

clearly what this change of policy means. Lord Palmerston may or may not be a great statesman or a skillful administrator; but all admit that he is a most adroit politician, and a consummate political tactician. As a States physician, he feels the British pulse to a nicety, and no Premier of the present century ever knew so well how to humour John Bull's temper, or to "feel him to the top of his boots." The said John has been for years in one of his worst and most savage moods, and there is no more ready channel for his tempers than that of anti-Catholic violence and persecution. Long before the great event which gave rise to the "Papal aggression" outbreak, the patriotic efforts of the Irish Catholic people and Priests, under their great leader O'Connell, had fanned the fury of Protestant bigotry and intolerance. That the Irish Catholics, so long trampled on and despised, and looked upon as a race born to servitude, should not only have acquired rights of citizenship under the British constitution, but should have actually set about enforcing those rights, with a vigor and unanimity which astonished their friends and their foes, was more than the worst enemy of Catholic Emancipation had ever expected to live to witness. The rage of Anti-Catholic bigotry was excited, and rose to such a height of fury that one of the greatest intellects of the British Senate publicly, in the face of Parliament and of the empire, denounced the Catholic people of Ireland as "aliens in blood, in language, and in religion." Nor did the famine of 1847, and its terrible and heart-rending consequences, suffice to assuage the fury of Protestant intolerance. Even at the moment when the public mind was brimful of horrors, and reeking with the slaughter of Skull and Skibbereen, an Exeter Hall triumph was found ready to gloat with demonic zeal over "the thinning of the millions" of the Irish people, and an Exeter Hall audience cheered the savage sentiment.

Such was the state of public feelings when the great event of the restoration of the English Hierarchy was happily consummated, and instantly the floodgates of Protestant prejudice were opened, and a torrent of blasphemy swept over the land. British Protestantism exhibited itself all over the world as possessed by a whole legion of evil spirits, howling with demonic rage, and uttering curses and blasphemies against the Church of Christ and His Vicar. The Premier of England publicly denounced the rites of Catholic worship as "mummers of superstition," and his vile example was quickly followed by the leading men of both parties in the country, Whigs excelling Tories in malice, falsehood, and foul-mouthedness. A new penal law was proposed and passed by the most overwhelming majorities ever known in the annals of Parliament—a law the sole object of which was to stamp with ignominy and disgrace the Catholics of the empire, by making their Bishops, in the eye of the constitution, impostors or criminals. Let it be recollected that this infamous law still remains on the statute-book, and at the present moment its repeal seems as distant as ever, though we are sometimes flattered with the assurance that it is only a *brutum fulmen*, and never meant to be enforced. Why, the fact that such a law—the embodiment of Protestant insolence and malice—stands unchallenged on the statute-book, and is allowed to warp the spirit of the constitution, is in itself not only a grievous insult and injury to the Catholics of the empire, but also a standing menace to the Catholic faith, which is in principle, as completely banished by the Titles-Act as it ever was by the bloodiest of the penal statutes. But the fury of anti-Catholic bigotry was not satiated by this infamous triumph. It broke out again and again in Stockport massacres and anti-Maynooth agitations; and though since then it may have slightly changed its aim, it is at the present moment as deep-seated and as intense as it ever was at any former period, though from necessity it is more subdued in its manifestations, and more wary in its efforts. Thus, it will be seen, the prosecution of the Mayo Priests is only an episode in the great epic of religious persecution; but it is the opening of a new chapter in the argument, and discloses the way in which, for the future, the events of the drama are to be made to march. It may be said that in this case Catholics are amongst the agents of the persecution, but that is precisely what gives it peculiar significance. Nor is this such a novelty as might be supposed at first. There were Catholics in office when the infamous Titles Bill was passed, a Catholic Attorney-General prosecuted Father Petcherine. Very lately Catholics in Belgium were mobbing Christian Brothers and Sisters of Mercy, amid the applause of Protestant England; and at the present moment Catholics in Piedmont are dividing the spoils of the altar, and persecuting and libelling those whom they have sacrilegiously robbed. Mr. Attorney-General Fitzgerald is probably as good a Catholic as Conant Gavour, or as M. Rogier. There is an older example, which must come to the mind of every Christian when a sacrilegious treachery is spoken of, but which it would be profanity to do more than allude to here. But we may rely on it that when the Devil has on hands a special deed of iniquity against the Church he will look for his agents, and will find them, amongst Catholics. Let us, then, look this matter fairly in the face as a revival of religious persecution, which it unquestionably is, and let the Irish people and priests prepare to meet it, not with the empty bluster and vain glorious boasting of which we have recently had too much, but with the faithfulness and fortitude which distinguished their forefathers, and which, under the blessing of God's providence, preserved the Christian faith in this land. It is not alone Father Conway or Father Ryan that is prosecuted; it is not merely the Independent party that is struck at through two of its zealous adherents; it is not, in fact, a political question at all; it is an outbreak of sectarian persecution and malignity that has to be met, and an assault on the religion of the Irish people, by an attempt to degrade its sacred Ministers to the level of criminals, that has to be repelled and punished. Some Catholics, who, no doubt, are wise in their generation, persuade themselves that this matter does not touch them; that it does not interfere with their position in the world, nor hurt their chances of Government place or promotion. But even in this they are grossly mistaken. It is not because Government likes or trusts them as Catholics that they get its pay, but simply because the Catholic body is too powerful to be entirely ignored in the distribution of public offices. The Attorney-General himself is indebted for the place he now occupies and for his chance, or rather certainty, of promotion to the judicial bench, not to the good will or favour of the British Government or the British people, but to those very Priests whom he now undertakes to persecute, and their fellow-Priests throughout Ireland. So far as his Catholicity has any reality about it, he is, we are bold to say, as much hated by the Government which uses him as its tool as Father Conway himself can possibly be. It was the strength of the Catholic people and the influence of the Catholic Priests which won Emancipation, and which, day by day, is compelling a hostile Government to make the letter of that act a reality. Undermine that strength and destroy that influence, and Catholic officials will find themselves only despised tools when it is felt that the Catholic body may safely be treated with injustice and contumely.—*Tablet*.

