

that those who inculcate very high Doctrine on the sacrament of Baptism, repudiate the idea that of itself it conveys salvation irreversibly, no matter what the spiritual condition of the recipient may be or his future life may prove. In truth, this calumny has been advanced again and again against those who hold the Doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration, although it has been repeatedly refuted and disproved.

We have, however, a still richer specimen of logical accuracy, in a grave discourse delivered by a high dignitary to a number of clergymen. "If," says he, "regeneration be so inseparable from the sacrament of baptism that every baptized child has been born of God, and no unbaptized person has been born of God, then at all periods of his subsequent life, if one have any doubt of his new birth, he has only to become assured that he was baptized in childhood, and all further question vanishes. No other evidence is competent; no other is needed." He then goes on to quote from the Homily on Whitsunday that the test of being born of God is faith and good works.

Now this writer must have known that the Prayer Book expressly warns both adults and the sponsors of infant recipients, that the Christian profession requires them continually to mortify all evil and corrupt affections, and continually increase in all holiness and godliness of living. In the Catechism, too, after teaching the child what he has been made, the Church enjoins upon him, repentance, faith, and obedience, and moreover teaches him that he must call upon God continually for His special grace, that is, the grace suited to his circumstances and needs. His duties to God and his neighbour are also plainly and briefly set forth, and the need of renewing his baptismal vows in the rite of Confirmation, and of the devout reception of the Holy Eucharist, consequently thereupon, is also set forth. It is plain, from the whole tenor of the Church's services and instructions, that the benefits of Baptism are dependent upon the performance of these conditions, and that, if they be not performed, the benefits will be so forfeited. So far then from the only question being Was I born again in baptism? the inquiry is "Have I continued in that 'state of salvation' in which I was then placed, and performed the promises that were then made for me?"

Now suppose that one baptized in infancy has lived regardless of his christian birthright obtained in the laver of regeneration, and reached the age of manhood stained with sins of both omission and commission.—What advocate of Baptismal Regeneration will tell him that his salvation is secured because he was then born again? Because he was once in a state of grace it does not follow that he can never depart from it. "We may depart from grace given and fall into sin," says the 16th Article, and this is no proof that the individual was not truly born again, as the writer whose dictum we are examining seems to suppose, but it shows that he has not led the rest of his life according to that beginning." The same phenomenon presents itself, whatever theory be adopted of regeneration. That process must take place at some time or another, and it is no security against a subsequent fall from grace. Now suppose that one baptized in infancy attains the age of 20 years, having lived in a state of sin—is then converted, lives piously and obediently for ten years, again falls into sinful courses and does not repent and amend for a length of time. What does it matter as far as the argument of the writer is concerned, whether you date his regeneration from the period of baptism or of conversion? In neither case will his "new birth" (wrongly so called in the latter case) avail him, unless he repents and amends, and leads a new life through the operation and assistance of the Holy Spirit. According to either view, the same evidence is required of being in a state of grace,—believing the Gospel and keeping God's Commandments. The difference then is, that in referring his regeneration to the time of Baptism, he relies on the promise of God, the power of Christ, and the teaching of the Church Catholic. In referring it to the time of his conversion, he is relying merely on the doubtful evidence of frames and feelings, is violating the natural sense of the formularies of the Church, and following the novel inventions of modern interpreters of the Word of God.

Our readers will see from the above that we by no means deny the necessity of conversion or turning from sin to God with a new heart and in a new life, on the part of those who are baptized, but the name of regeneration is properly applied to this process. It may be repeated again and again in a man's life, while he can be born again but once. He is born anew "of water and the Spirit," and the act is God's not his own; while in conversion he co-operates with the Spirit of God, moving him to repent, believe, and obey. God "saves us by the laver of regeneration, and renewal of the Holy Ghost," but those who are thus regenerated are enabled by His grace and in virtue of the New Covenant, to renew themselves continually, and thus prepare themselves to attain "the inheritance of the saints in light."

Some other observations connected with this point must be deferred to a future opportunity.

From our English Files.

