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Current Notes.

There are now in Rome twenty-two public schools and an aggregate attendance of six thousand. It is but a year since no public school was to be found in the Eternal City.

The funeral of Mazzini took place on Sunday, the 21st ult., at Genoa. The car was followed by 80,000 persons. At Rome there was a procession in honour of the deceased patriot.

The Japan Herald announces that on the return of the Japanese embassy, now in America, his Imperial Highness the Mikado of Japan, will visit the United States. His Majesty is about 21 years of age.

From Spain we learn that on Sunday the Andalusian train arrived late in Madrid, owing to its having been attacked by brigands. The robbers took up the rails and arrested the train, taking £3,000 of the company's money and other booty, and wounding three persons who resisted.

The cultivation of the poppy in France is steadily increasing, and it now occupies about 50,000 acres, of the value of 4,500,000 francs, yielding opium to the value of 2,000,000 francs per year. Different samples of opium, raised in various parts of Europe, yield from eight to thirteen per cent. of morphine.

Arrangements are being made for an imposing celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The principal feature of the demonstration is to be a World's Fair. Philadelphia has been chosen as the place. Those who live until the year 1876 will probably learn full particulars.

The Queen has desired Colonel Henderson to inquire at all the hospitals respecting any accident that occurred on the Thanksgiving Day, and to apprise her of any distress arising from them. One case only has been discovered—that of a poor woman who kept a little school, which had been broken up by her long absence. Her Majesty has sent her £20.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Times gives an interesting sketch of the enormous armaments of the continental powers. Germany has at her immediate disposal 1,000,000 men; the French army will be raised to 630,000, and in twelve years will be doubled; Austria has more than 600,000 men immediately available, and in a few years the Russian army will number 1,600,000 men.

It has been suggested that the Society of Arts should provide a memorial of Thanksgiving Day in the form of a painted window, to be set up in the cathedral, thus helping at the same time to complete the decoration of that edifice. A fund for this purpose is being raised among the members by subscription, each member of the Society being at liberty to subscribe 5s. for himself and a like sum

for each member of his family. It is to be hoped that British glass-painters will be employed.

The proportion of the police to the population in England is 11-5 to every 10,000 persons, whilst in Ireland it is more than double, being 25-5 to the same number. The cost of police in England and Wales is estimated at £2,116,884, nearly four-fifths of which are defrayed out of local taxes, £448,000 only being borne by imperial taxation. The police forces in Ireland cost £963,896, and more than nine-tenths of this sum are paid by the general taxation of the United Kingdom.

Some children, observing the Queen's carriage waiting at a door where Her Majesty was paying a private visit recently in the suburbs of London, hastily procured some flowers to offer her. The visit over, before entering the carriage, the Queen noticed the little group, who immediately advanced, presenting their violets and primroses, which she graciously accepted; then, seeing a smaller child timidly in the rear, she smiled, and, kindly turning, took the proffered violets from the outstretched little hand, and carried all the flowers with her to the carriage.

The Budget made its appearance on the 26th ult. The eloquence of Mr. Lowe's figures was so convincing that no serious demand was made on his powers of oratory. He has a surplus of more than three millions and a-half; and with this he proposes to deal by remitting twopence of the Income-tax, by allowing all incomes under 300l. the benefit of a partial exemption, by extending to offices the freedom from house-duty, already enjoyed by shops and warehouses, and by relieving coffee, together with its shadow, chicory, from half the duty to which it is liable.

The Overland China Mail speaks of most serious news, relating to the persecution, torture, and murder of Christians. "At Nagasaki it is said that 2,000 native Christians are doomed as martyrs; that one batch of sixty-seven has been already killed and that Ewakura (the official at the head of the Western Embassy) is one of the greatest supporters of this enormity. Side by side, material progress is making rapid strides; the railway is nearly completed, the telegraph cable is now in working order, the Government has officially notified that rice may be sold for exportation on certain conditions, and permission has been given for native women going abroad."

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Rome on Saturday, the 25th ult., and were at the English church on Sunday morning. There was a good number of English visitors and residents waiting to receive them on arrival. The Princess, who was warmly cheered on alighting from her carriage, saluted the King of Denmark, who had been waiting for her. The Prince and Princess were received by Sir Augustus Paget and the members of the British Legation, and by the Prefect, Signor Gadda, and the Mayor of Rome, Signor Crispigni, who welcomed them to the new capital of Italy. On Sunday, Prince Humbert and King Victor Emmanuel visited the Prince and Princess.

It is evident that the Jesuits hate Bismarck with and intensity which knows no bounds. The attempt which was made to assassinate him a few weeks ago, had its origin in a feeling which the Pope fanned into flames, in consequence of Bismarck's anti-Catholic views. Bismarck's speech in the Prussian House, in which he denounced the practices of the Catholic priests and the nobility in Poland, stirred up the most murderous animosities against himself. The Berlin correspondent of the Boston Advertiser writes, however, that Bismarck is not a bit afraid, and takes his solitary promenades as usual. He writes, moreover, that though the Jesuit party is still a great power in Europe, yet is greatly over-rated; that the spirit of the age, for once leagued with the government, will be victorious, though serious disorders may be expected.

From a Swedish paper we learn that a tenth bed of coal had been struck. Although the thickness was not then ascertained, it was afterwards found to be 3ft. 4in. This discovery was so astonishing that many of the metropolitan papers did not notice it, probably not believing it. To-day (the 22nd inst.) we have still more astonishing results to relate of the boring of Kropp's Company's Coalfield. The 11th bed, of a thickness of 1ft. 3in., was struck at a depth of 571ft., and at 575ft. a 12th bed of 8ft. 3in. thick was discovered, or thicker than any seam in the Newcastle district, where the greatest thickness is 6ft. The bottom of the 12th seam is thus 583ft. 3in. or to the surface, and boring is now going on in black clay. Naturally this discovery, particularly the last named, has caused an immense sensation in that district. A great number of people, among whom are several engineers, have visited the coalfield at Raus, and inspected the boring, and the arrival of a professor from Lund University is expected to examine the coal.

The island of Newfoundland has caught the railroad fever, and has advanced an idea which, if carried out, will shorten still more the voyage between the continents. It is proposed to construct a line of railway from St. John across the island to St. George's Bay, a distance of 153 miles. Passengers from Europe, instead of landing at Halifax, would leave at St. John, cross the island by rail, and take a steam ferry for the western port of Shippagan harbour, Bay of Chaleur, where they would join the Intercolonial railway, which, when completed, will connect with the great network of railroads throughout the United States and Dominion. This would constitute the shortest and safest route for passengers and mails between Europe and America. The dangers arising from fogs, currents and reefs along the thousand miles of American coast, on which so many vessels meet their doom, would be avoided. After a run of four or five days passengers would land at St. John, step into a railway carriage, and enjoy the pleasure of being whisked across Newfoundland in eight hours; and in 24 hours would find themselves at Shippagan, whence a branch of the Intercolonial railway would forward them to any part of the States or Canada in a few hours. Mails and passengers from London would reach New York in seven days by this route, Chicago in eight days, and San Francisco (via Chicago) in twelve days.