

THE FINGER OF GOD.

How wonderful the events that have happened in Europe since the middle of July! Let us look at some of them in their bearings on the Kingdom of God. Prussia the Protestant power has defeated France which has long been the defender of the Papacy—the right hand of Anti-Christ. Jesuit intrigue was active in urging on the war. The French Empress had long been a convenient tool in the hands of the Ultramontanists. Now poor Eugenie is Empress no longer, and Jesuit intrigue is baffled and outwitted. Roman Catholics in England, and Ireland, in the United States and in these Provinces, sympathized with France and prayed for the triumph of her arms—just as they sympathized with Austria in 1866. The sudden defeat of the French armies, and the overthrow of the Empire, led to the Italian movement on Rome. The Pope is no longer a Temporal Sovereign. The shadow of royalty has passed away from him, and he is reduced to the position of a subject of the king of Italy.—This change will add to the rapidity with which the Roman Catholic Church is breaking into pieces. The Infallibility dogma was not formally pronounced when the storm began to blow which has hurled the “Infallible” Pope off his throne! Verily, this is the finger of God. The effect of this war on the Papacy in Europe will be—is already—stupendous. What will be the effect of French defeat in Foreign Mission fields? For years past the Jesuits have had the prestige and material support of France at their back, not only in prosecuting their own work, but in interfering with that of others. Their outrages and intrigues in the Levant, in Syria, in the South Seas, in Africa, are still fresh in memory. None of these would have been possible had they not been in religious-political alliance and co-operation with France, advancing the ambitious foreign policy of “the great nation,” in return for its support in the most reprehensible measures. Another day of reckoning has come for the Society of Jesus. The downfall of French Imperialism will be felt on every mission field. Our own Missionaries

in the South Seas have often complained of the danger from French interference. So scandalous was the persecution of Protestant natives on some islands that the Emperor was induced to interpose his authority to check the Jesuits. They have now received a more thorough and permanent check.

News of the Church.

Presbytery of Halifax.

This Presbytery met in Chalmers Church, Halifax, on Tuesday, Aug. 9th. Rev. A. Simpson was appointed Moderator for the year. There were present besides the Moderator, Revs. P. G. McGregor, John Cameron, James Maclean, A. Stuart, D. S. Gordon, E. A. McCurdy, E. Annand, A. Falconer, J. Forrest, and A. B. Dickie; and Dr. Forrester, C. Robson, M. Goudge, and R. Murray, Elders. Mr. Gordon stated that his health is improved, but his medical advisers still object to his resuming his full labours. Supplies were granted to the congregation of Annapolis and Bridgetown till the end of this month. Mr. Gordon stated that the Presbyterians at Digby are putting forth great efforts to erect a place of worship. They want aid from the Presbytery,—a collection, if possible, from every congregation. Rev. James McLean handed in a collection of Twenty Dollars taken at Gay's River for this object. Messrs. Simpson and Forrest were appointed to open the Bedford Church next Lord's day. After transacting a good deal of routine business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet at Newport, on Tuesday, the 30th August, at 10 A.M., and at Windsor, at 7 P. M., in both places for visitation as well as ordinary business.

The Presbytery of Halifax met at Newport, on Tuesday, August 30th, at 10 A.M., for visitation. There were present Revs. J. T. Murdoch, J. Cameron, J. McLean, E. Annand, E. A. McCurdy, A. Simpson, John Forrest, J. B. Logan, and E. Grant, ministers; and H. B. Webster, Geo. Blanchard, and H. Smith, ruling Elders. After sermon by Rev. E. A. McCurdy, the Presbytery proceeded with the visitation. The usual questions were put to Elders, Session and Managers, and were satisfactorily answered. This congregation is without a pastor and consequently the whole machinery of the church is not so vigorously worked as it would otherwise be. The members of Presbytery expressed themselves well pleased, and after some