

must recollect that and, were educated for granted, and solves the question, simply impossible. themselves personally, until the actual definition could not though the historical conviction, it was not impose it on Catholic the feeling of the an it ever come to their duty to relinquish the Church take the risk its definition as years after their shops in England,

the foreign altogether. Mr. Gladstone or Robert Peel must kept up, with compass and years, their the Pope's claim to ever suppose that he to turn that claim very little interested Declaration, signed in a political light ; were other questions. If they wanted liberties of the future, they potter about al exorbitances, or bishops whom they at once to Rome.

tance, with a grave the English people, on in their dealings fifth's, Vicar Apostolic of an interview Colonial Secretary. in perplexity at the ics were concerned, representative. He d expressed some- bliged to decline it. paroxysms, and the ous instance of it.

I think it is impossible that the British government could have entered into formal negotiations with the Pope, without its transpiring in the course of them, and its becoming perfectly clear, that Rome could never be a party to such a pledge as England wanted, and that no pledge from Catholics was of any value to which Rome was not a party.

But no ; they persisted in an enterprise which was hopeless in its first principle, for they thought to break the indissoluble tie which bound together the head and the members,—and doubtless Rome felt the insult, though she might think it prudent not to notice it. France was not the keystone of the ecumenical power, though her Church was so great and so famous: nor could the hierarchy of Ireland, in spite of its fidelity to the Catholic faith, give any pledge of the future to the statesman who required one; there was but one See, whose word was worth anything in the matter, "that church," (to use the language of the earliest of our Doctors) "to which the faithful all round about are bound to have recourse." Yet for three hundred years it has been the official rule with England to ignore the existence of the Pope, and to deal with Catholics in England, not as his children, but as sectaries of the Roman Catholic persuasion. Napoleon said to his envoy, "Treat with the Pope as if he was master of 100,000 men." So clearly did he, from mere worldly sagacity, comprehend the Pope's place in the then state of European affairs, as to say that, "if the Pope had not existed, it would have been well to have created him for that occasion, as the Roman consuls created a dictator in difficult circumstances." (Allison's *Hist.* ch. 35.) But we, in the instance of the greatest, the oldest power in Europe, a Church whose grandeur in past history demanded, one would think, some reverence in our treatment of her, the mother of English Christianity, who, whether her subsequent conduct had always been motherly or not, had been a true friend to us in the beginnings of our history, her we have not only renounced, but, to use a familiar word, we have absolutely cut. Time has gone on and we have no relents; to-day, as little as yesterday, do we understand that pride was not made for man, nor the cuddling of resentments for a great people. I am entering into no theological question: I am speaking all along of mere decent secular intercourse between England and Rome. A hundred grievances would have been set right on their first uprising, had there been a frank diplomatic understanding between the two great powers; but, on the contrary, even within the last few weeks, the present Ministry has destroyed any hope of a better state of things, by withdrawing from the Vatican, the make-shift channel of intercourse which had of late years been permitted there.

The world's politics has its laws; and such abnormal courses as England has pursued have their *Nemesis*. An event has taken place which, alas, already makes itself felt in issues, unfortunate for English Catholics, certainly, but also, as I think, for our country. A great Council has been called; and, as England has for so long a time ignored Rome, Rome, I suppose, it must be said, has in turn