

question. Be that as it may, the *Times* of yesterday proceeds in a leading article to indicate the contents of a memorial formally laid before the Conference by Count Cavour:—

"The matters brought before the Conference relate to every part of Italy, but the chief importance is given to the deplorable condition of the Papal territories. It is urged that the temporal supremacy of the priesthood is an evil which human nature can no longer bear; that even the government of the sword is better than the government of the sceptre; that the ecclesiastical ruler of 3,000,000 of Italians is only kept on his throne by foreign troops, and would again be driven forth if his subjects were released for a week from foreign repression. The character of the priesthood is spoken of in severe language, and its incapacity for its high functions boldly declared. Then comes the practical part of the matter. The allies are invited to deliberate on the reconstruction of the Roman Government. Sardinia totally repudiates the position that temporal power is necessary for the Pope in order that he may fully exercise his spiritual authority. She considers that his functions might be wisely restrained to ecclesiastical matters, or, if his rights as a temporal sovereign be deemed inalienable, it might be insisted that he should entirely distinguish between his duties as head of the Church and his duties as an Italian sovereign; and that, while ecclesiastical posts are held by Cardinals and Bishops, all that concerns the population which is subject to him should be committed to responsible Ministers, chosen from the laity, under the safeguard of new and salutary laws.

"While Rome is held by French troops the Legations are under the control of an Austrian General. This section of the Papal territory formed part of the kingdom of Italy, and at the downfall of Napoleon received with reluctance the old system. As the people are bitterly opposed to the Papal sway, which has condemned them to years of foreign occupation, Sardinia proposes that they should be at once released from it and discovered from the States of the Church. The territory so constituted should be placed under the Government either of a hereditary house or a Viceroy nominally dependent on the Pope, but appointed under conditions sanctioned by the allies. Austrian occupation should be strictly prohibited, the *Code Napoleon* introduced with such modifications as might be necessary, and the administration by the clergy entirely abolished. These measures Sardinia considers of the highest importance and necessary for the peace of Italy.

"With respect to Naples the Plenipotentiaries are very outspoken. They look on the state of that kingdom as a disgrace to the Italian name, and suggest the intervention of the allies, and the establishment of guarantees for a just administration. The case of Poerio is alluded to by name, and he is declared to be the victim of a Government which seeks to crush all that is noble and healthy in Italy. When Sardinia comes to speak of the direct Austrian dominion, &c., of course necessary to proceed with caution. Two Plenipotentiaries state that circumstances will not allow them to discuss the Separation of Lombardy and Venice from the Austrian empire. Any change in this direction must arise from the eventualities of the future. However, they assert that these provinces form part of Italy, and are inseparably united with their own country and the rest of the Peninsula. They complain of the political proscriptions which have taken place, and the unsatisfactory nature of the so-called amnesty. The obstacles interposed between Lombardy and Piedmont are mentioned. High duties, it is said, are placed on Piedmontese productions, and passports are with difficulty obtained by Austrian subjects, and needlessly scrutinized when a Sardinian would cross the frontier. The discontent which prevails in the Austro-Italian States is noticed, and declared to be the effect of an oppressive Government. For all these wrongs Sardinia asks redress. Some acknowledgement of a national unity in Italy is considered by the statesmen of Turin to be the first step in insuring prosperity and peace. A Custom's union, it is alleged, would develop the resources of the country and facilitate the intercommunication which is so much wanted. Material improvements would follow the removal of political oppression. The whole state of Italy is recommended to the care of the Plenipotentiaries now assembled in Paris, who are reminded that the congress of Vienna did not scruple to interfere in the affairs of every nation, and to settle questions relating but little to the war which then ended."

In consequence of the recent assassinations, the threats of many more, and alleged discovery of an extensive conspiracy connected therewith, the Duchies of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany are said to be in a state of alarming fermentation. The Duke of Modena, who was at Venice, has returned in all haste to his capital.

The arrival of the Marquis de Dalbousie is daily expected at Marseilles.