The Northern Whig gives the following report of a case in the Consistory Court of Down and Connor, the office of Judge promoted by "Crommelin v. Steward," exceptions in which were argued on the 29th of Sept., when the arguments consisted of a critical review of the rubrics and canons bearing on the subject of the right of admission to the holy communion. The facts of the case were detailed in the judgment delivered by the Vicar-General, Dr. Knox. The question was the admission of the articles, of which the following was the substance, exhibited by the Rev. Delacherois Crommelin against the Rev. Henry Steward, for refusing to administer to him the holy communion, on Sunday, the 25th of May last. Both plaintiff and defendant are benefited clergymen in the diocese:—

"The communion was administered in the parish church of Carrowmore, on the day in question. Mr. Crommelin presented himself at the table for the purpose of communicating, and Mr. Steward passed him by. The admission of the articles is opposed on the grounds that they do not plead that Mr. Crommelin gave notice to Mr. Steward, some time the previous day of his intention to communicate, as directed by the first paragraph of the rubric, before the communion service; and that, therefore, the articles show no offence, for which, if proved, Mr. Steward would be subjected to ecclesiastical censure. The point to be determined was, did non-compliance with this rubric justify a minister in refusing the holy communion, in public, without any reference to the character of the intended communicant, and even if known to the minister to be of irreproachable character. Refusing the sacraments of the Church to qualified persons was a most serious offence, particularly the sacrament of the holy communion; it is a means of grace, and, as such, every Christian has a

right to enjoy it, and its reception is one of the highest and most important of his Christian privileges, and one of which he should not be deprived, save upon the gravest grounds. The right of repelling existed in the priest in the earlier Church, but it was soon given up, as it was found that it led to persons being rejected from caprice, malice, or pique; and by an imperial edict both Bishops and priests were prohibited from shutting out any one from the communion before just cause was shown that the holy canons gave them power to do so. The reasons assigned in the canon law that would justify exclusion are:—1. One who wants or contemns the rite of confirmation. 2. Persons excommunicated, or doing penance for Church censure, for any notorious fault. 3. Persons under frenzy. 4. Notorious ill-livers. Even in the case of notorious ill-livers the canon law does not allow a discretionary and judicial power to the priest to thrust away every evil person from the sacrament. Even a criminal person coming to communion is not to be repelled, but privately induced and admonished that he should not partake. The rubrics in question fall under the head of penal statutes, being restrictive of common-law rights; they cannot be held to confer any power on the priest, in derogation to these rights, unless this power be given in express terms. There is another rule of construction which is also applicable to the present case. It is this—'Affirmative words in a statute do not take away the common law, a former custom or right, or a former statute.' After testing the rubric in question by these two rules, and discussing its bearings at great length and in every point of view, the Vicar-General concluded as follows:—'I have considered this question as between a minister and a layman; the case is stronger when considered between two ministers, which is the case now before me; for, if a minister cannot refuse a layman, a fortiori, he cannot refuse a brother minister who has an apparent right to receive before the people. The conclusion I have come to is fully born out by the several divines who have treated upon the subject. It is singular that Taylor has a chapter in his essay discussing whether a person accidentally entering a church where communion is to be celebrated, is to be justified in departing without partaking; he never would have written this chapter had he considered that, under the rubric, the minister would be bound to pass him by for want of notice. I may also refer to Mr. Stephens' notes on the book of Common Prayer, a work of great research, and to a case there quoted, which was decided by Bishop Wilson. I am not called upon to decide upon the validity or invalidity of the rubric itself; but its validity cannot be denied; and, no doubt a minister is perfectly justified in endeavouring by every legitimate means in his power, to establish its observance in his parish—that is, by exhortation, and by the use of his influence as a Christian pastor; and, so long as he confines himself to these means solely, and does not endeavour to enforce its observance by refusing the rite of communion, and usurping power not entrusted to his Bishop cannot forbid him, and must sanction his proceedings—I use sanction here in its legal sense. A rubric, or any other rule of discipline, is not inoperative merely because a minister cannot permit its breach by his own authority. On the several grounds that the first paragraph is directory, and cannot therefore abridge a former right; that the other two paragraphs are penal, and cannot be extended; and that the other portions of the service are inconsistent with the construction contended for; I consider that the rubric is not a justification of the defendant's conduct, and does not exempt him from the consequences of that conduct, should the facts be proved; and I therefore admit the articles to proof."

At Lambeth, James Bell, living in great style, at No. 1, Holland-place, Canberwell New-road, in a house elegantly furnished, with bottles in the window, to give it the appearance of an apothecary's, has been remanded on a charge of defrauding the public under pretence of telling fortunes, by casting of nativities and advertising himself as a professor of astrology. Sergeant Quinear and another policeman visited the house in plain clothes, and laying traps, caught the man out in a series of lies, telling the former that he had a son who would not live long, the man being childless.—Bell is said to carry on an immense traffic, to an incredible extent, in fortune-making.