GPAT BRITAIN.

The sum total of the subscriptions to the fund for the relief of sufferers by the Indian mutiny, as last advertised, amounts to £334,722 2s. 5d.

A Circular has been issued from the Recruiting Department directing that the standard of recruits for all regiments of infantry serving in India is to be reduced to five feet three inches.

Gen. Ashburnham, who was appointed to command the British forces in China, but who was transferred to India, has suddenly returned to England without leave, because it is said only a command in the Punjab was suggested to him, which did not answer his expectations.

Gold continues to flow into the Bank of England, and the Bullion reserve was expected to reach a point greater than ever before known.

CONSPIRACIES AGAINST FOREIGN SOVEREIGNS.—The *Post* says:—"We feel certain as belief can make us, that the government must and will propose, on the opening of parliament, a measure for the punishment of political assassins."

A number of police agents have been despatched from Paris to London to make inquiries relative to the assassins of the 14th instant.

The "Leviathan" was successfully floated in the Thames on Sunday 31st January. Arrangements had been perfected to complete the launch the day previous, but the prevalence of a heavy gale rendered a postponement imperative; and as Sunday proved most auspicious, it was determined to proceed with the operation rather than encounter the risks which further delay would have entailed. The final floating of the great ship was effected with perfect ease, and no accident of any kind occurred, although the river was literally covered with boats full of people; and the timbers forming the cradles, which had been kept down by the weight of the vessel, ascended with great force some twenty or thirty feet above the surface of the water. The scene was a brilliant one, and the enthusiasm of the multitude who witnessed the launch was manifested in loud and continued cheering. The Leviathan was towed by four powerful tug-boats to her moorings, opposite Deptford, where she will remain until her internal arrangements are completed.

MINISTERIAL FAVOURS.—A CONTRAST.—The *Times* animadverts on the appointment of Colonel Phipps, Keeper of the Privy Purse, in the last *Gazette*, to be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Second Class of Knights Commander of the Bath, to honours superior to those conferred in the same *Gazette* on men who have reconquered for their country the empire of the East. Amongst recent instances of the national feeling being defied, it cites the last cabinet appointment and observes: "Now we have the steady hanger-on of the court elevated to the same honours as Havelock, and to a higher rank than some twenty devoted and heroic soldiers." It complains of the honours showered upon the house of Phippe, of whom the Marquis of Normandy is the chief.

