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PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

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PRUSSIA AND THE POPE.

It is asserted in Berlin that the Prussian Government intends to submit to the Diet a bill cancelling the May laws. These measures take their name from the fact that they were passed in the month of May, 1873. Sometimes they are called the Falk laws, from having been introduced by Mr. Falk, Minister of Public Worship. They established a tribunal of ecclesiastical affairs in opposition to the authority of the Pope. Under them in October of that year Archbishop Ledochowski of Posen, was fined for threatening to excommunicate a professor, and Archbishop Melchers was fined for instituting priests without the permission of the Government. The Pope by letter encouraged Archbishop Ledochowski to resist, and following the counsel the Archbishop came into the range of the tribunal and was imprisoned on the 3rd of November, and on the 15th of April, 1874, was deprived of his see. Ever since, until a few months ago when milder counsels began to prevail with the Government, there has been a bitter struggle between state and church in Prussia. It is believed that the change of policy is the desire of the Government to enlist the strong conservative forces of the Romish Church in the effort to repel the rising tide of democracy, which in organized forms such as Socialism threatens the stability of the German Empire. There is no doubt of the excessive oppressiveness of the May laws, which was aggravated by the severity of their administration. It is therefore a matter of rejoicing to fair-minded people that the policy of persecution is to be abandoned, however selfish the motive that prompts the measure of redress. Still there is not much faith to be placed in the policy of pitting one class in the state against another as now apparently pursued, and any advantage the Roman Church may gain in an alliance with its late persecutors will be so much energy stored up for the next struggle with them, which will come—if Prince Bismarck's methods of statecraft last till then—when Prussia, having obtained

all she requires of the Church, attempts again to tread her under foot. There is, however, another possibility to be considered, namely, that unless the other oppressive laws, that are the occasion of most of the strength of democratic developments, be wiped out as well as the May laws, the alliance of Rome will not avail much when the climax comes to the reaction against tyrannical government.

MESSRS. J. E. REDMOND, member of the British Parliament, and Wm. Redmond, his brother, have arrived in San Francisco from Australia. Prior to their visit there was no organized Irish national movement in Australia. Mr. Redmond, M. P., during his stay addressed 142 meetings, established 300 permanent branches of the National League and appointed a federal convention to hold yearly meetings, and collected \$75,000. The bishops supported the movement and with one exception subscribed to the funds. About four thousand pounds were subscribed in the Australian colonies to the Parnell fund, and the amount was sent to Mr. Parnell as a special donation. Arrangements were made for the colonies to subscribe yearly sufficient to support six Irish members of Parliament elected under the auspices of the League. Members of the British Parliament are not paid for their legislative services.

ARTHUR STAFFORD, who claimed to be a son of an English earl, landed in New York last November and shortly afterward became engaged to marry a Miss Grace, of that city. He went on a hunting expedition to Maine, and going out alone on the last day of the year was killed by a she bear. When found the next day he was in the embrace of the brute, that had a knife sticking in her left fore shoulder, and both were frozen stiff. Near by a half-grown cub was found with a wound in the heart, from which it was surmised that Stafford had attacked the cub and was then set upon by the she bear. When the sad news was broken to Miss Grace her reason was overthrown and she had to be taken to an asylum.

MR. BARCLAY, a member of the British Parliament, has an article in a leading magazine, taking a new view of the Mormons and highly condemning any interference with their missionary efforts. Mary V. Young, the seventh wife of the late Brigham Young, died at Salt Lake City a few days ago. Sixteen widows still survive the prophet, fourteen of whom live at Salt Lake. At the last monthly meeting of the Mormon priesthood Bishop John Sharpe said that while in Washington recently he had seen enough to convince him that no power but the Almighty could save the Mormon people; if God did not pilot the ship it would go down.

IN A RIOT between peasants and farmers of the Crown property at Iseck, Hungary two military policemen who tried to quell the disturbance were attacked by the mob. One of them was tomahawked, and the other shot two of the rioters.

AN EXPLOSION OF FIRE-DAMP in Oxford colliery, Hyde Park, Pennsylvania, cut off communication with fourteen men. Within an hour brave men descended in buckets and rescued all alive, though three were seriously and one fatally burned.

MR. VILLARD, the railway magnate, is said to have lost all he possessed through unfortunate speculations.

