

120,000 French. The three battles before Metz—Pange, Mars-la-Tour, and Gravelotte—show the largest losses on both sides, the loss of the Germans in the second being 600 officers and 17,000 men. Of all the battles during the past century, only the battles of Belle Alliance, Bordini, Eylau, and Zorndorf can rank in the same category with the battles before Metz. There have been 49 engagements, some of them resembling battles, and 20 successful sieges, including Paris, the first stronghold in the world, and Metz and Strasbourg, fortresses of the next rank.

A correspondent of the London *Daily News* at Versailles communicates some of the things he heard there.—The old King, it appears, is by no means happy as an Emperor. He was only persuaded to accept this title for the sake of his son, "Our Fritz," and he goes about much like some English squire of long descent who has allowed himself to be converted into a brain new peer, or persuaded by his ambitious progeny. William is one of that numerous class of persons endowed with more heart than brains. Putting aside, or regarding rather as the delusion of a diseased brain, his notion that he is an instrument of Heaven, and that he is born to rule over Prussian souls by right divine, the old man is by no means a bad specimen of a good natured, well meaning, narrow minded soldier; and between Bismarck and Moltke he has of late had by no means an easy time. These two worthies, instead of being, as we imagined in Paris, the best of friends, abominate each other. During the siege Moltke would not allow Bismarck to have a seat at any council of war, and, in order to return the compliment, Bismarck has not allowed Moltke to take any part in the negotiations respecting the armistice, except on the points which were exclusively military. Bismarck tells the French that had it not been for him Paris would have been utterly destroyed, while Moltke grumbles because it has not been destroyed, an achievement this talented captain somewhat singularly imagines would fitly crown his military career, but this is not the only domestic jar which destroys the harmony of the happy German family at Versailles. In Prussia it has been the habit from time immemorial for the heir to the throne to coquette with the liberals, and to be supposed to entertain progressive opinions. The Crown Prince pursues this hereditary policy of his family. He has surrounded himself with intelligent men hostile to the present state of things, and who understand that in the present age no country can be great and powerful where all who are not country gentlemen, chamberlains or officers are excluded from all share in the Government. Bismarck, on the other hand, is the representative, or rather the business man, of the squariness and of the vices; much in the same way as Mr. Disraeli is of the conservatives in England. As both are men of genius, they in all probability both despise their own friends and scorn at their prejudices, a pretended belief in which has served them as a stepping stone to power. The consequence of this divergence of opinion is that Bismarck and "Our Fritz" are very nearly what schoolboys call "cuts," and consequently when the old King dies Bismarck's power will die with him, unless he is wise enough to withdraw beforehand from public life. "Our Fritz," I hear, has done his best to prevent the Prussian batteries from doing any serious damage to Paris, and has not concealed from his friends that he considers that the bombardment was, in the words of Fouché, worse than a crime—an error.

THE TEN SIEGES OF PARIS.

There is no capital which has so often provoked and undergone attack. The first mention of Paris in history records an investment. Fifty years before Christ it was the stronghold of the Gauls. Labienus, the most able of Caesar's Generals, in that year marched an army against the rebellious place, and after crossing the Seine forced the insurgents to evacuate it. Before retreating, Vercingetorix, the chief of the Gauls, burned what there was of a city. But the site was too eligible not to invite the building of a new town. Like Berlin, Paris originally was confined to an island formed by a river and surrounded by inaccessible swamps. No sooner had the Germans conquered France, than Chlodwig, the leader of the invading tribe, reconstructed ancient Lutetia, and made it the centre of the new empire. During the time his descendants held sway in France it remained their principal fortress. When their authority began to decline, the defence of Paris against a foreign enemy gave such prestige to one of their generals as to enable him to usurp the throne of the decaying dynasty. Nearly 900 years after Christ, Charles le Gros, a degenerate son of Charlemagne, found himself attacked at Paris by the Normans. A helpless indolent, he had no choice but to make his peace with the predatory lands, no matter at what cost. On the occasion of a second raid, however, Paris gallantly held out for a whole year, under the command of Count Otto, one of the King's nobles. So great was the renown Otto acquired by this feat of arms, that on Charles's death, in 888, the Frankish nobility elected him their King. A nephew of this Otto was Hugh Capet, the ancestor of the Bourbons.

