

spouse Marie Antoinette, and who had the remains reinterred in Mont Parnasse cemetery a perpetuite.

A crypt in the vaults of the cathedral of St. Gall city, Switzerland, contains the body of the Irish Saint Gall, who in his career in pagan Helvetia, converted thousands to the Christian church. Relics of the saint may be seen behind the high altar. Another follower of Christ and a native of Ireland, St. Kilian converted the inhabitants who resided on the banks of the Rhine. The memory

of this saint is still venerated in Wurzburg, Bavaria, of which episcopal See, he was the founder.* St. Columbanus was the most successful of Irish missionaries on the continent. Hundreds of Irish ecclesiastics left their native land to convert the pagans of many states. Most of them became martyrs, and their names, centuries afterward, were placed on the Roman calendar.

* Some years ago the Catholics of Wurzburg celebrated the twelfth centenary of his martyrdom.

THE NEW ATTACK UPON RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN FRANCE.

By Charles Robinson.

The statement frequently made in French Catholic papers to the effect that France is ruled by the Freemasons received no little corroboration from a statement made not long ago by the then Minister of Agriculture, M. Gadand, on the occasion of his receiving a delagation of Masons at Nevers.

"You know," he said, "that the Government cannot occupy itself in a special manner with Freemasonry, but I can assure you that the Government is inspired with its principles and its doctrines."

This declaration goes far towards explaining much that has been going on in France of late years, and makes intelligible the continuous assaults on Catholic beliefs and practices by officials of the Republic. The latest evidence of the hostile attitude of the Masonic Government towards the Church is to be found in the new tax imposed

upon monastic property.* This unjust assessment is a method adopted to harass and if possible, abolish the religious orders. These communities are always and very justly considered indispensable to the well being of the Church in any land, and hence any attack upon them is very properly regarded as an assault upon the Church itself.

The probable results of the new tax are thus summarized: "There are two lines of action open to the communities. Either they will obey this unjust law and pay as long as they can—some three years others five or ten according to their resources. Those who seem richest will be ruined first; for these generally are burdened with the greatest debts. When they have paid their last sou they will first

* This law went into effect Oct. 1, 1895. It was voted under the name of "droit d'affectement."