

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NOTES.

—The British and Foreign Bible Society put in circulation in China last year 220,000 copies of the Scriptures.

—The American Bible Society lately procured for its use a new stop-cylinder printing-press, upon which an entire copy of the Bible can be printed every minute.

—The Friends of England recently held, in Great Ayton, a general meeting in a tent, the services being conducted much after the Moody and Sankey style. Large audiences were present.

—Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage has, in the last thirteen months, received to the Tabernacle 1,036 persons. The whole membership is now more than 2,500, making it the largest white church in the United States.

—Among the recent deaths, that of Dr. Fisch, of Paris, deserves mention. He has been especially prominent in connection with the Evangelical Conference. He was a member of the Union of Evangelical Churches in France, and was for many years Secretary of the Evangelical Society of France.

—The Bishop of Rochester recently uttered some pious good sense in regard to what is called the "Salvation Army." He said that if it adopted methods which offended the tastes, and eccentricities which distressed the soberness of some, yet it aimed at results and reached classes which at present the church could only pray for. No one who knew how difficult it was to get at the lowest stratum of the London poor, would rashly forbid or severely condemn any who, though imperfectly, still sincerely were reaching them with the message of Jesus Christ.

—The July number of the *Quarterly Statement*, issued in connection with the (English) Palestine Exploration Fund, specifies several new discoveries during the past quarter, of unusual interest. First, is Prof. Sayce's commentary on the newly found inscription at the Pool of Siloam. There is next a discovery made by Lieut. Conder, close to the spot where he places the site of the Crucifixion, to wit, a Jewish tomb, of the Herodian period, cut in a rock, and standing alone—raising the natural question: "Can it be the 'new sepulchre in the garden?'" Another drawing has been made of the real mouth of Jacob's well, recently uncovered by Rev. C. L. Barclay—the mouth much worn by the friction of ropes. It was formerly covered over by a Christian church, and if, as is possible, this church dated back to the second or third century, the stone should be none other than the very one on which our Lord was sitting when he talked with the woman of Samaria. Another discovery is chronicled, that of the ancient Hittite city of Kadesh on the Orontes. Lieut. Conder identified it by an Egyptian record written 3,000 years ago, and the old name—though for the last thirty-one centuries absent from history—is still attached to it. Long live the Palestine Exploration Fund, and may it never be less.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

—King Humbert of Italy has bestowed a yearly pension of \$6,000

upon Garibaldi, and, in consequence of his increased revenue, the old patriot is enlarging his establishment at Caprera.

—Nihilism has its pathetic incidents. The chief of police at St. Petersburg having received an intimation that the Emperor was to be assassinated on the 13th of July, made inquiries in every direction and found that a young student had committed suicide under extraordinary circumstances. He had run himself through with his sword without hitting a vital part, then fired a bullet into one temple, then into the other, and then in the wound made by the sword. When found he was able to speak, and related that he was one of a secret society of twenty sworn to kill the Emperor. The lot had fallen upon him; his companions threatened to kill him if he flinched; his courage failed him, and he resolved to die by his own hand. Before he died he revealed the names of his associates, and they were all secured by the police.

—Leo Hartmann, a notorious Russian Nihilist, has arrived at New York. He is not averse to notoriety. He has had himself interviewed in the *New York Herald*. He boasts of his part in attempts to assassinate the Czar. He hopes to awaken American sympathy with Russian Nihilism, and, withal, to get some money. We have no law forbidding such men to come among our people, however mischievous their errand may be. But our own Guiteau is all the wretch of that sort that we want; and him we would be glad to get rid of by the shortest cut possible. Whatever excuses there may be for "socialism," in its various shapes, in Germany and Russia or other European countries, there is no apology for its depravity and its folly in a country like this. Nevertheless, Americans do sympathize, with profound earnestness, with the great masses of the Russian people, who suffer so grievously under the fourfold burden and disabilities of popular ignorance; a corrupt and most superstitious form of religion; an abominable despotism; and a fiercely fanatical set of blind leaders of the blind on the part of those who are seeking the national deliverance.—*Advance*.

—King John of Abyssinia is nominally a Christian ruler, but it would be impossible to find a more cruel sovereign among the most barbarous of peoples. His persecutions of missionaries and all who do not agree with him rival the brutalities of the King of Dahomey. The Rev. J. M. Flad, a Swedish missionary, writes of a trip made from Suakim, on the Red Sea, to Galabat, on the Abyssinian frontier, with a supply of Bibles in the Amharic language. Five agents of the Mission Society met Mr. Flad secretly at Galabat. Others did not dare to come, because the King prohibited every Abyssinian from going to Galabat, under penalty of having one leg and a foot cut off. This barbarous threat was carried out in the case of four merchants. Mr. Flad writes further:

