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A FRENCH WILL STORY.

" Is she dead, then?"

"Yes, madam," replied a little gentleman in brown coat and short breeches.

"And her will?" "Is going to be opened here immediately by her solicitor."

" Shall we inherit anything?" "It must be supposed so; we have claims."

"Who is that miserably dressed personage who intrudes herself here?"

"Oh, she," said the little man, sneering—

"she won't have much in the will: she is sister to the deceased."

"What, that Anne who wedded in 1812 a man of nothing-an officer."

"Precisely so."

"She must have no small amount of impudence to present herself here, before a respectable family."
"The more so as Sister Egerie, of noble birth,

had never forgiven her that mesalliance."

Anne moved at this time across the room in which the tamily of the deceased were assembled. She was pale; her fine eyes were filled with tears, and her face was furrowed by care with precocious wrinkles.

"What do you come here for?" said, with great haughtiness, Madame de Villeboys, the lady who, a moment before, had been interrogating the little man who inherited with her.
"Madam," the poor lady replied, with humility,

"I do not come here to claim a part of what does not belong to me; I come solely to see M. Dubois, my poor sister's solicitor, to inquire if she spoke of me at her last hour."

"What! do you think people busy themselves about you?" arrogantly observed Madame de Villeboys; "the disgrace of a great house—you, who wedded a man of nothing, a soldier of Bo-

"Madam, my husband, although a child of the people, was a brave soldier, and, what is better, an honest man," observed Anne.

At this moment a venerable personage, the

notary Dubois, made his appearance.
"Cease," he said, "to reproach Anne with a

union which her sister has forgiven her. Anne loved a generous, brave, and good man, who had no other crime to reproach himself with than his poverty and the obscurity of his name. Nevertheless, had he lived, if his family had known him as I knew him, I, his old friend, Anne would be at this time happy and respected."

"But why is this woman her ?"

"Because it is her place to be here," said the notary, gravely; "I myself requested her to attend here."

M. Dubois then proceeded to open the will: "I, being sound in mind and heart, Egerie de Damfreming, retired as a boarder in the convent | jectures as to the cause of Anne's sudden illness, of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the interest which the notary took in her. dictate the following wishes as the expression of my formal desire and principal clause of my tes-

hundred thousand francs in money at my notary's, besides jewelry, clothes, and furniture, as also a hotel for one hundred and eighty thousand francs, chateau worth two hundred thousand francs.

there will only be found my book, 'Heures de la Vierge," holy volume, which remains as it was when I took it with me at the time of the emigration. I desire that these three objects be divided into three lots.

"The first lot, the two hundred thousand francs in money.

"The second lot, the chateau, furniture, and

jewels. "The third lot, my book, "Heures de la

Vierge.
"I have pardoned my sister Anne the grief comforted her in her sorrows if I had known sooner of her return to France. I comprise her in my will.

"Madame de Villeboys, my much beloved cousin, shall have the first choice.

" M. Vatry, my brother-in-law, shall have the second choice.

"Anne will take the remaining lot."

"Ah! ah!" said Vatry, "Sister Egerie was a good one; that is rather clever on her part?" "Anne will only have the Prayer-book!" exclaimed Madamerde Villeboys, laughing aloud.

The notary interrupted her jocularity.
"Madame," he said, "which lot do you choose ?"

"The two hundred thousand francs in money." "Have you quite made up your mind?"

" Perfectly so."

The man of law, addressing himself then to the good feeling of the lady, said, " Madame, you are rich, and Anne has nothing. Could you not leave her this lot, and take the book of you will see a charming picture on the first floor, prayers, which the eccentricity of the deceased illuminated by the pale reflection of wax lights. has placed on a par with the other lots."

"You must be joking, M. Dubois!" exclaim-

rie in all this. Our honored cousin foresaw full well that her book of prayers would fall to the lot of Anne, who had the last choice.

"And what do you conclude from that?" inquired the notary.

