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## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

REV. ARTHUR WAGNER, of Brighton, denies that he joined the Roman Catholic Church.

THE Catholics of Holyoke, Mass., are shewing their good sense by petitioning that Father Dufresne, the priest against whom a jury recently gave a verdict of \$3,400 for unlawfully interfering with the business of a Catholic stable-keeper, may be removed. We do not wonder that they should wish to get rid of his sort of priestcraft.

REV. DR. WILLIAM TAYLOR suggests the propriety of having missionary biographies in Sunday school libraries. The English navy, he said, had been manned by boys who had read the life of Nelson, and so the mission field might be manned by boys drawn to it by reading such lives as Livingstone's or Moffat's.

At the annual meeting of the British Branch of the Evangelical Alliance, held in Edinburgh, on the 28th and subsequent days of October, it was stated by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Barclay Church, that there were in Edinburgh 40,000 heathen—persons altogether outside of the Christian Church—while in Glasgow there were 150,000 of such, and that they were increasing at the rate of 2,000 a year, while the total population of the city only increased 10,000 during the same period.

THE authorities of Austria continue in their opposition to freedom to worship God. Persons are prohibited from meeting in private houses for worship. Not long ago seven Baptists met in a house in Vienna for prayer and were dispersed by the police. In another house, on a recent Sunday, the police entered and dispersed the fifteen people who had met for prayer, ordering the males to appear in the police court at three o'clock on the same day. Parents who have left the Romish Church are ordered to have their children baptized by the Romish parish priest. Rev. Mr. Balzar, an earnest preacher of the gospel, has been forbidden to hold any more meetings. It is hoped that the result of the visit of the deputation from the Evangelical Alliance will be a restoration of religious liberty in Austria.

MR. SPURGEON takes high ground respecting the right of ministers who have once fallen into immorality to be restored to their places. He says: "Open immorality, in most cases, however deep the repentance, is a fatal sign that ministerial graces were never in the man's character. Caesar's wife must be above suspicion, and there must be no ugly rumours as to ministerial inconsistency in the past, or hope of usefulness will be slender. Into the Church such fallen ones are to be received as penitents, and into the ministry they may be received if God puts them there; my doubt is not about that, but as to whether God ever *did* place them there; and my belief is that we should be very slow to help back to the pulpit men, who, having once been tried, have proved themselves to have too little grace to stand the crucial test of ministerial life."

"THREE HUNDRED Topics for the Prayer Meetings of 1880," is the title of a valuable little pamphlet issued early this month by the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations. It contains a good topic, with Scripture selections for every day of the year, Sundays excepted. On Mondays, emphasis is laid on the Study of the Bible, on Tuesdays, the unconverted; on Wednesdays, young men; on Thursdays, Christians, and on Fridays, the intemperate are specially considered in the topics, on Saturdays the International Sunday School Lessons, with Golden Texts, are given. It is a compact little book, and will be found of value to pastors, church prayer meetings, committees, Sunday school teachers, Association secretaries, Gospel Temperance workers, and all engaged actively in Christian work.

THE position of British affairs in Afghanistan is increasingly difficult. Even before our readers can see

this note a terrible catastrophe may have taken place, and English authority and prestige all over the East may have been rudely shaken to its very base. However much we have held that the war in Afghanistan on the part of the British was wicked and unjustifiable, we should unfeignedly deplore any occurrence which might seriously threaten our supremacy in India, for after all that can be said on the other side the balance of good resulting from the power and position of Britain in Asia has been and still is very great, and to short-sighted mortals this beneficent work does not seem to be as yet nearly over. We can but wait and watch, as multitudes are doing, with the keenest interest, the deepest anxiety and the most earnest prayer.

THE New York "Tribune" has gone with the multitude to do evil by issuing a Sunday edition. The united demands of its readers and advertisers for a Sunday paper it has found "constantly harder to resist." It says it is not a question any longer whether the people will read Sunday morning papers, but only what papers, and that "if we refuse to sell they simply go elsewhere," so that "after long efforts to resist it, we are thus finally forced to see the imperative business necessity of giving our patrons what they want, rather than drive them to our rivals." These are weak arguments in favour of setting aside a divine command. "Hard to resist," "business necessity," "if we refuse they will go elsewhere." The publishers save their consciences by hoping to make their Sunday edition "an improvement over the Sunday publications which it will displace."

THE following appears in a letter sent by Bishop Colenso to Mrs. E. M. Southey. "My only hope now is in the English people, who will, if I am not greatly mistaken, be astonished and ashamed to hear that in the name of England a polygamist Englishman—Mr. John Dunn—has been appointed to be king of the largest of thirteen satrapies into which Zululand has been divided. It has thus cost eight millions of money and two thousand five hundred of our own lives, white and black, and after killing 10,000 of a noble race for defending their fatherland, we, a great Christian people, advance the standard of civilization and morality and Christianity by setting up a polygamist king. I do hope the English people will be aroused to compel the Government to undo this part of the present arrangement." The Bishop also repels stories of Cetewayo's cruelty as calumnies, and hopes he may be restored to the throne he filled so well."

