

RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

It has been suggested by some persons that the forty days fast of Dr. Tanner, of New York, may serve to cast some discredit on the *miraculous* character of the fasts of Moses, Elijah, and our Lord. It has been well observed, however: "Moses was with the Lord on the Mount forty days and forty nights, and he did neither eat bread *nor drink water*." At the end of the time he came down from Sinai bearing in his own hands the two tables of stone, and was a finer looking man than when his fasting began, and just as ready for all his duties. What possible relation is there between this fast of Moses, and that of the poor emaciated creature that figured in Clarendon Hall? The difference is as wide as that between a man sustained by the infinite God in doing His will, and a man putting himself to the torture to make money and notoriety thereby.

The British Imperial Legislature is taking an advancing step in the matter of education. Attendance on schools is now to be compulsory in England and Wales, as it has been in Scotland since 1872. It appears that both the great political parties in England are in favour of the measure. This is evidently a movement in the right direction. It is manifestly improper that children should be deprived, through the criminal neglect of parents, of that education which the State provides. It would be well if the Educational authorities in all countries would look into this matter, and improve upon their school systems by making attendance compulsory.

The *Times of India* states that the car of Juggernaut, one of the most noted symbols of heathenism, was not dragged through the streets of Puri this year, as usual, on the 9th July * * *. The omission is the more important because, according to the religious law or custom, if the car be not drawn on the ninth day of the car festival, twelve years must elapse before it is again used. We may hope that before the twelve years shall have passed, the eyes of the people will be sufficiently opened to this senseless act of idolatry to suppress the custom for ever.

As Turkey rapidly approaches its inevitable destruction it makes rapid advancement in intolerance. The British ambassador at the court of the Sultan has been officially informed that hereafter *no Moslem shall be allowed to leave his religion and become a Christian under penalty of death*. On the other hand, there are signs of religious awakening and inquiry after Gospel truth in some parts of the Empire where the night of priestly ignorance has long reigned unbroken.