In the meantime, the German conquerors of France, comparatively few in number, had become absorbed by the subject nationality, and every now and then had a brush with the old country whence they had proceeded. In 978, when the German Emperor Otto II. was celebrating the Festival of St. John at Aix-la-Chapelle, he was surprised by King Lothaire of France at the head of an army of 30,000 men. The German Emperor returned the compliment, and having crossed the frontier on the 1st of October, marched straight upon Paris, overtopping all resistance in his way. Before winter set in he stood at the foot of Montmartre, and invested the city. Very much like the Moltke of our day, he had to detail a portion of his army to ward off the hosts attempting the rescue of the beleaguered place; but, unlike what seems to be reserved for Paris in the present instance, he was obliged to withdraw without effecting his object. Winter and disease decimating his troops, he eventually returned the way by which he came. There is an old story that, before leaving, the Germans assembled on Montmartre and sang *Te Deum* with as vast an array of lungs that all Paris reached the sound. Why they should have offered up their thanks in this boisterous manner when foiled in their efforts is a riddle unsolved to this day.

The strength of the place having thus been proved by experience, King Philip Augustus, at the beginning of the 13th century, extended its fortifications, adding several hundred towers to the walls. King Charles V., in the latter part of the 14th century, surrounded the new suburbs with a fresh rampart, built a citadel called the Bastille, and constructed a fort on the Isle of St. Louis. Notwithstanding these new defences, the English took Paris after the Battle of Agincourt, 1420. The Maid of Orleans, attempting to recapture Paris, 1429, was repulsed by the English, who, however, seven years later, were obliged to march out owing to gallantry of Dunois, le Bataud Royal.

King Henry IV. was the next to assail the devoted capital. As he was a Protestant, it would not recognize his authority. Having defeated the Catholic League at Ivry, March 17, 1590, he approached Paris in forced marches, and occupying Corbeil, Lagny, and Creil, cut off provisions, then chiefly received by the river. He next planted his guns on Montmartre, and from this dominant position left the Parisians—his naughty children, as he jokingly called them—to choose between bread and bombs. Not less obstinate than they are now, 15,000 of the inhabitants died of hunger before the town opened negotiation with the King. Just in the nick of time, however, the Spaniards, who assisted the

Catholic League, sent General Farnese with a large army from Belgium to the rescue. Henry was compelled to raise the siege, and only entered Paris four years later, when he had embraced Catholicism, and then he was welcomed with the greatest enthusiasm. France now rapidly increasing in power, Paris remained more than 200 years unvisited by an invading army. In the reign of Louis XIV. the mere idea of the foreigner venturing into the heart of France had come to appear so preposterous as to lead to the raising of the old fortifications. Louis XV. in 1726 again encircled the city with a wall, which, however, was not intended to serve a military purpose. As an open town, Paris underwent the storms of the Revolution. When, in 1814, the Allied Armies arrived in front of it to avenge the deeds of Napoleon I., a few redoubts, hastily thrown up, were all the impediments in their way. 25,000 National Guards, with 150 guns, held the place for a day against 40,000 Prussians and Russians. When Montmartre had been taken by storm, and the Cossacks and Uhlans were swarming in La Chapelle and La Villette, the proud capital surrendered. On March 31, Frederick William III. of Prussia, the father of William I. of the present day, and Alexander I. of Russia made their entry into the city.

