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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PROPOSALS to settle in Syria Jews expelled from Russia are under the consideration of the Ottoman Government.

DEAN STANLEY left a bequest of £3,000 to remunerate the guides who conduct visitors over Westminster Abbey, thus abolishing the system of fees.

A FINE monument of Aberdeen granite, with a neat epitaph, has been erected to the memory of the late Rev. Professor Mackerras, in Catarqui cemetery.

THE London Church Missionary Society has received an anonymous donation of £1,000 for sending the Rev. T. H. Canham as a missionary to the Mackenzie River and the Polar Sea.

REV. WM. ARTHUR says of the work in Paris: "I have addressed more people in evangelistic services during the last four years than ever I saw collected together in religious services during all the previous years I have known Paris."

THE London Missionary Society issues a sketch of ten years' work at Lisu, one of the Loyalty Islands. The population of the island is now entirely Christian. Out of the 6,576 inhabitants, 5,636 are Protestants and 940 Roman Catholics. The nine churches have a membership of 2,085.

MR. GRANT DUFF, the new Governor of Madras, received a few days ago a deputation from the Foreign Missions Committee of the Free Church, who presented an address representing the importance of working in a more catholic spirit than hitherto Lord Halifax's despatch of 1854 with respect to education in India.

THE "Chronicle's" Rome correspondent says: "The eventual departure of the Pope from Rome still forms part of the programme of the Vatican. Should the agitation in favour of the abolition of the guarantees continue, the Pope will probably seek counsel, not only from the College of Cardinals, but from the Catholic bishops in all parts of the world."

IN a compact sentence Mr. Gladstone lately announced that the two main principles of his foreign policy were that "every foreign country should be credited with the same good motives as ourselves until it shewed the contrary, and that every Power was entitled to the same rights and privileges, irrespective of size." Here, certainly, politics rose into the sphere of morals, and good morals at that.

IT is said that the first tenant to come before the Land Commission to have his lease revised, will probably be Mr. Charles Matthew West, of Mount Avon, Rathdrum, who holds under lease from Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P., and will seek to be relieved from the covenant in which his landlord contracted him out of the benefits of the Land Act of 1870, and obliged him to forego all "claims for improvements, past or future, disturbance or otherwise."

REFERRING to the decrease in the membership of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, the Rev. Principal Cairns, while admitting a slight falling off, says in his opinion the Church never was in a better state, with brighter prospects for the future. The contemplated visitation of all the congregations of the Church was to stimulate the people in all good works, and he has no doubt that the means being adopted will secure that object. It might be said that this visitation has been arranged to infuse new life into the membership, because it has slightly decreased. This has not been the primary object, though he has no doubt that object, too, will be attained.

THE step taken by the Gladstone Ministry in apprehending Mr. Parnell will be generally approved of by

every true friend of unhappy Ireland. Nothing else could have been done unless the Government had been willing to abdicate in favour of men who live upon mischievous agitation and preach the Gospel of anarchy and plunder. It is a curious state of things for a large number of people to allow themselves to be terrorized into the declination of a mighty benefit. They ought in fairness, at any rate, to be at liberty to give the Land Act a fair trial. If this, then, is only the first of a series of vigorous proceedings on the part of the British Ministry, every true friend of liberty will have every reason to rejoice.

THE Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in a letter to the Toronto Auxiliary, says: "The Revised New Testament has been undergoing such a fire of criticism in this country that our Committee have not thought wise to apply to the general body of our supporters to modify law 1 sufficiently to permit of its being sold concurrently with the authorized version. But the Committee have authorized translators or revisers to adopt such derivations from the Greek *Textus Receptus* as are sanctioned by the text of the Revised English Version, and further steps must follow ere long." From the above it appears that vernacular versions, hereafter to be published by the B & F. Bible Society, are to be based upon the Greek text adopted for the Revised English Version, and that further steps in recognition of the Revised Version "must follow before very long."

DR. DIO LEWIS says that from the most reliable data it has been found that during the last sixteen centuries the average length of human life has very nearly doubled. Diseases which at one time swept away whole peoples, have either disappeared altogether, or now merely attack individuals. The "Black Death," "The Sweating Sickness," "The Plague," etc., which once and again almost desolated Europe, for the last century or two have scarcely been known, and where the last of these appears, it has now very little of its former virulence. From 1604 to 1682 the births in London were 699,075, and the burials 964,882, or about 100 births to 137 funerals. From 1851 to 1860 the births in the same city were 869,263, and the funerals 610,473, or 78 deaths to 100 births. Such has been the result of sanitary improvement: nor has this improvement as yet by any means reached its limit.