MORMONISM is just now forcing itself on the attention of the people across the lines. Utah Territory is about to seek admission into the family of States. There is nothing to hinder her but polygamy, and this, we are sorry to say, may not keep her out. If once admitted to the Union the United States Congress will have no power to check polygamy as the marriage laws are made by each individual State. Whatever is done must be done now. But what to do is a difficult problem. President Hayes favours the exclusion of polygamists from the ballot box. Another remedy suggested is to insert a clause in the Constitution declaring polygamy an offence against National law. We trust the Christian people of the United States will rise in their might and wipe out this foul blot of Mormonism in the West as they did that of slavery in the South. Joseph Cook in the prelude of his Monday lecture said there was no law in Utah against seduction or adultery. Brigham Young had a brother who lived in open polygamy with his own granddaughter. A Mormon frequently marries the sisters of his own wife and sometimes a mother and daughter at once. And all this uncleanness under the name of religion!

A ROMAN CATHOLIC journal of Milan says. Since 1870 the Protestants built fourteen new churches in free Rome; opened many schools, asylums, meeting rooms, gave away millions of Bibles and tracts, distributed alms and made use of various means to in-

duce the sneep to enter their fold. More churches and schools are to be built, and another new conventicle will be shortly erected in the Via Nazionale, near the Piazza Odescalchi. This building is to form another Waldensian establishment. The Waldensian community is possessed of considerable resources, and has several houses in Rome, including one in the Corso near the Sciarra Palace. The Waldensians have twelve or thirteen thousand pounds sterling in hand ready for purchasing a site for a new church. This money was collected in a few months in Scotland by the exertion of Mr. Stewart, of Leghorn. The Waldensians offered a large sum of money for Dr. Gason's church in the Piazza San Silvestro, but that gentleman refused to sell it. Sir Augustus and Lady Paget are among the patrons of the Waldensians in Rome, and her ladyship was active in promoting the Waldensian bazaar this summer. The British Ambassador is not so liberal towards the British church, and, in fact, has deserted Mr. Wass, the Anglican chaplain, for the American church in Via Nazionale."

THE Archbishop of York told the following story at the York Diocesan Conference a short time ago: What happened in this diocese in one case was this—A living was bought and the presentation was sent down to him with a great number of papers. Amongst the rest was a letter which was opened like the rest, having apparently been sent with them, for his (the archbishop's) secretary to read. It was a very curious letter. It said—"Dear Dick: I have bought the living and paid for it. You go as quickly as possible and get instituted, before the thing is much talked about; and there is an end of it." (Laughter). He directed his secretary to ask an explanation of this very short letter. There was a pause of three weeks, and at the end of it a solicitor wrote back to beg that he might be furnished with the letter. In these latitudes, however, they did not part with original documents (laughter). It was by a pure accident that this matter was found out, and, if the gentleman had burnt the letter instead of sending it, they would have known nothing about the plan. He prevented the transaction as a matter of course. The waiter in the York refreshment room, two days before the man was to be instituted, was the witness of that deed; and between two glasses of sherry the living was to be bought, and before the end of the week the man was to be in. That was the kind of action that brought scandal on the Church. (Applause.) Yes, and on Christianity as well.

ACCORDING to the Austrian Constitution of 1867 "full religious liberty" is guaranteed to every individual in the realm. Practically, however, it is far otherwise. Many cases have been adduced, and on undoubted evidence, in which such liberty was either greatly circumscribed or altogether denied. The Baptists (members of which denomination have been residing in Vienna at least ever since 1845) were, last March, forbidden to hold further meetings, and so far as news have reached this country that prohibition remains in force. At least it is certain that so recently as the 2nd of last month a prayer meeting of fifteen persons was broken up by the police. Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Reformed Church, etc., have all been forbidden to hold even prayer meetings, and when such have been held they have been dispersed by the authorities. Evidently a good deal of work has yet to be done in that country before any adequate idea of civil and religious liberty can be generally diffused or understood. Of course all this is done on the old tyrannical plea that such sectarian worship is contrary to the interests, as it is opposed to the wishes, of the great majority of the people; and so we get back to the old vexed and, we must add, not easily answered questions, "What is persecution?" and "When does a majority abuse its proper rights and oppress a minority?" The border line may not be easily defined, but very few persons of much intelligence or any thought will have any hesitation in saying that the Austrian authorities have crossed over into the region of persecution.