

of the contest with a cold indifference? Let those who know best answer!

The virtual claim of universal and absolute authority over the souls and lives of men by one solitary mortal is the sublimest piece of audacity the world has ever seen, or is ever likely to see. It is at the same time a great absurdity for any creature to claim such absolute lordship over his fellow creatures as does the temporary ruler of the Vatican. This is not an age when men are taken at their own valuation. He who comes to the people claiming their allegiance must give a rational account of himself and make plain the nature and source of his authority. The Church of Rome may play fast and loose as it pleases in the political game, but its claim to guide the affairs of states is simply inadmissible. The very assumption is sufficient to make all freedom-loving people rise up in indignant protest. Kings and temporal rulers were wont to assert that they governed by divine right. The people have disposed of that assumption for ever. No aspirant to a throne or presidency would risk making himself ridiculous by advancing such a title to the position he covets. Leo XIII. has no more divine right to universal sovereignty than James II had celestial authority for the government of England. The head strong Stuart found out his mistake, and the self styled successor of St. Peter will realize his error if he lives very long.

The astute politicians of the Vatican are not oblivious of the greatness of the risk they run in pertinaciously clinging to the idea that they must dominate everywhere. When their pretensions to earthly sovereignty are examined and found to be baseless, intelligent men will see that the Pope's claim to be the sole and absolute arbiter in morals rests on a foundation equally visionary. They have only one step more to take, when the inquiry is forced upon them, On what authority does a mortal and sinful man base his claim to absolute supremacy over the consciences of his fellow men in matters of religion? The Word of God containing the only authentic revelation of truth affecting man's relation to God, gives no countenance to lordship over God's heritage. In remote parts of Russia, the belated traveller pursued by wolves will sacrifice one of his sledge horses, if perchance he may escape the fierce pack. The belated Papacy risks the loss of all by obstinately putting forth pretensions which meet with ridicule and refusal in lands even where Roman Catholicism is supreme. The blind obstinacy of the Papacy, so far as the progress of civil and religious freedom is concerned, is not an unmixed evil. It cannot stem the tide of advancement. It is more likely to hasten the moral and spiritual emancipation of mankind from the arrogant thralldom under which vast multitudes at present groan.

The eagerness with which Protestant rulers and statesmen seek the favour of the Vatican is attracting attention. Even the self-sufficient Prussian monarch, now at the head of the German Empire, has been more than moderately solicitous to humour the keen susceptibilities of the Pope. Political parties in all free countries are only too willing to secure the favour of the Roman Catholic Church, that they may get and retain power by the help it is supposed to bring. The people are being convinced that such alliances are by no means conducive to national well-being, and are beginning to say to Rome in all matters, at least, of secular concern, "Hands Off."

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This standard weekly magazine continues to furnish its readers with the best and freshest literature of the day.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Company.)—For the interesting class of readers for whom this capital little monthly is designed, it is the best published.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Every week this admirably conducted magazine comes freighted with wholesome and elevating reading matter in great variety and handsomely illustrated.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—The opening paper of the current number of *Scribner* is an interesting description of the imposing ruins of Egyptian Temples. It is copiously

illustrated with fine engravings. The other papers of interest, most of them illustrated, are "Memories of the last Fifty Years," by Lester Wallack, dealing with theatrical matters, "Problems of American Politics," by Hugh McCulloch, who discusses the tariff question and the naturalization of foreigners; "Behind the Scenes of an Opera House," by Gustave Kobbé; "The Railroad in its Business Relations," by Arthur T. Hadley. The serial story "First Harvests" is to be concluded in next number. There are several meritorious poetical contributions, a short story by H. H. Boyesen and Robert Louis Stephenson's contribution. *Scribner* keeps up its well-earned reputation.

THE TREASURY FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The *Treasury for Pastor and People* for October is an excellent number, being filled with the richest, freshest and most suggestive sermons and articles on a great variety of subjects, intensely interesting to every preacher and Christian worker. The portrait of Dr. J. G. Mason, of Metuchen, N. J., is the frontispiece, a capital sermon commemorative of God's goodness to the old Church which he serves, is given in the first place. A view of of the church is also given with a biographical sketch of Dr. Mason. Dr. W. M. Taylor's sermon on "Christ and the Children" will stimulate thought and must prove helpful. The "Leading Thoughts of Sermons," by Drs. Whyte, Rowland, Hendrix, Henson and Maclaren, are worthy of those noble men. Dr. Momen gives a closing article on the "Song of Solomon." The article by Professor Austin Phelps, "Why I Believe Christianity to be a Revelation from God" should be read by every one. The other contents of the number are fresh, suggestive and helpful.

