

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

FRANCE

The Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which has been anxiously looked for, was read on the 17th ult. The following passages are interesting to Catholics: "Letters and the arts unite voluntarily under glorious reigns—all great things hold together. In the same order of ideas, the members of the corps of education, although treated with less parsimony than hitherto, merit the ideas of improvement which occupy the attention of your Minister of Public Instruction."

"I thought it necessary to question M. Thouvenel upon the subject. I inquired of M. Thouvenel whether any negotiations had been pending between this Government and that of Austria with reference to the Archduke Maximilian. His Excellency replied in the negative. He said that the negotiations had been carried on by Mexicans only, who had come over for the purpose and gone to Vienna."

"The answer of M. Thouvenel that no negotiations were pending between the French Government and that of Austria may be, and probably is, true; but if M. Thouvenel had been asked whether any pourparlers, overtures, or conversations had ever passed between the Emperor Napoleon and the Archduke Maximilian, perhaps his answer would be different; or it may be that he had no knowledge of the fact, for the Emperor, when an idea enters his head, seldom begins by informing his Ministers or by opening negotiations in the sense meant in the despatch. I have some reason to know that the idea of putting the Archduke Maximilian on the throne of Mexico has been in the Emperor's head for the last 18 months, at least. It was talked of, vaguely to be sure, but still talked of, in certain circles of Parisian society long before January last, and I heard it alluded to in a distant provincial town in October last. Did etiquette allow of questions being put to the Emperor as they are to his Minister of Foreign Affairs—not about official negotiations, but about non-official negotiations with the Archduke himself, or with General Almonte, the Mexican Minister, the answer would probably be less negative than that of M. Thouvenel. As I have already observed, the idea has been a cherished one of the Emperor for a long time past, and though Ministers may not know these things, they are seen to ooze out sooner or later in society. Whether the idea originated with the Emperor himself, pleased as he has been with the character of the Archduke, or whether it was first put out as a feeler by Almonte I cannot say."

"It has been said that the Archduke accepted the offer without hesitation. This is not true. The Archduke replied to the overtures made to him, that he could not accept or refuse a throne which was not yet in existence. When rival factions in Mexico were put down, the wrongs of the contracting Powers redressed or revenged, brigandage crushed, and public tranquillity restored, then, indeed, if the Mexican people turned towards him and invite him to rule over them as a constitutional Sovereign he did not think he should hesitate. A French physician who lived for many years in Mexico, where he acquired considerable wealth, was, about a fortnight or three weeks since, requested to attend a private conference with a well-known senator, and, I think, a Minister, in order to give his opinion whether, from his knowledge of the state of things in that country, he thought a monarchial form of government would suit the Mexicans or be accepted by them. He gave his opinion decidedly in the affirmative, with the reservation, however, that any Prince proposed for that purpose should not be a Spaniard. According as the civil war in America continues without hopes of a speedy solution, commercial embarrassments become greater in France. Merchants find no employment for their capital, and remain inactive. It is an instructive fact that the only industry now prosperous is that which the Protectionists prophesied: would be annihilated by the commercial treaty with England. The iron-masters are the only manufacturers who are disposing of their produce at remunerating prices."

"The French papers publish an official document of which, as they say in the guarded language which in France is a matter of necessity in dealing with any of the acts of the authorities, 'our readers will not fail to appreciate the importance.' It is an order of the Prefect of the Aude suppressing the Conference of the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, which has hitherto been authorized to exist at Limoux notwithstanding the suppression of the Central Administration of the Society decreeing legal penalties against its members if they should henceforth meet, and consigning 'the books, registers, correspondence, and material' belonging to the Society, and all money actually belonging to it," to the Mayor of Limoux, 'who is to be responsible for the preservation of the same.' The reasons given for this violent act are: That 'M. de Sature Valiere, styling himself 'President of the Conference of Limoux,' and professing to act in its name, has called upon the Minister of the Interior to maintain the Council General of the Society.' That this act had been protested against by twenty-three members of the Conference; and 'although the demand had not been regularly voted by the Conference, as appears by the protest of the 23 members, it still shows that some members of the Conference desired to pervert the Society into an instrument of their political passions or their personal ambition,' which is 'essentially opposed to the spirit of moderation and dignity by which such associations ought always to be inspired.' It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of this act as a proof of the absolute subjection of all charitable and religious societies in France to the authority of the State. When the general Society of St. Vincent of Paul was dissolved, we were assured that the individual conferences were to enjoy full freedom of action; and that all that was objected to was their union into a single corporate body by the superintendency of a Central Board sitting at Paris. It now appears that any one of the local Conferences is at any moment subject to be broken up, and its funds confiscated, if its President presents to the Home Office a petition directly and avowedly on the affairs of the Society which does not express admiration of the acts of the Minister, and secure his approbation.—Weekly Register.