The *Daily News* has the following on the same subject:—"Van Amburg was a wonderful fellow; but Rarey, the American, is more wonderful still. In five minutes he can subdue to his will the most high-spirited and violent horse. An animal which within half an hour would not suffer any body to approach, much less to mount him, will be found reclining in its stall with Mr. Rarey crawling among its legs, or seated on his hind quarters beating a tambourine or cracking a whip. Nor does the wonder cease here. Mr. Rarey can communicate his secret. By two or three words he can transform any ordinary mortal into a magical horse-breaker. Thus, at Windsor, the other day, Lord Alfred Paget was instructed in the secret, and immediately displayed his newly-acquired power by seating himself playfully on the back of a recumbent and submissive pony, who a few minutes before would have kicked him to death. This is a serious matter for the high-spirited independence of the equine community. But let them be consoled. The same thing is going on elsewhere. A greater Rarey is amongst us in the person of the Premier. In the most mysterious way the British Lion succumbs under his magic influence. But more than this. Like the great American he can communicate his power. Not only may the noble viscount himself beat the Devil's tattoo on the symbolic brute's hinder quarters, or make a necklace of his tail—he is able to confer the same power even on such men as Lord Clanricarde, Lord George Paget, and all the Hon. Phippees. Like Lord Alfred Paget with the savage pony, Lord George Paget is allowed to take liberties with the British Lion. That mesmerized animal is ready to stand anything. We are curious to know the next insult which the ministry will inflict upon the nation."

Mr William Thompson, secretary of the Birmingham and General Provident Loan Society, and the Penny Savings Bank, has absconded—a defaulter.

VERY SHABBY.—Dr. Vaughan, in the *London Quarterly Review*, complains severely that the English members of the Evangelical Alliance were not hospitably treated in Berlin. He says, "not a house was thrown open, so far as we have heard, to the most distinguished men of the Evangelical Alliance—Gentlemen who had kept open house at London and at Glasgow; who had right gladly welcomed Krummacker and his friends to their boards; who had fêted them, and carried them to see the Scotch lakes and hills, without charge, and felt honored by so doing, were not even asked to call at Potsdam or Berlin on those whom they had entertained."

The new "Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes" will present at first several noteworthy points in the working of the new Divorce Act. One of these questions was raised and decided before the Judge Ordinary on Saturday. Mr. Pullen moved, on behalf of a husband whose name he did not mention that he might present a petition to the Court for a dissolution of marriage without making the alleged adulterer a co-respondent. The 28th section of the act provides that "the petitioner shall make the alleged adulterer a co-respondent unless on special grounds to be allowed by the Court—he shall be excused from so doing." The special ground for the motion in the present case was that the husband had recovered damages and costs against the adulterer in an action for crim. con. The learned Judge did not think that the circumstances of damages having been recovered in an action for crim. con. constituted any special ground within the meaning of the section to justify him in making the order prayed. The husband might present the petition or not, as he pleased; but if he presented it, he must do so in the manner pointed out by the statute.—The first protecting order under the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act was granted at the same police-court last week. The applicant, Mrs. Lucy Freeman, had been married on the 14th of September, 1842, at Deptford Church, to Mr. John Charles Freeman; but on the 20th June, 1856, her husband deserted her, and had never since returned or contributed in any way to her support.—In the month of March last he was committed to prison for twenty-one days for the desertion, but his punishment had not the effect of bringing him back, and from June, 1856, up to the present, Mrs. Freeman supported herself by her own industry. As it was the wish of her friends to assist and put her into business she requested an order under the act to protect her property from her husband. Mr. Elliott, having read through the clause in the act referred to, granted the order. Orders for the protection of property under the new Divorce Act have been made this week at Frome, Leeds, and other places. In one case the husband, a farmer, had gone abroad, greatly in debt, leaving his wife to meet the creditors; she had paid off all the debts, and re-stocked the farm. In another case the wife had acquired eleven houses since her husband's desertion in 1848. Several applications in connection with the new Divorce Act have come before the police-courts during the week. An exaggerated impression of the power of the magistrate under the act seems to prevail, and most of the applicants were referred to the new Matrimonial Court.