The following year witnessed the repudiation of the feat. On the 24th of July, 1815, the Prussians, under Blücher, took Montreuil and Issy by storm, while Wellington forced his way into the northern and eastern suburbs. On the 7th of July the English and Prussian Guards once more trod the Boulevards.—*Times Cor.*

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE CARDINAL'S JUST COMPLAINT.—At the Lord Mayor's banquet in Dublin on Tuesday, the Cardinal Archbishop called public attention to the partial manner in which the laws for the relief of the poor are administered in Ireland. His Eminence said that a Parliamentary return showed that in the great Province of Ulster, out of the great number of dispensary doctors employed there, only four belonged to the religion of the great mass of the people of this country, and the same proportion prevailed in the appointment of masters of workhouses, clerks and schoolmasters, and he regretted to say that within the last few weeks an appointment was made in this city which was marked by the same spirit of exclusiveness. An assistant schoolmaster was required for the South Dublin Union Workhouse, the great majority of the children to be taught in the school were Catholic, there were only 15 Protestants in it. There were nine candidates for the office, and of these seven were Catholics, all well qualified, yet the selection fell on one of the two Protestants, and it was a curious thing that that Protestant young woman would be obliged to teach the children their prayers and instruct the poor Catholic children over whom she was placed. He hoped that the wishes of the Catholic people would in future be treated with more consideration. We can hardly conceive how, after the abundant professions volunteered by English statesmen to administer the public life of Ireland with fairness and with due regard to the wishes of Irish people which are made by the English Government, it should still remain possible for Protestantism to be a qualification, or Catholicism a disqualification for the holding of official appointments in Ireland.—*London Tablet.*

A correspondent of a contemporary writes that a few nights ago, the curate of the parishes of Tully-Allen and Newtown, was returning on a car from Drogheda, in company with a young gentleman, when he was set upon by three men whom he could not recognise, and very roughly handled, without the slightest excuse being vouchsafed, and in spite of his assertion that he was a priest. The assailants escaped, but not until the gentleman had made good use of a heavy stick to their discomfort.—*Catholic Opinion.*

In Ireland we must work to have our own Legislature to make our own laws. We must learn to govern ourselves at least in our own country. It is time for us to rise out of the paper-like indifference to which we have been accustomed. We wish to have the making of our laws, because we want to bring prosperity and happiness to Ireland. The people claim the right to tax themselves, to expend the country's money on its own labour in the reclamation of its waste lands, in the education of the people, in the culture of her fisheries, in the promotion of manufactures, and in the expansion of her commerce in other lands. This is the legitimate work of the people of every country, and it ought to be the work of the people of Ireland. When the people are thus engaged—engaged in exalting and enriching their native land and emulating their race, they will not permit the turbulence, the divisions, the crime, which in all countries lurk beneath misgovernment, to interrupt their glorious mission. The colours of their country will be no longer forbidden; their music and their poetry will be no longer banned; the national character will not be scoffed at in the sister islands; the people will not then loathe and spurn each other; mutual hate and jealousy will give way before good purposes, and Ireland, the mother of the Irish race, prosperous, contented, and proud of her nationhood, will be found not as a suspected "rag," but strong and muscular, armed and ready to improve the moral and sustain the physical power of the English people.—*Magnanimous.*

The fact seems to be that Mr. Gladstone dares not face the Protestant bigotry which would confront him, if he legislated for Ireland in justice upon the Education question. And unjust legislation upon this subject would no longer be tolerated in Ireland. The Cardinal Archbishop spoke with great moderation upon this subject at the Lord Mayor's banquet. Referring to the Education question, he said—"It was in an unsettled state; and, as such as possible, he hoped the Government and Parliament would give them a proper system in accordance with the wants of the great mass of the people. They require a Catholic University education, Catholic intermediate schools, and a Catholic system of education for the poorer classes. They were anxious that they should have their own universities and their own schools—they wished for no ascendancy (apart from), but they should never be satisfied till they were placed on an equality with others, and until the evils of hundreds of years should be redressed. (Renewed applause).—*Tablet.*

