

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

RECENT ministerial declarations on the Egyptian question shew that it is the intention of the Government to evacuate Egypt as soon as possible. Mr. Gladstone says that when England has accomplished her work in Egypt, the English soldiers shall disappear from Egypt, and the earlier this can be safely and adequately accomplished, the more grateful the result will be to the heart and mind of every one of her Majesty's ministers.

OTHER ministers have followed in the same strain, but the London *Times* seeks to modify these expressions by writing that it would be absurd to bind a statesman by expressions of opinions in circumstances now left far behind, and wholly different from those before us. The fact is, as Lord Granville pointed out, England at present cannot conscientiously annex Egypt for her present prominence in that country was gained on the understanding with foreign powers, that no annexation should follow. But governments are notorious for finding ways of escape from honest agreements; and every day that passes makes the promised withdrawal more and more conjectural.

JEW-BAITING in Hungary reached a high pitch in the trial of the fifteen Hungarian Jews, charged with the murder of a Christian girl, at Tiszar-Esslar. There was a complete breakdown of the prosecution; and it was only too-evident that religious bigotry and rancour prompted the disgraceful prosecution. If witnesses have not committed gross perjury, the judges wrung confessions by systematic torture. The chief witness, a boy, has confessed that his accusations were entirely unfounded, and that he was induced to make them by promises of large sums of money from the prosecutors. He was also threatened with life-long imprisonment if he refused. Another witness was exposed to the fierce rays of the sun until he told a good tale for the prosecution. We strongly suspect that there is some paltry political capital to be made out of these prosecutions, since it is hard to believe that such disgusting tactics can be carried out in these days, in pretended zeal for religion.

It is satisfactory to learn that the crop prospects in England seems much brighter. If only the weather is favorable for a week or two the hearts of the farmers will rejoice. The difference between a good harvest and a bad harvest represents a loss or a profit of from between \$100,000,000 and \$200,000,000. The result of a good harvest is the cheapening of bread. Churchmen cannot fail to think of their brothers across the Atlantic, when the Litany is said that "in due time" the kindly fruits of the earth may be well garnered in.

QUITE a new departure from the ordinary took place a few weeks ago in the East End of London. The Rev. S. A. Barnett, Vicar of St. Jude's Whitechapel, thought that the hard-working dwellers of the East would be somewhat the better for seeing magnificent floral displays. From near and far choice flowers were loaned and put on exhibition. The show was held in a large tent put up in the grounds of the Church schools. The tent was opened at 5 o'clock on Sunday evening, and over two thousand working men and women saw and admired the choicest of flowers. Such a scene, with a five minutes address on "Consider the lilies" would do more in the heart of London,

to win the labouring classes than a year of dull services and long sermons.

GERMANY begins a new crusade against intemperance. The Royal Family and leading men of the nation are working to convert the innumerable public-houses of Germany into coffee shops. It is not unusual to find forty-three public houses on a high road three miles long. Causes which render it easy to drink must be removed, and the Germans strike at the root of the evil when they strike at these causes.

THE English Ecclesiastical Commissioners have not yet cleared themselves from the charge of having public-houses on their property in England. Earl Stanhope and his brother commissioners declare "that they deal with their public-house property very much as private owners do with theirs." That may be the case, but it is somewhat humiliating to reflect that some of the proceeds for building Churches should be gained from gin-palace earnings. The Church must do more than ordinary "private owners." She must set examples. We sincerely hope that Ecclesiastical commissioners, and also any Church corporation holding such property, will either sell it at once or give it away.

It is time a definite understanding was arranged between France and England with reference to the troubles on the Newfoundland coast. Admiral Commerall has just reported to the British Government that the French have been stopping access to ports and rivers, netting salmon approaches, driving off Newfoundland fishermen and hindering lobster potting companies. If France is in the right, let it be understood and recognized; if, on the other hand, the French have no claims to be considered, our sturdy and loyal fishermen should be protected in their rights. It is now said that Earl Granville has invited the French Government to discuss a final settlement of the dispute.