of the treaty of Paris, it though it was to its advantage to maintain the system of privateering, and replied evasively to the proposal made to it to sign the convention with the European Powers; and that at present it is only because an insurrection has broken out in the South that it invokes the benefit of a law of which it declined to admit the authority. It would, nevertheless, be absolutely unjust, to oppose this argument to the demand of the Federal Government. The Administration which made a negative reply to the proposal of the European Powers was an Administration named by the South, and was composed, in a great part, of the men who are at the head of the separatist insurrection supported and patronized by M.M. Jefferson Davis, Floyd, Mason and Sidel.

"Among the diplomatic correspondence published in the Times, is a despatch from the British Ambassador in Paris to Earl Russell, dated Jan. 24. It relates to the rumours prevalent at that date among the officers employed in the Mexican expedition that they were going to place the Archduke Maximilian upon the throne of that country:—

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The Archbishop of Paris, at a meeting of Cures which he recently held at the residence of the Cure of the Madeleine, told them "that they must be prepared for persecution." These words from the lips of one so timid, have caused great surprise. That they were spoken I know from a witness. Persecution is not, in my opinion, the most imminent danger. I dread much more the regime which wraps us in us in corruption and treason.

The Protestant papers quote, with great exultation from M. Louis Veulliot's recent work, the 'Parfum de Rome,' a denunciation of the Pope, of which, if it is genuine, we only say, as Catholics, we are bound to sincerely regret that any Catholic, especially one like M. Louis Veulliot, (whose religious earnestness we have never doubted, however we have been compelled to differ from him), should have allowed himself to indulge in imprecations so fearful. We are very sure that there is no man in Europe who would recoil from them with more unaffected disgust than our Holy Father Pius XI.

ITALY. The Diritto of to-day contains the following: "Garibaldi, having been informed that in some towns clandestine enrolments are being made in his name, has requested us to declare that he has neither authorized, nor recommended the adoption of any such steps."

A petition from the citizens of Bergamo against the Bishop of that place was referred to the Minister of Public Worship. In the Annuaire of Wednesday we read from Leghorn in a letter that:— "This Government, to whom it is nothing to trample on the most sacred rights, will, when it suits her even put on one side that decency which no one ought to neglect under any circumstances of time, place, or person. Of this shameful fault it has been guilty in the imprisonment of Monsignor Cori (late Vicar Apostolic of Agna). He was arrested in the Capuchin Convent at Leghorn, on the morning of the 21st of this month about nine o'clock, by two gendarmes. He was at once led to the public jail, called Del Dominicani, a den of the most abandoned ruffians. A gloomy cell was assigned to him, which contained two benches side by side for a bed, and a mattress upon them, which certainly did not make the miserable couch more comfortable, and a clumsy table, with a chair to match, and no light in the evening to drive away the darkness from that living tomb. As to his food it was like that of the rest. But that is not all. The cell of the Bishop was under those where women of bad character were confined, while these at both sides contained criminals of the lowest populace, and one can well imagine their nature. Behold the veneration which is nourished towards the sublime Episcopal authority!

FREE PRESS IN A FREE STATE.—In the Echo (Conservative paper) of Bologna we read:— "It is now a month that our editor has been in prison. From the prisons of Torrone, he has recently been transferred to the political prisons of St. Giovanni in Monte, and again shut up in a dungeon [segretum]. The greatest rigour is used towards him; his family cannot enable him even to receive his dinner save by great difficulty, and with the greatest trouble."