IRISH HONESTY.—An accident has recently occurred which deserves recording. A lady walking in George street, on Thursday afternoon, lost a handsome purse, containing money. The treasure caught the eye of a poor Irish girl well-known as an importunate alms-seeker in that neighbourhood, who, having picked up the purse, ran to a gentleman near stating what she had found, and then, with him, pursued her search until the owner appeared. The girl seemed well pleased at what she had done, and satisfied with a trifle of money which was presented to her.—*Plymouth Journal*.

THE ARMY.—A number of captains, lieutenants and ensigns; have been appointed without purchase to the 5th and 7th foot.

THE PLOTS OF THE REFORMERS IN ENGLAND.—The *Birmingham Daily Press* reports further discoveries in reference to the preparations of Pierri, while residing in that town, for the attempt at assassination. "A foreigner answering Pierri's description some weeks ago requested a wood turner to furnish him with some wooden conical models, something similar in shape to a Minie rifle ball, from which castings could be made. These models would produce a missile destructive in the worst degree, as their peculiar form would avail for a thorough penetration of any part of the human body they might strike. The hand grenades were very likely the design of some of our skilled mechanics, and it is said that a clever glass-worker in the neighbourhood modelled one of the shells, although of course he was at the time perfectly innocent of the use to which it would be applied." Rudio, otherwise De la Sylva, is, it appears, one of the Italians whose life was attempted by the assassin Foschini in April, 1856. Rudio was seriously injured, and remained for sometime at the Charing-cross Hospital. He was formerly engaged as a translator to a French newspaper in London, which failed, and he was thrown out of employment. Having married an English girl, named Booth, an overlooker at a Nottingham warehouse, he betook himself to that town, and obtained pupils as a teacher of languages. While in that town he expressed very violent opinions to his private confidants on political subjects; and on one occasion he showed a formidable-looking poniard. The pupils dropped off one by one, and in the month of December last, without consulting any of his creditors, to whom he was indebted about £15, he "moonshined." In conversation with his friends in Nottingham, Rudio frequently referred to Orsini, and the latter in his celebrated pamphlet, "Austrian Dungeons and Prisons," alludes in terms of high praise to the family of Rudio. The *Nottingham Journal*, from which we quote these particulars, gives a copy of a letter from Rudio to one of his friends, dated from London, 16th December, 1857, but it throws no light on the conspiracy. Orsini, after his escape from Mantua, returned to England, and it seems that no other expedition being in store for him, he thought of writing an account of his own exploits. With this view he furnished materials, some true, some imaginary, but embellished and exaggerated, to the well-known Miss Meriton White; and by the aid of these statements Miss White composed the book which soon obtained great currency throughout the country. Having published this work, the lady thought Orsini might do good by going about lecturing, and it was agreed between her, Mazzini, and Orsini that half the proceeds of the sale of the book and the lectures should be devoted to the Italian cause. In virtue of these conditions Mazzini and Miss White used their influence to get audiences for Orsini. It would appear, however, that when he saw that the harvest was rather abundant he refused to divide it with his associates, and decided on acting upon his own account.

It is very well for us to say, with one of our contemporaries distinguished for its impudence, that we abhor assassination. That assertion is simply absurd, when one of the most famous of our literary men has offered a reward to the man who shall assassinate certain foreign princes. The English nation has not yet expressed any particular horror at that offer, and we doubt very much whether the man who made that offer has fallen in the least degree in the good esteem of his friends. He does not seem conscious of any great criminality in the offer. The public is apathetic and we have no doubt whatever, that should the money be earned, the English public would never call for his prosecution as an accessory before the murder. So much for this horror of assassination which, unfortunately, has ceased to exist. The public mind has been utterly corrupted, and the miscreants who infest us are everywhere well received. The city of London has also the brazen courage to express its hatred of assassins, though it presented Koesuth, who never was a soldier, with a sword. These are the acts and language which irritate people abroad. We receive with open arms the men who murdered the Count Latour, and set the draymen of Messrs. Barclay to assault General Haynau; that soldier, who was faithful to the oaths he took, and who honestly did his word, was slandered and belied, while the mean villains opposed to him were held forth as patriots, though, had they received common justice, it subjects for the galleys for merely civil and social crimes. The general sense of the public requires to be corrected on this point, and it is not unlikely that the Emperor of the French may prove an excellent instructor.