RECENT telegrams from England have confirmed what we feared might reasonably be expected to result from the course France is pursuing in Tonquin. The impression prevails at the foreign and war offices that France has got into a very serious predicament in the Tonquin expedition, and it is going to prove disastrous and embarrassing, not only to herself, but to every power having interest in the remote east, and to England in particular. China is deeply disturbed and the entire white population of every nationality is plunged into uneasiness at the unconcealed hostility which is manifested.

SERIOUS as will be the loss to commerce should China declare war against France, much more alarming and regrettable is the fact that religious work will suffer, and the cause of Christianity be seriously interfered with, perhaps the European missionaries altogether banished from the Empire. It is true Christian missions in China have advanced as well as civilization, but the native Churches are scarcely yet able to stand alone without the personal contact and sympathy and labours of the European missionaries. How far the work of many years will be undone by the action of France will depend upon the attitude of China hereafter, at present the outlook is not cheering.

AGAIN the European horizon is overcast with a war cloud which threatens to renew the terrible days of the Franco-German war of 1870. If, as it is declared, Bismarck is seeking a quarrel with France, it will not be difficult, with the state of feeling which exists in the last named country, to

bring about hostilities. Why the German press should talk so bitterly against France at present is accounted for by the London correspondent of the New York *Herald*, who says: "The possibility of another Franco-German war absorbs all interest at this moment. Bismarck's game is supposed to be that by inciting the German press to make wanton and baseless charges against France, he will discredit the republic and contribute to the restoration of monarchy. The time is opportune in consequence of De Chambord's death. There are symptoms of monarchic coalition in Europe." One thing is very certain, France will not be disposed to assume the burdens of a Chinese war and a war with Germany at the same time.

THE session of the English Parliament which closed on Saturday has been almost as stormy as previous ones notwithstanding the new rules to prevent needless obstruction; while the Irish Party has been quite as demonstrative as ever—indeed the past week its members have almost excelled former efforts in the same direction. It is clear that the new rules do not meet the needs of recent Parliaments, and it is thought that more stringent measures will be adopted another session. The fact is, it is by no means an easy task to control the speech of members in an elective assembly.

AFTER a lingering illness, and after having endured the most excruciating agonies, the Count de Chambord breathed his last on Saturday. The deceased Count represented the Bourbons in the direct line of descent; he was the son of the Duke of Berrie, who was the son of Charles X., and his ancestry goes back to Louis XV., far enough to make his legitimate claim to the Throne of France unquestioned. Some months ago he resigned his claims to the Count de Paris, making him his heir, and so making the House of Orleans the line of succession. The death of the Count has stimulated a movement in favour of a return to a Monarchical form of Government, a movement which seems to be gathering force, helped on as it is by the Roman Church, which has nothing to lose and everything to gain from the change should it be brought about.

As evidencing the horrible character of the opium trade, and the general recognition of the evil among Europeans, perfect unanimity in asking for its overthrow has characterized the action of the missionaries in China, who, in appealing to the British Government, have sunk every difference in order to make a strong protest against what has proved itself to be even more destructive in China than the liquor traffic in England and America. It seems hard to realize that such a traffic is fostered by the Government of Christian England.

EACH TEACHER in the Halifax schools has been furnished with a copy of an address presented to the Council of Public Instruction by a Committee of the Temperance organizations, asking that Dr. Richardson's celebrated work, "The Temperance Lesson Book," be adopted as a text book in the public schools. This request was granted, and now the teachers are asked to help its introduction, which we feel sure they will be glad to do. It is a book containing information of great value to everybody, and should be carefully studied. We are glad to know that it has been endorsed by many of the most eminent Medical men, and adopted as a Text book in the Schools of Ontario and elsewhere in this country, England and the United States.