

about which the Papal authorities are anxious in another way. Austro-Hungary is, like Spain, an old stronghold of the Roman Catholic heresy, which is crumbling away from under the spiritual dominance of Rome. Especially in Hungary the signs of the times are against Popery. This is why the present crisis has been provoked. The Nuncio has succeeded in setting the Austrian and Hungarian Cabinets at loggerheads. Baron Banffy, the Hungarian Premier, has been sturdily protesting against the favor shown to the audacious pretensions of the Nuncio. It is supposed that Count Kalnoky, the Austrian Minister, is at heart equally opposed to Roman aggression, but nevertheless he has, for tactical reasons, permitted the Nuncio to bask in the smiles of the Austrian diplomatic Court, and he has resigned in consequence of the indignation of the Hungarians. Once more the Emperor Francis Joseph is realizing, as he has so often done before, that his Empire consists of a bundle of very heterogeneous nationalities. There is a great excitement in Hungary, once a down-trodden country, but now one of the most self-assertive of nationalities. Meantime the Nuncio coolly remains at Vienna.

The Dismal Wall.

"I am a believer in the good old Presbyterian faith; if I am among the elect, I shall be saved anyhow; if not, I shall be lost. As for helping my condition, I can do nothing, either by labor or by prayer." Still they build the dismal wall, these blind worms of earth. Presbyterians do believe in God's sovereignty, says the *New York Observer*, and to them election is one of the most precious and comforting doctrines of the Bible; they do not believe in fatalism. That God worketh in them "both to will and to do," is but an encouragement for them to work.

It would be easy to show that in the Supreme Ruler's unchangeable plans and eternal decrees, labor and prayer also have a place as a part of them. He foreordains the means of grace, as well as the grace.

If there still be mystery here, we would do well to leave it with God. He intended that we should, else He would have explained it. As for the seeming clash between two laws, it can be only seeming. Remember, we are blind, we have a mote in the eye—*sin*. The Omniscient could have made no mistake.

An astronomer, looking through his telescope, thought he saw a huge, dark body moving across the face of the sun. It troubled him. But as he was about to publish it abroad, he discovered that the dark, moving body which seemed to be upon the face of the sun was only a tiny insect crawling upon the lens in his telescope. So there can be no fault in the "Father of Lights," and He casteth no shadow in turning Himself about. If the fault is anywhere, it is in the human eye.

Now the Sovereign ruler has made it a law in the physical world that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat; if he will not labor, neither shall he live. In religion, he has issued the corresponding law, that if a man will not watch and pray and labor, neither shall he live spiritually. The second does not clash with the doctrine of God's sovereignty any more than the first. That we should raise the objection only in matters of religion is deeply significant; *the carnal mind is enmity against the ways of God*.

God never meant that the law he gave should be a

stumbling-block to us, but a way of life. When he gave it, we may be sure that he knew what he was doing. We need not fear that in so doing he made a discord among his laws. Since the law of labor and prayer is of his own making, whether we can understand it or not, it must be in perfect harmony with the full rounded sphere of his plans and purposes. How this is we need not explain. Ours is rather to know this: What is God's will concerning our duty? Knowing this, it only remains for us submissively, cheerfully and trustfully to labor and to pray.

Beaten by the The *Presbyterian* states that Col. Prayer Meeting. Ingersoll went to Gloversville, N. Y., lately to lecture against the Bible. There had been much religious interest in the place, and fifteen cottage prayer-meetings on the evening he was there, prevented his getting an audience.

American Bible The Report of the American Bible Society. Society for the past year shows that the number of copies of the Scriptures, issued in whole or in portions, were 1,581,128. The expenses were about \$1,500 more than the receipts. The receipts of the year were \$526,794.26. The outstanding facts of chiefest interest in the past year, are that the Bible has entered the Palace of the Chinese Emperor, and that the Emperor of Japan now permits the soldiers and sailors to receive the Christian Bible.

Systematic The total receipts of the Presbyterian Benevolence. Church U.S.A., as reported by the Committee on Systematic Benevolence, amount to \$2,793,239, being a decrease from the preceding year of \$44,829. The chief decrease is in the receipts of the Board of Church Erection, and it is explained that this has been caused by the fact that last year the Board received in legacies the sum of \$228,143,777, while during the present year the legacies to this cause have been only \$70,000. Otherwise there has been an increase.

Pope and Primata. Not to be outdone by the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a Pastoral on the subject of Christian Unity. He believes that the growing desire for unity is of the Lord, and that the evident change that is going on in respect to church divisions is hopeful. Presbyterians believe this also, and do not cease to pray for the union of all who love Christ's Church and the advancement of His kingdom. More than this, they are ready for Christian fellowship, asking only for the recognition of themselves as Christian people, and of their pastors as Christian ministers, authorized to teach the Word of God and minister the sacraments wherever they go.—*The Presbyterian*.

In Defence of Evidence of the interest which has the Sabbath. been generally aroused during the past year or so in Sabbath Observance comes from St. Paul City. It appears the game of baseball is indulged in that city on the Lord's day, in a park adjacent to the residence portion of the city and near some of the churches. The Christian element of the community has naturally raised objections to this open sin but it has been defied, and a struggle ensued. The statutes have been supposed to provide against such sport and efforts have been made to bring the offenders to justice, but the Mayor of the city has refused to take action under the statute and thus far the base ballers hold the field.