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA LAW AND ORDER SOCIETY. (Philadelphia)—This is a verbatim report of the speeches delivered by several eminent men at the annual meeting of the Law and Order Society, at which Governor Beaver, of Pennsylvania, presided. The Hon William M. Evarts delivered a powerful speech, which is here reproduced. Appended to the report, and forming the larger part of the publication, is the report of the proceedings of the Sixth National Convention of Law and Order Leagues in the United States. The objects of the Society are stated to be: to maintain the principle that the enforcement of the laws is essential to the perpetuity of good government; to promote the formation of state, and local leagues having the same objects in view; to be a bond of union and a means of communication between such state and local leagues; to secure in all proper ways the enforcement of existing laws relating to the liquor traffic; to secure in like manner the enforcement of the laws prohibiting offences against morals, and the peace and good order of society; and to encourage and assist the authorities in enforcing the same.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—Fresh interest in Arthur Sherburne Hardy's new story, entitled "Passe l'oise," is aroused by the appearance of the October number of the *Atlantic Monthly* containing the second instalment. An interesting article on "The Pioneers of Ohio" is by Rufus King, who has written a valuable work on "Ohio," for the series of "American Commonwealths." "H. W. P. & L. D.," a new literary partnership, furnishing a very interesting article on "The Tutor of a Great Prince." A paper on "Garibaldi's Early years," by William R. Thayer, is an exceedingly thoughtful and graphic account of the adventurous Italian's life from 1807 to 1854, when, after five years of exile, he was permitted to revisit his native country. Other notable articles are "Iceland, Summer and Winter," by W. H. Carpenter; "Pasture, Herb and Meadow Swath," by Sophia Kirk; "In a Border State," by Patty Blackburn Semple; "Esoteric Economy," by Agnes Repplier; a poem entitled "My Fatherland," by William Cranston Lawton; and "Boston Painters and Paintings," the fourth article on that topic furnished by William Howe Downes. Charles Egbert Craddock's striking serial story, "The Despot of Broomsedge Cove," is continued; a keen review of "Partial Portraits," the last book by Henry James, is replete with suggestive criticism; the sprightly brief Essays of the "Contributors Club," and the usual review of books of the month complete the number.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

CHINA.

J. Hudson Taylor says that China has coal deposits enough to provide the world with coal for 2,000 years. There is a tradition that St. Thomas went to China in the apostolic age, but as he gave them no Bible the work was not permanent. The Nestorians went there from the seventh to the fifteenth centuries, but they again gave China no Bible. So also the Romanists in the thirteenth century, but they made the same mistake. The Jesuits took science, but not Scripture. The British ships took opium. But Robert Morrison went to China, and then the Bible began to be given to the Celestial Empire. There are now 150,000,000 of opium users in China. In 1856 Mr. Taylor went with William Burns to Swatow, headquarters of the distribution in that district. Children, and even wives, were sold for the sake of procuring this deadly drug, and this represents the sum of all villainies and miseries, working more ruin than drink, slavery and licensed vice combined. Such is the testimony of Rev. J. Hudson Taylor, the head of the China Inland Mission.

The way to self-support in the missions of the London Society, in China, was found by letting the Churches choose their own pastors. The method was discovered almost by accident. One of the mission churches was dissatisfied with the pastor which had been sent by the missionary in charge, and asked for another who was a favourite with them. The missionary told them they could have him if they would pay the whole of his salary whereas they were then paying only about one-third of their pastor's salary. They demurred at the proposition, but the missionary was firm; and rather than lose the man they wanted, they agreed. This was an epoch in the history of self-support in the mission. News of what had been done spread among the Churches, and soon six others had become self-supporting on the same basis. This is now the rule in the mission, and works to the advantage of all concerned. Possibly there may be a useful hint in this for other missions. Self-support cannot be secured without self-direction.

CHINA'S AWAKENING.

The Chinese Kingdom, whose extraordinary inhabitants a thousand years ago had become proficient in many arts and technical discoveries, made use of the mariner's compass long before the inventive Italians had discovered the magnetic needle. They had employed cannon before Berthold Schwarz, made gunpowder, established a paper currency in the thirteenth century as efficient as the Chase national banking system; eat their meals from the finest porcelain, while in the castles of German barons only tin plates were in use and wooden bowls in the huts of the German peasants. The extraordinary race which, long before Gutenberg, employed movable type in printing, and whose gold, silver and bronze works of art were the admiration of the world from the earliest period of antiquity, has, at length aroused itself from its long Rip Van Winkle sleep. Every mail from the Flowery Kingdom brings fresh evidence of the fact. It is wonderful, and not yet fully ascertained, how a people that in the Middle Ages, while there reigned in Europe the most barbarous condition, stood upon an elevation of culture which has only been attained by us in modern times, should abruptly come to a standstill, as if a moral tetanus had fallen upon their social existence. The Chinese were engaged in mining long before the Greeks or Phœnicians; but for three hundred years their metallurgical industries had almost wholly ceased, mining becoming arrested, and their output of gold sinking to the lowest minimum. These mines are again about to be put in operation. Some few days since an enterprising American set out for France with inspectors, miners and machinery in order to re-open the mines in the Province of Shan Tung. These mines gave, in their day, an abundant product; but in the fifteenth century, it is said, the discovery was made that metallurgical industry brought about a plague in the country; stormy weather was ascribed to the influence of evil spirits let loose by it; and one day the Emperor issued a decree which interdicted mining operations of every description. Since that time the Chinese have restricted themselves to gold washing. Experts assert that the ore in Shan Tung will yield \$20 per ton. As the Chinese labourers work for very low wages, an enormous profit may be anticipated from the output