

# The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16.

RIGHT REV. DR. WALSH.

We understand that his Lordship the Bishop may be expected from New York in the next steamer. The Catholics of Halifax will be gratified to learn that his Lordship has at length been successful in attaining an object so long and so ardently wished for, namely, the introduction of a Religious Community of Ladies into this City.

## NEWS BY THE NIAGARA.

The news brought by the Niagara is sad and distressing to the heart of every Catholic. The Chief Minister of Pius the Ninth has been brutally assassinated—his Secretary Monsignor Palma has been shot, and the Pope himself—the illustrious Pius IX.—has been assailed in his Palace. His faithful Swiss Guards have been overpowered and disarmed, and he has been obliged to yield to violence, and appoint a Radical Ministry. For the present the party who have been crushed in Paris, Frankfurt, Vienna, and Berlin, have secured a triumph in Rome; but it will be of short duration. Their principles and their object, however, they may have disguised them for a while—are now so well known, that no friend of liberty—no Government in Europe, can with safety to themselves, allow them to exist or be carried out. It is not liberty nor constitutional government which they seek—it is destruction of all order—the subversion of all constituted authority—the complete disruption of society—and a general distribution of property. We should be sorry to believe that the great body of the Roman people were imbued with those principles, or that they should be so ungrateful to their illustrious Sovereign who has already done so much to forward the cause of national liberty in Italy. We believe that these excesses which have disgraced Rome are the work of foreign emissaries, aided by the mob, and the few worthless demagogues to be found in every City. But their triumph will be brief. The English Press who were advocates of the introduction of a new order of things in Italy, have denounced these recent outrages, and the ingratitude exhibited towards the true friend of liberty. The Times and Chronicle seem now to doubt the capacity of the Italians for self-government.

Four armed steamers and four thousand men have been despatched from France to render immediate assistance to the Pope, and to secure him from all violence. A special Ambassador has also been sent from the French Government to assure His Holiness of their protection, and if he should be obliged to leave his own Capital, and inviting him to France, where he would receive a reception worthy of the French Nation, and worthy of himself. We have no fear for the personal safety of the Pope. Even amidst all their outrages the authors of the late disgraceful events pretended to respect his person. The prayers of every Catholic should be offered up for his protection and guidance during these critical times. We have every confidence that he will in a short period triumph over all adversaries, and that his Throne and his Government will be placed on a surer foundation than ever. The Tablet thus speaks of the recent events:

"But what shall we say of the terrible intelligence from Rome? In a few lines nothing worth saying can be said. The gulf of the Roman, and generally of the Italian, Liberator can hardly be exaggerated. The critical position—not of the Popedom, that was never safer or more firmly established—but of the Pope, of the Holy Pontiff, who, a few months ago, was the idol of all the pretended worshippers of freedom, is too potent to require enforcing by many words. Everybody asks what will become of the Pope? Will he take refuge in France? Will he accept the hospitality of England? Will he carry St. Peter's Chair from the blood-stained city, in old times the Babylon of the Apostles, and transfer it to the modern Babylon from the inhuman ferocity of Rome afflicted with a new Paganism? Will he erect his Spiritual Throne in Ireland? Will he dignify the New World with the presence of his august Pontificate? These questions are in every mouth, and it is more easy to ask them than to find a satisfactory solution of the great problem they involve.

A question so entirely within the providential and miraculous government of the world requires to be thought of and judged with a pe-

cular reserve. The Pope it seems has not yet abandoned his dominions, and may never abandon them. But it seems almost more than probable that the system of outrages which now flourishes in Rome is but a temporary phase of the great Italian distemper. The miscreants who there outrage all humanity by their crimes are powerful only by their superior audacity, and as to real numbers and permanent importance, are weak and impotent. Sooner or later they must and will be put down; and they can only be effectually put down by the development of an wanted courage and energy in the vacillating and cowardly majority. The Pope is not yet in exile; but if he be driven forth, depend upon it he will return in triumph at no very distant date.—ho, if God spares his life to see the end of that strange revolution of which he has witnessed the beginning—his successor, if the providence of God calls him speedily to the reward of a heavenly kingdom.

"Meanwhile, we need hardly say how much a duty it is to every Catholic to be instant in prayers to the Throne of Grace, for that divine and supernatural protection which has never deserted the Church in far blacker and fiercer trials; and a confidence which enables every true Catholic to feel his heart, his courage, and his faith elevated, amidst those chastisements which the Almighty sends upon his children for the purification and amendment of their lives.—Not for his own sins but for ours the Shepherd of the flock is smitten. He is bruised for our transgressions; and the healing of his wounds must be sought in our prayers, our penances, our austerities, the affliction of our souls and bodies, and the correction of our vices and concupiscences."

