

his literary studies some years ago, and is now the principal partner in a large silversmith's business in the city. I had occasion to pass his shop yesterday, when I heard the busy hammers of his workmen preparing the silver for that beautiful filigree work for which Taiwanfoo is so justly celebrated.

I make tolerable progress in the language, although at present it keeps me working almost from "hand to mouth" to prepare the Chinese hymns and chapters for morning and evening worship.

General Religious Intelligence.

BISMARCK AND THE ULTRAMONTANES.—The conflict between Bismarck and the Ultramontanes becomes fiercer. A decree for the expulsion of the Jesuits from Germany has been issued in the following terms:—

"We, William, by the grace of God, German Emperor, &c., do ordain in the name of the German Empire, with the consent of the Federal Council, and of the Imperial Parliament, as follows:—

1. The Order of the Society of Jesus, and the orders akin to it, and congregations of the nature of orders are excluded from the territory of the German Empire.

"The establishment of settlements of the same is prohibited. Such settlements as now exist are to be dissolved within a period to be decided upon by the Federal Council, and which may not exceed six months.

"2. The members of the Order of the Society of Jesus, and of orders akin to the same, and of congregations of the nature of orders, may, if they are foreigners, be expelled from the Federal territory; if they are natives, their location in special districts or places may be prohibited or appointed."

STATISTICS OF IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The correspondent of *The Presbyterian* gives the following particulars with reference to the statistics of the Irish Presbyterian Church:—

"The summary of this year's returns presents a view of matters, which is, on the whole, encouraging. In numbers of our people, indeed, there seems to be a falling off. The families are less by 1,000 this year, the communicants by 3,606, and the stipend-payers by 628. But the Committee believe that this deficiency is apparent rather than real, and arises from the careful revision of numbers which took place in many congregations, to decide the minimum qualification upon which they would be required to pay to the Sustentation Fund. The money columns, in almost every case, point to a considerable increase. The second year of the Sustentation Fund was more dreaded by many than the first. Enthusiasm, they said, would have evaporated, the spirit of generosity which had been suddenly stirred up, would die away, and many who had given for the first year would refuse to renew their contributions for the second. The very opposite has proved to be the case. The returns show a total of £22,768 7s. 1½d., or £756 12s. 6d. more than those of last year. Nor has the continued success of this fund dwarfed the Church's efforts on any other side. There is a slight falling off in the missionary collections, to the amount of £286 15s. 11½d.; but this is partly balanced by an increase of £77 9s. 8½d. in the missionary efforts of our Sabbath-schools. The stipend of our ministers has not suffered. The seat-rents have risen £548 8s. 7½d., and the supplementary contributions £269 10s. 10½d., the total sum of the one being £39,481 18s. 6½d., and of the other, £1,551 11s. 4½d. The Sabbath collections have increased as much as the Sustentation Fund,