

this consummation. For this or some other reason the English Government is putting her war departments in order. It is to be hoped that England will fight for Turkey no more. She is not worth fighting for. What business has a Christian nation to fight for the permanence of such a huge, foul, immoral and barbarous despotism as has for the 1260 years of prophecy settled down upon the beautiful lands of ancient Christian civilization, and killed the fairest regions of the earth? Our English statesmen are too traditional. Political maxims must change with the times. Thus trouble seems to have settled down like a cloud upon the nations, and who will say that the irreligion and selfishness and mammon-worship of our time do not demand a sharp remedy? Moral goodness has lost much of its power and attractions amid a coarse contest for gold, and among a people who regard poverty and simplicity as a reproach worse than death. The soul has been degraded, but now it is about to speak for itself and assert its paramount power and importance. Ideas are mightier than muskets, and faith shall have the victory.

And the Pope, too, has had his sensation. The Italian kingdom has now acquired its true capital. Rome is no longer the Pope's, except as a residence. As Dr. Cumming says: "He is now reduced to a church and a manse and glebe. The church is large, but the glebe is rather small. As for the manse, it is probably large enough for an old bachelor." The number of votes for the continuance of his government was very small. No one knows at present whether the Pope will remain at Rome or not. All we know is that he said he would not—if things should come to be as they are now. Students of the Bible will find it interesting, at the present time, to look at the books of Daniel and Revelation, and mark how close we are, upon the ordinary mode of reckoning, to the close of the great prophetic epoch of 1260 years. The year 1870 will ever be memorable in the history of the world.

The ultimate effect of late events in Italy upon the Romish Church is what no one can predict. The outcry of bishops here and there shows that they esteem them calamities. Let no one infer from them any diminution of Romish zeal or activities. The Pope merely represents a system which roots itself deeply in human nature. The institution rests, in our country especially, upon great religious devotion and an incalculable amount of piety among the masses of its supporters. Their faith is unflinching—their devotion is sincere. They are prepared to make sacrifices for their religion, and expect them—while their leaders will neither surrender their policy of controlling politics for religious ends, nor neglect any opportunity of securing them. Protestants only injure themselves by despising the piety of the Roman Catholic people, while they ought to mend their own.

OUR readers will have an opportunity of seeing the Basis of Union agreed upon by the delegates in Montreal. A remark or too may not be out of place in reference to these minutes. 1. The phrase "infallible word of God" had better have been omitted—not because it is not true, but because nothing else is characterised, and to preserve consistency in the document, neither should this. It will do no harm, however. 2. It would have been much better if there had been no explanatory clause in reference to the relations of Church and State: as in the view which is now happily taken of confessions,—as imperfect human compositions presenting the church's views on doctrine at some particular period in her history,—and in view of the full import of the word "*subordinate*" in the second clause, all parties might easily sign the Confession pure and simple. And such an arrangement would keep up the idea of *re-union*, or a return to the state of matters which existed 150 years ago, when all were one, and all ranged themselves under the Confession without any deduction. The functions of the civil magistrate are sufficiently limited by other parts of the Confession, to obviate every objection. 3. The wording of the minute on education cer-