

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The event has vindicated the wisdom of the Count de Montalembert's appeal. Had he availed himself of the Emperor's pardon, he would still have remained subject to those laws of 1858, which enable the police, without so much as the repetition of a past offense, to remove to any place in France, or even to transport to Algeria or Cayenne, any person once convicted under them.

THE FRENCH WAR DEPARTMENT.—A report from this department shows the exact amount of the military stores on the 31st of December, 1858, both as to quantity and value. According to this statement they represent a value of 631,000,000.—an enormous amount, in which the artillery stands for one-half.

CHINESE CATHOLIC PRIESTS.—Several young Chinese, who came to Europe some short time since with Rev. Father Perry, Apostolic Pro-Vicar of Canton, are at present at Nantes. Two of them, Barthélemi Lo and Jean Tang, are deacons, and will be ordained priests.

METEOROLOGY.—M. Babinet, of the Institute, who has been for some time past in the habit of publishing his meteorological prognostics every now and then, has just written to the *Debats* to explain why he lately foretold a severe winter commencing from the 22d inst. The following is the substance of his letter.—"Although meteorology, is still in its infancy, there is one fact established beyond a doubt—viz., that the dominant wind of France, and of the greater part of Europe, is the south-west, which carries the warm air of France to Russia.

GERMANY.

The correspondent of the *Times* remarks that:—A German league, by which the various Powers composing that great country would bind themselves to act together in certain eventualities, would be a much more serious matter, and the mere mention of it as a possible event has roused the organs of the Italian party, and set them to work to prove its impossibility. Numerous points of difference and even of discord between Prussia and Austria are pointed out.

"The antagonism between Prussia and Austria is now of some duration; it is in the nature of things; after the congress of Paris it was plainly manifested in the different bearing adopted by the two Governments with respect to the questions of Belgrade, of the Danubian Principalities, of Montenegro, and of the liberty of Danubian navigation. The pretensions of Austria to the exclusive right of garrisoning Rastadt increased it; how should it, then, now be possible for Baron Schleinitz to repudiate the inheritance, on that point very honorable, of Baron Manteuffel? It is just because the liberal principle has acquired fresh force and vitality in Prussia that the antagonism between that country and Austria, rather than diminish or cease, must increase.

ASTRIAN TROOPS IN LOMBARDY.—A letter from Vienna states that the reinforcement which the Austrian Government has sent to Lombardy amount to 8,000 men.

CATHOLICS IN GENOVA.—It is a fact, says the *Courier des Alpes*, worthy of remark, that the four principal employments of the Republic of Genoa, the Protestant Rome as it is called, are at present occupied by Roman Catholics, namely, that of Chief of the Executive Power, which has just been filled by M. Fontanel, President of the Grand Council, M. Vay, President of the Municipal Administration, M. Camperio, and President of the High Court of Justice, M. Chaumontel.

ITALY.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says, there is a settled impression in Paris, which it seems impossible to eradicate, that war in Italy is a probable event for next spring. *La Presse* says an Italian journal states that the troops in Milan have received orders that in the case of soldiers being dispersed in the streets should a single cannon be fired they are at once to return to their barracks; but if they hear three shots they are to go to the nearest barracks, wherever they may be.

sions, agitations, and powers in a state of mutual distrust that warns them they cannot always remain in this expectant attitude."

The *Union* of Turin has the following from Lombardy:—"On the 11th a curious demonstration took place at Pavia, when a large number of citizens and students paraded the principal streets four and five days, each with the stump of a clay pipe in his mouth, the bowl being empty and turned downwards, meaning thereby that the procession represented the funeral of the pipe, all those who had taken part in it pledging themselves to forewear tobacco."

RUSSIA.

The determination of the Emperor of Russia to deal with the great question of serf emancipation was followed by the appointment of a Commission to deliberate on the extent and manner of the proposed changes. We are now told that the majority of the Commission have pronounced in favor of emancipation and of the Emperor's ideas on the subject. The Commission have appointed a Committee to draw up their report, and have put on it the Count Pierre Schouvaloff, the Senator Weimarn, the Councillor of State Likhutine, Count Nicholas Levachoff, and M. Philippe Doeppe. We are told that the majority of the Commission have rejected all proposals which involved a redemption of the nobles' property in their serfs, on the ground that it would be undignified and unpatriotic to make the freedom of Russians a matter of mercantile dealing.

