

A HOPEFUL MOVEMENT.

THE movement towards the Catholic Church which has existed in Turkish Armenia for some thirty years and which, during the last five or six, has become more pronounced, and is still increasing, has aroused the alarm of the schismatic authorities. The schismatic Press is full of remonstrances and explanations on the subject, which only serve to prove the manner in which conversions are extending, and, otherwise, bear falsehood plainly marked on their face. The promise of temporal advantages made by the Catholic patriarch, the connivance and encouragement of the Turkish Government, the schemes of the Jesuits; such are among the causes assigned. Each of them, however, is palpably false, and the true reason is to be sought elsewhere. It may be found in the mercy of God which is leading people, seriously desirous of living Christian lives, out of a lifeless and ineffective system, betraying all the rottenness and dryness of the branch separated from the living tree, into the Church in which alone healthy vigour and true life are to be found. The conversions are taking place, not by individual cases, but by whole communities and villages at a time. It will be a danger to Mohammedanism when it has no longer the deadness of a schism, but the life and strength of the Catholic Church to contend with.

A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE.

It should be profitable to study the manners, as well at home as abroad, of the thrifty and industrious who are held up as an example which the great majority of colonists might follow with advantage. Or do the Chinese, contrary to the nature of all the rest of mankind, change their character when they change their climate? If this is not the case, there should be some instruction for us in the recent massacres in the province of Fo Kien. The Dominican mission there has been attacked with great violence, its churches burnt, its converts and adherents slaughtered, and its missionaries put to flight. The French consul had exerted himself to give the Fathers some protection but, according to the latest accounts, it was impossible to say how far he could succeed, and an infuriated population were continuing their work of destruction and threatening not to spare one Christian life. Do the Chinese, then, who emigrate leave all their evil disposition behind them, or is it only the force of circumstances that restrains them for the time being? We should know the whole truth concerning a people whose immigration is advocated as advantageous to the colonies, and whose example is held up to us for imitation.

A VERY remarkable boy, indeed, is he bred, and, as QUEER URCHINS, it would appear, left for the most part to rear, or raise himself among our Yankee cousins. This boy, it seems, cannot read a tale of adventure but his inspiration is to start off and emulate the heroes described in it. There is a danger in making him acquainted with the details, or imaginary details, of life on the distant prairies, or in the back-woods, lest he should incontinently conceive an inordinate desire to possess the scalps of Indians, and set about preparing himself to take them by a career of robbery and violence among his present neighbours. And yet—alas, for poor human nature!—it may be asked whether into the nature of any people that are destined to play a great part in the history of the world something of the adventurous spirit and ardent imagination of the Yankee boy must not enter. Distorted and all awry as his mind is shown to be, it is perhaps the material out of which the minds are developed of true heroes, of men capable in any walk of life of giving themselves up to something besides a grovelling pursuit of personal interests, and devoting themselves to the public good—either as statesmen, or soldiers, or sailors, or in some other capacity. The devil-may-care element, in a word, may but be the one extreme of a nature of which self-devotion and heroic service may be the other. The boy whom the dime novel excites to marvellous and hazardous undertakings, as he exists in America, may be a nuisance, and a being to be relentlessly repressed, but possibly there is more hope for the people that produces him than there is for the people whose average boy can be excited to nothing more heroic than, for example, a lounge at the street-corner with a pipe in his mouth, and other such like relaxations. But let us hope the boy who wants to take scalps and “fools around” in a blood-thirsty manner generally may not be about to be replaced by a still more astonishing and much more confounding phenomenon. What, for example, are we to think of the boy theologian who is a doctor of divinity while he is cutting his teeth, and learns to speak only that he may at once begin to preach sermons? But such a boy as this, more wonderful than the outcome of the dime novel, even were he hung from head to foot with Indian scalps, has just turned up in Kentucky. And do we not know from Topsy that the State in question produces strange growths? His name is Pascal Porter; he is twelve years old, and for the last three years he has been engaged with marvellous success in the work of the ministry. He could have gone at it much younger they boast on his behalf. Discerning nurses in fact, read his powers while he was yet almost a baby in arms. But modesty or something else induced his parents to restrain him until he had reached the mature age in

