

MARRIAGE OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST.—A Naples letter in the *Temps* states that a priest named Pasquale de Francesco, of Caserta, aged forty-six, presented himself recently before the deputy mayor of the Montecalvario district, furnished with all the papers necessary for marriage, and demanded to be united in matrimony to Seraphine Velardi, of Naples, aged twenty-seven. The functionary applied to declared that, in consequence of doubts as to his power in such a case, he must refer to the Government law officers. This was done, and the Neapolitan judicial authorities, after a serious discussion decided, according to the formal opinion of Procureur-General Mirabelli, that, as the civil code in vigour since the 1st January, 1866, mentions no explicit or implied restriction concerning persons bound by ecclesiastical vows, Pasquale de Francesco had certainly the right to marry. In conformity with that decision the above-named priest was married at the mayor's office of the section of Montecalvario on the 29 January.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

THE Legislature commenced its session on the 23rd ultimo, but we shall not attempt to chronicle any of its proceedings, except so far as they affect our communion. There was no reference to the important subject of education in the Governor's speech, but a Bill to amend the Act of last year has been introduced by the Committee on Education, with the approval of the Government. It substitutes assessment for voluntary subscription, and is in other respects in accordance with the report of the Superintendent, upon which, as well as upon the Registration report, we purpose making some observations hereafter.

The commissioners appointed to investigate the claims of the S. P. G. to the management of the school lands, have reported in favor of the Society; but, upon a motion of Mr. Archibald, their report was referred to a committee of seven, of whom only two are members of the Church of England.

THE convocation of Canterbury and York have both met as usual. The discussions of the former will relate to subjects of great interest to the Church.

A deputation, headed by Lord Ebury, presented a memorial to Earl Russell praying for the appointment of a Royal Commission, for a revision of the Prayer Book. In answer Earl Russell stated that in case of the appointment of such a commission, both parties in the Church might be represented and seek for changes, and much difficulty would be found in making an arrangement to suit both. He stated, moreover, that he thought it especially necessary to refer the matter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, before advising her Majesty as to the course to be adopted.

A similar memorial was presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury, asking his support for the appointment of a Royal Commission. His Grace firmly replied that he could not accede to the request.

A deputation from some of the clergy of the Metropolitan parishes, headed by Archdeacon Wordsworth, presented a memorial to the Archbishop, against