This Orsini, whom the public followed, and whom a portion of the press trumpeted forth as the victim of Austrian cruelty, is now known to be a worthless villain, incapable of dealing honestly with his own colleagues in crime. When he escaped from prison by bribing his gaolers he was under sentence of death for a most atrocious and diabolical conspiracy. His fellow-conspirator was hung, as he deserved to be, and he would have shared his punishment at the same time but for an informality in the sentence which required time for its correction. Austrian tyranny respected law in the case even of Orsini. Now for the crime of those two men. They had made their arrangements for a general massacre of the Austrian officers. The two miscreants had undertaken to kill them one by one, separately, as they might be met within lonely or unfrequented places. They were carrying out the policy of Mazzini—secret assassination; and, being men of "thorough democratic principles," were unvisited by scruples which deter ordinary villains from such wholesale dealing in crime. The man Orsini escaped, and took refuge in England, where he gave lectures, gathered money, had many friends. The British public either concealed his antecedents, or never troubled itself about them. The man was a murderer of the deepest dye, but he was at the same time a refugee; that was enough, it being understood by the sagacious public that only runaway villains are honest men on the Continent.

The question will be forced on the attention of Parliament, and people had better consider in time what answer they have to give, not to France only, but to all Europe, for the matter concerns all.—*Tablet*.

THE "TIMES" AND THE BELGIAN ARMY.—A very pretty quarrel has sprung up between the Belgian army and the *Times*, your contemporary having published a letter about the Belgian elections, in which the Belgian army was described as without the courage and daring of the French, without the resolution of the English, without the strict discipline of the troops of Northern Europe; it had not a single quality of a soldier. This has stirred up the bile of the "brave Belges," a military meeting has been held, and a committee of three Belgian generals has been appointed to call the editor of the *Times* to account.

PROTESTANT VAGARIES.—For some time past an attempt has been made to make popular the Protestant religion of England for the working men of Manchester on a style somewhat as attractive as the notorious Mr. Spurgeon. The Free Trade Hall was taken for the occasion, and a young Baptist named Monnell was employed to cater for the religious amusement of the operatives. Attractive, indeed, were his discourses, and grotesque the title of them—"Who is knocking at the Door," "Red, White, and Blue," "Fire, fire, fire," "Silence in the Court," &c., &c., formed the magnetic powers by which the unwashed were to hear "God's Word" to popular tunes. The hall was crowded every Sunday, but not by the class to be operated upon; persons from other chapels filled the seats and left vacant their own.—Mr. Monnell is very clever, very popular, and the result is, his chapel in Grosvenor-street is now well filled, and that appears to be the only thing gained by the experiment going on.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge is to be raised to the rank of Field Marshal.