We learn from the City article of the Times that files of the Canterbury paper, the Lyttelton Times have been received to the 26th of April:—"Two of the colonists, Mr. Deans and Mr. Tancred, had been summoned to attend the General Legislative Council of New Zealand, at Wellington, to represent the Canterbury Settlement, but it was not certain that they would accept the duty. Sales of rural land had taken place by auction, in half and quarter acre sections, some of the latter fetching as much as £8, though the district was a considerable way from Christ Church. Severe weather had been experienced, but the craft engaged in the coasting trade had escaped damage. The Travancore had arrived. The immigrants were all in good health and had made a satisfactory voyage. It is stated they had landed under more favourable circumstances than those from the Isabella Hercules, and the barracks, which had been thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed for their occupation, were again filled.—The bridge over the Heathcote, on the bridge track to Christ church, was to be rebuilt lower down the river, with the view of facilitating communication by the new road opened in that neighbourhood. 'The plains,' it is remarked, begin to exhibit signs of life in several directions. But a few weeks ago there was not a trace of it; now on all sides you see houses commenced, or tents and encampments promising comfortable farm-houses at no remote period.' Further discoveries had been made of valuable building stone; which would assist in the erections contemplated in the various quarters of the settlement. The autumn had proved variable, and the approach of winter, it was anticipated would bring a marked change in climate. Some very cold evenings had been felt, but still the days were exceedingly favourable. Meat for the moment was advancing, and would do so unless there should be considerable importations in the next few months; but it was expected that before long the colonists themselves would possess stock of all descriptions. Peat, for fuel, had been brought into use near Riccarton, and cod, ling, and other fish of suitable character had been taken in considerable quantities off the rocks at Puloa Bay. The prices of provisions in the Lyttelton markets were as follows:—First flour, 24s. per cwt.; bread, 6d. per two lb loaf; beef, 6d. per lb.; mutton, 6d. per lb.; pork, 6d. per lb.; fowls, 5s., and ducks, 4s. per pair; salt butter, 1s. 6d. per lb.; maize, 5s. 6d. per bushel; ale, 2s. 8d. per gallon; and ham and bacon, 8d. per lb."

THE NEW REFORM BILL.—We have heard from private sources that there will be a very small extension of the franchise, and that the chief peculiarity of the measure will be a redistribution of members, in which population will form a guide to, if it is not taken as a basis of, the apportionment of representatives.—Birmingham Journal.

FURTHER REFORM.—The Solicitor-General has announced to his constituents at Oxford that he has at length elected to remain in his present office as law adviser to the Crown, and not to accept of the office of Vice-Chancellor. We before intimated, that this was Lord John Russell's wish, who has in fact used all his influence to induce Sir W. Page Wood to continue to be the Government Solicitor. We have no doubt that it is wise on the part of Lord John to retain the services of an independent man of high talent and spotless character, and the more so as the Attorney-General falls so far short of the expectations entertained of one holding the post of the chief law officer of the Queen.

The great Reform Act has not put down bribery at election, for more cases of corruption have been brought to light within the last few years than at any former time. It has not done much to reduce the expense of elections, except it may be in counties. We may not now hear of such a contest as that of 1812 for Yorkshire, when Mr. Wilberforce's friends subscribed more than £50,000 to carry his election, and when Lords Milton and Lascelles each spent more than twice as much. But in boroughs, notwithstanding that the poll only lasts one day, the expenses are great; and if Baron Rothschild would only tell what he paid to secure the empty honour of sitting behind the bar as the Member for London; or if Alderman Salomons would say what it cost him to add two letters to his name, and launch a solitary speech in Parliament before he was compelled to retire behind the barriers of the House, we might receive a valuable lesson as to the inefficacy of laws to cope with those who appeal to the baser principles and passions of mankind.

No doubt reforms in Parliament might be made, just as there are reforms which might be made in every department of the Church or State. But the great reform that is wanted is a reformation of heart and life,—a reformation of the principles and manners of mankind. This is the grand desideratum, and whilst we by no means forbid the attempt to repair what is defective in our Constitution, we look for little from those changes which mere politicians can devise.

It appears, moreover that there is to be a new Reform Bill, and that an appeal to Sir W. Page Wood's Liberal principles has overcome his desire to occupy a judicial post, better suited to his health, and possibly more adapted to his turn of mind. What this reform is to compass does not yet appear.