At Hong-Kong, on the 21st of January, the Grand Pre of that city was married to Miss Aze Almeida, of Singapore. Both the parties were Portuguese Catholics, and had applied in the first instance to the head priest of the Roman Catholic cathedral to celebrate the rite. The rev. gentleman refused to do so, on the ground that the bridegroom was a Freemason. The Grand Pre then applied to a minister of the Church of England, the Rev. Mr. Odell, himself a Freemason, and the marriage was celebrated in the Anglican cathedral.

Correspondence.

The Editors of "The Church Times" do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions of their Correspondents.

FOR THE "CHURCH TIMES."

MR. EDITOR,

It is truly painful to observe the extraordinary spirit of insubordination which is springing up among members of the Church of England in Nova Scotia. I allude especially to the late attempts to deprive Rectors of parishes of their long acknowledged, and never before disputed right, to occupy the chair at parish meetings. The first sign of the kind was seen in the Synod last year, which immediately called forth very serious fears in my mind as to the propriety of the admission of the laity into that *spiritual assembly*. Till then, I had always pleaded for the privilege being granted them. My fears have been greatly increased and strengthened by the late proceedings in the parish meetings of St. Paul's, Halifax. Here we have a specimen of what the laity can and will do when they have the power. It was very natural, indeed, that before completing the most ungrateful and unchristian act of persecution against their faithful Clergy—against those whom their Catechism teaches them to submit to—they should endeavour to remove from the chair the venerable rector, grey-headed, who was to put the unseemly question to the meeting. If they could resolve to starve their clergy for conscience sake, they could not see much harm in insulting their rector by trying to take his chair. The spirit that would do the one would also do the other. All this, Mr. Editor, has proved to my mind, as fully as anything can be proved, that those who are all the time crying out, the wolf the wolf are themselves not much better than wolves in sheep's clothing, and yet remaining within the bosom of the Church. Many of our Clergy, who are only conscientiously carrying out the rubrics and forms of the Church which they have sworn to obey, are branded with the name of Papists, Puseyites, &c., and are thus held up to public odium, and their good endeavours to promote the spiritual interest of their flocks greatly impeded to the great delight of the enemies of the Church, who never cease crowding over our misfortunes; but I think, Mr. Editor, you should allow the *Church Times* to point out boldly and manfully all the real and unmistakable signs of Dissent among us. It ought to be known that if Popery can exist in the Church, Dissent, or the spirit of sectarianism and insubordination, may be found there too.

There are many in the country reading the *Church Times*, who have no other means of being informed on these topics; and who, if not properly instructed, will be very apt to imbibe the spirit of Halifax parish meetings when they go there on business. There are many reasons to believe that attempts have already been made, by designing men in the Metropolis, to strengthen their cause by gaining poor ignorant country-men and fishermen to their views. To deprive the Bishop of the veto—which is, in reality, to take all power from him which Bishops always had, and to eject the Rectors from the chair at parish meetings, are only so many steps towards the laity's taking the Priesthood also. Or to say the least of it, it shows a very bad—a very morbid spite of heart and mind against the clergy.—As to your correspondent from Yarmouth's remark that the clergy are not called upon to contribute to the expenses of the parish, that may be the case in that part of the country; but from what I know of Nova Scotia, I doubt whether the laity are not indebted almost altogether to the clergy's personal sacrifices, for the degree of Church progress they enjoy. If the clergy do not always give money they give up their whole lives and prospects in the world. There is also a vast difference between "serving tables" referred to by J. W. H. R. and presiding at parish meetings. Neither were the sordid deacons, to whom the secular affairs of the Church were entrusted, laymen. I should like to know what sort of meetings, and what sort of business would be transacted in three-fourths of our country parishes, if the clergy did not preside. I remain,

Mr. Editor,
Yours, &c.,

RESTRICTED.



THE FOLLOWING ACTS.

Passed in the last Session of the General Assembly, are published by Authority.

