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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."

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.

"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 you."

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.

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.

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 reproaches, may write and wriggle in magniloquent fury; she may, with an air of well feigned tragedy, threaten dread retaliation for the unsparring lash now applied to her back by her Continental neighbors. But this affectation of omnipotent anger and of spotless innocence won't do in 1858; four monarchs accuse her, and three powerful armies ask leave to march on 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 faith, 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 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 armies 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 mouth-piece 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 continued, but under the following restrictions, namely:— "No Protestant layman to be permitted to visit houses of the poor under pretext of reading the Bible. "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. "No Protestant school to be built even by private funds, under pretence that future scholars will be found to frequent it.

"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 approbation 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 superstitious, 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 Protestant church, to restore confidence to the people, and found a lasting peace amongst all classes of the community.

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 Pietro 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 follows:—

(From our own Correspondent)

AUSTRIA.

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 elevated 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.

REM AND MISSIONS.—Archdeacon Jeffry, a missionary in the East Indies, states that "for one really converted Christian, as the fruit of missionary labor, the drinking practices of the English have fully one thousand drunkards in India." Rather a hard report.