Great hopes were entertained by the Revolutionary crew of a speedy end to the life of the Holy Father, and their telegrams spread the glad tidings of the approaching event. The Correspondance de Rome, a paper published here in French, gave these ill-wishers of the Pope a very bitter pill a few days ago. It informed them that the Pope's family (Mistat) is celebrated for longevity: that the Pope is 68 years of age; that his two brothers, and one sister, are of the ages of 82, 78, and 75 years respectively; that his father died at the age of 84, his mother at 82, and his grandfather at 96—and the Revolutionary vermin are advised to base their prognostications on these data. Small comfort for them, I trow!

On Candlemas-day, while the Holy Father was blessing the Faithful in St. Peter's, a terrible thing was happening in Bologna. I quote from the Osservatore Romano; its correspondent, writing from Bologna on February 3rd, says, that all the well-disposed people in the city were scandalized by the quite unexpected presence there of the infamous monk Pantaleo, whose coming was duly heralded by printed placards fixed on the walls, informing the Bolognese that he should expect to see them in a certain church on Candlemas-day, to hear "the true Gospel of Christ" expounded by him.

Immense crowds attended, the writer says, and after the apostate had said a sacrilegious Mass, he mounted into the pulpit, and for an hour or more regaled his hearers with a discourse abounding in blasphemy and language of the most frightful kind, against all who are barring the way of the Revolution. He denounced the Confessional, and all those who frequent it; he denounced "the religion of the Pope," which he said was "not the religion of Christ," and he uttered a comprehensive anathema against "the Bishops, the Priests, and all who follow the Jesuitical religion of the Bishop of Rome." Afterwards he spoke of the mode whereby Italy should be regenerated and cleared of the "fifth which contaminates her"—a main feature in his scheme being the ridding of the land of "the followers of the hypocritical and counterfeit religion of Christ." He prophesied that in a short time Rome and Venice will be restored to Italy, not by Victor Emmanuel, who (he said) is incompetent to do it, but by "Christ incarnate in Garibaldi, whose principal Chaplain (he emphatically exclaimed) I am."

On the same day he delivered two other addresses in the same vein to great audiences, and his most extravagant utterances were vociferously applauded. He was quite bold and open in denouncing the Executive of Piedmont as being perfectly incompetent to make a United Italy. His only hope was in "a really Christian Republic, with Garibaldi as Chief." This Pantaleo is the man who acted as Garibaldi's "private chaplain" in his filibustering enterprise in Sicily; he was appointed by Garibaldi to some post of honour and emolument in the Island of Sicily; he came afterwards to Naples, and there, as you may remember, he preached, and compared the Garibaldian entrance into Naples with that of our Saviour into Jerusalem, and gave the preference, upon the whole, to Garibaldi! All this is shocking, but it is, after all, encouraging. Such things nauseate those who are at first inclined to be enchanted with them. The time of disenchancement is at hand, believe me, and the suppressed passages, as I am told, are of such a nature as to stir up the dormant faith and courage of men infinitely more phlegmatic than our Gallic neighbours, if they were only given to the public.—Cor. of Tablet.

A letter from Rome, the 4th, published by the Journal de Bruxelles, says, "The Court of Rome complains of the inaccuracies contained in the communication of the Ambassador (Lavalette), to M. Thouvenel. It is simply stated in it that the Cardinal Secretary of State said, 'All concession between the Holy See and its despoilers is impossible. Neither the Pope, nor the Sacred College, nor a Council, would have the right to yield the least part of the dominions of the Church.' Now, the Minister of the Holy Father said something more, and my information, in this respect, is derived from a good source. He forcibly contrasted the Emperor's promises with their continual violation since the beginning of the war of Italy, and asked the Ambassador why the solemn declarations on this matter in favour of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope, had only ended in the sterile and ironical guarantee, with which the Emperor now boasted that he surrounded the sacred person of the Father of the Faithful. 'Do not deceive yourself, Marquis,' said the Cardinal in conclusion, 'whatever may happen, the Pope will still be Pope, and we know what we have to do in due time and place.' The Ambassador asked with an ill-concealed anxiety whether the Holy Father intended to leave Rome, and seek refuge in the midst of any Catholic nation. 'I have no commission to answer so serious a question,' answered the Cardinal. 'All that my instructions allow me to tell you is, that the Pope will always be Pope. Should he have to decide on a second exile, the place matters but little for him. The Sultan himself will not refuse to give him an asylum; and in the presence of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, the people of England and America would rise like a single man and fall on their knees to receive this thrice holy