A letter from Warsaw gives the plan of the committee for reforming the relations between the nobility and peasantry in the kingdom of Poland about to be submitted for the Emperor's sanction:—

Contrary to what exists in Russia, the persons of the Polish peasants are free, consequently, the committee appointed to define the relations between the nobility and peasants had only to occupy themselves with the territorial relations, that is, with the best means of replacing the *corvee* by an agreeable rent. The following is a sketch of the plan proposed by the committee. The *corvee* will be replaced by a lease granted by the proprietor to the peasant, the latter paying a reserved rent for his land. The contract is not revocable by either of the contracting parties.—Until a lease is accepted by the peasant for the land he cultivates he will be subject to the *corvee* as at present. Each holding is to consist of three acres at least, and the buildings and farming implements on the land are to become the property of the peasant. The amount of rent may be regulated by the proprietor with the commune, or with each peasant individually, but in no case is the commune liable for the rent—each peasant is answerable for his own share. The plan next regulates the term of servitude, and the changes to be made in the cultivation of the soil, as well as the right of selling or sub-letting the holding, which will depend upon the consent of the proprietor. The land so let can never be repurchased by the proprietor under any pretence, or by anybody in trust for him. The tenant cannot acquire any other land without the consent of his landlord.—This plan fixes a *maximum* and a *minimum* of land to be acquired by the tenant, which extends from three acres to sixty acres.

It is understood that the Court of Saxony and those of some other German States have made advances with a view to bring about more cordial relations between Russia and Austria; but it is doubtful whether these efforts have as yet produced any good result. The coolness between these two Courts is very great.—*Standard.*

JUSTICE IN RUSSIA.—A St. Petersburg letter, in the *Evangelical*, of Brussels, relates the following curious story:—"A Prince Leon Kotchoubey, of a rich and ancient family, a man of an imperious character had long employed as his land agent an Austrian named Saltzmann. About a year ago, when they were alone together in the Prince's cabinet, a warm discussion arose about some account. A pistol was suddenly fired, which wounded the agent in the side. When some of the household rushed in to see what had taken place the Prince accused Saltzmann of having fired the pistol at himself in a spirit of revenge and to drag the Prince into a criminal trial. On the other hand the agent asserted that Prince Leon had fired at him in a fit of rage. The medical men who were called in declared that the wound could not have been produced by the man's own act. The case came before a police tribunal, presided over by a General Pool. The influence brought to bear on the court led to a declaration that the Prince was innocent, and the unfortunate Saltzmann, being declared guilty of wounding himself, was thrown into prison. The sentence in due time, received the confirmation of the Governor of St. Petersburg, and the affair seemed at an end. The wife of the imprisoned man, however, was a woman of energy, and she went about from door to door with her four young children, imploring every one to aid her in obtaining justice. She was at last called to Tsarskoe Selo, and also imprisoned, leaving the children to be provided for by any one who might have pity on them. Public rumour brought the case to the knowledge of the Emperor, and he ordered an inquiry to be instituted by the Senate, whose decision no one doubts of. The following are said to be its dispositions:—1. Saltzmann, having been unjustly condemned, has a right to fix the indemnity which the Prince should pay him; secondly, the governor who confirmed the sentence cannot be reached in his person, as he is dead, but his memory shall be branded with reprobation; and thirdly, General Pool is to be tried for injustice, and his two assistants in the affair shall be similarly treated."

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA ON DRESS.—It would seem the passion for dress and display in Russia is as great as in any other country. The *Journal Annuaire* relates an anecdote of the manner in which the Empress of Russia lately rebuked an instance of it:—"The Czár, desiring to recompense a great service rendered by a petty functionary, invited him and his wife to pass a few days at the palace of Peterhof. The latter, in order to appear of a rank which he does not possess, pledged her husband's salary for three years to raise a sum to buy rich dresses; she was thus able to appear in a new toilette every morning and evening. The Empress hearing what she had done, resolved to give her a lesson, and on the day of departure said:—"Do you know, madame, that you are greatly to be pitied for having such a bad dressmaker? She evidently cannot make a dress to fit you, since you are obliged to change so often."