THE "PERIOD OF CALM."—(From the *Dublin Nation*).—To the ordinary Englishman, who has seen for two sessions of Parliament measures of great importance to England set aside to give place to purely Irish questions, the resolution of the Ministry "to refrain from suggesting at the present juncture the discussion of any political question likely to become the subject of new and serious controversy in the country" may appear just and equitable. To us, who view it by the light of our necessities, it presents an entirely different aspect. If Ireland is in such a condition as to be outside the necessity for legislation, she occupies a position so exceptional that no nation ever yet saw the like. If not—If Ireland really needs further legislation to foster her industry and promote her progress—and that the English Ministers confess, as they vainly maintain, that the power of the present Parliament is inadequate to perform the duties imposed upon it—there is at once an argument established for the reconstruction of the legislative machinery of the nation so as to render it more flexible and comprehensive. The nation whose necessary legislative requirements are

held in abeyance because the Legislative Chamber is overburdened and incapable of fulfilling its functions, is in a fair way towards political bankruptcy, and should prepare with all its energies to set its affairs in order, so as to avoid a catastrophe which, in the end, cannot fail to be dangerous to the whole community. It needs but a glance at the accumulated labour awaiting the Imperial Parliament to show that England is rapidly approaching that dangerous condition. The six omnibuses cannot pass together through Temple-Bar, and to drive them through separately would well nigh exhaust the life time of the head coachman. The alternative is to demolish the obsolete structure, and open up two communications—one for the Irish, the other for the English vehicles. England has legislative labour before her both pressing and onerous; Ireland is awaiting work, to her of the utmost political and social importance. The both clash in the Imperial Parliament. In separate Legislative Chambers the necessary work required by both nations could be performed with the utmost facility and despatch. Why it should not be so supposes national comprehension. England has her Church and Land Question, her Law and Army reform—the relations existing between labour and capital, and other social and political questions of the highest importance to the people, awaiting the attention of her Legislative Chamber. Even giving her full credit for her own estimate of the reforms recently introduced into Ireland, she has only entered on the labour necessary to develop the resources and ensure the prosperity of that nation. With the hands of the Parliament completely full at home, the fulfilment of the promise to grant justice to Ireland is simply impossible. There are questions of the first importance to Ireland which have to be postponed because England says that this year it is her turn to claim full consideration for the arrears of the past. The question of Education, of Grand Jury reform, of Poor Law reform, of the Fisheries, of internal reclamation, and the development of the latent natural resources—all have to be set aside and the nation is to be relegated to "a period of calm," which means a period of lethargy and inaction, because the Imperial Parliament is unable to perform the continually increasing labours necessitated by the change in the social state, and the awakening to political life of the English people. Whatever may be the opinion of the English ruling classes, it is surely time that the people of Ireland, of all political parties, should see that the existing relations of the two nations is prejudicial to the best interests of the one, and ruinous to the other; and determine to restore strength and union to the Empire by the establishment of the Parliamentary independence of our native land.

To our mind the "Queen's Speech" furnishes an argument in favour of Home Rule so forcible and conclusive as to defy refutation. It is an admission of the incompetence of the Ministry and Parliament of England to satisfy the just requirements of the Irish people. To say that a nation requires calm politically, is to ignore progress and sanction inaction. Without political action, the life of a nation is stagnant. It is the very essence of national power to be ever in action, mentally or materially. Without it the body politic becomes an inert mass, and the social and national virtues languish and wither. There is no pause in the growth and progress of a nation, as there is none in the life of the individual. To pause in either would be death and destruction. We need not the Ministerial balm of repose, but the full spirit of active life—political and social—to awaken the energies and call forth the complete power of the national resources. This can never be attained under the influence of the English Parliament or an English Ministry. The brain to conceive, the hand to guide, the heart to sustain and cherish, must be Irish, if the nation is to rise to her full dignity, power, and influence. These are the agents of inspiration that must work out the regeneration of the land. Ireland is by no means disposed to accept, with gratitude, the tranquillity promised her in the Ministerial mandate.