blessing of a Pope, an old man, and an exile. The world has recently invented long range weapons; but you know very well that the Church has also hers."—Cor. of Weekly Register. The Spanish kingdom is making great progress under the able government of our countryman, Marshal O'Donnell. The expedition to Mexico has been more rapidly effected, and more cleverly organized, than that of either France or England; and as one of the results of the increase of wealth in the country, we find the Government rapidly clearing off the old debts with which the country was encumbered since its days of internal trouble and confusion. The royal signature has just been affixed to a decree for the payment to France of the debt of 1823, amounting to twenty millions of piastres. Some time ago the English fanatics would pretend that none of these things could possibly happen; Spain did not adopt the principles of the Reformation, and swear by Queen Elizabeth of England and the Thirty-Nine Articles!—Nation.

GERMANY. We have received the text of the reply of the Prussian Government to the Austrian and Wurzburg Note of the 2d of February respecting the reform of the actual Constitution of the German Confederation. It is dated the 14th of February. Copies of this reply have been sent to all those Governments who signed the Austrian note. Prussia declines to join a Conference on the bases laid down in the Austrian Note.

After replying to various points in the Austrian Note, the Prussian Note concludes as follows:— "The Prussian Government does not remain behind any of her Confederates in the conscientious fulfilment of her Federal duties, for the defence of interests really German, in serious efforts to render justice to the legitimate national aspirations, and make them be adopted by the other Confederate Governments. But it has never taken advantage of those duties faithfully accomplished to attempt to be entitled to take a step such as has been taken by the Governments who signed the identical note against Prussia. In the realization of the ideas of reform indicated at the end of the said note, and which tend to create, for the whole Confederation a constitution with an efficacious executive power, a common legislation and Parliament, and which are not unconnected with the aspirations of a more vast 'political consolidation' for non-German territories, as already manifested in the Austrian despatch of the 6th November, the Prussian Government would see a far greater danger for the existence of the Confederation than in the reforms proposed in the Prussian despatch of the 20th December."

"Nevertheless, the Prussian Government does not intend to lay a protest against a simple statement of the views relative to the basis of reform. It thinks that it is wiser to reserve its final judgment until a plan of reform shall have been presented to it, which will give it the opportunity of discussing it with the Imperial Government. For the present, the Prussian Government considers beyond a doubt the practical impossibility of a reform according to the present, general indications, and, these being indirectly in opposition to its own point of view, it must necessarily declare as impracticable the opening of a conference on reform attempted on such a basis."

"To His Excellency, Count de Rechberg." The following is the text of the proposition laid before the Prussian Chamber of Deputies by M. de Carlowitz on the 14th inst., respecting the recognition of the King of Italy:—

"That the Chamber do decide to vote the declaration, that it is in the interest of Prussia to delay no longer in recognizing the Kingdom of Italy."

The Bill "on Ministerial responsibility" has been adopted by the Committee of the Upper Prussian Chamber by eight votes against four, with the important modification, however, that Ministers cannot be sentenced unless they openly violate the express regulations of the law.

The question of the Electorate of Hesse is actually before the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. M. de Twetten, the first speaker, insisted upon the necessity of Prussia interfering by force of arms. Count Bernstorff replied, that the Government was firmly resolved that any alteration in the Constitution of the Electorate of Hesse of 1831 should be operated only by legal and constitutional means. The debate was adjourned.

The Prussian papers devote long articles to the question of constitutional reform which has arisen between Austria and the so-called Wurzburg Coalition (Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Hanover, Saxony, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Nassau) and Prussia.