INDIA.

OPERATIONS IN OUDE.—The Camp, Poursaidpore, Nov. 14.—Since the despatch of my last letter the steps for the re-establishment of British rule in Oude have been proceeding daily: proofs of the sagacity with which they were taken. Amethie menaced by three columns, at once surrendered without a blow. The neighbouring talookdars have hastened to make submission, and to-day Beni Madho, whose strongholds we are rapidly approaching, has sent in to know what terms he may expect in case he yields to the Queen's authority. These results may not be appreciated at home by those who have not considered the subject, and who do not understand the country or the people with which we have to deal, but the government will no doubt accept them with profound satisfaction, for they will lead to the speedy pacification of the whole of this great province. We must not be disappointed if desperate rebels still continue to escape our columns and to create sporadic troubles here and there, but these will soon become mere matters of police. The sovereignty of India belongs to him

who can establish his thannas, or police stations, over the country, and we are rapidly re-creating those substantial tokens of our victories. But Oude is a country nearly as large Ireland. It contains a population of nearly 5,000,000—warlike, turbulent and trained to arms. It is the mother of the Sepoys of Bengal. Its surface consists of a great plain, intersected by rivers, full of swamps, and covered with dense jungles wherever the labour of man has not redeemed the soil from trees and thorns and prepared it for fertile crops. In those jungles hundreds of thousands of armed men could easily lie concealed, not, indeed, in great bodies, but in numbers sufficiently great to permit the coalition of two or three parties to take place at any moment for the purpose of guerrilla warfare. The crops of one kind or another, in their rich succession, could yield them food. The commissariat of the Sepoy is at hand in every field and in every pool of water. But it is only with the permission of the chiefs who keep the jungle paths, and whose forts lie hid in their recesses, that men could find harbour and refuge in those natural asylums. The great Duke has given us a receipt for getting rid of jungles, and attacking forts and fortresses thereon, characterized by his own peculiar simplicity and grandeur. He proposed, it appears, by a passage in the last volume of his correspondence and despatches, to cut the jungle away inch by inch. Well, if we adopted that plan and worked night and day for the next five-and-twenty years, we might expect Oude to be tolerably well cleared up to the Terai, except in places where the shoots had sprung up again from the stubborn roots. In the Judgapore jungle a square mile was considered enormous progress in the four-and-twenty hours, with thousands of coolies at work. As to the Terai itself, no amount of labour that England could pay would clear away the giant forests which clothe the lower slopes of the Himalayas and melt away into dismal swamps and wastes of poisonous vegetation. If those Oude populations were fairly driven to hopeless resistance their efforts, though powerless against our rule, would be mighty in their influence on our finance, and Oude would not be worth keeping on such terms. It is, therefore, a very great achievement for our Generals to have effected not only the reduction of the forts of some of the principal chiefs, but to have gained the assistance of those chiefs in dismantling their own forts, disarming their own adherents and tenantry, and pacifying their own districts.

