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JUST PUBLISHED.

M. W. Kirwan's lecture (in pamphlet form) in reply to Rev. Mr. Bray, on the "Romish" Church, for sale by Messrs. D. & J. Sadlier & Co., 275 Notre Dame street.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The probabilities appear to indicate a peaceful settlement of the Eastern Question at present, but preparations for war are not yet discontinued. It is rumoured that unless Turkey accept the protocol by the 13th of April that Russia will declare war, while again we learn that Turkey has agreed to disarm first. From London on the contrary we learn that Turkey is continuing to make preparations for war with all haste, while a Pera dispatch says:—

"Redif Pasha, War Minister, is straining every nerve to master the new forces, arm the frontier strong holds, and carry on preparations as if for immediate hostilities. Ahmed Mikhtar Pasha has already started for Erzerum, where he is to take command of the army on the Eastern frontier, and Commander-in-Chief Abdul Kerim Pasha has embarked for Buzchuk to put himself at the head of the army on the Danube."

THE LATE MONSIGNOR NARDI.

Our latest exchanges bring us some particulars of Monsignor Nardi. He was one of the best known ecclesiastics in Rome, and was one of the greatest linguists of his time. He was for a long time a contributor to the *Voce Della Verità*, and his scholastic acquirements made him respected by all. From the *Freemason* we learn that:—

"Monsignor Nardi was more than once in Ireland, and bore towards Ireland a strong and a genuine attachment. His house in Rome was the centre-point of many pleasant social Irish reunions, and Irish strangers to the Eternal City were always sure of a cordial and a courteous hospitality from his hands. During the gloomy years that have passed since the captivity of the Pope, when to plead in his behalf was a peril that few men in Rome would care to face, the deceased dignitary never faltered in any of his utterances, and was as bold and as brave in his assertion of the Papal prerogatives as if a sacrilegious usurpation were not holding revel at the Quirinal. He died in the city he loved so well—the city of the Pope—but died before it permitted him to see it again as he had seen it before, the shrine and the centre of splendid Catholic devotion, the home of the Papacy, and the recognised shelter of Catholic pilgrims from every corner of the Catholic world. He was called to his reward before his hopes were realised; but he must have died with the consciousness and with the comforting thought that he laboured his best toward their accomplishment, and that what he did may not have been all in vain."

DISESTABLISHMENT IN CEYLON.

The Protestants of the Island of Ceylon number one-fortieth of the entire population—while the Catholic population number one-fifth of the whole. There is notwithstanding a Protestant established Church for the support of which the people—of all creeds—have to pay. This is naturally creating dissatisfaction and now we hear the cry for disestablishment. We learn from the *Tablet*:—

"The *Mission Catholique* has an extract from an article published in a Ceylon newspaper, which is rather curious. It says that a petition has been addressed by certain residents in that Island, to the number of 5,038 (of whom 358 are Europeans), to the Government in favour of the disestablishment of the Church of England in that colony. Statistics which they quote state that the total population of the island is 2,400,000, out of which 1,520,000 are Buddhists 480,000 Hindus, 170,000 Mahomedans, and 190,000 Catholics. Consequently the Protestants do not number much over 60,000. That the 'Ecclesiastical Department' costs about 1,400,000 rupees, of which 25,000 rupees go to the Protestant Bishop of Colombo, who has only twelve chaplains and a few catechists under him; that the Christians who profit by this expenditure number only 1,500. The petitioners concluded by praying the Council to take measures to prevent the Protestant worship being kept up at the expense of the resources of the colony, considering that the 1,500 Anglicans are the richest class in the island, and well able to maintain their own ministers. If the facts are true, the petitioners, we think, have made out their case."

THE IRISH PARTY IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Irish Party in Parliament continues to "keep knocking at the Union," as Grattan advised his countrymen to do. Besides the Home Rule question, the sufferings of the political prisoners, the Land Bill, and other important measures, are being viciously fought out. Of course the Irish Party will be beaten, but while they fight the good fight, even hopeless as it may appear at present, their countrymen can rejoice. Opinions change rapidly in these days, and the anti-Home Rulers of 1877 may

be the friends of the Home Rule cause in 1880. Meanwhile we learn from the *Nation*:—

"For the debate on the supreme question of Home Rule the 14th April was obtained, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, acting for Mr. Shaw, accordingly gave notice in the House that he would on that day move a resolution which we suppose will be identical with Mr. Butt's. This will be pleasant news for Irish readers, and now it is only to be hoped that the advantage gained will not be lost by want of preparations for battle on the part of the Home of Rulers. But, more than this, another day has been obtained for the discussion of the Land question; The O'Donoghue, who had a speech prepared for the debate on Mr. Butt's Bill, but was unable to deliver it, having given notice of a resolution on the subject, and having been fortunate enough in the ballot to secure first place for it on the 27th of April."

