

General Intelligence.

LITTLE REFORMATION IN GERMANY.

Many stray paragraphs, and now and then an extract from the letter of some European correspondent, have gone the rounds of the papers, and announced the fact that a priest, named Ronge, whom, bye the bye, his bishop was forced to punish with suspension, some six years ago, raised his voice last autumn against the corruptions of that church, which would not wink at his little irregularities, nor pass over his immorality without censure. It appears too that he found some other fallen priest, of the same mind as himself, and they two have set up a "German Catholic Church," more pure than the Roman Catholic Church, whose rules of morality they found too strict.

Dean Swift once said, that he wished the Pope would not throw the weeds he dug up from his garden over the wall into the garden of the Protestants. Others, however, are not of the same mind. For the weeds are eagerly grasped as god-sends, and carefully planted out again.

Ronge and his followers have been praised—extolled to the skies, and his movement trumpeted abroad as a second *Reformation* in Germany. It does not become us to show the disparity between the two heroes, Luther and Ronge. Doubtless there are some points of similarity—that especially of holding vows before the altar of God, in utter contempt.

Great have been the boasts of the triumphant success of this party; and the approaching downfall or conversion of the Catholic Church of Germany *en masse* has been confidently predicted. The Presbyterian has copied from some paper, a letter of a correspondent from Antwerp on this subject. He writes:

"The priests Ronge and Czerski are at the head of the new church in Germany, and their progress within the space of three months is truly wonderful. They have formed congregations in Breslau, Leipsic, Berlin, Königsberg, Frankfort, and thirty or forty others, though they and their followers have been formally excommunicated by the Pope, and their doctrines pronounced as heresies. Their avowed object is to render the Catholic Church of Germany, a German national institution, "independent of an Italian sovereign."

This statement, would, perhaps, be very appalling, did he not unwittingly add:—

"But it cannot be denied that, as yet, the greatest number of their followers are Protestants."

The Puseyites are charged with being Jesuits in disguise, because they endeavour to lead Protestants to the outer edge, as it were, of Popery. Ronge it appears is doing still more. He is con-

verting Protestants by the whole sale to his new fangled "German Catholicism" in which though leave is given them to rail at the Pope and at Confession,—other Catholic doctrines which they have hitherto denied, are held sacred. We give his American trumpeters the hint in all kindness, that Ronge too must be one of those mysterious personages, so numerous in our days, *Jesuits in disguise*. For this we have two reasons. The Jesuits are accused of holding it lawful to disregard and violate vows to God. Read what the above letter says of Ronge:

"At a great public dinner, which was given to Ronge by the "German Catholics" of Berlin, and at which the Burgomaster, several of the highest officers of State, many officers of the army, and other persons of distinction assisted, a committee on behalf of the society of Protestant and Catholic ladies of Berlin presented him with a ring, the exact *fac simile* of the one Martin Luther presented to his bride. The priest Ronge took it, and very modestly remarked that he was fully aware of the high present, that his gratitude was commensurate with the magnitude of the gift, but that he thought best to answer *by deed* the inestimable hint. His marriage is about to be celebrated in a few weeks."

Our second reason is drawn from the charge that the Jesuits ever struggle to obtain the aid and then the controul of the civil power. Hear the correspondent again:—

"The Prince of Prussia, and perhaps the Prussian government generally, are favouring the new movement, which must be looked on as the natural continuation of the quarrel of the late king with the Archbishop of Cologne."

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Diet on the 22d April, prorogued its sittings indefinitely. The whole of the diplomatic corps Zurich for Berne after the day's proceedings. The following closing address was delivered on the occasion by M. Furrer, the President of the Diet: "Gentlemen—The extraordinary Diet this day terminates its labors by testifying its confidence in the Directory, which it has every reason to be well pleased with. It has charged that body with the ulterior execution of the decrees which it has passed, and with the duty of providing generally for such matters as press most. It is under the immediate impression of the most afflicting events, and in the midst of the most active fermentation, that the Diet met for the purpose of devising the best means of arriving at the pacification of the country; and for that purpose it judged the aid of imposing military forces absolutely necessary. Now that the moment of separation is come, what regards does it cast on the past—with what senti-