

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It is stated in the recently-published Diary of Henry Grenville that when the Quakers waited on Macaulay, in high dudgeon for what they considered an unjust attack upon Penn in his history, "Macaulay produced all the official documents on which he had founded his statement, and they were completely floored." It must be remembered, however, that a good many things in Grenville's book are mere idle gossip.

RUSSIAN nihilism is far from being suppressed. It seems rather to be extending. It is not to be expected that the actual condition of affairs in this respect could at present be ascertained. Where so vigorous a censorship exists it is next to impossible to obtain an accurate idea of the dimensions of Nihilism. There is little doubt, however, that its agents are active in spreading their organization. In the schools and gymnasia of St. Petersburg, the Nihilists seem to gain enthusiastic adherents. The favour with which so many students receive revolutionary doctrines does not augur well for the continuance of the absolute rule of the Romanoffs.

THE French Government have undertaken to make every school industrial. One of the studies of the elementary schools is dressmaking. The official report says that the system works admirably; that cutting and fitting are rapidly learned, and that the girls attending the elementary schools are not only much better dressed than they were, but wear very much better fitting dresses. The drudgery of too much book work is got rid of, and rest is given by light manual occupation. It has been suggested that telegraphy, wood-engraving, wood-carving, as well as sketching and drawing might be learned with advantage and without any check to the literary progress that is made.

THE New York "Evangelist" says: The bright and versatile Moncure D. Conway has reached New York on his way around the world. After visiting Virginia friends he turns his face westward. Like Mr. Matthew Arnold, who will soon follow him to this country, he will lecture and take notes all along the way. It occurs to us that if these travelling London philosophers would, so to speak, "hunt in couples," it would be a convenience and at the same time more economical for our Athenian public. Of course Mr. Conway's observations on the institutions and customs of India, Africa, and other heathen countries, will be very favourable, as contrasted with the state of things in Great Britain and the United States.

THE venerable and distinguished missionary, Dr. Robert Moffat, father-in-law of the late Dr. Livingstone, the African traveller has died at the advanced age of eighty-eight. He was a native of Roxburghshire, Scotland. When a young man he learned the trade of a gardener, but afterwards devoted his leisure hours, like many other eminent Scotchmen, to study, and then offered his services as a missionary to the London Missionary Society. He left England in 1817 for South Africa, where he laboured for many years with great success—savage races being transformed into civilized and religious people through his labours. His numerous adventures are related in his "Missionary Labours and Scenes in Southern Africa." During a temporary return to England he published a version of the New Testament and the Psalms in the Bechuana language. He also compiled a "Bechuana Hymn Book." Dr. Moffat returned to his native land a few years ago, and for the most part lived in retirement, though occasionally making public appearances in the cause of missions.

ANCIENT relics are valuable. Their intrinsic merit is in most instances very small, but their associations render them priceless in the estimation of many. By multitudes they are held in high veneration. Political economy and piety of a sort seem to accord well. The demand for relics ensures the supply. There are so

many portions of the true cross extant that an exhibition ground of ordinary size could scarce contain them. So long as uncritical antiquarians and others have a fancy for miscellaneous bric à brac, industrious manufacturers will supply all that can be desired from paintings by the "old masters" to Waterloo relics made at Birmingham. A Jewish dealer in antiquities has offered the British Museum an "ancient" parchment containing the decalogue and portions of the pentateuch. These are written in Moabite characters. This Israelite dealer in what Carlyle would not have scrupled to call "old clothes" asks the modest sum of \$1,000,000 for his precious sheepskin. What is money in comparison with an ancient fragment of the Sacred Scripture? It is, however, a large piece—too large—for what competent experts pronounce a manifest forgery.

THE trial of Canon Bernard at Tournai has resulted in some strange disclosures. Bishop Dumont did not work in harmony with the present Pope. He was superseded, but his removal was effected by stratagem. An occasion was found for his absence from the episcopal palace. While he was away locks were removed, safes ransacked, documents and funds to the amount of 5,000,000 francs were taken away. These were confided to Canon Bernard—for safe-keeping it now appears. After a brief attempt to master the English language, he, with his new linguistic acquisition and the episcopal booty fled to America. Then the game of diamond cut diamond proceeded. Mr. Goodhue, a Montreal lawyer, succeeded in obtaining 1,500,000 francs from the fugitive Canon, with which he proceeded to Belgium, where he was imprisoned and subsequently released on the plea of insanity. Bernard after many wanderings was apprehended in Havana and extradited. At his trial in Belgium the worthy Canon and his friends have shown that he was not a rogue, and that his flight with the spoils of the palace coffers was in obedience to the instructions of his superiors, that even the Pope through secretary Cardinal Jacobini had telegraphed "yes."

