

himself constrained to resign his charge on account of differing from the Bishop of Ripon. Oxford is still in the same tainted condition, unable or unwilling to do anything effectual to abate the rampant, undisguised popery within the University. It becomes every day more evident that neither peace nor purity will be attained in the English Establishment, until the half done work at the Reformation be taken up anew and completed.

### IRELAND.

**THE PAPAL LETTER.**—An English version of the letter of Pope Gregory to the Irish clergy is published. It gives the following advice as coming from the Pope:—

"I exhort you that you yourselves should abstain from all civil affairs; and especially from all opposition against the statute of the British Parliament recently promulgated respecting the testament of the faithful, (the Charitable Bequest Act.) Indeed, having read the said statute, we observe in it nothing contrary or injurious to Catholic truth; but, on the contrary, containing many things which, regarding England as being in the place of the Apostolic See, are held as law."

There has been no negotiation between the British government and the Papal See upon the subject of a Concordat. There has been, however, by general concession, some negotiation, or some communication, between the two powers, the present issue of which is this, that the Romish Church is to put down the agitation on the subject of repeal, and that the British Government is to make certain additional concessions in favour of Popery, in harmony with the wishes and objects of the Romish See. As stated in our last, it thus appears in the highest degree probable, if not certain, that the repeal agitation has received its death-blow from the hand of Sir Robert Peel. The staff of the army of repeal agitation, in the pay of O'Connell, is already, we see, directed to be reduced; and this gentlemen, we doubt not, in some respects, right glad of the ghostly interposition, by which he is effectually debarred from the personal peril connected with any further progress of the swelling commotion which he had called into existence.

We are of opinion that the arrangement of affairs will be considered as a masterpiece of policy on the part of Sir Robert Peel, and that this is its true character as the act of the Papal power. We think that it will be received by the majority of the English nation, and more especially by her statesmen not swayed by the true principles of the gospel, as a master-movement by the Cabinet, by which Repeal, that growing object of alarm, is absolutely to be annihilated, while the same act gratifies the liberal inclination and charitable disposition (falsely so called) to cultivate peace with Rome. But the whole is, in truth, a masterpiece of Roman policy—an advance of her interests—an approximation, as she hopes, to that supremacy in the British empire which she desires, which she must desire, from the essential principles of her being.

The manifest duty of the Protestant and enlightened part of this nation, is to resist the concessions to Rome now in contemplation to the utmost of their power. We think it probable, or possible, that there may be no stipulations on either side, on the part of this Government or of Rome, as to what is to be done by either. It is not necessary that there should be more than a tacit understanding or, at events, a secret treaty, with which diplomats are so well acquainted. But however this may be, the concessions, whatever they may prove, ought to be determinately resisted by the part of this Nation which is truly and intelligently loyal to the King of heaven; and we have to observe that, from recent events among ourselves, the national mind is more susceptible of impressions of danger, in regard to Popish schemes, than it was a twelvemonth since. General preparations should accordingly be made to meet an approaching evil:

and if those preparations appear widely spread and formidable, though they may not altogether avert, they may greatly diminish the present extent of the contemplated innovations. We pray, accordingly, for the serious, practical consideration of our readers to this subject of leading importance.

**MEETING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS.**—A special meeting of the Roman Catholic prelates was to be held in Dublin on 22nd February. One of the objects of the meeting, it is said, is to consider the present state of the public mind, not only in reference to the Charitable Bequests Act, but also in regard to the statements put forward in the newspapers respecting a concordat with Rome, and the payment of the Roman Catholic clergy by the State.

**THE IRISH CLERGY.**—The London Standard says it has been calculated that the Romish clergy in Ireland receives annually for commissions, \$1,350,000; for christening, \$150,000, for uncutions and burials, \$270,000, for marriages, \$1,350,000; for prayers for purgatory, \$150,000, for collections at Chapels, \$2,410,000, for curate collections, \$101,000, for Government grant to Maynooth College, \$15,000. Total, \$6,135,550.

**THE POPE AND O'CONNELL.**—Affairs are getting into a strange state in Ireland. There is a total metamorphosis of parties going on in that country. The Conservatives, with Sir Robert Peel, the founder of Orange clubs, at their head, are arm-in-arm with the Pope, while O'Connell and the "finest pansy" who, not many days ago, would have kissed his Holiness's toe with the greatest zest, are almost prepared to send him instantly where the Rev. Fresham Greg says he is sure to go at last. The cause of this extraordinary change of feeling towards the Pope, is his interference with the Roman Catholic clergy for giving their support to the repeal agitation. There is a conflict going on betwixt the religious and political feelings of the Irish mind. The question with the Irish people at present is, "The Pope or Repeal."

