

Catholic enterprise there has not met as yet with any signal success, the doctrines of Protestantism represents an absolute enigma to the Abyssinian mind and is received with the utmost disfavour. "*Leur violence de langue à l'égard du culte de la vierge et des saints,*" says the author referred to above, they positively fail to understand. Some time ago the Orthodox Church instituted negotiations for union with the Abyssinians, but these overtures were rendered abortive by the death of King Theodore. However, adds the writer, the Russians still entertain a hope that the matter will at some future time be re-discussed.

**A SPIRITED
REBUKE.** THE fruits of Catholic missionary enterprise manifest themselves to such an extent that the unscrupulous hostile criticisms which, from time to time, emanate from the pens of Protestant writers.

not infrequently find a decisive refutation in the columns of the secular Press. The attacks of prejudiced persons on the labours of the saintly men and women engaged in propagating the faith on the outskirts of civilisation may not be regarded altogether as an unmixed evil, for they oftentimes elicit replies which not only dissipate the false notions that are sought to be disseminated, but still further enlighten the public mind as to the true character of the noble work which is thus being carried on. As witness of this we have the masterly exposition of the success of Catholic missions which was evoked from a high quarter in the Church in Australia—a reply which forms another eloquent and convincing contribution to the literature on this important subject. The latest Protestant writer who has seen fit to attack Catholic missions is a Mr Peery, a Lutheran minister, who has issued a voluminous work, in which he compares the labours and the methods of Catholic and Protestant missionaries, much, of course to the credit of the latter. The work was reviewed in a recent number of *Literature*, and the journal, after severely rebuking the author for his obvious prejudiced treatment of the subject matter of his volume, adds, "We fully appreciate the devoted assistance that Protestant missionaries receive from their wives, and the valuable influence of the Christian home which they set up in foreign lands as an example of what Christian family life should be; but, in view of the testimony which Mr. Peery is compelled to render to the success of the Roman Catholic missions, and especially of their ministrations to the helpless and infirm, his condemnation of celibacy seems rather sweeping. Could married missionaries, for instance, devote themselves to the care of lepers, as do the priests of the Catholic leper hospital, which Japanese sufferers, we are told, much prefer to the Government hospital for lepers? Mr. Peery lays it down that the missionary's faith must be aggressive, and that his position should continually be one of offence, and not defence. But his aggressiveness appears to be chiefly doctrinal. At any rate, we do not imagine that the equipment of the missionary's house with Western furniture, books, music, papers, etc., and the provision of the missionary himself with the attractions of a liberal salary, summer vacations in the hills, and regular furloughs, would have occupied quite so prominent a place in the handbook for missionaries written, say, by Francis Xavier. Yet the Apostle of Japan was a missionary of an undeniably aggressive type; but perhaps he looked upon missionary work as a vocation and not as a profession." In the above quotation the spirit of tolerance and fair play towards Catholic institutions which is now happily gaining ground in the *fin de siècle* age finds noteworthy expression. It is utterances from such disinterested quarters as these that carry most weight and afford another proof that "out of evil cometh good."

ODDS AND ENDS. THE election in the Middleton Division of Lanchashire has resulted (says the *Dublin Freeman*) in another victory for Home Rule. The seat was captured by the Tories in 1895. Alderman Duckworth, the Liberal, aided by the Irish vote, has now won it back by a majority of 300. No one can attempt to deny that this is a Home Rule victory in every sense. From the first Alderman Duckworth placed Home Rule in the forefront and kept it there till the finish. The Irish voters responded to the appeal of Mr. Dillon and polled solidly for him. The question of the attitude of Liberalism towards the voluntary schools was raised in the course of the contest, but the Irish Catholic electors saw no reason to vote for the Tory because some Liberals were unsound on this question, especially as Alderman Duckworth gave assurances on the education question of a fairly satisfactory character. English Catholics may feel assured that their best stay in the House of Commons is the Irish vote, without which they would not have won what they did in the past. No matter what the views of the Liberals on those subjects, it seems unlikely that they will be able to put them into operation without the Irish vote, and under these circumstances the electors of Middleton were right in placing the Irish question first. This victory, added to that of Barnsley, cannot but raise the hopes of Nationalists and encourage them to buckle on their armour once more for the National battle. These English electoral victories, important as they are in themselves, are only an indication of what

can be done if we bend our energies to the work. Since 1890 all the Home Rule propagandist work in the English constituencies has ceased. A united party and people might resume it with success. Mr. Redmond's organ declares the lesson of this election to be that the "Whigs" should have more courage. The plain lesson, however, is that if Irishmen were not divided the present is as favourable a moment for pushing Home Rule to the front in English constituencies as was ever presented.

