

terest and protection were extended to them in the time of distress, or the hour of peril; whose unostentatious example cheered them in the performance of arduous and ill-requited duties; and whose affability, kindness and affection, will ever live in their heart, though his presence has been swept from among the children of the earth by the all-powerful arm of the Omnipotent "into whose purposes no man shall scrutinize."

Dr. Nolan was only 44 years of age.

ENGLAND.

A late number of the *Hereford (England) Times*, gives an account of a very imposing ceremony which took place in that city on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a Roman Catholic Chapel. It was attended by upwards of 2000 persons, among whom were many persons of distinction. The Herefordshire militia Band, played upon the occasion, and the High Sheriff of the county assisted in laying the first stone. The *Times* concludes the article as follows:

We believe we may safely assert, there is not on record, a single instance of this ceremony, which so much gratified every individual present, having been performed in Hereford during the last five centuries; and, we believe that we may safely state, that this sacred ceremony has not been honoured by the instrumentality of a High Sheriff, in any part of the United Empire since the days of the reformation. At half past two o'clock the High Sheriff, with the Catholic Clergy and gentry, were hospitably entertained by H. A. Beavan, Esq. Widewarsh street. It was a most pleasing sight to behold the workmen, to the number of 70, who are employed in the erection of this edifice, all taking an active part in the ceremony of the day, bearing, on their left breast, Maltese crosses. The extreme length of the Chapel will be 115 feet, the breadth 47. The height of the Chapel, from the ground to the top of the cross of the dome, is 63 feet. The interior dimensions of the Chapel, in the clear, are 94 feet by 42 feet. The whole inside of the Chapel will be lighted from the dome, which will be glazed with ground and stained glass. We cannot conclude this article without making a well-called for remark, that, during the whole of the interesting ceremony, the most perfect good order and friendly feeling prevailed throughout; and, although the ceremony was strictly Catholic, and conducted solely for Catholics, nevertheless, the seriousness, respect, and becoming attention of the audience, during the ceremony, and the cheerful good humour and congratulatory expressions after, would have made a stranger imagine, that the audience, also, consisted entirely of Catholics.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Dec. 5.

Mr G. F. Young presented a petition from Mr Robert Montgomery Martin, author of the *History of the British Colonies*, praying for an investigation by the house into the state of these colonies, and a redress of their grievances. Amongst other statements, are the following:—

"That the inhabitants of those colonies and territories, although embracing numbers, wealth, and intelligence, are unrepresented in the parliament of the United Kingdom; their complicated affairs being intrusted to the care of a Secretary of State changing with every administration in England—selected for office with reference rather to an identity of party feeling than to knowledge of colonial and mercantile affairs, and acting therefore on a defined and permanent system—without any known fixed principles, and, by reason of the precarious and temporary tenure of office, inspiring no useful confidence either in the colo-

nies or in the merchants and others trading to, and interested in, the peace and prosperity of those distant dependencies of the empire.

"Your petitioner abstains from pointing out the reasons for the inadequacy of the Colonial office to execute efficiently the momentous duties intrusted to its charge; he adverts not to the anomalous power and patronage vested in a single individual subject to so trivial a responsibility as that which now exists, neither will he refer to the causes for the dissatisfaction and party spirit which more or less pervade each of our colonies—destroying their social concord, retarding their trade, and weakening their connection with their mother country.

"Your petitioner relying on the wisdom of your honorable house for an inquiry into, and a redress of, the grievances of which he complains, presumes not to dictate the course which parliament should adopt, further than to observe that there are many colonial governors, judges, civil officers and commercial gentlemen now in England, whose local knowledge and experience might be rendered beneficial should it be deemed proper to form an administrative department for the efficient management of the colonies of this maritime and commercial empire.

"And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray," &c.

Mr Young said the value of the maritime commerce of those colonies was thirty-five millions per annum. When the vast interests at stake were considered, it would not be denied that the subject was one deserving the consideration of parliament. He should hereafter, unless better advised, bring the subject under the consideration of the house, and he hoped, therefore, they would permit him to have the petition printed.

