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## Notes.

THE trustees of Toronto University have received the cheque for \$10,000 voted by the Quebec Legislature towards rebuilding the institution. The trustees have paid no attention to the advice of the Francophobists who recommended that the money be refused. They have, on the contrary, passed unanimously a resolution thanking the Legislature for the generous gift and for the expression of good-will which accompanied it.

It is startling, although not very wonderful, to find that the Royal Decree nominating a Prefect who is to take the place of the dissolved Municipal Council of Rome, selects for that position a notorious Freethinker and Freemason, the Deputy Finocchiaro-Aprile, who holds a high place in the supreme council of the Masonic organization. It would be difficult to suggest a step better calculated to offend the susceptibilities of Catholics who treasure the ancient memories and traditions of the Papal City.

HERE is a summary of party losses and gains on petitions, at bye-elections, and by secessions since the General Election of 1886. At that time the Dissident Liberals numbered 77, the Conservatives 316, the Gladstonian Liberals 192, and the Irish Party, 85; the figures now are,—the Dissident Liberals 68, Conservatives 307, Gladstonian Liberals 209, the Irish Party 96. The Unionist majority in 1886 was 116, the nominal majority is now, including the Speaker, 79.

THE conference of all the Protestant missionaries of China, held not long ago at Shanghai, adopted a resolution requesting Bible societies to publish editions of the Scriptures with summaries, headings, and brief introductions and explanations. The reason for the request is, according to the statements of the ministers, that the 600,000 Chinese Bibles, now annually circulated among the heathen, are largely unintelligible to them. This is an odd admission. It is tantamount to saying that the Catholic position with regard to the Bible is the sounder—viz., that the Book cannot be rightly understood without the infallible teaching of the Church goes along with it.

SOUTH AMERICA is again in ferment from Mexico to the Argentine Republic, and the trouble seems to be less political than financial. In Buenos Ayres there is a financial crisis: in Chili there is fear and uncertainty; in Brazil there is more or less confusion; Venezuela is angry over her English difficulties; and the States of Central America are at war. This is a pretty state of things so soon after the Pan American conference, but it may be no more than the usual infant's colic with which South America is so often taken. That money matters are chiefly responsible for South American turmoil at the present moment is very plain. The political puppets who are dancing before the public eyes are worked by strings from London and New York.

THE Republicans at Vicq, France, fought the usurptions of their own Government when it attempted to do them injustice. Their passive resistance first drew the attention of all France, and now they are going to try their case in the courts. Such a policy goes farther with the French Republicans than the tame, almost ridiculous submission of French Catholics to every decree of the French Chamber. Catholics are now forbidden in France to walk in procession on Corpus Christi. *L'Univers* says they may blame themselves for it. It goes on to say: "We are Catholics, and the vast majority of the French people are Catholics. Our God claims to show His universal sovereignty in the streets once a year. It is His right, and our right. We ask nobody to join in our peaceful procession, neither the Jew who crucified Him, nor the atheist who denies Him. We respect their liberty, but we want them also to respect ours." This is the proper tone. Let every parish in France hold its Corpus Christi procession next year. Let every Cardinal, bishop, priest and layman walk in it, and then let the Government put them all in jail, if it chooses.

THE episcopacy and the press of Ireland are urging with great force the educational rights of the majority of the Irish people, in respect of which they have labored for many years under every form of disadvantage and inequality. The *Irish Catholic* of Dublin, by way of protest, keeps the following notice standing from week to week in its columns:—

"The Catholics of Ireland who are compelled to contribute through the Imperial Exchequer, to the support of the National Educational system in Ireland, and thereby to aid in the establishment and sustainment of schools for the children of their Protestant fellow-countrymen, are also obliged to erect, endow, and support schools out of their own resources for the education of their children unless they consent to banish the crucifix and the most sacred emblems of their religion from the schoolroom.

In the walks of higher education the Catholics of Ireland are denied equality with their Protestant fellow-countrymen, and suffer under disabilities of the most galling kind.

This is unjust, oppressive, and intolerable."