

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD ABROAD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Within the Church of England, a definite step has been taken toward the employment of Lay Agency in public spiritual efforts.

The good people of Scotland are just now alarmed by an expected increase of the desecration of the Sabbath—an alarm which, we are pained to say, is increased by the unintended, but real, counter influence of Dr. Norman Macleod, chaplain to the Queen.

In London, the enemies of the Sabbath have met with a decided check in what they regarded as their strong point—i. e., among the working classes.

The excitement is spreading to other spheres of society, and the project of closing the Crystal Palace—not the grounds around it, but the building itself—on the Sabbath, though for the present defeated, is gaining ground.

The subject of the union of the unendowed Presbyterian churches in Scotland, is experiencing some revival under the championship of Dr. Cairns.

"Innovations," a term which means the introduction into churches of organs and hymn-singing, are gaining ground among the Presbyterians of Scotland.

FRANCE.

The Protestantism of France, despite the embarrassments of the rationalistic strife, gives signs of healthfulness and thrift.

to fight against their passions, and to enter upon the path of duty, under the salutary influence of instruction and example.

The Evangelical Church of Lyons has just brought out an interesting half-yearly report. This is a free church, clear of state entanglement, and hence in better condition for conserving the faith.

A recent event has afforded a singular illustration of the embarrassing condition of the National Reformed churches, in regard to rationalism, as brought about by their enjoyment of State patronage.

The whole Protestant pastoral force of the city is fifty-four, and the number of churches of all Protestant denominations is thirty-seven.

The progress of liberal ideas in the Roman communion in the Empire is becoming more marked. It is true that ultramontaniam, with its suicidal stubbornness, is in the ascendant, but a western policy has been inaugurated, which is making better headway against infidelity.

Father Hyacinthe is making the new system of independent morality his special object of attack. This system has, however, nothing new but the name.

In connection with these efforts of his, there has been brought out the same disposition toward Christian fraternization which we mentioned last month, as exhibited by the Archbishop.

We record, as one sign of hope for France, that a number of the young men who raved their blasphemies against religion in the congress at Liege, (noticed under the head of Belgium), have been sentenced by the *Senatus Academicus* to be "forever excluded from the Academy of Paris."

GERMANY.

The death of the celebrated pastor, Harms, of Hermansburgh, Hanover, is a heavy affliction to the cause of vital godliness and evangelical enterprise in the Lutheran Church.

The Austrian Government, notwithstanding the most solemn declaration of the sovereign respecting the rights of different confessions, has just perpetrated another act of spiritual despotism.

The new Sabbath-school movement is becoming one of the most cheering signs of hope for the redemption of German Christianity from the deadly embrace of rationalism. We see interesting accounts of the

progress which it is making in Stuttgart, a city where two years ago permission to establish a Sabbath-school was flatly refused. Three schools are now in operation there, giving Biblical instruction to between three and four hundred scholars, and supplied by about sixty teachers.

ITALY.

In the evangelistic department, while nothing very stirring has recently occurred, evidences of progress are constantly pouring in, in connection with schools, colportage and enlarged facilities for bringing Gospel truth to bear on the Italian mind.

Rev. Mr. Clark, connected with the American Foreign and Christian Union, writing from Milan, says that progress is more rapid. He can plainly see a great change in Italian thought, sentiment, and religious conviction during the past year.

The more general view of religious affairs in Italy is a political one, everything of interest being more or less connected with the bridling, by the government, of Popish impudence. The government recently ordered the examination, by its own commissioners, of that portion of the Italian seminaries which are professedly for theological training, but which are attended by many youths destined to other professions.

The examination had no reference to the strictly theological studies, but to ascertain what other teaching young Italians are there receiving. The priests loudly protested, threatened excommunication, and all that; but Victor Emanuel has heard this too often to feel his nerves disturbed by it.

The examination has exposed this state of things—All the studies most demanded by the requirements of the times—most needed to prepare a youth for the part he might have to play in after life, history, geography, natural science, and the like, were either wholly neglected, or reduced to the minimum, both in quality and quantity.

From Rome there is nothing of special interest. What little religious excitement exists, is centered around the coming eighteenth hundred anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Peter, on the 29th of July next.

BELGIUM.

At present the religious condition of Belgium is not hopeful. The irreligion of the kingdom is rapidly assuming the phrase now so common in other countries of the continent—the undisguised atheism of the days of Voltaire.

The Italian Parliament is employed on schemes for the secularization of ecclesiastical property, and the separation of the spheres of the Church and State.

The Author, devoting his whole time in preaching to, and corresponding with children, finds that there is a great deal to be done in that line, especially when directed to a particular school class, family or child.

destroyed, and the idea of God exploded. Frantic applause followed such declarations.

Unhappily, the so-called religion of the kingdom is more likely to add fuel to this devastating flame, than to do anything efficacious toward extinguishing it.

Just now an effort is being made in the Chambers to reform the vestries, by bringing them out from under the immediate control of the clergy.

RUSSIA.

A new step on the path of religious toleration has just been taken by the Government. A series of reforms, looking to the amelioration of the condition of the Jews of Poland and other parts of the Russian empire, is in course of execution.

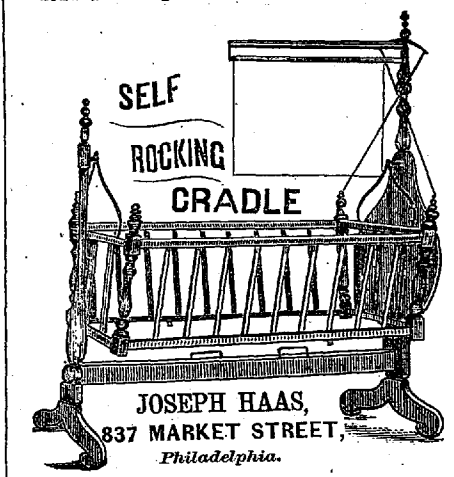
We are sorry to mar the above with the record of a decidedly backward step. In the originally German province of Livonia, now a part of the German empire, some twenty years ago, during a severe famine, great numbers of people, to escape starvation, were induced to forsake the Lutheran communion, and enter the Orthodox Greek Church.

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