## THE CONTINENT.

### SWITZERLAND.

#### ITS RELIGIOUS TROUBLES.

Although Switzerland is now termed a "Democratic Republic," and a majority of 22 independent cantons, composing the Confederacy, have cast off the Roman Catholic yoke, and embraced the Protestant faith—Roman Catholicism yet prevails in many of the cantons, and; ever true to its real principles of acquiring benefit and power at the sacrifice of the interests and happiness of the mass of the people whom it designs to keep in ignorance and bondage, has, at this late day, forced itself into the High Government of the Confederacy, through the agency of its late President, (a Jesuit), sustained, as is well known, by many of the Aristocracy of the country,—and attempted to put the management and control of the public schools, in the Canton of Lucerne, into the hands of the Jesuitical Catholic Clergy. This proceeding was made known only a few weeks since, and was strenuously opposed by the true lovers of liberty in that Canton, but their voices were not allowed to have any weight with the authorities there. Formal possession was about to be taken of the schools; and these would-be dictators of mankind, with their subservient tools as followers, made the effort, and were moving in (mock) solemn procession for that purpose through the streets of Lucerne, when they were met at the main bridge over the outlet of the beautiful lake of the name of the city, by a few hundred determined men in the cause of equal rights and religious freedom. A battle ensued. The paid troops of the Government were at hand. Seven Catholics and one Liberal only were killed. The former failed then, and up to yesterday had not succeeded in their designs, and have, for the present at least, postponed their determination. About 500 Liberals have

been arrested and lodged in prison. Some of them have had *leit (sham) trials* and been condemned to various punishments, such as many years of imprisonment, others to a shorter period, and their property confiscated.

On the 21st the Government of Zurich, acting in the name of the Vorort, published its circulars to the anti-tem Cantons on the subject of the encouragement given to the Jesuits by the Canton of Lucerne. The circular is of great length, but the concluding paragraph, which we subjoin, will suffice to show its character, and the object at which it aims. "As the tendency of the spirit of the order of Jesuits is to subject the State to the Church, and making the ruling policy theocratic; and, as it is, as it always has been among the religious orders, that which is most hostile to the Reformed Church, its presence in the Canton of Lucerne—the seat of the Vorort—would injure the triumph of its principles, and spread a general mistrust throughout Switzerland.—It is for this reason that the Diet should endeavour to dispose this canton to abandon its project of trusting its theological establishment to the Jesuits, and thus contribute to the re-establishment of public peace. We, therefore, entreat the Cantons to call upon their deputies to meet in extraordinary Diet at Zurich, furnishing them with instructions, so that their first sitting may take place on the 24th of February next."

We quote the following from the *Helvetic* of the 21st ultimo. "Several manifestations have been made at Geneva against the Jesuits. Popular meetings have been held. A petition, invested with 2500 signatures, has been addressed to the Grand Council, and referred to the Council of State. The speeches delivered by the President of the Grand Council, and by the first Syndic, at the ceremony of December 31, leave no doubt of the opposition of the two first bodies of the State to the introduction of the Society of Jesus into the canton of Lucerne, and we have every reason to be persuaded that when the moment shall have come Geneva will not be the last to adopt, and even to solicit, the necessary decrees for keeping this scourge at a distance from Switzerland.

### RELIGION IN SILESIA.

We learn from a correspondent that the number of faithful ministers in Silesia is so great, that their appearance is no longer isolated, but they form a large army. Two corps are now uniting their energies for the defence of the truth as it is in Jesus. At the head of one troop stands Lukow, the author of *The Prophet*, a German periodical, in which the authority of the Bible, as opposed to all human tradition or usage, is discussed with great boldness. At the head of the second troop is Dr. A. Hoh, author of the *Church Intelligence*, an evangelical preacher. Both parties are strengthening, each in their respective Synods and availing themselves of every opportunity for the promotion and spread of their principles. Meantime much true spirituality has unfolded itself, and much more is anticipated.

**POPERY IN GERMANY.**—It is said that the opposition to the Pope and Jesuits is on the increase in Germany. Large numbers of the Roman Catholics have renounced their allegiance to the Papal See, and are forming independent communities. Has a new Lutheran arisen among them, or are they merely casting away the civil shackles of the man of sin, while they intend to retain all the soul destroying errors of the system? Time will develop.

**PROTESTANTISM IN FRANCE.**—According to a *statistique* published by the *Moniteur*, the two reformed churches of France possessed, in 1815, 564 pastors, in 1843, 677, and in 1845, upwards of 700. The budget of the Protestant Church amounted, under the empire, to 306,000*fr.*; under the restoration, to 676,000*fr.* and, in 1845, to 1,219,000*fr.* The number of temples is likewise