It is all very well to ask triumphantly "What's in a name?" Sometimes there's a fortune or misfortune in it. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett thought there was a charm in the name of Coultts and he appended it to his own. Others are dissatisfied with a cognomen that lacks euphony. A Mr. Bugg got an Act of Parliament entitling him to exchange the paternal name for that of Howard. It seems to many that Bray is an undesirable surname. At first sight it might appear that its chances were good. It is not too common. It might therefore the more easily become distinguished. Still it has not conferred distinction on its reverend possessor. He came to Montreal some years ago as a congregational minister. He wooed Fame by throwing orthodoxy overboard, but Fame turned away. The lecture platform was tried, but results were inadequate. High class journalism offered scope for another venture—that too was unsuccessful. The "Spectator" has closed its eye after a troubled existence. A Land Company boom was the next Will o' the Wisp that attracted Mr. Bray,—likewise ending only in vexation and disappointment. Perhaps a change of name might bring better fortune. The present one is so uncomfortably suggestive.

THOUGH to all appearance the Spanish rising has been for the present repressed, the revolutionary feeling has been more intense than was at first admitted. In some parts of Spain the political discontent is aggravated by long continued drought. The peasants and work-people in consequence of the agricultural distress, are also ready for mischief. In the South it would seem that no very great danger is to be apprehended; but throughout Catalonia and Valencia, and more particularly in Barcelona, the state of affairs is critical. The people of Catalonia are of a bolder and stronger type of character than the southerners, and are not ready to submit to what they consider injustice. They are also not very well disposed toward the restored monarchy. Even during the republic these provinces were difficult to manage, federalism having

a strong hold upon the work-people. It is alleged that federalism counts for something in the present disturbances, and that the reactionary party are also making use of the discontent on account of the increase of the taxes and the commercial treaty with France in the hope of driving Senor Sagasta from office and restoring Senor Canovas del Castillo to power. The proclamation of a state of siege is a violent measure, amounting almost of itself to a revolution. The monarchy is not yet so firmly established as to be able to resist political shocks.

THE second week of the Chautauqua Assembly opened under favourable auspices. The Rev. J. A. Worden, D.D., of Princeton, N.J., Sunday school Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, lectured to the Sunday School Extension. Dr. Worden spoke of the danger of illiteracy and said: We have a million voters in this country who cannot read their ballots. There is peril in the ignorance of negroes and Indians and in the viciousness of Mormonism, intemperance, infidelity and vice. We base our hopes for the future America on the growing Christian institutions of the land, and on the restored and greatly increased fraternal feeling between the North and South, which has been manifested by the platform of Chautauqua. In Timothy Dwight's day there was but one Christian in every fifteen of our population; now there is one in every five. Christianity and patriotism are one and inseparable. We need compulsory education in the land, and Christian love should bring the young to the school of God's Word. We have 86,000 Sunday schools in the United States, and a great work is being done in common by all the denominations. While we have 10,000,000 Church members we have only 3,000,000 engaged in Sunday school work. There are over 15,000,000 persons of a school age, with only 5,000,000 in Sabbath schools. The circulation of the Bible and the teaching of its truth will meet and destroy the threatening evil.

WEEKLY HEALTH BULLETIN.—Regarding diseases of the respiratory passages, Bronchitis and Influenza have slightly increased over the previous week, but Tonsillitis has to some extent decreased. Consumption similarly appears less prominently than last week. The dry, clear atmosphere shows its favourable effects upon Rheumatism very markedly, its prevalence having receded from over four to three per cent. of the total number of diseases. Neuralgia shows in the same way a somewhat less decrease. These facts have before been pointed out as dependent upon increased atmospheric pressure. Regarding Fevers, it will be found that the remark made several weeks ago concerning the probable increase of Intermittent, should the drying out of marshes follow the long continued wet weather, is being confirmed, as Intermittent has increased in prevalence till it appears amongst the six prevalent diseases in six Districts, and has advanced to the first position in percentage of prevalence. Enteric does not yet appear amongst the twenty most prevalent diseases. Regarding the class of contagious Zymotics, Whooping Cough has shown the favourable effects of dry weather by falling from 4.8 to 2.6 per cent. Measles and Scarlatina have both disappeared along with Mumps, while Diphtheria is the last of the twenty most prevalent diseases. The most marked effects of the unusual weather seem to be shown in the sudden decrease of Diarrhoea, contrary to the usual rule for the season of the year. Two weeks ago, with the beginning of the settled weather, it was 13 per cent., last week it was 10 per cent., while this week it amounts to only 6.8 per cent. of the total reported diseases. It may be that this is due partially to the increase of Intermittent, but allowing for this, it is interesting, as showing the almost certainly fungoid nature of the germs of these diseases, to know that the experiment of Miquel on the fungoid spores in the air during five years, have shown that the number has increased or diminished regularly with the increase or diminution of the amount of rain which has fallen at the Montsouris Observatory, Paris, during the months of July and August.