

The New Persecution.

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In consequence of the strong measures adopted by the Prussian Chancellor...

The Ultramontane press, all over the world, is loudly crying out that the church is being persecuted.

I propose in the following statements, giving a rapid resume of the position of that church in the German Empire...

For much of my information I am indebted to an able article on Prussian Church Law in the first number of the International Review.

From the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 down to the revolution of 1848 a mixed system of dealing with the different churches prevailed in those states...

As a result of the general upheaval in 1848, an attempt was made to separate more completely between Church and State...

First. There is no denominational requisite in admission to public office. Second. There are, however, some important exceptions.

In consequence of the perfection of its organization, the Catholic Church was able immediately to avail itself of these provisions, and to assume practically a position of independence...

The tendency of the Prussian Constitution was to elevate and increase the power of the Roman priesthood.

Let us note some of the provisions of the Prussian law applicable to the privileged churches—Roman Catholic and Protestant—and to none else.

1. These churches could baptize children contrary to the wish of the parents, and claim the assistance of the police to effect their object.

2. They had the privilege of enforcing the compulsory religious instruction of the young, either under the care of the priest, or under his control in the public schools.

3. Owing to the absence of civil enactment regarding the solemnization of matrimony, the clergy of the privileged churches might give or refuse their assistance to applicants without incurring any legal responsibility.

4. Dissenters who had no connection with either of the privileged churches, still remained subject to the payment of church rates, even after the separation from these communities.

5. The state power had formally recognized the whole of the Roman Catholic discipline, and gave aid and assistance in enforcing punishment on clerical offenders even to the extent of fine or imprisonment in order to procure obedience.

These are somewhat formidable privileges it must be confessed. Privileges it is true common both to the favored Protestant as well as to the Papal church...

preponderance of some one of the great Catholic powers in Europe, and although sometimes, the division of Italy and Germany...

During the period from 1850 to 1866 the progress of German Jesuitism was something marvellous and incredible.

The result of this aggressive policy was widely felt, especially in those districts where different religious denominations had for a long time lived side by side in peace and harmony.

But a great change passed over the face of Europe when Austrian power was broken and the Austrian preponderance in Germany destroyed on the battle field of Sedan.

All the world knows that one grand result of the Austrian overthrow was the consolidation of Germany under the leadership of Prussia.

One result, of the French overthrow, was manifest in the disappointment and rage of the Jesuit party.

The privileges, which had been pointed out as enjoyed by the Papal church, show conclusively enough that neither the king nor his great minister was unfriendly to the Roman Catholic Church.

Having brought the narrative down to the time when those measures were inaugurated which specially contemplated the diminution of Jesuit influence in Germany...

The famine in India occupies the attention of the British press and pulpit. The Bishop of Manchester accuses the government of apathy in the matter...

According to the Continental Herald, some recent researches have brought to light the existence of a Roman cemetery, by the side of the Roman road that skirts the meadows of Mottes, near Avenches...

Presbytery of Guelph.

This Presbytery met in Chalmers Church, Guelph, on the 14th of April last, at 9 o'clock a.m., and in consequence of the amount of business to be transacted, had to extend its sitting through the greater part of the following day.

Presbytery of Hamilton.

The Presbytery of Hamilton in connection with the Church of Scotland, met yesterday, Dr. John Hogg, Moderator.

The British Empire of To-day.

The recently published census of the British Empire recalls the splendid figure of Daniel Webster about the drum-beat of its armies awakened by the sunrise...

including 60,000 "immigrants or coolies from Asia." The West India Islands with 13,103 square miles and about a million of people and the little Falklands Islands, with 803 inhabitants, close the list of British American possessions.

On the African continent and adjacent islands the English to be masters of 236,500 square miles of territory, peopled by 1,513,466 inhabitants.

South African Diamonds.

Hon. Theophilus Shepstone has pointed out that Africa, south of the equator, consists of a great central, irregularly shaped basin, the outer edge of which varies in height from 4,015 to 10,000 feet above the level of sea...

Dr. Robert Mann, late Superintendent of Education in the Colony of Natal, states that, since the serious working of the diamond fields in 1871, large numbers of diamonds had been obtained, and it was estimated that in 1872 there were no less than 23,000 mines engaged in searching for them.

Mr. Sopen, a diamond merchant, states that the number of diamonds of the purest water received from the Cape was very small, not amounting, on the whole, to more than two or three per cent, while of ten carat stones not one in 10,000 was perfect.

Miscellaneous.

A baptistry has just been put in the Brooklyn Tabernacle for such as may prefer it, and on a late Sunday the Rev. Mr. Talmage baptized six new church members by immersion.

If Nebuchadnezzar's image was of solid gold, and every worshipper was to have a bit of it, I fear our nation, as well as his, would be ready to fall down before it.

The evangelical clergy of the Church of England do not seem to have heard, or, if they have heard, to appreciate the shrewdness and wit of Dr. John Ritche's reply to one who disapproved of his going up and down the country and resorting to agitation.

A delegate has been speaking quite at large, during the meeting of the Council, of the extraordinary attainments in Christian character of the Plymouth church, which made them all the more unwilling to be criticised by other churches.

A very learned judge was once asked what he would do if a man owed him ten pounds and refused to pay. His reply was worth remembering by those who are quick to take offence and begin a quarrel.

Spurgeon gives a hopeful view of the prospects of religious sentiment in England. He holds that "the Calvinism which he decries to preach, so far from being an obsolete theory, is growingly operative upon the minds of a large section of Christian people."