THE TITLE OF THE DISESTABLISHED CHURCH.—The usurpation of the Disestablished Church of the title "Church of Ireland" is being resisted by the dissenting branches of Protestantism. The Presbyterians, hopeless of effecting that unity of Protestantism which they had looked forward, have, at the last meeting of the Dublin Presbytery, passed the following resolution:—"The Presbytery, having had its attention directed to the report of the legal committee of the Disestablished Church, in which it is declared that the Church is entitled to the name of the Church of Ireland, and ought not to accept any other name, which report was adopted by the representative body, resolved: That this Presbytery does not admit the claim of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country to be called the Church of Ireland; that, hitherto, we have recognized this title as simply descriptive of the Church as established by law, but to which it has no claim from Scripture or from history, or from the number of its adherents in the land; that the legal recognition of this title would be at variance with the spirit and aim of recent legislation, and the assumption of it, implying as it does an inadmissible superiority to the other sections of the Church of Christ in Ireland, is calculated to engender a spirit of permanent discontent and disunion amongst Protestant, and, consequently, to obstruct the progress of Evangelical truth."

THE IRISH CATHOLIC DIRECTORY.—Amongst the Annals which claim our special attention at this time of the year, not the least interesting is *The Irish Catholic Directory*—a work that may fairly be reckoned as one of our best-established literary institutions, the present being the 35th annual publication. To Catholics in every part of the globe—more particularly, of course, to Irish Catholics—it will be found a most interesting and valuable work, embracing, as it does, an amount of information on ecclesiastical statistics scarcely to be found in any other volume published in any country. The issue for 1871 presents all the old features in what may be termed the "reference department," with a goodly amount of reading matter of peculiar interest at the present time. The Roman Register contains a classified summary of the Patriarchates, Archbishops, and Bishops in connexion with the Holy See—nearly 1000 in all—as well as a list of the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, their titles in full, and the dates of their creation. Then follows the Irish Diocesan Register, which gives an exact account of every parish in Ireland, the names and dignities of the Parish Priests and Curates, with the post-town in which each resides, or that nearest to the parish in which he officiates. There is also an alphabetical list of Archbishops, Bishops, Parish Priests, Curates, and Regulars in Ireland, with their Dioceses and post-towns, and an alphabetical list of parishes as well, which makes the oftentimes difficult operation of reference in books of this sort as easy as possible. We find that the number of priests at present in Ireland is about 2,340 as against 2,900 in 1860, being an increase of 440 in the short space of 10 years. The "Houses of religious communities of women have increased from 143 in 1860 to 213 in 1870. Other features of the Directory might be particularized had we space at our disposal; as it is, we must content ourselves with cordially recommending it to all Catholics as an excellent and reliable guide on all matters connected with religious statistics of this and other countries. Of the manner in which it has been "turned out," we need only mention that Mr. John Mullany, Parliament-street, the enterprising Catholic publisher, is the printer, and that it is characterized by the same care and neatness for which he has now an honourable repute.—*Tablet.*

The Bishop of Clogher (Dr. Donnelly) has rebuked a school-master in one of his parishes, named Cassidy for having attended a meeting of the National Teach-

ers' Association in Dublin, at which a resolution was carried in favour of joint lay and clerical control of schools by a committee instead of by a clerical manager. The Catholic Episcopacy (Dr. Donnelly says) will rather abandon the public grant than their control over the teacher and the school.

Celtic hearts will doubtless be rejoiced to learn that the O'Donoghue's bankruptcy is to be annulled the chieftain having composed with his creditors for \$2 in the \$5. The Knight of Kerry, Knight of Glynn Macgillivuddy of the Reeks, and O'Connor Don, are with the O'Donoghue, now the only persons holding the ancient titles of Irish chieftaincy, with the exception of a person calling himself The O'Gorman Mahon, whose right and title to assume this peculiar style are, so far at least as they are founded on hereditary descent, denigrated. Prior to the revolution peculiar titles of this sort existed in France.