"I conclude that she meant to intimate to her sister that repentance and prayer were the only help that she had to expect in this world."

As she finished these words, Madame de Villeboys made a definite selection of the ready money for her share. Monsieur Vatry, as may be easily imagined, selected the chateau, furniture

and jewels, as his lot.
"Monsieur Vatry," says M. Dubois to that gentleman, "even suppose it had been the intention of the deceased to punish her sister, it would be noble on your part, millionaire as you are, to give up at least a portion of your share to Anne, who wants it so much."

"Thanks for your kind advice, dear sir," replied Vatry; "the mansion is situated on the very confines of my woods, and suits me admirably, all the more so that it is ready furnished. As to the jewels of Sister Egerie, they are reminiscences which one ought never to part with."

"Since it is so," said the notary, "my poor Madame Anne, here is the Prayer-book that remains to you."

"Anne, attended by her son, a handsome boy with blue-eyes, took her sisters old Prayer-book, and making her son kiss it after her, she said: "Hector, kiss this book which belonged to

your poor aunt, who is dead, but who would have loved you well had she known you. When you these political predictions. And with a fatal have learned to read you will pray to Heaven to blindness, which, in all past time, has ever been make you wise and good as your father was, and happier than your unfortunate mother."

The eyes of those who were present were filled with tears, notwithstanding their efforts to preserve an appearance of indifference.

The child embraced the old book with boyish fervor, and opening it afterward-

"O! mamma," he said, "what pretty pictures !" "Indeed !" said the mother, happy in the glad-

ness of her boy. "Yes. The good Virgin, in a red dress, holding the infant Jesus in her arm. But why, mam-

ma, has silk paper been put upon the pictures?" "So that they might not be injured, my dear." "But mamma, why are there ten silk papers

to each engraving The mother looked, and uttering a sudden shrick, she fell into the arms of M. Dubois, the notary, who, addressing those present, said:

"Leave her alone, it won't be much; people don't die of these shocks. As for you, little one, addressing Hector, "give me that prayer-book; you will tear the engravings."

The inheritors withdrew, making various con-A month afterward they met Anne and her son, exceedingly well, yet not extravagantly dressed, taking an airing in a two-horse chariot. This "After my decease there will be found two | led them to make inquiries, and they ascertained that Madame Anne had recently purchased a and that she was giving a first-rate education to "In the convent where I have been residing her son. The news came like a thunderbolt upon them. Madame de Villeboys and M. de Vatry hastened to call upon the notary to ask for explanations. The good Dubois was working at his desk.

"Perhaps we are disturbing you?" said the

arrogant old lady.

"No matter. I was in the act of settling a purchase in the state funds for Madame Anne." "What!" exclaimed Vatry, "after purchasing house and equippage, she has still money to in-

"Undoubtedly so."

"But where did the money come from?"

"What!" did you not see?"

"When?"

"When she shrieked upon seeing what the prayer-book contained which she inherited." "We observed nothing."

"Oh! I thought that you saw it," said the sarcastic notary. "The prayer-book contained sixty engravings, and each engraving was covered by ten notes of a thousand francs each."

"Good Heavens!" exclaimed Vatry, thunderstruck.

de Villeboys. "You had the choice," added the notary,

"and I myself urged you to take the prayer-book, but you refused." But who could have expected to find a fortune

in a breviary? The two baffled old egostists withdrew, their hearts swollen with passionate envy.

Madame Anne is still in Paris. If you pass

by the Rue Lafitte on a fine Summer evening, A lady who has joined the two hands of her

son, a fair child of six years of age, in prayer ed Madame de Villeboys; "you must really be before an old book of "Heures de la Vierge," very dull not to see the intention of Sister Ege- and for which a case in gold has been made. "Pray for me, child," said the mother.
"And for who else," inquired the child.

For your father, your dear father, who perished without knowing you, without being able to love

"Yes, my little friend; but do not forget a saint who watches us from heaven, and who smiles upon us from above the clouds.