As great misconception has existed, or has been affected, in India with respect to our operations during the last summer, it may be as well to state what the nature of those operations really was, and with what view they were undertaken. Oude had already been traversed by the columns under Franks, Lugard, and Grant, but they had made no permanent impression. Their course has been compared to that of cannon-balls, irresistible as they pass and leaving no trace behind, but cannon-balls do leave impressions, and the better image is that of the ship clearing the waters which, closing around it, soon efface all traces of the labored wake. It became evident that the system of military promenades would produce no permanent effect, but up to the fall of Lucknow the Commander-in-Chief had no troops available for the establishment of military posts which were obviously necessary to utilize our toilsome marches, and to maintain our grip of the country. The capture of Lucknow and the re-establishment of our authority in its neighborhood, permitted the authorities to strengthen the hands of our generals by the enrolment of regiments of military police, which would allow the Commander-in-Chief to place at the disposal of his lieutenants European soldiers, who would otherwise have been employed on duties of police. While Major Bruce was organizing this force of police our soldiers were not inactive, though it was absolutely essential to give them as little to do as possible during the fervid heats of summer. But Maun Sing, besieged by his countrymen at Fyzabad, became importunate for help. This great chief, whose family by force, fraud, and purchase had in two generations become proprietors of vast extents of territory and thousands of villages, rendered good service in the early part of the outbreak by sheltering all British fugitives whom he could get, but for a long time subsequently he endeavored to pursue a doubtful neutrality, and obstinately refused to come into our camp. He actually fought against our garrison at Lucknow, and perhaps what he saw there satisfied him that the "goralogue" could not be beaten. In June he declared openly for the "white people," and the rebels at once attacked him, shut him up, and by the middle of July had reduced him to straits in his fortress of Shahgunj. It became a point of honour and of policy on our part to extricate our ally. On the 22nd of July Sir Hope Grant was ordered to advance from Nwabgunj, a post 20 miles north-east of Lucknow, established early in May, and to move on Shahgunj. It was in the middle of the rains. At the same time Brigadier Berkeley crossed the Ganges and established a post at Soron. A general movement of troops followed. The 83th Regiment were sent from Cawnpore to Lucknow, the 79th Regiment from Futehgur took their place, the 8th Regiment from Agra occupied Futehgur, and the 5th Fusiliers marched from Calpee to Allahabad. The Oude police took the place of the British troops who had marched to Shahgunj, but the disturbances in Behar and Azimghur detained in those districts troops originally intended to operate in Oude, so that for some time Brigadier Berkeley was unable to make a forward movement from Soron, and was obliged to content himself with taking Ticoal and Dehayan. At last the 1st Sikhs reached Allahabad, and Berkeley moved up to Pertabghur, near which, owing to the beginning of the illness which has unfortunately proved fatal to a very able officer, he handed over the command of the column to Brigadier Pinckney. In Behar the operations which were carried on were so far successful that by the third week of October the province might be considered perfectly clear of the enemy. In Bundelcund the enrolment of a military police similar to that of Oude has as yet been unsuccessful, and portions of the province are disturbed, although great progress has been made in restoring it to order. The navigation of the Jumna has been opened, Calpee is garrisoned, Jaloun is held, and Liddell's column has been clearing the country between the Dossain and the Betwa. General Whitlock operated to the west from Bana, and Brigadier-General Napier took the fort of Poursae, whither he moved to assist Brigadier Smith, detached from the Rajpootana field force. In Oude the left bank of the Gywarras cleared, and, with the exception of the Bywarra country, there was no body of rebels in Oude beyond the force at Mithowlee and the westward. It was intended that Brigadier Troup should drive Khan Ali Khan across the Gogra, establish himself at Seetapore, and reduce the country around him, but for the present that part of the combination is defeated or deferred. Brigadier Troup has been held in check, near Seetapore, by a great concentration of all the rebels in the west of Oude, who have availed themselves of his deficiency in cavalry to harass his flanks and rear and to attack his baggage. Two regiments of cavalry have been ordered to his assistance, and the moment they reach him the gallant officer will, no doubt, make a signal example of Prince Feroze Shah and Khan Bahadur Khan, with their ally of Mithowlee. But the successes gained by this column in action with the enemy have not been fruitless, and its position prevents their getting into Rohilcund, and trying to raise disturbances in that province, which has been much denuded of troops. In the west of Oude, Barker and Hale have swept the enemy from the open, and have taken Rootah, Sundee, and Biswah, and other places, gradually clearing the banks of the Ganges, and restoring the civil power in the district between Lucknow and the frontiers of Rohilcund. Our posts were tolerably close around the disturbed districts when the Commander-in-Chief took the field. Simultaneously almost the whole of our troops made a forward movement. Brigadier-General Douglas drove the rebels out of the Judgapore jungle, hunted them into the Kymore hills, slew upwards of 1,200 of them,