Mr. James Anthony Froude, the well known Historian of England, has been lately paying a visit to Ireland, and in an article which as Editor of *Frazer's Magazine* he expresses the following opinion on English remedial legislation for that Country:

"I have nothing to propose in the way of remedial measures: no measures could be expressed in words which could heal a chronic sore as little now as ever disposed to heal. I speak merely as one who knows something of Ireland and something of its history. Let it not be supposed that the late concessions to Irish agitation have touched as yet the source of Irish dissatisfactions. They may have been right in themselves—I do not question it; but the wound remains, and will remain. The Irish as a body, are disloyal to the English Crown, and disloyal they will continue. The Church Bill was the removal of a scandal; the Land Bill will rescue the poorer tenants from the tyranny of middlemen and adventurers chiefly of their own race; but the people generally regard these Bills, both of them, as extorted from us by the Clerkenwell explosion. They do not thank us for them. They rather gather courage to despise our fears. Their sympathies on all subjects are in antagonism to ours. If we are entangled in war, they will rejoice in our defeat; and they will do their worst or their best, whatever their worst or best may be, to forward our misfortunes."

BOY FOUND NEAR NEW ROSS.—On Tuesday evening, as Pilot Thomas Keough was returning from the pilot station, he found the dead body of a sailor floating at Curry Bay, about six miles below New Ross. Pilot Keough took the body in tow and brought it to Ross, where an inquest was held by R. B. Ryan, Esq., coroner, on Wednesday. The body was far advanced in decomposition. The clothes on the body were a dark, loose, twilled trousers, loose jacket of similar material, black and white cross-bar shirt, and spring boots. It was found to be a low-sized, and wore a tuft of hair on the chin. From the evidence given at the inquest, the body appeared to be that of a man named Milano, cook on board of the *Autonia Riva* from Genoa, who was drowned on the night of 15th December, 1870, at the Fishhouse Pier, New Ross. Two witnesses examined had no doubt as to the body being that of Milano; but from the changed state of the features they would not swear positively to the identity. Dr. Mullin made a superficial examination of the body, but could find nothing to show that violence had been used. Sub-Inspector Fallow and Head-Constable Howell had been on the spot just after the occurrence the night Milano was drowned, and from all the information the Constabulary could find, there was no reason to suspect that any foul play had been used to cause the death of Milano. Near the same time one of the Italian sailors stabbed a young man from the town within a few yards of the place where Milano was drowned. An open verdict was returned.—We find that the body of a man unknown was found dead in the river barrow at a place called Curry Bay, six miles from the town of New Ross, 7th February, 1871. The body has no marks of external violence, and we have no evidence as to how deceased got into the water.—*Wexford People Cor.*

THE CONSTABULARY.—Our (*Northern Whig's*) Enniskillen correspondent writes: "I believe I am not exaggerating when I state that there are at this moment close on eight hundred resignations—combining full service ones and those arising from absolute disgust of the present regulations—on the books at headquarters. The men do not complain of the pay, but their eligibility for promotion is made too much to depend upon answering questions that might do very well to test the scholastic advancement of schoolboys, or persons intended for the legal profession, who should be thoroughly conversant with Acts of Parliament, but are altogether unsuited for men whose object is to excel as experts in the detection of crime and the security of life and property in the country. Instead of promotion being made to depend on the number of arrests a man has effected, and his successful prosecution of offenders, more importance is now attached to his being able to answer questions on certain Acts of Parliament, and circulars emanating from the office of the Inspector-General, some of which are no sooner studied than they are rendered obsolete by the issue of others, so that the force has become to a great extent an in-door one, devoting its time to study, and consequently, there is less time for those out-door duties in the performance of which the public are more interested, and the judges of usages for some years past have had to take cognisance from the fact that a large amount of crime remained undetected."