DECLINE IN IRISH EMIGRATION.

Goldsmith said: "Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay." The truth of this has been forcibly illustrated in Ireland. We rejoice however to notice that there is a lull in the emigration. In another column we give the opinion of an American paper on the decline of immigrants from Ireland, and we learn from an Irish paper that:

"A large and continuous decline in emigration is shown in the Board of Trade returns for 1876, just presented to Parliament. The numbers leaving these shores increased rapidly from the period of the Irish famine until the year 1873. The Irish emigrants numbered 83,692 in that year, after which the maximum began to fall off. It decreased to 60,000 in 1874, then to 41,000, last year to about 23,000. The Irish contingent has ceased to be the largest, for the proportions of nationalities last year were 73,396 English, 25,976 Irish, 10,097 Scotch, and 28,753 foreigners and nondescript, making a total of 138,222 emigrants in the year. Against this total must be set 91,647 emigrants of British origin returning to the United Kingdom or visiting it. The net loss of population is 46,575. The number going to the United States last year was 143 less than the number coming from the States, so that Americans are flocking back. Canada still takes rather more than it sends back, the excess of emigrants being 2,703. Australia now draws largely from this country, for she attracted 32,195 emigrants and sent back only 2,579 in the year. Australia and New Zealand are therefore, the chief attraction to emigrants from this country."

BLASPHEMOUS PROCESSIONS.

Liberalism on the Continent of Europe means antagonism to the Catholic Church, and in many instances Liberalism is only a mild expression for Communism and infidelity. Just fancy a "liberal" party that could carry out such orgies as we underneath find described. In mid-Lent, blasphemous processions, which were protected by the police, were held in Antwerp by this "liberal" party, or, as a contemporary tells us:—

"The Republicans' League, preceded by a sheriff, represented priests, religious, and the Brothers of the Christian Schools. They parodied the principal invocations of the Litany of our Blessed Lady, and especially the one, *Sedes Sapientie*—Seat of Wisdom,—in an impious manner. At Brussels, under the auspices of the Society for the Support of (Liberal) Schools, the clerical electors were represented by a cartload of swine, and the attendants were men habited as ecclesiastics, who gave themselves up to the most grotesque buffoonery. There was also a car on which the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes was travestied by a mountebank, while around him crowds of men habited as priests, monks, and religious dispensed the 'waters of Lourdes' as quacks do their elixirs at a country fair. Even the sacred person of our Saviour Jesus Christ was not spared in this hideous debauch. An image of the Sacred Heart was borne for hours through the streets of the capital of Belgium, and with an inscription at the feet of the statue that we dare not repeat—our pen will not allow us to transcribe this horrid blasphemy! It is, however, well for us to point to the depths to which 'Liberal' implety descends, and to show what abominations modern 'liberty' covers with her rags."

COMMUNISM IN EUROPE.

Where the influence of the Church is weakened Communism triumphs. It is so in France, it is so in Germany, it is so in Italy, it is so in Belgium, and it is so in Russia. There can be no doubt of the intensity and the extent of Communistic organizations in Europe. Established law has failed to combat its growth, and religion being almost proscribed, Communism flourishes. Our latest exchanges about Communism bring us news from St. Petersburg, where, we learn from a correspondent to the *Post*, that the condemnation of a youthful band of Communistic demonstrators before the Cathedral at Kason:—

"Has been followed by a suit against one hundred and fifty persons of both sexes for secret brotherhood, the circulation of treasonable writings, and preparatory steps for a communistic revolution. The investigation by the special committee of the Senate, which creates great sensation, proves that a well-organized plan existed, based on the prin-

ciples of the International Social Democrats. As an instance of the significance attached to the trial, Prince Gortschakoff, despite his ailments and laborious duties, has already appeared twice in Court to watch the case."