The *Scotsman*, in commenting on some amendments proposed in the House of Commons by the radical members, to the Address to the Queen, says:

Much, however, depends on the prudence of the Radicals; and we hope that, after having heard Lord John Russell's explanation, they have sense enough to see the alternatives which lie before them. They can put an end to the present government when they please; but they are well aware that they cannot form another from their own party; and therefore that the choice lies between Lord Melbourne's ministry and one of a much less liberal description, whether composed of Tories alone, or of Conservative Whigs coalescing with moderate Tories. We dread the second much more than the first. A real Tory ministry could not last a year; but one formed by a coalition might retain power for a considerable time. There are men in the Liberal party, as in every other, whose fidelity is not to be relied on, and the occasional extravagance of the Radicals supplies such men with too plausible a pretext for joining the enemy. We are satisfied, however, that no member of the present Government would join a coalition Ministry. We have very little doubt that the Radicals will choose the safer and wiser alternative. If they incurred the responsibility of destroying the only Liberal Government which can exist in the present circumstances of the country, such insane conduct would annihilate all confidence in them, and seal their fate as an influential party.

SPAIN.—The intelligence from the provinces still continues to be of a deplorable character. The situation of Estremadura in particular was only pitiable. The whole of the Province was overrun with rebel hands, and the inhabitants generally were disaffected to the Queen's cause. The Estremadura

Stage-coach which reached Madrid on the 15th, had been stopped seven times on the road, and the travellers ransomed each time to an enormous amount. The Carlists intended to lay siege to Trullo, and unless the city were immediately relieved, the inhabitants were so discouraged that they would offer no resistance.

Tallada and Esperanza, 'after ravaging all the villages of the Huerta of Valencia, and along the banks of the Júcar, had separated from Cahrora, and passing by the rich and manufacturing town of Alcoy, had advanced to within a short distance of Alicante, laying every thing waste on the passage. A party of forty horsemen banditti, calling themselves Carlists, approached within four leagues of Madrid on the 17th ult., and, taking their station on the Ardeñux road, robbed all they met. A party of lancers, who had sallied out "to punish their insolence," were driven back; the officer in command of the party was killed, and only three soldiers returned after having been made prisoners. The Carlists cut off their noses, and sent them back to inform their comrades of the fate that awaited them should they venture out in too small a number against that band, whose chief was not known.

In Malaga there have been some formidable disturbances and much bloodshed. A report reached London from Paris yesterday, that the Carlists had invested Bilboa. If so, Espartero may again visit the broken bridge of Luchero, from which he takes his new title, and have another twelvemonth's campaign in that neighbourhood! It was also reported that the Carlists had raised the siege of Puycada.

LONDON, Dec. 7.

The *Madrid Gazette* brings no fresh intelligence from the theatre of war. The *Eco del Comercio* of the 26th publishes accounts from Castellon de la Plana of the 20th, stating that on the preceding day General Ora had advanced on Arcora, where Cabrera, Forcadell, and Rufet had concentrated their forces. An engagement ensued, which lasted until a late hour of the night, but its real result was not known. It was only rumoured in Castellon that the Carlists had suffered considerably, and left 300 prisoners in the hands of the Christians.

A number of small bands still continue to hover in the vicinity of the capital. On the 26th in noon-day, the stage coach between Madrid and Aranjuez, was stopped and robbed by fifteen mounted Carlists, who carried off the four passengers it contained, with a view, no doubt, to extort from them a further ransom.

Advices from Frankfort, dated the 26th ult., that a loan in favour of Don Carlos was much talked of in that city, and that it would in all probability be negotiated by Dutch Houses.

It appears that, although Don Carlos has lately received considerable contributions in money, affairs are not going on so prosperously with him. Dissensions have broken out in his camp, and Zaratégui, Elío, and other distinguished officers are likely to be added to the list of those who have been disgraced or arrested.

The Princess de Beira is said to be on her way to join him, which it is expected, will only increase the confusion by which he is surrounded. The accounts from the capital are in no respect more favourable. The moderates appear to be acting with inexplicable folly in imitating the example of Isturiz, by defying the electors and population of Madrid, cancelling their votes, and abrogating the acts of the Provincial Councils. The National