HOME GOVERNMENT.—The *Spectator* remarks upon a point which ought to be of great importance in helping the work of the Irish Home Government Association. The Government of India is about to try an important experiment in the way of decentralization. Each subordinate government is invested with full power over education, gaols, police, roads, civil buildings, other local works, and empowered to expend a fixed sum, amounting, as we imagine, from the *Times* telegram, to about 10 per cent on the revenues of the province, on such objects. Moreover, they are authorized to levy local rates for the same purpose, though the Viceroy hints very wisely that they must not use the latter power too rapidly. The innovation is a good one, says the *Spectator*, as it gives the local officials more interest in local work; and gets rid of one cause of the incessant conflicts between the local and general governments. We imagine that this is a free concession to India of the privileges which the association in Dublin claims for Ireland in asking for a Federal Parliament. How can it be granted to the people of India and refused to the people of Ireland? Clearly, such a course of double-dealing would not do, and therefore we may conclude that the Government contemplates a measure of Home Rule for Ireland, for Irish domestic affairs. It is significant, too, that the London Press has opened its columns to free discussion of this Irish subject. The *Daily News* has published a very remarkable letter, purporting to come from a "Cork Rebel"—who says he writes from a city that glories in the name of "Rebel"—in the midst of a population of 10,000, of whom 60,000, at least, are actively or passively disloyal, but who are yet open to honorable conviction.—*Traveller Chronicle.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Catholics of Scotland are following the lead of their Irish and English co-religionists in petitioning the Government to interfere between the Pope and the Italian Government, by way of protest against the violent and unjust usurpation of the estates of the Holy See by the Government of King Victor Emmanuel. The petition was placed at the

Church doors in several places on Sunday, and is being numerously signed.

The Catholic laity of Great Britain are gathering themselves into an organization which will lead, it is hoped, says the *Tablet*, to several important results. The nucleus of such a society has held several preliminary meetings at Norfolk-house. Its scope is purely Catholic, and chiefly directed towards the interest of the Holy See, which it will promote by all the moral means in its power. It has been approved and encouraged by the Archbishop of Westminster and we understand that its organization is now so far completed, that it will send out its invitation and programme next week to those who will be most naturally inclined to take part in it.—The want of an organization of this kind has been sensibly felt among Catholics for years. It is to consist, we are informed, exclusively of laymen; but its principle of cohesion and its end is to work in obedience to the Church. Nor will its branches be established anywhere except under the approval of Ecclesiastical authority.

The Huntingdonshire Protestant Association, still struggling for moderation, lately forwarded to the Premier a letter enquiring whether he was a Catholic, and received in reply, the following well-merited rebuke:—"Sir,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., and to inform you that he does not think it necessary to return any answer, direct or indirect, to the enquiry recommended by the Hunts Protestant Association.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, W. B. Grenville."

Two wills have recently been admitted to probate in London. One was the will of Mr. Bressay, a famous railroad contractor. His personality alone exclusive of his vast landed estate amounted to six and a half millions. The other will was that of Mr. Mark Lemon, late editor of *Punch*. He left behind him the sum of £200 all told. From this rising generation may see that it is better to be a railroad contractor than a "literary gentleman."

THE PRISONERS IN THE WAR.—The *Times* publishes from its own Berlin correspondent what looks like a German official estimate of the troops and guns taken prisoners in Paris. The number of men is 180,000, the fortress guns captured 1,500, field-pieces and mitrailleurs 400. The gun-boats on the Seine, the locomotives and rolling-stock of the railways, have likewise been appropriated by the victors. The aggregate number of French troops taken prisoners, or driven across the frontier of Belgium and Switzerland since July, is put at upwards of 1,000,000. What a war! 1,000,000 of unwounded soldiers captured and kept prisoners by the enemy in seven months. Can any parallel be found in modern history for such a fact as this? The wars of the Turks and the German Emperors, of Russia and Sweden, of the *Grand Monarque* and Marlborough; the American war of independence, our Indian wars, the campaigns of Napoleon I., and of Wellington; the Crimean campaign, the Indian mutiny, and the wars of Austria against France and Prussia, have been marked by unexpected reverses and great surrenders, as well as by bloody battles and important victories, but in none of them, taken singly, has the number of prisoners taken approached 1,000,000. How to account for it? The great capture of prisoners in the Army of the Loire of late have been attributed to the madness of the conscripts; but they were veteran French troops who surrendered at Sedan and at Metz. The events of this war were astounding when they occurred, and they baffle comprehension all the more when their full details arrive.—*Tablet.*