MR. ALBERT SMITH UPON YOUNG PROTESTANT CATHOLICS.—The *Saturday Review* has an amusing article from which we extract the following:—"The religious public never had a greater piece of luck than when Mr. Albert Smith started his Mont Blanc. It was as good as a play, and it wasn't wicked. There was the same fun, the same ridicule thrown over men and things, the same merriment—all the more hearty because its source was rather a dubious one, and yet it was not the least worldly to go and enjoy it. The elevated platform from which Mr. Smith addresses his audience was not a stage, and as he merely mimics the voices of his characters, interspersing remarks in his own tone, his hearers escaped the profanity of listening to a dialogue. Then there are no lady performers in the Egyptian Hall, and a virtuous audience is not shocked by the presence of people whom pious circles firmly believe to be without an exception, irretrievably wicked. So Mr. Albert Smith flourishes, and the best and straightest go and laugh over his performance. In this way he is acting as a great means of education to a few of his countrymen and a great many of his countrywomen. He is incessantly breaking down the barrier which they have erected between the religious and the irreligious. He is convincing them how much they have in common with the sad, naughty, delightful world, from which they have decided to separate themselves; how heartily they sympathise with the stir and bustle of its gaiety, and how irresistible everything is that is really human. And yet if a hundred proofs had not sufficed to show how conventional are most standards of right and wrong, it would be a little surprising that the performance should be enjoyed without measure and without compunction. It is curious when we remember all that has been said and written about the Sabbath, to hear a whole audience shout with laughter at the story of the foreigner who complained that he had found the English Sundays *deplorable tristes*. We presume that the expression is as right in English as in French. Our Sundays are a 'devilish dull'—that is the joke. Let the people who hear it and rapturously applaud it, be thankful that they are not as other men are who go to plays. Then again the Clergy are not exhibited in a very pleasant light. They are shown in the aspect in which they display themselves to men of the world, not in that in which they are viewed by a dotting congregation. In the new performance, for instance, which Mr. Smith began last Monday, there is a character introduced, the Rev. Septimus Blandy, who is a fool, but 'really a good fellow.' 'Young Curates,' said Mr. Smith, 'are good fellows at bottom.' To paraphrase the sentiment, we may suppose Mr. Smith to say, 'My audience, I can see by their encouraging smiles, agree with me in despising the upper crust of devotional language, ecclesiastical fancies, and strong opinions which young Curates ordinarily wear; but I think they are not as bad as they seem, and if you look beneath you will find that they have as much good-nature as the silliest sort of laymen.' There is much truth in this, but we may wonder that it should raise no scruples in the breasts of those who fear to mix with the world. However, as a matter of fact, the performance is accepted as unimpeachable, and we are heartily glad that it is. Mr. Smith is doing a very useful work."

UNITED STATES.

ALLWELL BRIBERY OF MEMBERS OF THE U. S. CONGRESS.—We cut the following pertinent remarks, in reference to Mr. Wolcott's case, mentioned in the Washington Correspondent's Letter, from the New York Herald of Wednesday—our New York contemporary says:—"The issue between them (Mr. W. and the corruption committee) will probably be settled on application for a habeas corpus. It seems quite likely that Mr. Wolcott may get the better of Congress in the fight. There is no intrinsic improbability in his denial that he bribed Congressmen. It is known that many Eastern men are quite remarkable for their tenderness of conscience; there is nothing radically absurd in supposing that after having the money (\$50,000) for what purpose we can all conjecture—Mr. Wolcott's conscientiousness may have rebelled against a corrupt use of it, and thus, that not a dollar may have ever reached a Congressman's pocket. If, on this showing, the question be renewed—What became of the money? why, the only answer that can be made is that the money remained where it was viz: in the pocket of the conscientious Wolcott. It appears to be generally understood that at the time the money was paid over to Wolcott, he was a clerk with Lawrence, Stone & Co.; and that subsequently he has gone into business as a banker with an ex-Governor of Massachusetts. No doubt he put money into the business, and no doubt he could show that such money came from a very legitimate source, and formed no part of this long-sought \$50,000. All these things could doubtless be very satisfactorily explained, and no doubt they will be. It has become so common of late years for political rogues to get money from rich men or associations under pretence of bribing Congress, the Legislatures or the President, and to keep the whole for themselves, that Mr. Wolcott must expect to be rather roughly handled until he discloses rather more of his private business than he now seems willing to make public."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON DRUNKENNESS.—Bishop Bayley, the Catholic Bishop of New Jersey, has issued a manifesto bringing the machinery of the Church to bear on the vice of drunkenness. His letter on the subject has been read in all the churches, in which he calls attention to two classes—the drunkards themselves, and the dealers in liquor. Leaving to the pastors the choice of the particular means to be used, he suggests that each should keep a list of the drunkards and liquor dealers in his church. He says:—"I am determined to make use of the most severe measures to all who are addicted to this scandalous and destructive vice; and if they continue in practice of it, they must do it as outcasts from the Catholic Church, who have no right to the name of Catholic while they live nor to Christian burial when they die."

