress, especially in Austria. The Jansenist Archbishop has gone among their congregations administering Confirmation. Father Hyacinthe has been married. This shows that, as a priest, he has finally broken with the Church of Rome.

There has been much written, to good purpose, we hope, about the Massacre on St. Bartholomew's Day, both in the British and American press. People are reminded of the ugly practical fact, that the Ultramontaniam of to-day endorses all the persecutions and atrocities of the Papacy in the past.

The religio-political movements in Continental Europe deserve to be watched with

the closest care. All over the Continent there is unrest,—there are outbreaks against old authority,—there is a groping after the new and the true; there is much that is hopeful mingled with much that is wild, revolutionary, almost appalling. The death of the present Pope, which cannot now be a long way off, will likely be the signal for outbreaks and efforts among contending factions and nations.

Dr. Livingstone is doing a great and noble work in Africa, opening to the light the vast central region which has hitherto been a blank to the Christian world. We may expect, in a year or two, that possession will be taken of the land in the name of Christ, and that it shall be opened up to civilization and commerce. Dr. Livingstone is the hardy pioneer in this glorious enterprise.

Wesleyan Methodism shows a decrease in its membership in England last year of 240—a small item on a list of 346,850; still it is a decrease. This is to be regretted in the present state of England, when evangelical religion runs so low in the Established Church.

The chief topic of discussion in the English Church is still the Athanasian Creed. The two Archbishops seem willing to give up the Creed; but the High Churchmen are wild at the thought of so doing, and threaten to leave the church in a body if the Creed is thrown aside, or if the Dam-natory clauses are got rid of. The Romanizing movement is going on with all its wonted force.

The British Presbyterian Churches are