The National Zeitung of Berlin says:— "The most easy part of the work has been done. A suitable reply has been sent to the insolence of Austria and of the Wurzburg Governments. Doubtless it is no great thing for a military State to put down a miserable diplomatic demonstration like that which has just been made. That demonstration was so miserable and shameful that, if the Minister of Foreign Affairs had at once sent their passports to all the Euvoyes whose Governments took part in it, it would have served them right. Prussia is not sunk so low as to allow herself to be led by the nose by MM. Schmerling, Rechberg, and Co. That fine company has dared to ask Prussia her opinion on the best possible reform for the Federal Constitution. They knew very well what the reply would be, and, after having received it, they deliberate for six weeks, and then issue a protest against views which were given at their own request. The people and all friends of Prussia will approve the Government for having treated this miserable attack with contempt. Let Prussia at once recognize the King of Italy. We owe no respect to Austria; that respect which we have hitherto shown her is put down as weakness, and has encouraged these insolent attacks. The Wurzburg Governments have fancied that Prussia is weak; she must, therefore, show herself stronger than they imagine. Let her recognize Italy, and then they will say that Prussia is a State with which it is advisable to remain on good terms. If our Government has not sufficient moral strength to do this they will console themselves for the diplomatic check they have just received; the Berlin Note of the 14th of February will not hurt them, as they will remain convinced that Prussia dare not do anything disagreeable to them, and that at the utmost she can only say a few harsh words to them."

AUSTRIA. VIENNA, FEB. 14.—The Prince of Wales arrived in this capital on Wednesday, the 12th inst., soon after 2 p.m., by express train from Munich. The time of travel between that city and Vienna has lately been considerably extended by the floods, which have damaged the railway line and outlasted about three hours' transit by horse-road, in quaint old diligences and other exploded vehicles, with broken windows and crazy wheels, disintegrated by the occasion from the ancient coachhouses where they had long been mouldering. Indeed, such carriages are now so out of date that the narrowest search was apparently unequal to discovering a sufficiency of them, and omnibuses were taken down by rail from Vienna to ply upon the old highway, which had been abandoned to carts and private carriages. For the passage of the Prince, however, an effort was made, and the ordinary time of the journey from Munich to Vienna, since the floods set in, was shortened by nearly seven hours. His Royal Highness was received at the Vienna terminus by Lord Bloomfield, Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and Mr. Julian Fane, and proceeded at once to the Archduke Charles Hotel, where two floors had been prepared for the reception of himself, and suite. He has arrived, but a very short time when the Emperor Francis Joseph called upon him. The Archdukes also called. As the Vienna papers have been relating various incidents of the Prince's visit, which have no foundation in fact,

it is proper here to mention that he is travelling strictly incognito, refuses all invitations, and pays no visits, nor will he say a word in Vienna, except to return those paid to him by the Emperor, the Archduke, and his relative the Prince of Saxe-Coburg. His arrival here seems to have stimulated the inventiveness of the gentlemen who supply the gazettes of the day to the journalists in this capital. The Prince has not as some of them assert, been seen in the uniform of an English Colonel, nor has he been going to evening parties, at which he met the ex-Duke of Modena and Tuscany, nor has he been dining with the Emperor, nor resolved to prolong his stay in Vienna for some days at the request of His Imperial Majesty, nor has he the slightest intention of being present at Prince Schwarzenberg's great ball on Monday next. Some of these inventions are merely silly; others are evidently malicious. The Prince wears plain clothes, and has not once appeared in any other costume; he has been to no evening parties; the Emperor was very desirous he should dine with him; but he positively declined; he is so far from intending to prolong his stay that he leaves at half-past 6 to-morrow morning for Trieste, where the steamer 'Osborne' waits to convey him to Corfu, whence he will proceed to Alexandria, up the Nile, to Thebes, then to Jerusalem, Beyrout—in short, the tour chalked out for him, and about which you are probably better acquainted in England than we are here. As to the presumption that he would go to Prince Schwarzenberg's ball—even were he to be here when it occurred—that could have its rise only in great ignorance of the common proprieties of life, as understood in England, at least, where people do not go to balls within two months of a parent's death. What the Prince of Wales has done here has been to live in the most retired manner, rigidly maintaining his incognito.

The inundations in the Austrian dominions have assumed the proportions of a great public calamity. They are due to the suddenness and rapidity of the thaw, and are doing great mischief in various parts of the empire, being especially a cruel infliction upon the poorer classes, who, in many instances, are driven from their dwellings, and find no shelter elsewhere. In the night from the 6th to the 7th inst., a hard frost set in again here, and in that from the 7th to the 8th; it was yesterday reported that several deaths had taken place from exposure. Subscriptions have been actively set on foot in Vienna for the sufferers; and the Emperor has headed the list with 10,000 florins.

DRESDEN, FEB. 14.—The official Dresden journal of to-day publishes a letter from Vienna asserting that the Austrian Government intends effecting a revision of the Concordat, and that the Pope had most readily expressed his acquiescence in the proposal. It is added that negotiations on the subject will probably be commenced shortly.