But there is yet another view of the case. Change is in itself an evil; and, if reform only means change, it must do mischief instead of good. To extend the elective franchise is a most doubtful experiment. Sir Stephen Lushington was a few years ago invited to a dinner by some of the leading constituents of the Tower Hamlets. On his health being drank then, he made them a speech, reminding them of the battle for reform in which he had taken so strong a part. But he concluded by offering them a piece of advice, which wise men would do well to ponder,—"You have gained," said Dr. Lushington, "a great victory. You have carried a great measure, but take the advice of an old Reformer,—be content with what you have gained, and beware of carrying it further." This advice is worthy of attention.—Record.

RUSSIA.—The Morning Post states that next year, 1852, Russia will celebrate throughout the empire the completion of her thousandth year of national existence; which will be kept with all the solemnity due to the importance of the event. The Russian empire was founded in 852; in which year the Russians or Russians, probably of Scandinavian origin, made their first appearance on the shores of the Bosphorus, as Warangians.

PROPOSED LEGAL UNIVERSITY.—Lord Brougham intends during the ensuing session of Parliament to submit to the Government (with a view of improving the system now in force for admitting gentlemen to the bar) a proposition for consolidating the Middle and Inner Temples, Gray's and Lincoln's Inns, into one legal university, to be governed by a Senate and Chancellor, similar to other universities. In this university, professorships are to be established in the different branches of law and equity, who are to lecture as the professors do at Oxford or Cambridge. It is proposed to abolish the immense fees which are at present charged for "entering."

A Spanish journal contains the following singular summary:—"There are 3,064 languages spoken throughout the world—587 in Europe, 937 in Asia, 276 in Africa, and 1,264 in America. The number of males is nearly equal to females. The average of human life is 33 years; a fourth of the population die before the age of four years, the half before that of 17 years; such as survive these periods enjoy a measure of health which is denied to the other half of the human race."

OFFICERS ON RETIRED FULL PAY AND HALF PAY.—Lieutenant-colonels, 195; majors, 215; captains, 987; lieutenants, 1,090; ensigns, cornets, and second lieutenants, 168; paymasters, 23; adjutants, 24; quartermasters, 185; surgeons of all ranks above assistant surgeons, 232; assistant surgeons and apothecaries, &c., 78; veterinary surgeons, 10; chaplains, 20. The half-pay of lieutenant-colonels is usually 11s. per diem; that of majors varies from 7s. 6d. to 10s.; of captains, from 3s. to 8s.; of lieutenants, from 2s. 4d. to 5s. 2d.; and one officer of this rank receives only £29 15s. per annum. The ensigns' half-pay fluctuates from 1s. 10d. to 6s. 6d. per diem, the majority receiving 3s. a day. Paymasters on half-pay draw from 4s. to 15s. a day; adjutants average 3s. 4d. per diem; quartermasters range from 2s. to 8s.; regimental surgeons draw from 2s. to 17s. 6d. a day, according to length of service; assistant surgeons, from 2s. 6d. to 5s.; veterinary surgeons, from 3s. 6d. to 12s.; chaplains, 2s. 6d. to 16s.

There is now no longer, it is said, any doubt on the subject of a brevet. It will probably be of the same date as the one in 1846, namely, the 9th of November, the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Wales.—Although it is known that the brevet is decided upon, the extent to which it will proceed is still uncertain.

DON PACIFICO.—Some amusement has been created by the award of the commissioners appointed to examine the case of our old friend, Don Pacifico. That ingenious person, in whom under the externals of a Portuguese Jew, the British nation was last year compelled to recognise a countryman in distress, demanded it will be remembered, upwards of £20,000 for vouchers destroyed, as he alleged, at the pillage of his house, of certain claims to a large amount on the Government of Portugal. The commissioners, after a laborious inquiry, unanimously report that he has suffered no injury at all—that the papers, if any, burnt at Athens

were only copies, the originals of which are safe at Lisbon, or supplementary evidence of claims which, if just, could be established in a more direct way, but in point of fact he appears to have long ago abandoned. His complaint turns out then to have been, what every body knew it to be, an attempt to screw out of the Government of Greece, on the ground of the pretended destruction of his evidence, an enormous sum which, upon that evidence, he had found it hopeless to extract from the Government of Portugal. The commissioners nevertheless, with an excusable inconsistency arising partly from good-natured compassion for the importunate claimant, partly perhaps from a wish to save the credit of his protectors, recommend that a small gratuity should be given him to indemnify him for the expenses of trying to cheat the Greek Government out of £20,000 and as a speculative compensation for the chance of his having lost something which, so far as appears, he never had. So much for the grand item of the British "claims on Greece." The report, it seems, was made in May. We need not ask why it was not published till October.—Guardian.

