

grave is the mark ✠ where lies the remains of John Baptiste Epalle, Bishop of Sion, Vicar Apostolic of Melansic and Mieronisie.

The excellent Prelate who has thus received the Crown of Martyrdom was a member of the Congregation of Piepus in Paris, and was consecrated at Rome in the Summer of 1811 by his Eminence Cardinal Fransoni, assisted by the Archbishop of Chalcedon, and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Walsh, of Halifax. The title which his Lordship received, was the same as that borne by the late Dr. Burke,—Bishop of Sion. It is a curious fact connected with the mission of Melansic, that Dr. Epalle's predecessor, Mgr Rochouse who sailed from France at the close of 1842, with Priests, Nuns, &c., to the amount of forty individuals, was never heard of since. It was after two years delay that it was concluded he had perished at sea, and that Dr. Epalle was appointed to succeed him.

General Intelligence.

INDIA—MAJOR LAURENCE'S ASYLUM; CATHOLIC SOLDIERS, THEIR CHILDREN AND ORPHANS.

Dear Sir—I enclose an extract from the Catholic Herald of Calcutta, which cannot fail to awaken the sympathy of the Catholic Body in these kingdoms. Perhaps the Institute might take up the subject, and obtain from Government some protection for the children of our poor Catholic soldiers in India and elsewhere.

I am sure that I need not urge you to use your powerful pen in this case.—I am, Sir, respectfully yours, A SUBSCRIBER.

London, August 15.

"We learn from the *Englishman* of the 11th inst that the Commander in Chief and the officers of the Bengal Military Service have given donations to the amount of rupees 24,050, towards the erection and support of an Asylum for European Soldier's children, to be established in Mussorie, and that annual subscriptions amounting to rupees 6,086 have been already received. Masters and Mistresses, all Protestants of course, are to be brought out from England, at a great expense, to conduct the Institution; the Protestant version of the Scriptures is to be taught in the classes, by Protestant teachers, and yet we are told that the establishment is intended for the children of Catholic soldiers no less than for those of Protestants.

"We beg of the Catholic soldiers of the Indian army to open their eyes to the snare which is here laid for the faith of their little ones dear to them as

their own lives, and to prove themselves as faithful to their God, by guarding the faith of their offspring, as they have ever shown themselves loyal and brave in the cause of their country and Sovereign.

"We confess, we have every confidence in the sincere and generous hearts of the Irish Catholic soldiers; for we never yet knew them to betray their religion, for a bribe, no matter how insidiously proposed for their acceptance; and we are sure they will not abandon, to perversion and eternal ruin, those innocent, helpless little children for whose salvation they are bound, both by the laws of God and nature, to provide, even at the risk of their lives, if it be necessary.

"We repeat, we have unbounded confidence in the fidelity of the Irish soldiers; for they are the descendants of those heroic Christians whose forefathers could not be bribed out of their religion, by all the wealth of England, or induced to abandon their children to heresy, by the terror of the bayonet or the scaffold. But what is to become of the brave men who shed their blood for their Queen, in the late engagements at the Sutlej? May the God of mercy, who is the father of the widow and the orphan protect them, and open for them an asylum where they may learn that holy religion which was the consolation of their brave and loyal fathers, in their dying moments. We are astonished that the Governor-General, the Commander-in-Chief, and the officers of the Bengal Army who saw these brave men sacrifice their lives in the service of their country, should think of taking advantage of the destitute condition in which their infant children have been left by that sacrifice, to shut them up in a Protestant Asylum to be deprived of the faith of their fathers, by Protestant teachers. O shame! O ingratitude! O base and unworthy return for so much loyalty, bravery, and self devotion in the cause of their sovereign! If we had not read it, in black and white, we never could bring ourselves to suspect Sir Hugh Gough for any such proceeding. Our present Governor General, Sir Henry Hardinge, pledged his honourable word in the House of Commons, when he was Secretary of War, that Catholic soldiers should have justice done to their religious wants in India, and this is the way in which he proposes to fulfil his engagement.

"The Governor-General in prudence, ought to pause before he lends himself to the infliction of such a wound like this, on the minds of the Catholic soldiers; for if it be known at home that this is the way the faith of their children is assailed, recruits may be fewer than the present exigency of Indian affairs requires. The just, the prudent, and the only honest method of providing for the