"Must I pray to the saint, my patron?"

"What is the name of that saint, mamina dear ?"

The mother, then watering the fair child's head with her tears answered: "Her name is-Sister Egerie."

REV. DR. CAHILL

ON THE HUMBLED CONDITION OF ENGLAND BOTH IN CHURCH AND STATE.

(From the Dublin Catholic Telegraph.)

The advocates of British policy, as carried out on the Continent of Europe, may boast as they please of her present military power and of her inexhaustible national resources : yet, through the thin veil of this loud vapouring may be seen, the growing fear that her pre-eminence is shaken, and her moral and material dominion seriously imperilled. The writer of this article has, upwards of seven years ago, published by anticipation the probable disastrous results of her bigoted and revolutionary conduct in all the Catholie surrounding countries; and the year 1858 will. most assuredly, witness the strict realization of blindness, which, in all past time, has ever been the percursor, and the accompaniment too, of a national visitation, she still perseveres, through her press, in the same course of Biblical phrenzy and revolutionary propagandism which has long awakened the suspicions and inflamed the anger of Catholic Europe. No doubt, our Cabinet no longer is identified with foreign revolution, for the simple reason that these bands of infidels and assassins are crushed: nor do we now hear of the bigots of Exeter Hall sending ship loads of Bibles to Austria, Naples, Spain, and Tuscany, for the same reason, because these emissaries are expelled from all these foreign states. But her national press is not yet silenced; and hence we read in the daily journals an insane attack upon Austria, on Naples, and on the minor states of Italy, which can only be accounted for by supposing that she wishes to conceal her falling position from her own people by maintaining her former tone of pre-eminent independence; and again to throw dust in the eyes of foreign peoples by this loud braggadocio of defiance of the neighboring kingdoms. But this old pugilistic attitude, which John Bull has practiced so long, is not, likely to awe Europe much longer; and a policy, which will confine England to her own shores, " to mind her own political and religious institutions," without interfering with others, is at this moment agreed to, and ratified by at least four sovereigns of Catholic Europe. This defensive combination of Kings will, henceforth be protected by the most stringent laws: and will, if necessary be enforced by an armed alliance!

Short as the time has been since the 14th of tual kingly protection society has been organized and matured: the attempt on the life of the French Emperor has been the spark to ignite the explosive materials long ready in the court of Vienna and Naples; and although the Entente Cordiale between the Tuileries and St. James may be threatened by the union of Napoleon with Joseph and Ferdinand, it is certain that his Imperial Majesty will risk his crown, in order to compel England to reverse her past policy in reference to the subjects under consideration. London is now universally admitted to be the focus of Infidel Revolutionists, the great forge of infernal machines, the college where all the enemies of order come to complete their education, where the assassins of kings meet to concoct their plans of murder, and then to go forth armed with English poignards, and English revolvers, and English projectiles, and English clothes, to execute their crimsoned deeds of blasphemy, sacrilege, and assassination. Oh, if one of these daggers, or revolvers, or projectiles were made in Naples, or Rome, or Florence; and if the life "If I had only known it!" shouted Madame of one English chimney sweeper were taken, through the agency of this Roman or Neapolitan plot, Exeter Hall, the Parliament, the English press, the army, the navy would demand the extirpation of the whole Italian race: and the Catholic Church would be denounced as the enin the case before us, the English haunt of assassins is quite a harmless privileged spot! it is the result of the English Constitution! it is the liberty of English laws! and while a pike cannot be made in Dublin unknown to our vigilant and, I shall add, our valued police; while a street preacher cannot be laughed at without fine and imprisonment in Kilkenny, most strange indeed it is that projectiles, louder in their discharge than heavy ordinance, can be made in Birmingham, found to frequent it.

can tear up trees near Chatham, can be collected in Leicester-square, can be concealed for months in England for the purpose of assassination, and not one word known to the London detectives of the most diabolical conspiracy perhaps ever formed against the life of a human being. Let the Times and its coadjutors rail as they will against the indignation of the Continent: let them boast as they may of their glorious Constitution, England can never wipe away the suspicion which through coming time will attach itself to her name and her laws, from the admitted fact that she has been on several occasions the asylum where foreign assassins plotted the murder of foreign kings.