and occupied their fastnesses; thus restoring the important country about Arrah, Dinapore, and Patna, to peace and security. Brigadier Kelly watched the right bank of the Gogra, and swept the country between Azimghur and Tanda, Brigadier Wetherall, advancing on the left flank of the chief, stormed Rampore Kusaeb, while Major Bulwer pushed out to Poorwa, where, with 2,000 men, of whom only 400 or 500 were British troops, he repulsed Beni Madho, at the head of 15,000 men. Brigadier Eveleigh has now joined that force, and is on the west of the jungles of Shunkerpoore, waiting to co-operate from that side should it be necessary to force Beni Madho to submission. The Commander-in-Chief pushed on towards Amathie from the south, while Sir Hope Grant swept down upon that fortress from Shunkerpoore, and Brigadier Wetherall moved from the south-east. So admirably was the combination timed that the three columns pitched their tents before the place at three different sides almost to a minute of each other.—The details of the subsequent events will be learned by those who may take the trouble of reading the narrative of our operations which follows this is brief resume. Already our enemies are reduced to three manageable bodies—one in the Seetapore district, one in the Salone district, and the third at the other side of the Goomtee, and notably in the Burach division. Of Central India I do not speak, as I know nothing of the movements of that military *ignis fatuus* Tantia Topce, except that he has succeeded in crossing the Nerbudda, and there appears to be no reason to apprehend much mischief; his fangs have been drawn or filed down pretty closely. Of course, we cannot expect in every part of such a multiplicity of operations an equal measure of uniform success.—*Cor. of the Times.*

The *Morning Star* of Thursday has the following remarkable story:—

A very curious piece of news has reached us by the last mail from India; indeed so curious that we will at once mention our direct authority before reminding our readers of its inherent probability. An officer in command of a cavalry regiment, who is in full pursuit of Tantia Topce and has been with him in four miles of him, expresses his full conviction that Tantia Topce is no other than Nana Sahib himself.—The rumors of the Nana's immediate appearance were, it seems, universally just before Tantia Topce's crossing the Nerbudda, and the prisoners and deserters, of the officer in question had spoken with several, he being an excellent vernacular scholar, are, he says, unanimous on the point that it is Nana Sahib who is dodging our columns in Central India under the name of Tantia Topce.

However improbable this may look at first sight a little consideration will show that there are many circumstances which coincide so well with the statement as to render it, on second thoughts, most probable that it should be true. It is now several months since we had any authentic information of Nana Sahib, and it is incredible that after having been so prominent and restless at first, he should have suddenly become completely quiescent, or would have been suffered to do so amid the perils of his party, with a lakh of rupees, offered for his head. On the other hand, Tantia Topce becomes prominent just when Nana Sahib vanishes; his army is always styled "the army of the Peishwa" and finally, in the Cawnpore story of the half-caste, it is stated that Miss Wheeler is not dead, but with Tantia Topce. Why with Tantia Topce? What can he have done to require such a hostage to save his life? If Tantia Topce be the Nana, there is no mystery about it; and perhaps other Europeans may turn up besides Miss Wheeler, when his pursuers overtake him. It becomes now, however, doubly important that they should do so, on the presumption that their enemy is Nana Sahib in person: for if he could once reach the Deccan, and unfurl the standard of the Peishwa, it might be the signal for a new struggle of the most serious kind.

"We live and learn" is an old saying, the truth of which comes home to us the longer we live in the experience of human affairs. Even Governments, whose obstinacy is stronger than that of individuals, are forced to acknowledge that the old maxim applies to them; and the Government of England has just shown, by a notable fact, that time and circumstances are too strong even for Parliamentary traditions, and the prejudices generated by iniquitous laws. The Proclamation issued in India for the purpose of announcing to "all sorts and conditions of men" that the Queen of England has dethroned the Company, and reigns in its stead, announces the fact that in this old world we have yet something to learn. The English Government makes it known to the world that it will no longer impose upon its new subjects the home religion, and that it leaves them as it finds them, to profess all manners of superstitions according to the several inclinations of every one of them.

We have here then a complete confession that the old Anglican heresy is about to retire into private life, at least in India, and that it will leave the field open to other heresies and falsehoods to make what they can of the Indian mind. The venerable Establishment of the country, after three hundred years of stern and relentless cruelty, thinks it has done its work—we, too, are of the same opinion—and that the time is come when it ought to think of its latter end, and prepare itself in all decency for the funeral rites which are to announce its final burial, and the cessation of those troubles and vexations with which, in its fermenting temper, it broke in upon the tranquillity of the world. It is worthy of observation, as a curious coincidence, that the very man who gave it its first dose of arsenic in the suppression of Irish Bishops, should be the person to proclaim to world that it resigns India, and leaves the heathen to the influence of other opinions, or another, but true Church. Lord Stanley signalled the commencement of his political life by destroying the Irish Sees, and thereby preparing the way for their final extinction; and now, the same Lord Stanley, as Earl of Derby, but in the person of his son, another Lord Stanley, reduces the Established religion of his country in India to the political level, not only of Dissenters, but of Mahomedanism and Hindooism.—The Protestant Bishops in India are no longer superior to the Brahmans or the Muffits; they are in law their equals, but in public estimation, in the social distinctions of the country, immeasurably their inferiors. This is the work of the House of Stanley; and we can but say with "Marmion"—"On Stanley, on!"