## SWITZERLAND.

Monsignor Marelli, the Bishop of Geneva, has been imprisoned in the Castle of Chillon, by the Radical Government of Switzerland. This distinguished Prelate was hurried away from his residence without the least notice, and since his imprisonment all communication between him and his clergy has been prevented. He is not allowed to speak or communicate with any of his people. This is the liberty which may be expected from Radicals. The only crime of which this distinguished Prelate was guilty, has been in refusing to submit to conditions which interfered with the discipline of the Church, and were derogatory to his rights as a Bishop. One of the conditions was that all Candidates for the Ministry should be examined before their admission to Holy Orders, by a committee of laymen appointed by the Government.

By the constitution recently framed by the Radical majority, every person educated by a Jesuit, or by any religious order, is excluded from all the rights of citizenship, and declared incapable of holding any office in the State. This is another specimen of the liberty which may be expected from the Infidel Government of Switzerland.

## THE STATE PRISONERS.

The Judges have deferred, until the 11th of January, their decision on the Writ of Error, brought by Smith O'Brien and the other State Prisoners. Should the decision be adverse, an appeal will be made to the House of Lords.

It is said that the sentence of transportation in the case of Mr. O'Donerty, will be commuted to a term of imprisonment, in consequence of two Juries having already disagreed in his case. A petition on his behalf, signed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Lord Cloncurry, and by the Jury who found him guilty, has been presented to the Lord Lieutenant.

## ST. MARY'S SINGING SCHOOL.

Mr. Haggarty has arranged to devote two evenings in the week to the Class.—We recommend all who can spare an hour on Wednesday and Sunday evenings to join it without delay. The progress which has been already made by those who have attended is most gratifying, such an opportunity for acquiring a knowledge of music may never again be offered to the Catholics of this city. Parents who have the interest of their children at heart would do well to send them to the singing school. On the last evening on which we attended, we were glad to see that Mr. Haggarty had introduced a Piano, and we were happy to hear that he had made arrangements to continue the class during the winter. The terms are made so low as to be only sufficient to pay the expense of gas, fuel, &c.

M. A. W. New Brunswick.—We have received from our esteemed Correspondent, another of his beautiful translations of the Hymns of Prudentius.

## ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

Mrs. McCara, through the Very Rev. Mr. Conolly, has subscribed the sum of Three Pounds to the above Church.

Mr. Buckley's list of Subscribers in Wards 5 and 6, will appear next week.

## CHOLERA.

The Cholera has appeared in New York, having been introduced in an emigrant vessel from Havre. Every effort has been made to prevent it from spreading, but several cases have appeared in the city. The mortality is very great in England in proportion to the number of cases. The last accounts were, however, more favorable. Ireland has been hitherto spared from this calamity. God grant that this may continue to be the case, as she is already sorely afflicted.

THE CAPACITY OF THE WEST.—From the Alleghenies to the Rocky Mountains, from the frozen lakes of the North to the tepid waters of the Gulf of Mexico! Every soil, every climate, every variety of surface. Of all the great products of the world, coffee is the only one which does not, or may not grow there. Take the people of Britain, Ireland, France, Holland, Germany, Italy and Spain, and place the whole in the valley beyond the Appalachians, and it would continue to ask for 'more.' Ohio alone, without sinking a nail below the level of her valleys, could supply coal equal to the amount dug from the mines of England and Wales for twenty seven hundred years, and Ohio is but a pigny, in the way of bitumen, compared with Western Pennsylvania and Virginia. Iron abounds from Tennessee to Lake Erie, and forms the very mountains of Missouri and Arkansas. Salt wells up from secret store-houses in every northwestern state.—Lead enough to shoot the human race extinct, is raised from the great metallic dykes of Illinois and Wisconsin. Copper and silver beckon all trusting capitalists to the shores of Lake Superior. And mark the water course, the chain of lakes, the immense plains graded for railroads by Nature's own hand, the reservoirs of water waiting for canals to use them. Already the farmer, far in the interior woods Ohio or Indiana, may ship his produce to his own door to reach Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or New Orleans, and every mile of his transit shall be by canal, steamboat, and railcar.—North American Review.

## INTERESTING LECTURES.

Mr. Buckingham, son of the distinguished traveller, has been recently delivering in New York, a course of Lectures on the Middle Ages. The New York Press speak in the highest terms of the Lectures, of the extent of Mr. Buckingham's researches, and of the immense amount of information which he has acquired on this very interesting period of the history of Europe. Protestant writers are so much in the habit of describing the ignorance and mental darkness of the period which preceded the reformation, that it is gratifying to find a gentleman of Mr. Buckingham's talents, coming forward to do justice to the learning and the enlightenment of these ages. "Robicouque regnat Lutheranismus, ibi est literarum intencus," was the remark of the learned Erasmus, when lamenting the vandalism of the early Reformers in destroying libraries, places of education, and in checking the impulse which literature received after the invention of the art of printing. Hailam, an English Protestant, is also obliged to confess that the Reformation was opposed to the progress of literature. Had not the bright prospect with which the sixteenth century opened been clouded by the fanaticism of Luther and his followers, not only literature, but civil liberty and the moral and social condition of the world would, under the guidance of the Catholic Church, have been in a far better position than they are now.