A BILL to REMOVE BURDENS on American merchant shipping will shortly be reported favorably to Congress by the select committee upon that subject.

HURNAM & Co., lumbermen, Dubois, Pennsylvania, with a capital of two million dollars, have failed, but have been granted an extension of time.

DURING THE PAST YEAR foreclosure proceedings were instituted against eighteen railway lines in the United States, involving 1,354 miles of track, \$18,835,000 capital stock and \$28,505,000 bonds and debt.

A STRIKE OF CAB DRIVERS for more pay from the masters, which occurred in Paris last week, in a few days included over two thousand men, and, of course, is proving a serious inconvenience to the public.

GERMANY and the UNITED STATES have readily acquiesced in the proposal of Japan to establish courts of justice to have jurisdiction over foreigners as well as natives.

THE REBELLION in HAYTI is reported to have collapsed.

TWO MEN drank lager beer at a saloon in Ithaca, New York, one after another, and each died within a few hours of the draught.

ROBERT MARTIN was hanged in New York on Thursday of last week for the murder of his wife and child, while he was intoxicated, over two years ago. Numerous appeals and respites delayed execution so long.

LORD CHARLES ERRESFORD, member of Parliament and a captain in the Royal Navy, said in a late speech that English commerce is at the mercy of any power that chooses to attack it, that any nation able to send out a few fast cruisers could paralyze British trade.

SIR EDWARD WATKIN expects to carry the English Channel Tunnel bill next session. It will be opposed by the Board of Trade, that in England is a department of the Government. The late coolness between England and France has caused some change in public opinion unfavorable to the scheme.

A BOTTLE OF HOLY WATER from Mecca was lately analyzed in London, and found full of sewage and all uncleanliness. As water is regarded by the Mahomedans as a sure remedy for all diseases, and is transported across the desert in leathern bottles and given to sick persons as medicine, the annual outbreak of plague among the faithful is therefore not at all mysterious.

THE WOMAN PRINCIPAL in a mock marriage at a church festival at Flatbush, Long Island, took legal proceedings to have the marriage declared valid, but the judge has decided against her claim upon the man.

AT THE MEETING of an association of railway shareholders in London a few days ago, a motion was voted down which proposed a reduction of the present Government supervision of railways. The general feeling of the meeting was that it is better, both for the public and stockholders, that great railway corporations should be under strict control by the Government.

ADDITIONAL SNOW-SLIDES attended with fatalities are reported from the mountains in Colorado.

A MEMORIAL CHURCH to commemorate the two escapes of the Emperor from assassins in 1878, was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies in Berlin, Germany, the other day.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT is communicating with the Imperial Government regarding a basis for the negotiation of a reciprocity treaty with the United States including a settlement of the fisheries question.

TWO SPORTSMEN from Hartford, Connecticut, lately brought eleven fine deer, shot at Lake Megantic, into the city of Sherbrooke, Quebec. There the game was seized by the Collector of Customs under the statute forbidding the export of deer, and sold at public auction. As the expenses of the hunters were about \$300, the sport was rather dear.

THERE DIED in TORONTO the other day a veteran of the Peninsular war—Sergeant Mulholland—who had command of the party carrying the body of the Duke of Richmond to England. He was at the battle of Waterloo and in fifteen general engagements, but never received a scratch and lived to the age of ninety-one years.

E. H. KOBBE, exchange clerk for Sperry & Barnes, New York and New Haven, absconded, after forging and converting to his own use one hundred thousand dollars' exchange. Pinkerton's Detective Agency ferreted him out in Chicago, where he was spending money very freely in company with one Van Arsdale, who was afterward arrested in New York. They had lavished several thousand dollars upon a disreputable woman, with whom Kobbe was about to leave for Mexico, when arrested.

SEVENTEEN VESSELS and two hundred and nine lives were lost in the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fisheries, during the past year. So far as known forty widows and sixty-eight fatherless children were left. Seventy-one men capsized or gone astray in dories have reached shore or been rescued from watery graves, many of them after exposure and suffering beyond description.

MR. MOODY, after spending the holidays in the South of France, began a mission at Clapham and Battersea, England. Mr. Sankey did not assist, owing to his father's death at Newcastle, Pennsylvania.

A PARISHAN TRADESMAN took an original method of suicide. He placed around his neck a tube filled with explosives, which he fired. His body was blown to pieces.