MEDICAL OPINION ON FASHIONABLE TIPPLING.—The last number of the *Practitioner* (Macmillan & Co.) a London journal of practical medicine, contains a suggestive article by the editor, Dr. Francis E. Anstie, on "The Use and Abuse of Alcohol by Women." The writer maintains that the increasing prevalence of alcoholic excess among educated women demands the earnest attention of all medical men. He is no advocate of total abstinence, but is compelled by the extent of the evil to raise a voice of solemn warning against the abuse of alcoholic beverages. According to his observation, a great number of ladies in the best society of London are in the habit of taking daily from four to eight glasses of highly fortified sherry or port, containing from an ounce and a half to six ounces of absolute alcohol. This fact is a very awkward one for every medical man who takes a conscientious interest in the welfare of his patients. The habit is often formed after the termination of an acute illness, when the large doses of alcohol that were prescribed are still continued, and a half bottle of strong sherry a day is taken for weeks or months. The effects are most disastrous. The patient suffers a daily narcotization which suffices to plant in the sensitive nervous system of women a fixed craving for alcoholic drinks. Even many young girls of the wealthy middle classes are of late years taken to consume all kinds of wine, especially champagne, to a perfectly ruinous extent. At many modern balls, champagne flows like water, and it is by no means the lens of creation who do the largest part of the consumption. The same young ladies who have partaken so freely of champagne over night will next day at lunch take plenty of bottled beer or a couple of glasses of sherry. Dinner comes round, and with it more champagne, or hock, or sherry, or port, of which not less than a couple of glasses are again taken. The evening, in turn, brings another party, with its inevitable allowance of champagne or sherry. Many girls, who live among the rich, are in the habit, at least for six months in the year, of taking from two to three ounces of alcohol daily, a quantity equivalent to three or four quarts of common beer. The effect of this is disgusting and ruinous. Dr. Anstie, though no enemy of the moderate use of wine, sees no remedy but the dispensing with the use of alcoholic drinks at evening parties for women. This may be complained of as inhospitable, but as a medical adviser he finds the true ideal of hospitality in the custom of simple evening entertainments in which there is not much outlay for eating and drinking but a little lemonade and light water, or, he might have added, a cup of coffee or chocolate. The modern supper parties, in his view, are becoming a perfect nuisance, both on the score of expenses to persons of moderate means, and of danger in the formation of a taste for wine-drinking which is generated by a liberal supply of champagne, and other fascinating beverages.

An ill-humoured English wife, abused her husband on account of his mercenary disposition, told him if she were dead he would marry the devil's eldest daughter, if he could get anything by it. "That's true," replied the husband, but the worst of it, that in England one can't marry two oysters.

UNITED STATES.

They arrested a female shoplifter in Macy's store on Wednesday, and the contents of her pockets were quite as remarkable as those which are brought from the capacious pantaloons of the clown in the pantomime. They consisted of two bottles of wine, 50 yards of guipure lace, two baby's dresses, embroidered and tucked, one piece of mauve velvet trimming, two pairs of gloves, 75 pairs of children's fancy stockings, one fancy figured glass, 75 yards of blue and green velvet trimming, one pair of jet earrings, and one large Bible. Really, the way of the shoplifter must be wearisome, in being forced to carry around such a load as this; but, hardest of all to have in her pocket the Sacred Volume from which the words, "Thou shalt not steal," it might be imagined, would stare at her in warning.—*N. Y. Express.*

A backwoods editor was asked by a subscriber: "What is this *clan* that the French army is so full of?" "A *clan* is French for beans," succinctly replied the conductor of the great moral engine.