This measure of the Indian Government, rendered necessary by the condition of parties in England, will not increase the Indian veneration for the Saxon race. The Oriental mind is profoundly religious in its own way; and it is hardly creditable that the Government Schools have succeeded already in corrupting the people so that they shall accept with reverence even the Queen's authority, when it presents itself before them in the garments of undignified Atheism. It may be that this Proclamation, duly commented on by the Oriental intellect, will prove as fatal to our rule as the late rebellion. The Indians are not yet Protestants, and have not therefore learnt to distinguish between a national and an individual religion, much less between the spirit and the form. We therefore come before them, in the place of the Company it is true, but still as an ungodly nation, who have no religion—at least, none that we believe, or care to see flourishing and prosperous. This state of affairs will be understood and duly appreciated in India, by those ingenious gentlemen out of whom we have eradicated by a detestable instruction, every natural principle of religion, and still better by the zealous fanatics who can work upon the multitude who hate us and all our schools.—*Tablet.*

UNITED STATES.

ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE.—We learn with pleasure that a recent decree of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda gives the precedence to the Archbishop of Baltimore in all councils and meetings of the Bishops of the United States, of every kind.—

This is as it should be, the See of Baltimore being the oldest in the country, and the mother of all the others.—*Guardian.*

CHEERING NEWS.—The *New York Herald*, of Dec. 31, congratulates the country in general upon the decrease of crime and the rapid advance of morality in New York. Its tables inform us that in the whole long twelve months past, there were but forty homicides, and only sixty-seven suicides, publicly recorded in that excellent metropolis. What a noble advance in reform! How delicious such an item must be to the pious and patriotic heart of Manchester Bright, M. P.

A NEW RELIGIOUS SECT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.—A new sect of Perfectionists has arisen in New Hampshire, where they have held meetings at Concord and Dover. They think of calling themselves "The Orthodox Catholic Church." Altogether, they number about one hundred. They believe in community of goods. Civil law they do not regard. Their laws are Bible laws. They hold that after one has received the reviving influence of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for him, not only to fall from grace, but even to be tempted. They believe in the speedy coming of the Saviour. The time is not yet revealed, but soon will be. Three apostles, who are to have charge of their affairs, have been chosen, who are spoken of as very successful second-advant preachers in times past.

GEOLOGICAL WONDERS OF UTAH.—We observe that the California newspapers are calling public attention to the Great Basin of Deseret, or Utah, as a field for Geological research. In that solitary region are many curious salt lakes;—the vestiges of a lost ocean, whose remaining waters are so strongly impregnated with saline matter, that they are little less than immense reservoirs of salt in solution. Large rivers flow for hundreds of leagues through sterile solitudes, and at length mysteriously disappear beneath the desert. In many places, immense deposits of soda cause the water to effervesce like a boiling cauldron. Springs of sulphur, springs of boiling water, mountains of snow, heated plains, vast deposits of subterranean ice—these and many other wonders, are described as existing in the Great American Basin. A lieutenant in the army, in a march across the continent, discovered a natural curiosity, to which he gave a somewhat uncomplimentary name. On the apex of a conical-shaped mound, about eighty feet in height, was an unfathomable miniature lake of warm water, which had no apparent outlet or inlet. The water was tepid, and perfectly translucent, and its surface was nearly on a level with the top of the cone which contained it. Various attempts were made to fathom this curious basin, but no bottom could be found. At the distance of forty feet from the base of the mound, were a number of gushing fountains, the water of which was intensely hot. He called it "The Devil's Tea-Kettle." A thorough geographical survey of this great tract of territory would doubtless result in many singular scientific discoveries.