A TRUSTWORTHY writer states that the habit of opium smoking is common all over China, but that it is in the west, in the comparatively unknown half of China, west of the one hundred and tenth meridian, that it is most prevalent. In some parts of Western Hu Pei and Eastern Szechuen it is all but universal; there are few adults in any station of life who do not take an occasional whiff, and the very streets of the towns and villages reek with opium fumes. The practice there, he says, is indulged in in the most open manner, and no more stigma attaches to it than to smoking tobacco. This puts a very different construction on a most important part of the influence for the worse usually asserted as exercised, primarily, by Western nations on Chinese civilization. The opium habit is most prevalent where Europeans have little or no access, and the inference is obvious that beyond and above any display of outside force the opium trade was an invited one.

PROFESSOR CHRISTLIEB, of Bonn, has been visiting Scotland. On a recent Sabbath evening he addressed a meeting in Edinburgh, and gave a most interesting account of the revival of religious life in Germany. He mentioned the gratifying fact that whereas a generation ago there was a comparatively small percentage of orthodox and evangelical preachers, about seventy per cent. of the pastors may now be said to be evangelical, preaching the Gospel more or less fully. There were many things in Germany which earnest men could not but deplore, such as the sad want of Sabbath observance and the lack of anything like general attendance at public worship in such

cities as Berlin, etc. Still there was too great a tendency in this country to see only the evils that exist in the fatherland, and a want of knowledge and appreciation of the hopeful indications that were to be met with, though not heard of, at hotels frequented by travellers, and to be known only by those who themselves mingle with the more earnest classes of the people.

THE Annual Synod of the Waldensian Church was held at Torre Pellice, Italy, in the early part of September. The most important discussion was upon the report of the commission to which the revision of the Liturgy was referred, and was participated in by several speakers with much interest. A part favoured the retention of the old Liturgy; but the friends of revision carried the day, and the commission was reappointed, in the anticipation that it would complete its work by another year. Dr. Robertson, who visited the Synod as the representative of the Free Church of Scotland, announced that the friends of the Waldensians in Scotland had completed the \$50,000 which they had proposed to raise as an endowment for complementing the stipends of the pastors. A similar amount is to be raised in England. M. August Meille, of the Synod, has become agent in Italy of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and M. Bart. Pons, of Venice, succeeds him as agent of the Religious Tract Society, both pastors retaining their standing with the Waldensian clergy.

WHAT all who were in any degree acquainted with the antecedents of the Boers in South Africa, and especially of those of the Transvaal, anticipated, is taking place. These men are anxious to repudiate the terms of the Convention entered into with Britain when peace was made a few months ago. They are especially disgusted with the idea of Britain taking any care of the natives, or reserving any right to interfere between them and their lordships the Boers. That has been the sore place all along. These Boers and their fathers have been all along enslaving the native children, while shooting and plundering their parents, and naturally they don't like any prying eyes to be allowed around, watching their proceedings. They banished the missionaries on this account, and for the same reason they fancy that the British Resident might be troublesome if had any right to interfere with their little game. Mr. Gladstone will be wise if he insist on the terms of the Convention being carried out, even though this should issue in the renewal of the war, and apparently he is going to do it.

THERE is electricity in the air over the land question throughout the whole of the United Kingdom. Statesmen of all parties, in dealing with public affairs, now usually devote about a third part of their speeches to the agricultural position of our islands. The farmer is everywhere uppermost in home politics. He is preached to, prophesied to, he turns up in sermons, he engrosses newspaper articles, he is the angry factor, the unit that will not add up—indeed he is just now the most unmanageable man in the country. His time was a long time in coming, but it has arrived at last. He has come to displace or fracture political creeds, and raise mischief generally where all was as smooth as a sea of glass before. After mutterings of discontent indulged in for several years, the land question has assumed the dimensions of an agitation in England and Scotland. Drafts of Land Bills have been prepared and published, and the only apparent objection to them is that they do not go far enough. The Scotch farmers especially are everywhere holding meetings, and organizing a systematic and peaceful agitation for land law reform. Merely eleemosynary concessions on the part of the landlord, in the shape of temporary reductions of rent, will not satisfy them—though that is insisted upon also. On one estate, at least, in the north of Scotland, the tenants, on meeting the land agent on last rent-day, quietly refused to pay anything unless there were a reduction of twenty-five per cent., and upon the agent refusing, there was a universal shutting up of purses, and a speedy departure for home.