From the evidence adduced, the select committee on army expenditure have recommended that a rigid revision in the commissariat department abroad shall take place, and a considerable reduction be made in all our colonies. They are of opinion that the monetary transactions are unnecessarily complex, especially those applying to Canada; and in almost all the colonies the number of separate chests is much too great.

Lord Leigh has given the game upon his manor of Little Leigh, in Cheshire, for the benefit of the school and other local and charitable objects within the township. All the freeholders and occupiers of land having joined in promoting his lordship's views, it is hoped that the result will be very beneficial.

At Tolingen, famous for its sword blades, an old blade, that is a manufacturer of them, 95 years old, with a wife aged 93, have just celebrated what is called in Germany "the marriage of the diamond," the ceremony being again gone through in the church when a couple have completed their 75th marriage anniversary. Thirty-two descendants attended the hale and hearty old couple.

The Times announces that the "Sisterhood" formerly settled at St. Barnabas, Knightsbridge, under Mr. Bennett, and latterly resident in Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, were publicly received in a body into the Roman Church at Islington on Sunday evening last.

Mr. Charles Dixon, of Stansford, Sussex, has invested £20,000 in the public stocks, for the purpose of establishing and endowing a College for six decayed merchants of the city of London, having no resources of their own, or an income not exceeding £20 a year, being widowers or bachelors of good character, and Protestants, about 60 years of age. The inmates of the building, which is now in course of erection at Rowland's Castle, Hampshire, are to have £40 a year, with a monthly allowance of £6 for a common table.

Colonial.

THE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE IN DUNDAS.

There was a time, and that not very long ago, when the Radicals of Dundas boasted that there were but seven Conservative votes within their jurisdiction; but the announcement of Dr. Hamilton as the Conservative Candidate has led to a re-arrangement of the position. The leaders are disconcerted, and even wavering, while the electors openly declare their determination to support no longer a Ministry which has so often deceived them. There can be no question that a complete revolution has been effected in the once Radical Township of West Flamboro', including the Town of Dundas; and that Dr. Hamilton will poll a large majority of votes.

The meeting called by the Conservative Candidate for Monday was very well attended, although the roads were in a wretched state. Thos. H. McKenzie, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Mr. John L. Smith appointed Secretary, when Dr. Hamilton, in a short and animated address, which was frequently applauded, explained his views on the various questions now before the country, and reviewed in a telling manner, some of the more obnoxious acts of the Ministry.

The following resolutions were then put from the Chair, and passed unanimously:—

Moved by David Byrns, Esq., seconded by Mr. M. Morden.

1. Resolved,—That in consequence of the approaching elections, it becomes the duty of the electors to consider well their position with reference to the great questions now agitating the country, and to adopt such a course as will promote, and insure the triumph of those principles, which are best calculated to rescue the country from its present state of political confusion.

Moved by Mr. Lewis Lewis, seconded by R. Weir, Esq.

2. Resolved,—That this meeting fully concurs in the views expressed by Dr. H., with reference to those questions, and can cordially recommend him to the electors of this county, as the man best calculated to advance the interests of the county.

Moved by Mr. W. Bullock, seconded Mr. James Reilly.

3. Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed in order to secure the return of Dr. Hamilton, on the Conservative interest at the coming elections, and that the following persons be added to the township committee: Thomas H. MacKenzie, David Byrns, Lewis Lewis, John Kent, Edward Stanley, Hardy Gregory, with power to add to their number.

At a meeting held at Corbett's Inn, West Flamboro', on Tuesday last, the following Committee was appointed to look after the interests of the Conservative Candidate, in that locality:—

John Alexander, Robert McDonald, John Smeltzer, Patrick Cain, Maurice D. neen, Wm. McMann, John Fulton, James Hetherington, Robert Peebles, John Dickson, Francis Campbell, Wm. O'Reilly, Jacob Nevills, John Hamilton, William Eames, Peter Blackstock.—Hamilton Spectator.

A party of Indians from the western plains—Arapahoes, Assiniboines, Cheyennes, Crows, Otoes, and Sioux recently arrived at St. Louis on their way to Washington. They had never been in a white settlement before, and their sensations are thus described by the St. Louis Republican:—"The journey, to the Indians, since their arrival in the settlements, has been one of great wonder, and in some cases of alarm and fear. Except what they had seen at Fort Laramie and Fort Kearny, they knew nothing of the white man's lodges; but their greatest astonishment was in seeing a steam-boat, and their fears were excessive upon going upon it. They called it the fire horse, and