

a stop to their petty persecution. Let them be thankful if they are not caught in their own ugly trap, as they so richly deserve! Deut. 19: 19.

"THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES" is an able Lecture by Prof. C. McDonald, A. M. It has just been published, (by request,) and is itself a striking sign of the time. It sets forth with truthful fairness the dark omens that threaten the religion of the day: on the one hand Popular Irreligion and Modern Criticism, and on the other hand Clerical Pretensions and Hostility to Science. These are branded with judicial impartiality and manly candour, and a new Christian Reformation is called for, to eliminate from *popular Christianity* the very un-Christlike elements of Spurious Theology, Clerical Despotism, Inhuman Dogmatism, and Anti-Scientific Rant, and to restore the true practical Christianity which CHRIST taught and exemplified, in full and free harmony with both Nature and Revelation.

The Lecture is really edifying and tonic. It belongs to the best kind of pulpit literature. It will do good, and is to the wise a notable Sign of the Time, to be discerned.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

THE British House of Lords has voted to abolish primogeniture in land, and the House of Commons will follow suit. This marks a great reform, as primogeniture is the corner-stone of that great fabric of landed settlements on which the continuity of English titles rests, and has rested for eight centuries.

THE Salisbury government has been handsomely sustained on the National League Proclamation question.—Mr. Gladstone moved a resolution proposing an address to the Queen in condemnation of the Government's action. After a keen debate the resolution was defeated by a majority of 78. The prophets predicted a majority of 59 or 60. The Government was supported by Lord Hartington and John Bright, but Chamberlain voted with the minority. It is said nine Unionists voted with the Opposition.

THE British ambassador has been able to obtain from the Sultan an irade conferring on an English company the right to build a railway from the Bosphorus to Bagdad. From this latter point India can be reached in a few days by way of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of

Onan, or across Beloochistan, which is under British control. The line is to be 1300 miles long, and it is expected that it will be completed in twelve years. The estimated cost is about \$90,000,000. This privilege is one which has been very difficult to gain. The road will develop the resources of an extensive region rich in mineral and agricultural resources.

QUEEN VICTORIA has replied to the letter from King John, of Abyssinia, asking her to mediate between Abyssinia and Italy for the amicable settlement of a dispute respecting territory on the west coast of the Red Sea, at Massowah. It is believed England wishes to do all possible for Abyssinia, without giving umbrage to Italy.

At London, five new ironclads, designed for the Chinese fleet, will start next week for Hong Kong. Two swift, protected cruisers, built on the Clyde, have each a displacement of 2,300 tons, and a speed of nearly 19 knots. Two larger ones, built at Stettin, are armored cruisers with a speed under 16 knots. The other one is a torpedo boat, built at Yarrow. It has achieved the marvellous speed of 28 miles in an hour, and is said to be the fastest of its size afloat. Of the two English vessels it is believed that they are the finest in port, build, and equipment, in the world.

WASHINGTON, September 15.—The British Minister, Sir Lionel Sackville West, in a conversation concerning the fisheries question, stated that the British representatives at the conference, which he thinks should properly be held in the Department of State at Washington, will consist of Mr. Chamberlain, Sir John Macdonald, and himself. They are expected to meet here in the latter part of October, or early in November. He says the relations between England and the United States are most friendly, and are growing more so every year. The continued social and business relations between the people of the two countries would justify the prediction that the fisheries question will be adjusted without much difficulty. He says the conference will undoubtedly bring about an amicable settlement of this long pending question. There was no reason why England and the United States should not get along together. There were, in fact, reasons of a most cogent kind for closer and more friendly intercourse if possible in the future."

MR. JOHN BRIGHT, writing to Secretary Jones, of the London Peace Society, who is one of the deputation going to the United States to present a memorial to President Cleveland