

Cardinal passed through Marseilles, on his way to Algiers. From there, to Biskra, whence he will make various excursions in southern Algeria.

Holland and the Slave Trade.—The principal members of the Belgian government are impressing upon the Dutch cabinet the absolute necessity of giving its signatures to the general act of the Brussels Conference; if not, a stigma will rest on the country in preventing the execution of effective measures for the suppression of the slave trade and its horrors. The export trade of the Congo State for the second quarter of the year 1890 was double that of the corresponding period of 1889, and five times larger than it was in 1887. These figures show the necessity of giving the Congo State the means to pursue its honorable and humane mission.

Wesleyan Missionary Society—Tonga.—The good news is confirmed respecting the improved condition of affairs among the native Wesleyans, chiefly due to the wise intervention of the High Commissioner, Sir J. B. Thurston. The majority of the exiled Wesleyans have returned from Fiji. With the re-affirmation of religious liberty, the hitherto suppressed feeling of fear and restraint is beginning to disappear, and large numbers are again attending the Wesleyan Church.

Secunderabad.—That ardent Wesleyan missionary, the Rev. William Burgess, reports that he has baptized 200 natives this year (1890), and expects shortly to announce double that number.

Italy.—In connection with the vigorous campaign of English Wesleyans in the Italian peninsula, the doubted secession of a whole Roman Catholic village in Italy to Methodism is now ascertained to be beyond dispute.

English Wesleyan Missionary Society Finances.—With regret the secretaries state that out of a prospective home income of £109,000 for

1890, they had received only £13,000; meanwhile they had to borrow money at a high rate of interest to meet their liabilities.

Japan.—To secure more help for the English Church mission in Japan an important meeting has been held in the library of the Lambeth Palace, London. Bishop Barry said, notwithstanding the lateness of the English Church in the field, it would ultimately take the leading place in influence and responsibility among Christian communities there. A remarkable feature of the Japanese is their capacity to adapt themselves to what they had adopted. The church mission had certainly no desire to hinder the growth of native institutions, or to press upon the Japanese any western customs which could not be appreciated or assimilated.

Madagascar.—Excitement reigns in the island consequent upon the terms of the Anglo-French agreement becoming known. The various missionary societies view with misgivings the ultimate action of the queen and her advisers. As to the immediate prospects, religiously and politically, the statements of authorities are conflicting. According to agents of the London Missionary Society recently arrived in England, no alarm is entertained in relation to Madagascar's agreeableness to the French Protectorate. An experienced missionary, the Rev. J. Sibree, believes that there is a tendency to exaggerate the differences and apprehend risks only in days to come. The English Government have been gradually compelled to subscribe to what the Malagasies must have foreseen many years since. A younger missionary, the Rev. James Taylor, declares the influence exercised by the London Missionary Society on the natives is unequalled by any kind of organization in the island, and that from the Society it would be difficult to wean the people.

On the other hand these assurances are vigorously controverted by the