A TIMELY WARNING.—Education without religion is working out its own terrible retribution on the nation. The mountains of pernicious fiction are crushing morality and respect out of millions who read but to become familiar of crime, and whose boasted love of knowledge is but a thirst for stimulants to diseased passions. It is fearful to witness, even in respectable bookstores, the heaps of poisons that are bought and swallowed by the workmen and workingwomen of our cities and country towns. These pestilent books are silently and steadily doing their deadly work, like the worm which undermines unseen the dykes and embankments, before the sudden deluge sweeps away the rotten barrier, and carries abroad destruction and death.—*Catholic Telegraph*.

In noticing Bishop Spalding's article in Brownson's Review on Common School Education, the *Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph* says:—"The subject is one of the most vital importance not to Catholics alone, but to every friend of civil and religious liberty. The common school system of the United States, mainly the product of New England bigotry, is the monster grievance of our age and country. It is the white man's slavery. The slavery of the negro in the South is freedom compared to it. The contradiction between the Declaration of Independence, which setteth forth 'that all men are by nature free, sovereign and independent,' and the constitution of the United States that guarantees property in slaves is not so revolting as this despotism of one portion of the white race over another. It is a disgrace to a Christian, or a free people, and we are outraged by an independent American, an able writer, and a Catholic prelate. We should like to see this article in the hands of all the members of the Legislature and of every statesman in the land."

DIVORCE.—It is only in Catholic Europe—the stationary, retrograde, derided portion of European society—that this indulgence of lust or caprice is resolutely refused, under pains and penalties, to all who would be 'progressive men.' In Prussia, the most powerful of all the Protestant governments of Continental Europe, divorce has become so frequent, as to astonish and alarm all well-wishers of human society. Of late years, the average shows that some three thousand or more divorces take place every year. This is in the proportion of eighteen divorces to every 100,000 individuals. But, it must not be forgotten that the Catholic population of Prussia, none of whom are ever guilty of this infraction of divine law, is over two-fifths, or nearly one half of the entire population. Consequently the proportion of divorces to the Protestant population, must be nearly doubled to arrive at the truth. In fact, taking the purely Protestant portions of the kingdom, we find by the census, that in such districts as those of Stettin, Magdeburg, Frankfurt and Koenigsberg, the number of divorces stand as thirty, thirty-six, and even fifty-seven of every 100,000 inhabitants. In the kingdom of Saxony, where the royal family is Catholic, and by its correct moral demeanor exercises, necessarily, great control over the higher classes, the proportion of divorces per annum is only eight to every 100,000. We believe that the only non-Catholic commonwealth remaining in all Christendom that does not tolerate divorce is South Carolina. There is no State in the Union, no Protestant Government in all Europe, that has not legalized adultery under the name of divorce. Long may South Carolina enjoy this proud distinction of being the only commonwealth in the whole world which without adopting Christ's religion as her State-creed, has adopted his moral law as the basis of her legislation regarding the family!—*Baltimore Catholic Mirror*.

A NEW PROTESTANT SECT.—The Worcester (Mass.) Transcript gives the following account of a new sect called "Restitutionism," which has recently sprung up in Worcester and other places in Massachusetts:—"The Restitutionists believe that what a man lost in the Fall, is now beginning to be restored, and that the germ, now declined to their own small numbers, is yet to bud and flourish till it covers the earth.—They are all Restitutionists in one sense—they believe that everything is to come back to its original form and purity. Their Sabbath, therefore, occurs on Saturday, as the original day of worship; and their meetings are held on Friday evening, because it is Sunday eve. They only use the Lord's prayer, as that alone can have efficacy with the Father.—To them—or three of them at least—is committed the apostolic gift of tongue—this gift appears to be rather useless, as the words spoken are not only unintelligible to bystanders, but to the others who have a like gift till the inward manifestation of the spirit makes it known. They are God's chosen and willing instruments in whom the Holy Spirit now develops himself partially, but through whose instruments the world is soon to be entirely restored. This sect, small in numbers, is strong in the faith and working activity of its members. There are others of a like faith in Athol, New Braintree, Springfield and other places. One of them was arrested yesterday for an assault and battery on his wife. It appeared in evidence that his wife, who was once a believer, had now fallen from grace, and therefore must be converted. This for three months he had attempted to do, chiefly by threatening, shaking and tickling her—tickling was his most potent weapon—and even employed it till she swooned under his pointed arguments. On Saturday he informed her that unless she was recovered and believed, he would die within three months. On the next day, being in greater fear, she attempted to open the windows to summon the neighbors, when he jerked her back so violently that she swooned. When the door was burst open, she was in a corner insensible, and moaning, and he was quietly seated in his chair, holding the child and reading the Bible. He was found not guilty."