At a congregation at Cambridge University on Thursday afternoon, November 11 (says the *London Tablet*), the honorary degree of LL.D was conferred upon the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chief Justice. In presenting the Lord Chief Justice for the degree, the Public Orator, after referring to the bonds which united Ireland to Great Britain, added that England on her part was indebted to Ireland, not only for some of her ablest generals, but also for men of conspicuous merit in the arts of peace, one of whom was to be honoured by the university on the present occasion. The Lord Chief Justice had long been numbered among the luminaries of English law. At the bar he had proved himself a sound lawyer, masterly in cross-examination and most persuasive as a pleader even in the most difficult cases. In Parliament he aided by his eloquence the cause of England no less than the cause of Ireland. Elsewhere he had defended the late leader of the Irish Party to the very best of his ability, and when a great controversy had been submitted to arbitration by England and the United States of America, he had triumphantly vindicated the rights of the former. Raised to the Bench amidst universal approval, he had received the warmest of welcomes from some of the foremost citizens of the United States on the day on which he delivered before the Law Congress his famous address on international law and on the limits of arbitration.

Says the *Hongkong Press*:—"The news that Russia, Germany, and France have agreed upon a joint policy, and that each is to take a slice of territory, is surprising only by reason of its suddenness. The breaking up of China has been predicted for years past, and the events of the last few years have strengthened the popular disbelief in the stability of the existing Government. It was not generally anticipated, however, that the end was quite so near, or that it would be brought about in precisely the way the news published recently would seem to indicate. We do not think that news is to be discredited in the main, though no doubt it should be read with some modification of detail. Germany has already taken possession of Kiao-chau Bay, and is likely to remain there, but the report that she is to annex the whole province of Shan-tung we should be inclined to regard as premature, the fact probably being that she simply intends, with the concurrence and support of France and Russia, to make her influence predominant in the control and development of the province while leaving the native administration in operation under German guidance. Russia is already predominant in Manchuria and is rapidly becoming so in Korea, and in time, no doubt, those countries will become Russian in name and fact, but whether formal annexation is to be entered on immediately seems still problematical. As to France taking Fokien and Formosa, it is rather difficult to know what she could do with the first-named province or how she would maintain the necessary force to hold it in subjection; while with regard to Formosa, while the Chinese inhabitants of that island might possibly welcome any European Power as their masters instead of Japan, it would be no light task to dispossess the latter Power by force, and she would hardly yield, without a struggle, even to the combined pressure of Russia, Germany, and France. It would seem, however, that a conflict between Russia and Japan cannot be long delayed, and Germany and France have no doubt agreed to give their support to Russia, France taking Formosa as her reward should Japan be crushed."

In Ireland, as in England (says the *Daily News*) the Government's distribution of its patronage is bitterly complained of. A correspondent in Dublin, signing himself "Irish Catholic," writes: "Although few over here accepted Mr. G. Balfour's famous statement 'killing Home Rule by kindness' in its literal sense, the vast majority of us Roman Catholics took it as being an intimation on his part that we were at last to get fair play from a Unionist Government, and that when the occasion arose our interests would no longer be at the mercy of the Castle party, or the Protestant party or the Orange party. We have had a rude awakening. Three vacancies recently existed for Irish Resident Magistrates, and, mindful of the Chief Secretary's promises, a number of Roman Catholic barristers sent in their names as candidates. Some of them had considerable professional experience, extending over many year's general practice at the Bar, and one or two others had, in addition, other special qualifications. The duties of Resident Magistrates are purely judicial, and they naturally felt sanguine of success. Those appointments were recently made, and we now know what Mr. Balfour's 'kindness policy' means. No.

TIGER BLEND TEAS HAVE NO EQUAL.