THE PLEA OF DRUNKENNESS.—A case of wife-murder has just been tried at Lancaster, before Mr. Justice Hill. Henry Reed, a cotton-spinner, was charged with having killed his wife, who was found one morning lying, head downwards, on the stairs, dead. The defence was that the woman had committed suicide, but as the prisoner was in the house all the time this was evidently a hopeless hypothesis, and the jury found a verdict of "Wilful murder," adding a recommendation to mercy, on the ground that the wretched man was drunk at the time he committed the crime. In passing sentence of death, his lordship said: "Drunkenness is not—it cannot ever in this country be allowed to be—a mitigation of the crime of murder. If it were, this very county of Lancaster would have hundreds upon hundreds thinking that they might commit murder with impunity, because drunkenness abounds in the face of day in this county. I think it is right to say that openly, and to say it strongly, that it may be known that it never can be admitted as a mitigation of any such crime. The prisoner, in an agitated manner, knelt down in the dock, and holding up his hands, said, "I can meet my God to-morrow that I am innocent." His lordship informed the jury that he should forward their recommendation to the proper quarter.

A PROFOUND DISCOVERY.—"The prayer at the opening of the Senate proceedings to-day was read by a Roman Catholic priest, robed in his white surplice. This is the first instance, during many years at least, in which a clergyman of that Church has officiated in Congress, and it attracted not a little attention and comment. No compensation is now made to Congressional chaplains, but ministers of the various denominations volunteer their services. The appearance of Father Boyle in the desk to-day was a marked recognition of the fact that our Government makes no discrimination between religious creeds." We take the above, all but the title, from one of our city papers. *Mirabile!* One would suppose from its tone that an act of Catholic emancipation had been just passed in these United States, or that it was only in December, 1858, the profound discovery was made that "our Government makes no discrimination between religious creeds." Good gracious! We are informed, too, that the presence of a Roman Catholic to officiate before the assembled wisdom, "attracted not a little attention and comment." One would suppose from this that the Rev. Mr. Boyle was some *monstrum horrendum*, or that those curious fellows, the members of Congress, had forgotten the Constitution of the United States, or that there was such a citizen among us as a Catholic.—*Washington States.*

HOW JOHN SWORN FOR BETTY.—The law of the State of Virginia prohibits marriage unless the parties are of lawful age, or by the consent of the parents.

John N.—, a well-to-do farmer in the Valley of Virginia, was blessed with every comfort except that desideratum—a wife. John cast his eyes around, but unsuccessfully, until they fell upon the form of Betty, daughter of John Jones, one of the prettiest and nicest girls in the country. After a courtship of six weeks, John was rendered happy by the consent of the fair Betty.

The next day John, with a friend, went to town to get the necessary documents, with the forms of procuring which he was most lamentably ignorant.—Being directed to the clerk's office, John, with a good deal of hesitation, informed the urbane Mr. Brown that he was going to get married to Betty Jones, and wanted to know what he must do to compass that desirable consummation. Mr. Brown, with a bland smile, informed him, that after being satisfied that no legal impediment prevented the ceremony, he would, for the sum and consideration of \$3, grant him the license. John, much relieved, handed out the necessary funds.

"Allow me," said Brown, "to ask you a few questions. You are twenty-one years of age, I suppose, Mr. N.?"

"Yes," said John.

"Do you solemnly swear that Betty Jones, spinster, is of lawful age (made and enacted by the Legislature of Virginia), to take the marriage vow?"

"What's that?" said John.

Mr. B. repeated.

"Well," said John, "Mr. Clerk, I want to get married, but I joined the Church at the last revival, and I wouldn't swear for a hundred dollars."

"Then, sir, you cannot get married."

"Can't get married! Good gracious, Mr. Clerk, they'll turn me out the Church if I swear! I don't refuse me, Mr. Clerk, for heaven's sake. I'll give you \$10 if you let me off from swearing."

"Can't do it," Mr. N.—

"Hold on, Mr. Clerk, I'll swear: I couldn't give up Betty for ten churches. I'll swear; may be I—, if she ain't eighteen years old. Give me the license."

After the clerk bursted a few of the buttons of his vest, he granted the license.—*Montgomery (Ala.) Mail.*