These facts, even taken separately, make a strong case to awaken the indignation of the foreign Courts referred to; but when it is recollected that the tyranny of Austria had been the subject of the daily English press for fifteen years, where the patriotism of the Hungarians had been for the same period lauded to the skies: when it is remembered that the entire English Cabinet and the ministerial section of the Parliament approved of the ships of war being sent into the bay of Naples, to compel "the cruel, the despotic, the tyrannical Ferdinand" to yield to the commands of his cut-throat subjects, while these same subjects were represented as the most persecuted and the most enduring creatures of the human race: when we call to mind the late events in Florence, where English military men, under the pretext of preaching the gospel, openly proclaimed rebellion; who is it, I ask, on reading these past historical facts of the last few years, and again coupling them with the den of foreign assassins resident in London, can blame the Continental Kings and people if they assert that English laws and English feeling have given encouragement and a citadel of protection to these foreign miscreants?
England, in order to fling to scorn these re-

proaches, may writhe and wriggle in magniloquent fury; she may, with an air of well feigned tragedy, threaten dread retaliation for the unsparing lash now applied to her back by her Continental neighbors. But this affectation of omnipotent anger and of spotless innocence the Protestant church, to restore confidence to won't do in 1858; four monarchs accuse her, the people, and found a lasting peace amongst all and three powerful armies ask leave to march on classes of the community. the London den, in order to seize on the concealed assassins. The eyes of Europe and of the whole world are this moment turned to this very den which has agitated the surrounding nations during these several years past. Heretofore this same London was proclaimed as the seat of evangelical perfection, the centre of the true hith, the emporium of all virtue, and the grand metropolis from which issued armies of Biblical heralds to tell the word of God and of true blessedness to the benighted Austrians, to the blind Romans, to the priest-ridden Neapolitans, to the enslaved Tuscans, and to the talented but misguided French. But God in his mysterious providence has drawn good from evil; and the united voice of mankind now proclaims that London is a very sink of iniquity; her streets overflowing with a more shameless immorality than the unnatural crimes of Babylon; her creed January, this monarchical confederacy—this mu- a mockery of even human laws; her temples deserted; her congregations infidel; her jurisprudence a deceit; her Church Establishment a public swindle; and her former policy, such a libel, such an outrage on foreign nations as at this moment to combine kings and peoples and armics to demand satisfaction for her national conduct.-These remarks of mine are not made with any feelings of hostility to England; far from it: they are written from a different motive. The writer has often foretold, not from any silly assumption, or from any absurd personal presumption, that the present state of things in England would be the natural result of the late course of policy in the English cabinet; a policy which, sooner or later, must bring this country into irretrievable ruin. These results were then pointed out to me through the correspondence of some of the first statesmen in Europe; and those who may have accidentally read my letters at that time, and who knew that I was a mere mouthpiece of the opinions of others, rather than the originator of these sentiments 'myself, will now recollect the justness of every word which I then expressed.

France, already acting on information received through her prefects of provinces and districts, through the minister of education, and through the local magistracy, has now ordered-

"Firstly, that the same toleration which has been heretofore granted to the Protestant religion shall be courager, the parent of all human atrocities. But | continued, but under the following restrictions,

namely:—
"No Protestant layman to be permitted to visit houses of the poor under pretext of reading the

"No private meeting of Protestant laymen to be permitted under any pretence of prayer-meetings.
"No Protestant school to be changed from one locality to another, under pretence of being more suitably situated for children.

"The Central Committee of Protestant Worship are prohibited from holding any private meeting with closed doors, under pretence of transacting the official business. "No place of Protestant worship to be built or supported, even by private funds, without the appro-bation of the local Prefect.

