

Bazaars and Gambling. Rev. Dr. Norman L. Walker, editor of *The Free Church Monthly*, opening a bazaar at Dunfermline, Scotland, recently said he could never see that raffling could be seriously spoken of as gambling. In raffling the object was to get the stake, but in a bazaar-affle the result was not thought of.

Rev. Dr. Talmage. The resignation by Dr. Talmage of his pastorate of the Brooklyn Tabernacle has attracted much attention all over the English speaking world. We observe that a section of the New York press is particularly severe on the rev. gentleman who is charged with being of too mercenary a disposition. It is believed that he will settle in Australia.

Power of Ear-ear. Dr. Joseph Parker says: "Collecting, Conviction. as far as I can, the records of great preachers, evangelists and missionaries, I have been astounded by how much good has been done by earnest men, who probably never heard of the clay tablets of Assurbanipal, and quite as astounding has it been to me to find so little set down to the credit of men who discovered the tablets and deciphered their meaning."

A Curious Document. A rare and curious paper which came into possession of the Presbyterian Board of Missions has been placed in Lenox Library. It is supposed to be the only copy extant of the Act of Parliament of 1649, in Cromwell's protectorate, incorporating and chartering the Society for Instituting the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians of New England. The ancient document is printed in old-English lettering.

English Wesleyans. The agitation among the English Wesleyan Methodists still continues. It has been proposed to form thirteen divisions or dioceses in England, with a superintendent, or bishop, over each division. The scheme is meeting with strong opposition among the Methodists themselves. An Episcopal paper remarks that if the followers of John Wesley have revived the old maxim, *Nil sine episcopo*, they need only revive their old allegiance to the church which their founder forbade them to leave.

South Sea Islands. Dr. J. G. Paton, the "Apostle of the New Hebrides," who is pleading for missions before great audiences in Great Britain and Ireland, finds it necessary to defend his missionary brethren from accusations made in official documents. A Blue Book published under the sanction of the Colonial Secretary, contains charges that the missionaries in the South Sea Islands are employed in "selling rum, beer, and firearms." Dr. Paton publicly denies the charges, and challenges investigation.

The Damascus Mosque. The great "Mosque of the Dervishes," in the city of Damascus, which was recently burned, will be missed by travelers. It was the first object to rise in view as the traveler came over the great plain of Damascus and crossed the river Abana. One of the minarets of this mosque was called the "Minaret of Jesus," as according to Mohammedan tradition Jesus will appear on this tower when He comes to judge the world. This minaret rose 250 feet from the ground.

Papineau's Conversion. Commenting upon the formal admission of Mr. Papineau to the Presbyterian Church, the *Montreal Gazette* says: "It is not a rare thing for a man when he comes to maturity to abandon the faith of his fathers. Protestants do this as well as Roman Catholics. But the matter is one which concerns

the individual interested alone. Whether he goes from Protestantism to Catholicism, or from Catholicism to Protestantism, provided he acts as his intelligence and his conscience directs, he is doing right, and public abuse of him is folly and laudation unnecessary.

The Monk to the Pope. A suggestive letter on the Pope's Encyclical, from the Anglican Monk, Father Ignatius, who visited America three years ago, has been sent to the editor of *The Liverpool Catholic Times*. Father Ignatius says: "Every Protestant and Anglican, every Roman Catholic and orthodox Oriental, must thank God for inspiring Pope Leo XIII. with such glorious courage. It was the Holy Ghost alone who nerved the mind and hand of this second Leo the great, to pour forth such a torrent of heavenly faith and courage, such consolation and reassurance, for the benefit of all sincere disciples of Jesus Christ whether Catholic or Protestant."

Sabbath Observance. It is notable how wide-spread the Sabbath observance controversy has become throughout the United States; not only with reference to the saloon question but with regard to the whole matter. Contending forces are being ranged into two parties and the fight must soon begin. Shall the Continental Sunday be introduced into America? This is the question at issue. In Terre Haute, Indiana, for the first time in several years, billiard-rooms have been closed. In South Carolina a Bill has been brought into the Legislature to prohibit the running of railroads on Sunday. Of great significance is the fact that in Paris the great stores, the Louvre, Bon Marche, and Printemps were closed on Sundays by a vote of 9,400 out of 10,000 patrons.

State Aid to Sectarian Schools. Most of the bishops of the Church of England have issued New Year's pastorals, and some of them have called forth considerable comment in the secular press, notably that of Dr. Jayne, the intrepid Bishop of Chester, in which he advocates a system of grants-in-aid of sectarian schools. Referring to the saying of Dr. Martineau that "dogmatic and undogmatic consciences enjoy equal provision and protection," Dr. Jayne says: "At present, the undogmatic conscience is pampered; the dogmatic conscience is starved. That the parent or ratepayer who is a Wesleyan, or Roman Catholic, or Churchman should be refused, for schools in which he is interested, any share of the educational rates he is compelled to pay, while those who believe little or nothing can obtain and monopolize the advantages, is a palpable injustice."

A Hugo Church Structure. It is proposed to build a Presbyterian mission house in New York eleven stories high. It will be built on the site of the Stuart mansion on Fifth avenue and Twentieth street, with Mrs. Stuart's bequest of \$1,000,000, which was not to be used for current expenses, but invested. The lower floors will be rented to merchants; several floors will be rented for offices; there will be an auditorium for mission meetings; rooms for the Presbytery and visiting clergymen; one floor for Home Missions, and one for Foreign Missions. Provision will be made for church erection and for publication. New York is the real centre of publishing interests in the East. The Lenox building will be sold. The new house will bring in revenues to pay the salaries of secretaries, and will leave one hundred cents of that dollar given for Foreign Missions to get to the field.