From Italy, too, we learn that:—

"Armed Internationalists made their appearance at Ceretto, in the Terra di Lavoura, yesterday, fired on the carabinieri and wounded one; several of the band were arrested, and the arms of the others have been seized."

AFFAIRS IN GERMANY.

All accounts agree in picturing the condition of Germany as ruinous. The distress is so great in some places that a famine is apprehended. Thousands are destitute and must beg or steal or die of hunger. In Berlin the people cry for work or bread, and there can be little doubt but Bismarck would welcome another war—if he thought victory likely to follow. Meanwhile the persecution of the Church goes on. We learn from a contemporary that:—

"Insult or not, is it not a fact—a most deplorable fact—that Catholics no longer enjoy freedom of religion in Prussia? The right of educating her own priests is denied to the Church; denied also her right and her duty to teach the Catholic religion in Catholic schools; forbidden is every Mass, and every prayer offered up by priests not approved by the Government; hundreds of churches are closed, hundreds of parishes have no priests; and wherever there is an apostate priest, he is forced upon a protesting community. In the whole kingdom of Prussia there is not one single parish entirely free from persecution. On the 21st of March, Deputy Dauenberg complained to the Government that the Catholic priests had been prosecuted and condemned to imprisonment for refusing absolution to certain penitents. The Catholic member, in bringing one of these cases before Parliament, hoped that the minister and National Liberals themselves would disapprove of persecutions which are clearly directed against the dogmas of the Catholic Church, and against which a priest cannot even defend himself, as his tongue is tied by the vows of secrecy."

APOSTOLIC ALEGATE TO CANADA.

The Pope has determined to send a special delegation to Canada. Dr. George Conroy, the Bishop of Ardagh, Ireland, has been chosen for this important office. He was for some time secretary to Cardinal Cullen. We learn from the *Tablet* that the powers confided to Bishop Conroy, under his Apostolic delegation, will be of a very extensive nature:

"His jurisdiction, says our contemporary, will include the whole of British North America, comprising the provinces of Quebec, Halifax, Toronto, and St. Boniface, with Vancouver's Island, Newfoundland, Mackenzie, British Columbia, and P. Edward's Island. Dr. Conroy, on accepting this important mission, does not abandon his Bishopric in Ireland, from which he will be absent as short a time as possible under the circumstances. He is now in Rome, receiving the necessary instructions from the Propaganda. At several of the 'congresses' of that congregation he personally assisted, and he has had several audiences with the Holy Father. He intends to return to his diocese of Ardagh before Easter, and to leave Ireland in May for Canada, and to return to Ireland in the autumn. Dr. Conroy's previous experiences in Ireland render him well fitted to discharge the office of Apostolic Legate or Alegate, in countries where the relations between Church and State require delicate adjustments. In the Province of Quebec the Catholic is the established religion, and the Catholics have duties to discharge accordingly. In other provinces the civil power is not brought into the same contact with the ecclesiastical, and the government of the Catholic Church is free from any complications arising from claims to concurrent jurisdiction. Bishop Conroy is fortunate in finding such a Governor in Canada as Lord Dufferin. His Lordship is of Irish birth, and has signalled himself during his varied employments as a wise and talented administrator."

THE CHURCH IN SWITZERLAND.

The enemies of the Church must rejoice as they read of the persecution through which the Catholics in some countries in Europe are passing at present. In Italy, in Germany and in Switzerland, the Church is being "constitutionally" persecuted, and withal we hear that the Church is flourishing. The spirit of Catholicism was never so much abroad since the Lutheran secession as it is to-day. We learn from Switzerland that:

The whole of this 'Reform' party of Protestants, has, in concert with radical governments, declared war to the end against the Catholics of Switzerland. They have made use of the so-called 'Old Catholicism' as a most opportune expedient. That is to say, they have imported from France, Belgium, Italy and America, the refuse of the Catholic clergy; every man they could lay their hands on that was without faith, morals, or... money, was sent for to 'reform' our Catholic Church in Switzerland. These apostates from abroad were joined by some six or eight unfortunate priests of Switzerland. In several Cantons (Bern, Geneva, and in parts of Solvure and Aargovia) the radical government has opened the doors of our Catholic Churches to these apostates, has appointed them 'State Pastors,' and pays them a salary of 4,000 or 5,000 francs a year,

which is just three times the salary received by our priests up to this time.