question, when he was launched as a full fledged minister upon the Evangelical waters. Little cares the Rev. Pascal Porter for the scalps of Indians; the souls of white men are the objects of his chase. “Logical, doctrinal, and deep,” so do they describe the rev. Pascal’s sermons. But is not the impudence of the young scalp-hunter also unfathomable, and are not both of them American boys? If the American boy, with the encouragement of his elders, can take as much nonsense, to be adventurously pursued, out of the Bible, as without the encouragement of his elders and to their great chagrin, he can take out of a dime novel, it is evidently all in the boy, and the boy is the father of the man. Is it, therefore, to be wondered at if our American cousins bid fair to continue a remarkable people.

A SHADY TRANSACTION.

A RENEWAL of confidence took place lately all through the empire when it was published that the Nizam of Hyderabad had offered to contribute a sum of six lakhs of rupees towards the British defences of the Indian frontier.—The offer was taken as a sure proof of the friendly disposition of the native princes towards British rule, and as it was said to have been quite spontaneous, also as an intimation to Russia that she could entertain no hopes of sympathy in the quarter concerned. People, meantime, who were a little better informed, felt slightly doubtful concerning the matter, because they knew, in the first place, that the Nizam had not the money to contribute, and, in the second, that he was a ruler not quite capable of acting spontaneously in anything. It has now, however, finally come out that this magnificent and reassuring offer was certainly not spontaneous, and that the probabilities are it was made at the suggestion of a Cabinet Minister, desirous of producing a favourable impression, and making use of an Indian official present at the time in England. The Indian official, moreover, may have been a willing instrument, as he had an object of his own to serve, and whose interests could be forwarded by bringing the affairs of the State of Hyderabad into good repute among the English people. His special object was the floating of a company to work the mines of the State, he, in conjunction with certain English gentlemen, as clever as himself, having obtained a concession of the mining rights in question for a term of thirty years, and having already made a very profitable speculation of the matter—more particularly by inducing the Government of the Nizam to purchase back at a high price property which they had parted with for almost a nominal price. However it be, and the probabilities are, as we have said, that the origin of the offer was the desire of a Cabinet Minister to produce a favourable impression as to the Indian policy of his Government, it is certain that the action of the Nizam cannot be regarded as affording any clue to the disposition of the native princes. The offer was made by him on solicitation and on the assurance given that it would not be accepted, but would be taken merely as a proof of good will. At best, then, this reassuring offer means nothing, and all the meaning it can possibly have is of a very shady nature. It was the result of a piece of scheming on the part of the Indian official Abdul Huk, either alone or in combination with a Minister of the Tory Government.

Colonial Notes.

WARLIKE preparations are the order of the day. The Cerberus, the Victoria, and the Albert, with the torpedo boats, have been for some time engaged in exercising at Port Phillip Heads. The ships are fully manned, 263 members of the Naval Brigade being on board. The garrison artillery and Harbour Trust Battery are also under instruction at the forts. The Minister of Defence promises that although he sees no necessity for making provision for the representation of the Press at such exercises as those being carried out, he will allow every facility to correspondents at the front in case of war. It is to be hoped, nevertheless, that our men of letters may be for some time longer permitted to follow their own devices for the obtaining of warlike news, with nothing more formidable than exercises for the object of their reports. The war correspondent is a literary character that no country need have much desire to aid in forming.

The picture gallery in the Melbourne Exhibition promises to be an exceedingly attractive feature of the great show. Preparations are being made to display the pictures to the best advantage. The gallery for the works in oils is being painted in dark red and maroon with a ceiling of French grey and white, and that for the water-colours in olive and bronze green. The tints have been taken from the Royal Academy.

The report of Mr. Saville Kent to the Commissioner of Customs on the Victorian Fisheries, deals in an exhaustive way with this important branch of industry. It makes many recommendations, which, if only carried out, should result in a very desirable emendation and advancement. In almost every branch of the fisheries, whether fresh water or marine, it claims that Government aid is necessary, either to prevent wanton destruction or to promote resuscitation and development. Among the proposals is one for the construction of refrigerating railway cars to convey fish from the remote districts. The monopoly by which prices are now maintained at a