

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTICE.

Again we beg our readers to inclose their full names and addresses when writing to us. Not knowing the sender's address, we are forced to leave many letters unanswered. Always address all communications to

**THE CARMELITE FATHERS,
Niagara Falls, Ontario.**

The Holy Season.

The Church of God, in her scheme for the sanctification of souls, builds upon nature. Nature is not to be destroyed, but to be redeemed. Redemption, however, is only possible by the Cross. Therefore nature must be stretched upon the cross. Penance and mortification are absolutely necessary for the birth and growth of virtue. The season of Lent is pre-eminently a season of holiness, the Holy Season. Prayer, fasting and the sacraments are all employed to redeem our weak fallen nature. At no time was a firm belief in the necessity of mortification more necessary than at present. Self-indulgence is the curse of the dying century. It is encouraged in the child, becomes the bane of youth, the ruin of the adult, and the shame of old age. It is the cause of the frightful lawlessness which is gradually undermining the very foundation of modern society. It is the cause of more misery and wretchedness, than the abnormal growth of monopolies and bought legislatures. There is but one possible check to it, and that cannot be found in nature. Self-control, as a natural virtue, is never complete, even in the noblest of men. It requires a supernatural help to make us ardent followers of the Cross. Prayer is the key to grace. One who prays is more ready to fast, than one who does not. Hence we find that the most prayerful souls are the most mortified. Religious orders, which are especially dedicated to prayer, are the very ones whose rules are most austere.

A New Champion of the Cross.

When a few weeks ago the news was flashed across the cable, that Germany had seized Kiao Choy in China, in order to pro-

tect Catholic missionaries, the student of contemporary history must have considered it another case of "Saul among the prophets." The great struggle of the empire against Catholicism the Kulturkampf, is barely ended with the signal defeat of the anti-Catholic standard-bearer and his legions, when the standard of the Cross is raised, and a crusade, announced against the pagan in favor of the Catholic missions and Catholic missionaries. Of course, there is politics in it. The German *Weltpolitik* is beginning to make itself felt everywhere. But there is a deeper meaning in it, than appears on the surface. Godless France, which, at the beginning of this century destroyed the Catholic Roman Empire and imprisoned the Pope, afterwards set itself up as the protector of the Papacy and of Catholic missions. It betrayed its trust, betrayed Pope Pius IX, and while still holding a protecting hand over foreign missions, persecuted the Church at home. Now, it is a new German empire built upon the ruins of the *grande nation*, not a Catholic Roman Empire alas! but a Protestant German Empire, which, is assuming the protectorate of Catholic missions in Asia and Africa. It may be, and very probably is, the wish of the ambitious emperor of Germany to use the Church, as a means to achieve his political ends, but man proposes, and God disposes. The day may come, when, as a result of this championship of the cross, and, as a reward for this manly atonement of the Kulturkampf, another Catholic Empire will rule the world.

Fought the Good Fight.

We should be ungrateful did we not ask our readers to pray for the repose of the soul of Joseph A. Schoenenberger—former editor and proprietor of the *Catholic Telegraph* of Cincinnati—who died lately at Norwood, Ohio. With the deceased, the cause of religion and morality always held first place. He was a man of conscience, and never hesitated in telling the plain truth. In devoting his life to Catholic journalism, Mr. Schoenenberger made great personal sacrifices. He was one of the first friends of THE CARMELITE