But it is for the impulse that Biblical learning received, that Protestants principally extoll the so called Reformation. The Bible, according to them, was an unknown book to the laity—even Priests and Monks were ignorant of it; and we are told that the conversion of Luther, and the blessing of his subsequent enlightenment are due to his having accidentally discovered a copy of the Bible during a visit to Rome. We need not say that this is utterly false, as it was morally impossible that Luther, who belonged to a religious order, should not frequently have seen numberless copies of the Bible. Scarcely had printing been discovered, when several versions of the Bible were published, in every country of Europe, and some of these passed through as many as sixteen editions. This was many years before Luther and the authors of the Reformation were heard of. The publication of so many editions is the best evidence of the circulation of the Bible, and of the encouragement given to the work by the Church. Mr. Buckingham does full justice to the exertions of the Clergy in circulating the Bible during what Protestants are wont to call the "Dark Ages." We copy from the New York Herald the following notice of one of his Lectures:

From the New York Herald.

## MR. BUCKINGHAM'S LECTURES ON THE MIDDLE AGES.

Mr. Leicester F. A. Buckingham delivered, last evening, at Clinton Hall, the fourth lecture of his course; the immediate object selected for consideration being the extent to which the Bible was read and studied by the monks and clergy, and rendered by them accessible to the people. The announcement of this topic, and of the peculiar views which it was the intention of the lecturer to maintain, attracted a very large audience, which has gradually increased in numbers at every successive lecture he has given; and it was not difficult to perceive that a very strong impression was created by the novel, striking, voluminous, and overwhelming testimony which he adduced on this interesting question, casting an entirely new light on the religious condition of the middle ages, and proving most satisfactorily the truth of the opinions it was presented to support. After a few preliminary observations as to the nature of the expectations with which the investigation should be commenced, Mr. Buckingham proceeded to the consideration of the first point to be examined—the possession of the scriptures by the monks and clergy. This was not left to their own individual choice; it was a matter of positive compulsion; for the canons of the church required that every priest, prior to his ordination, should possess certain portions of the sacred writings. Every church and monastery possessed several copies of the scriptures; the records of medicinal history, which were cited at great length, are full of notices of donations of Bibles to such establishments, by both lay and clerical benefactors; and many authorities were cited to prove that it was by no means unusual for a single church or monastery to possess very many separate copies of various portions of the Scriptures. Missionaries to heathen nations took with them copies of the Bible; and the same book was the constant travelling companion of the monks and clergy, who were accustomed to carry it about with them in their journeyings. That they were in the constant habit of reading the Scriptures most assiduously, was demonstrated by a variety of evidence. Their study of the fathers he proved to be an indirect reading of the Bible, since their works consisted of scriptural commentary, largely interspersed with scriptural quotations; but they were also most diligent in reading the Bible for themselves. The monastic rules referred them to that volume as the best guide to a virtuous and holy life; the precepts of saints and the canons of councils pointed to it as the fittest theme for their study and meditation; and their practice was in perfect accordance with the advice thus strongly inculcated. In their churches the Bible was read with remarkable diligence; and private scriptural reading occupied a large share of their attention. The monks of various orders were compelled by the rules of their founders, to commit the psalms, and, in some instances, the whole of the New Testament, to memory; and many instances were cited of individuals who exceeded even those requirements, and cultivated an equally familiar acquaintance with other portions of the sacred volume. This reading and committing to memory, was accompanied by a careful study of the Scriptures. The writing of commentaries occupied a large portion of their time; their sermons and homilies were full of biblical quotations, and their tone of thought and style of language were eminently Scriptural, and harmonies and concordances of their production yet remain, and evidence a very advanced acquaintance with Scriptural knowledge. They were equally assiduous in multiplying copies of the Bible; and very many of these are still in preservation, although the custom which then prevailed of binding Bibles, and portions of the Scripture, in gold and silver plates, studded with gems, exposed them to greater peril than any other books during the ravages of predatory warfare. Special regulations were made to secure the utmost excellence in this department of their labor; and some individuals are peculiarly commemorated by monastic biographers for the astonishing fruits of their diligence in multiplying copies of the Scriptures. Mr. Buckingham then proceeded to examine the efforts made by the monks and clergy to render the Bible accessible to the laity. Of course they could not so overcome the circumstances of the age as to render it possible for every man to possess a Bible; zealous as they were they could not perform impossibilities; the utmost that could be expected of them was