VIENNA, FEB. 9.—In addition to the two letters recently addressed to you from Pesth, another ought to suffice to give a tolerably clear idea of the state of feeling and aspect of affairs at that head-quarters of Hungarian politics, and to place before you the present views and aspirations of the Hungarians, so far as I was able to gather them during my late short visit to their capital. The desire for an amicable arrangement with Vienna, if such could be brought about without a positive sacrifice of what they claim as their Constitutional rights, is evidently very strong among them, and, perhaps, owes part of its strength to a certain degree of discouragement, which it would be erroneous, however, to construe into an indication of discomfiture or of probable abandonment of their cause.

RUSSIAN POLAND.

The Cathedral of St. John and the Church of the Bernardines were reopened to-day by Archbishop Filinski and Bishop Plater. The other churches of Warsaw will be re-opened to-morrow.

Monsignor Felinski, the new Archbishop of Warsaw, has delivered an allocution, in which he urged the people of Warsaw to abstain from singing hymns which give offence to the Government, but to pray for their country.

The Archbishop said,—"If any power whatever were to prohibit you from praying for your country I would exhort you not to obey."

The Schlesische Zeitung of Breslau publishes a letter from Warsaw, in which it is asserted on authentic information, that should the present tranquillity of Warsaw remain undisturbed, the Emperor Alexander II. will pay a visit to that city in the ensuing spring.

An object letter, purporting to be the petition for mercy of the Abbe Bialobrzeki, declaring that he had only ordered the churches of Warsaw to be shut because the people insisted on singing hymns of which the Government disapproved, went the round of the press some ten days or a fortnight ago. It was of course a forgery, and is now admitted to be so.

We do not know to whom the forgery is to be attributed, nor what reason there may be for supposing the Russian Government to be a party to it. Another story, that the Pope had despatched a Brief to censure the Polish patriotic movement in Posen, has also been contradicted.—Tablet.

INDIA.

Absurd stories regarding the apprehension of Nana Sahib at Kurrachee, which have been for some time current in India, must have reached England. The Nana is alive, and believed by Government to be at this moment somewhere on the Nepaulese or Thibetan frontier. All the papers referring to him are with the Secretary of State for India. Even when he dies it will be long till the natives are convinced of the fact. For some years we may expect a Nana from time to time to tura up in half a dozen places at once. But this uncertainty is not favorable to political quiet.

The supposed Nana Sahib has been brought down in irons to Bombay, and lodged in Tannah gaol.

The New York Tablet points out the beauties of Yankee Freedom and Yankee civilisation. It says:—"The old 'No-Popery' cry is raised again, and the spirit that moved the Philadelphian rioters to burn down the temples of the living God, and to trample on the cross that had crowned their summits when it fell crashing to the ground, that same spirit is abroad rampant as ever. At a time when Catholics are shedding their blood in thousands for the Union, leaving their families and their homes to throw themselves into the van of the Old Flag's defenders, so that even the most bitter of their enemies are moved to do them justice, these loyal Pennsylvanians are valiantly fighting Catholicity at home, and showing their gratitude to the Catholic soldiers of the Union by debarring Catholic children who are so unhappy as to be the inmates of their charitable institutions from all instruction in their own religion, or even receiving the sacraments of their Church! Here is loyalty—here is 'American civilization'—here, certainly, is American gratitude! We did hope that after the generous stand made by Catholics for the Union, there would be an end of this disgraceful persecution of Catholics, which has so long furnished a weapon to the enemies of American institutions!—we were fain to hope that a more enlightened spirit would prevail amongst Protestants in their intercourse with Catholics—Pennsylvania, it seems, will not suffer that dear delusion to be entertained—in hot haste her ancient and her elders rush forward to unfurl the banner of persecution, more dangerous at the present moment to the national cause than the Stars and Bars of the Rebels. They must be mad, stark, staring mad—Popery-mad they undoubtedly are, and if they be not properly secured and bound down by the stern justice of public opinion, the mischief they may do is incalculable. Enough has been done to make Catholics seriously ask 'Are we or are we not on an equality with the other citizens of this Republic?' If so; why are our dearest and most sacred rights trampled upon by official bigots?"