"The Bishop of Geneva has been banished from Switzerland; the Bishop of Basle, who has resided in Soleure since 1828, was driven from there on the 16th of April, 1873, by the Radical Government. He has since resided at Lucerne, a Catholic city which has a good government. The poor Bishop of Basle, at the head of a diocese comprising 500,000 Catholics, has been despoiled of all his resources, so that he has been even obliged to close his Seminary!

"Well, in spite of all these spoliations, these annoyances, and this violent persecution, our beloved Catholic Church in Switzerland is progressing. All our Bishops are closely united among themselves; the priesthood is faithful and rallies more courageously than ever around its Bishops; and the Catholic people love and venerate their faithful and devoted pastors more than ever. But what are all the exterior triumphs which the Church has already achieved and will again achieve, in comparison with that mystic triumph over souls?"

PRESENT FOR THE POPE.

We learn from the *Quebec Chronicle* that some handsome presents are about to be sent from the Catholics of the "Gibraltar of America" to the Pope. The *Chronicle* says:

"Besides the magnificent album which was described in our last issue, several other beautiful presents are to be sent to the Pope at Rome, at the same time. Among these is a beautiful foot-rug made of goat-skin, and trimmed with a double row of fleecy Russian sheepskin. To this rug is attached a large square of white moire antique, upon which is painted in water colors a coat of arms followed by the following inscription:—

"A Notre Saint Pere Pie IX, Quo Dieu Daigne Nous les Garder Longtemps. Humble affronte de Hector Francois Marcou, Marguillier de la Basilique de Quebec, ancien marchand de Fourrieres, 24 Mai, 1877."

"Below this is painted a beaver, and the entire painting was performed by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent. A very beautiful snuff-box of shell mounted with *vermeil*, is the gift of M. Boucher, curé of St. Anastasie de Nilson, Megantic."

CUBA.

Germany has its eagle eye on the pearl of the Antilles. It is said that Bismarck wants a naval station in the West Indies, and that he has instructed the *German residents in Cuba* to resist a new tax which they say presses unfairly upon them. Meanwhile the Cubans are in arms, and would, no doubt, resist German authority as determinedly as they are resisting the Spaniards. A contemporary says:

"Much Castilian blood has trickled down the slopes of the Cuban hills, many a brave Spaniard has succumbed to the miasmatic influences of the swampy districts, and in this way in addition to the lives lost during the difficulties with Don Carlos, the numbers of the youth of Spain have been depleted. In Cuba there have been similar pecuniary losses, and similar reductions in the native male population of the island. Commercially the war has sadly demoralized the island. The crop of sugar, the chief staple product, has been during the last few years immensely reduced. What the reduction in the sugar industry has been will be appreciated when we state that the sugar crop of last year was thirty per cent. less than that of 1875, and according to the latest advices, the crop of this year will fall short fully 50 per cent. of that of 1876. This is a most unsatisfactory exhibit, and the question is—When will it end?"

CONFEDERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Confederation of the British Possessions with the Transvaal Republic at the Cape of Good Hope is likely to be accomplished.—Now mark! There can be a Confederation of provinces in British North America—that is all right. There can be a Confederation of provinces in New Zealand—that is all right. There can be a contemplated Confederation of provinces in Australia—that is all right.—There can be a contemplated Confederation of provinces at the Cape of Good Hope—that is all right—but there can be no Confederation or Federation between Great Britain and Ireland; that would be all wrong. Home Rule for every place, but none for Ireland. Meanwhile we learn that:—

"Great Britain's idea of confederating the provinces of South Africa—the project which Mr. Anthony Fraude went out to the Cape to further—is now being discussed in the several provinces interested. So far as is known the proposition is now favorably entertained, though once so strongly objected to, but the plan of appointing the upper house of the Legislature by nomination of the Crown meets with strong opposition. There are other points requiring adjustment, but it is quite probable that Lord Carnarvon may, at last see realized his pet project of a "Newer Dominion."