CUT AND DRY.—For the benefit of our Protestant neighbors who practice the trade of Religious Humbug, we (*Pittsburgh Catholic*) publish the following blank forms.—They will be found invaluable in raising the wind as well as the crowd:—"There will be a sale of valuable articles on Wednesday next, in the vestry of the—church, to continue through the day and evening, the proceeds to be applied to the purchase of a sofa for the pulpit. It is expected that the pastor will make an interesting address, and that the Misses—will sing, at intervals, a few of their celebrated songs. Let us all turn out, and help the ladies in their worthy enterprise."

"The Rev.—, having labored for seven months with great acceptance, as pastor of a church in—, last Sabbath preached his farewell discourse. There was scarcely a dry eye in the house, so deeply were all affected by the ruptures of ties which had been so long acquiring strength. After the sermon, commendatory resolutions were passed, and ordered to be published in three papers. A little girl then stepped forward, and in behalf of the pew-holder, with a neat address, presented the retiring pastor with a silver tooth pick, and the recipient, with evident emotion, responded in an eloquent manner. It was an occasion not soon to be forgotten."

"It is expected that the Rev.— will receive a call from the church in—. He preached there last Sabbath, and made the happiest impression. That church does well to 'covet earnestly the best gifts.'"

"The Rev. Dr.—, having recently returned from his European tour, will next Sabbath evening, in his own pulpit, give an account of the Ragged Schools in London, and as an illustration will exhibit two or three ragged boys, similar to those which he saw in the school near the famous 'Coal Hole.' Tickets to the lecture, five cents, for the benefit of the Sabbath School."

"The Rev.—, will, next Lord's Day evening, entertain the public with a graphic sketch of his late excursion in 'John Brown's Tract,' Northern New York. By the advice of his physician, he accompanied a hunting party into the depths of that wonderful forest, and his narrative will doubtless be very interesting. He will exhibit the skin of a wolf which he shot, and the club with which he killed an unknown animal. Come early, if you want a good seat."

"The Rev. Dr.— will preach in his own place to-morrow morning, and administer the ordinance of Baptism to— persons, all recent converts, the oldest of whom is— years, and the youngest—. The choir, under the direction of that distinguished vocalist,— will sing two select pieces, and Mr.— will give a fantasia on the organ. The public are invited."

"The Rev. Mr.—, late a missionary in Asia, will preach to-morrow evening in the— church. After a gospel sermon, he will put on the costume of the tribe among whom he has labored, and sing one of their national songs. Tickets ten cents, for his mission."

"The Anniversary of the— Sabbath School will be held next Sabbath evening.—Several weeks have been devoted to preparation; and a rich entertainment has been expected. The services will be prayers, reading the Scriptures, the Secretary's report, singing, addresses, dialogues in costume and a mock wedding. Miss—, will preside at the piano. A collection will be taken up to pay the expense of the decorations."

"The Ladies' Mitten Society will hold a bazaar next week, commencing on Monday, in—Hall, the avails to be appropriated to the purchase of mittens for poor children. Many of our first ladies are engaged in the self-denying enterprise. A large variety of curious articles will be for sale, and every one who purchases a dollar's worth will be entitled to an ice cream. There will be an address by some clergyman every evening except Friday, when there will be exhibited an old folks' party, a genuine take off of the olden time. Remember the poor barbed-ed children."