"No Foreign Pastors to be introduced into these

places of worship, without the express approbation of the local Prefect. "The peace of the community, the cause of public morals, and the security of the Gospel demand that

these clauses shall be strictly enforced throughout all the departments of France.'

Any person reading these few clauses, selected from amongst many, cannot avoid coming to the legitimate conclusion-namely, that the French Government look on these Protestant meetings, these extra places of Protestant worship, and these extra schools as so many dens of conspirators against the peace of society—so many hotbeds of immorality—and so many schools of infidelity. Equally clear is it that the same infamous souperism, so abhorred in Ireland, has been attempted in France by the lay bible readers, and that the French laws have at once crushed this debased scheme of lies and hypocrisy .-This is the first open attack made on the Continent against the scheme and the emissaries of Exeter Hall; and we shall soon learn that Austria, Naples, and all Italy will follow the example of the French Emperor. We shall soon hear of the total failure of these Foreign Bible Societies; and that, like old Kildare street and the Charter Houses, and the Lying-in Houses, Protestantism can no longer be fed from the old swindle of the Bible Societies. There can be no doubt that England has at present arrived at a fearful crisis in her history; and with the Chinese and the Indian wars on one hand, a money panic and commercial failures at home; and the allied indignant monarchs on the other hand abroad, old Britain will have to make a last struggle to extricate herself from the consequences of a political insanity and a religious mania, for which there is no parallel in modern history.-Happy will Ireland be if this check will bring England to her senses; and by adopting a course of justice to her Irish subjects; by adjusting the land question; by mitigating the persecution of

The reader will not be surprised at the restrictive and peremptory measures adopted towards the foreign pastors and foreign laymen, introduced amongst the French Protestants of late, when he will have read the following extract from the foreign correspondent of the Times at Vienna. This extract will prove all I have said in reference to the new feeling excited between England and France; and if this style of the correspondent can be traced to any official English encouragement, it is easy to believe that the entente cordiale rests on a very weak foundation. From the extract it is clearly deduced that England begins to threaten the Emperor with the pretensions of the Count of Paris, son of the Duke of Orleans, and grandson of Louis Philippe.-If English statesmen ally themselves with this sentiment, their conduct will be declared more infamous than that of Pietri and his associates; and the result may be a war more terrible than the Crimean campaign, and more bloody than the Indian mutiny .- Let England beware how she provokes France in her present temper; and how she runs foul of monarchies which owe her a long grudge for her past political intrigues. The extract referred to is as fol-

> AUSTRIA. (From our own Correspondent)

VIENNA, Jan. 29. The result of Prince Francis Lichtenstein's mission to Paris has reached this city, and it confirms me in the opinion that the relations between Austria and France are on the point of becoming less cool. His French Majesty felt flattered that such a "grand seigneur" was the bearer of the missive of the Emperor of Austria; and the reception which he gave him clearly proved that such was the case. Baron von Hubner was present at the audience, and he probably had occasion to observe that an Ambassador who is a member of a reigning house meets with infinitely more attention than one who owes his clevated position to merit alone. For the moment your Paris correspondent will hardly be able to write with as much freedom as usual; and it may, therefore, be as well to inform you that, during the last week, the French Government has acquired the conviction that the Count of Paris has not only many powerful friends, but also a large party in France. The atrocious attempt to commit murder has greatly injured the Republican cause; but the impolitic language and conduct of the Emperor in respect to the press, has completely estranged the more respectable part of the French nation" according to my informants, who have recently arrived from Paris, the general opinion in that city is, that the present dynasty is nodding to its fall.

D. W. C.

RUM AND MISSIONS.—Archdeacon Jeffrys, a missionary in the East Indies, states that "for one really converted Christian, as the fruit of mission-"No Protestant school to be built even by private ary labor, the drinking practices of the English have funds, under pretence that future scholars will be fully one thousand drunkards in India." Rather a hard report.