GOOD NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

While the chiefs are battling for political supremacy in South America, the Church is progressing, and the faith is making headway despite organized conspiracy to prevent it. The other day we witnessed the conversion of Lord

Ripon, the Grand Master of the Freemasons in England, and now we learn from our Catholic *Contemporary Ave Maria*, that another distinguished Freemason has come into the fold. Our contemporary says that:—

"In a previous number we published a notice of the conversion of the Viscount Rio Brando, formerly Grand-Master of the Freemasons in Brazil; we have now to report the conversion of another Masonic dignitary, Signor Mariano Masenko, Grand Master of the Neapolitan Lodge. During his last illness he received several times the last Sacraments of the Church with great fervor and devotion, and thus, reconciled to his Creator, he breathed his last, full of peace and consolation, a boon which Freemasonry could not give him."

But good work is also being done in the Southern States of North America. And the same journal tells us that:—

"The Catholic Church, says the *New York Sun* is making praiseworthy efforts towards educating the negroes in the Southern States. In Georgia, ten schools have recently been opened; in Alabama and Mississippi, fifteen each; and in Louisiana twenty-five. Even with all that has been done for the freedmen since their emancipation, the poor fellows are in a state of deplorable ignorance, and need all the education, both secular and religious, that they can get. These new Catholic schools offer board and tuition without charge to colored youth of both sexes."

THE REV. MR. BRAY AND THE "WITNESS."

(From the *Star*.) "There was a large congregation to listen to the Rev. Mr. Bray last evening at the Zion Church. Before commencing his discourse, he said he would take the opportunity of referring to a personal matter. He had been referred to by the press as a Universalist, but he was not. He had been called a Restorationist, but he was not. The same paper (his people would know which he meant—a religious daily) had uttered the insinuation that the attention of the denomination and church would be directed to his theology. He trusted that the attention of his own and other churches would be directed to his teachings. He regretted very much these misrepresentations by a religious journal, and took the opportunity of strongly condemning the spirit which seemed to actuate that paper."

To which the *Witness* replied:— "It is hard to imagine what has made Mr. Bray restive with regard to the religious press, unless it be that he has never uttered one word of criticism upon him except when he spoke contemptuously of the *Star* as a one cent sheet. He expresses an expectation amounting to a challenge that he will be taken to task both by his own denomination and by others. We decline the task, as it is not our business; and besides, although extensively informed as to what Mr. Bray does not hold, we are not yet clear what he does hold."

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT REPLY TO THE ALLOCATION.

The Minister of Justice, Grace, and Worship—Signor Mancini—has issued a circular about the Pope's Allocation. He applauds the "liberality" of the Government for permitting the Allocation to be circulated, and points to a law which limits the Pope to the liberty of affixing the Allocation to the gates of the basilicas and churches, just where the police could pull them off. No newspaper in Italy must write in favor of the Allocation—they are merely permitted to publish it. Here is what the *Tablet* says:—

"The Minister of Justice, Grace, and Worship is not able to deny any of the facts stated in the Allocation, but he contents himself with ignoring them in silence, with complaining of the ingratitude, want of patriotism, and uncharitable language of the Holy Father, who has ventured to apply the term 'usurper to the power which despoiled him of his throne. The epithet 'ungodly' is a strange one to apply to Pius IX. For what is the Pope to evince gratitude? Is he to be grateful for violence and robbery? Is he to be grateful for the injuries and insults he has received? A Christian may be expected to forgive wrongs, but can hardly be called on to express thanks for being assaulted and plundered. It would be more reasonable to accuse Italy of ingratitude towards Pius IX., than to accuse Pius IX., of ingratitude to Italy. That the removal of the Pope's temporal powers has been followed, or rather accompanied, by the attempt to remove his spiritual power, is a fact placed beyond doubt by the experience of the last seven years. And the appeal to Christendom in the recent Allocation was wrong from Pius IX., after seven years of suffering, by the lately declared purpose of the Italian Government to introduce a penal legislation which would render the spiritual government of the Church almost an impossibility in Italy, and seriously impeded it in other countries."

UNITED STATES.

From the United States we learn that the Indian War is not yet over, and that it is expected that a Democratic majority will be installed in the next House. Our latest telegrams inform us that: "The Cheyenne Indians still hold out against the United States forces. Washington specials are as follows:—The *World* says the roll of the next House will indicate a Democratic majority of thirteen. New York, April 9.—At the annual convocation of the New York Medical College for women to-night, nine ladies graduated."