"From our native missionary agents I learned that King John is a most fanatical Coptic Christian, who never will tolerate European missionaries, either Protestants or Ro-

man Catholics. By his order he had had baptized all Moslems and Kamants, and even part of the Falashas, with some Galla tribes. Many Abyssinians whom I met at Metama (Galabat) assured me that King Theodore was a far better man than John. I am glad to say that he is not against the circulation of the Word of God and good tracts, and so I hope that some good will come from the Scriptures and tracts I have brought this time into Abyssinia in such large numbers. To our native Scripture readers and teachers who carry on the mission work among the Falashas he has always been kind. They belong as, you know, to the Abyssinian Church, and their converts from the Falashas have by baptism become members of that Church." To one of his tributary kings, Tekla Haimanot, at Godjam, King John has given orders to subject all the Galla tribes as far as Kaffa, and have them baptized by Abyssinian priests.—*N. Y. Independent*.

MISSION NOTES.

—It is stated that one hundred persons, including all the prominent Socialists, have been expelled from Leipsic.

—Protestant missions have been at work in Japan but a few years, eight years measuring the time of actual service, and there are now in that country 160 missionaries, 50 churches, and a membership of 8,000.

—Dr. Schliemann thinks he has discovered in the Ida Mountains the altar of Zeus. He has received the very unusual distinction of being made an honorary citizen—Prince Bismarck and Gen. Von Moltke alone having received it before him.

—It is a curious and suggestive fact, that out of 15,392 scholars in the elementary schools of Ghent, no fewer than 13,032 have separate accounts in the school savings-banks of the place; the average for each depositor being about thirty-five francs (\$7.00). How is that for an idea for our own happy land?

—The English Presbyterian Foreign Mission Committee have adopted a new plan for new missionaries to China. They send them to Professor Legge, at Oxford, to study Chinese, and are convinced that three months spent at Oxford would equal a whole year's study passed in an unhealthy region like China.

—The Gospel continues to spread in the Delta of the Niger in Africa. At Okrika, visited for the first time by Archdeacon Crowther last August, a church has been built by the chiefs, and a congregation of 4,000 assembled. A village some distance from Bonny has been named by the inhabitants "The Land of Israel," because there is not a single idol in it.

—Scandals in connection with church livings in England are quite numerous. A Manchester paper recently referred to a few, in connection with London churches, as specimens: "Mr. Deane, vicar of a demolished church, lives at Bath and draws £1,250 a year; and his former neighbour, the Ritualist, Mr. Rodwell, rector of St. Ethelburga, receives £1,050 a year, and lives at St. Leonard's, paying a curate a

small stipend to do his work in London. Canon Thomas lives at Canterbury, draws £1,000 for his stall, and takes £2,000 more as rector of All Hallows, Tower Street. Mr. Lyall, the retired rector of St. Dionis Backchurch, has relapsed into the Roman communion as a layman, but draws his income from the funds of the Church of England."

—The reply of the viceroy of China to the address of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Traffic, is of deep interest and very significant. The shame of it is that heathen China has the right to taunt Christian England, whose Opium War was one of the greatest crimes of the present century. The viceroy, in his reply, says:—"Opium is a subject on which England and China can never meet on common ground. China views the whole question from a moral and England from a fiscal standpoint. The Chinese Government is impressed with the necessity of making strenuous efforts to control the flood of opium before it overwhelms the whole country. The new treaty with America, containing a prohibitory clause, encourages the belief that broad principles of justice and feelings of humanity will prevail in the future relations of China with the western nations."

—What with the Nihilist conspirator, Hartmann, and the Fenian blatherskite, O'Donovan Rossa, the United States is becoming a refuge for rascals who would be better cared for in those safe retreats which justice provides for those who plot and practice crimes against their fellowmen. We do not feel much faith in the word of this latter agitator, and can readily believe that his jaunty acceptance of the credit of having sent the last infernal machines, in barrels of cement, to England is merely a device of his to gain credit for activity from the deluded fools who send him their money for all sorts of villainous purposes, and who never receive from him any report of his stewardship. We presume he would anxiously deny it all, if he were arrested, and very likely with truth.

—Pope Leo has taken occasion of a popular disturbance in the streets of Rome during the removal of the remains of Pope Pius IX. from St. Peter's to their final resting-place in the Church of San Lorenzo, to protest to the European governments, and to declare that he must still longer continue his so-called and self-imposed "imprisonment" in the Vatican. If a man—whether Pope or "private party"—will persist in a wrong-headed and absurd course it can't be helped. It is to be supposed that he will tire of such a thing when he finds it to be as useless as it is unnecessary. He has also taken advantage of the recent attempts on the lives of rulers to write an encyclical, which is not unlike hundreds of its predecessors in attributing the evils of society to disregard of the authority and teaching of the Church of Rome, and in declaring that the Church is the true and effectual remedy for all existing disorders. He speaks of Socialism and Nihilism as the out-come of the Reformation, and says he has several times offered rulers the aid of religion in warding off impending dangers.