An Act to amend the Act 18 Victoria, Chapter 16, relating to the Inspection of Fish.

[Passed the 18th day of April, 1856.]

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly as follows:

1. The penalty of Five Shillings, imposed under the fifth section of the above Act, shall be reduced to Two Shillings and six-pence.

2. So much of the sixth section as regulates the qualities of Number Two and Number Three, is repealed, and the following shall hereafter be the qualities of the said Numbers, respectively.

Those to be branded "No. 2, Large," shall comprehend the best Mackerel that remain after the selection of the first quality, and shall be properly split and washed, well cured, and in every respect free from taint, rust or damage of any kind, and shall measure not less than thirteen inches from the extremity of the head to the croch of the tail. All those of the same kind and quality measuring from eleven to thirteen inches as above described shall be branded "No. 2." Those to be branded "No. 3, Large," shall consist of good, sound, large Mackerel, properly washed, well cured, and free from taint, rust or damage of any kind, and shall measure fourteen inches and upwards from the extremity of the head to the croch of the tail. All those that measure from eleven to fourteen inches shall be branded "No. 3."

3. So much of the sixth section, as relates to Herring and Alwives shall be amended by inserting after the third clause:

All Herring that are not gibbed shall be branded with the word "gross," in addition to other brands.

4. The eleventh section shall be amended by inserting the word "packing" after the word "weighing" in the first line thereof.

5. The sixteenth section shall be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words, viz: "and shall describe in their Returns the different kinds and qualities of fish inspected by them."

6. Actions against Inspectors, or their Deputies, under this Act, and the Act hereby amended, shall be brought in the County where the offence shall have been committed, and not elsewhere.

7. Every box of Smoked Herrings shall contain twenty pounds, instead of twenty-five pounds, as provided in the twenty-third section of such recited Act, which section is hereby amended.

10a.

An Act to amend Chapter 136 of the Revised Statutes, "Of Juries."

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

1. Every petit or special jury, for the trial of civil causes, inquisitions, and issues, shall consist of nine persons, of whom seven, after at least four hours' deliberation, may return a verdict; and the petit jury for criminal trials shall consist of twelve persons, who must be unanimous in their verdict.

2. The practice of keeping a jury without meat, drink, or any other comfort, until they agree upon their verdict, is abolished.

3. There shall be returned a panel of twenty-four jurors at each short term in the country, and two panels of twenty-four jurors each, at each extended term in those counties where the term can be so extended; in Halifax the panel shall consist of thirty-six jurors.

4. Each petit and special juror shall be entitled to receive and be paid the sum of two shillings and six pence per day, for his actual attendance as a juror at the supreme court, and also six pence per mile for every mile he shall necessarily travel from his place of residence to the court house; such actual attendance and distance to be ascertained by the oath of the juror.

5. The prothonotary in each county shall, on the last day of the sittings of the supreme court in each term, and of the sittings of such court in Halifax, and also, at the end of the first week of the sittings in those counties where the sittings can be extended prepare and certify a list of the jurors who actually attended such court, with the number of days' attendance, and the actual travel of each juror, respectively, and the amount to which each juror is entitled; and shall deliver such list to the presiding judge, who shall certify the same; and the treasurer shall forthwith thereupon pay, out of the county funds, to each juror, the amount which such juror appears entitled to receive, upon such list.

6. To provide a fund towards the payment of jurors under this act, the following fees shall be paid by plaintiffs to the prothonotary and by him paid into the county treasury, viz.: On the issuing of writ of *mesne process*, except in summary and sub-summary suits, two shillings and sixpence, and on the swearing of every jury, thirty shillings; the above fees to be taxed and allowed, and included in the costs in the cause.

7. Any juror who shall not answer to his name, when called, shall forfeit his day's pay, and for each day's absence shall pay a fine of ten shillings, to be collected as follows: The judge, on the Sheriff's affidavit, that the juror was duly summoned to attend the court, shall, on the last day of the term or sittings, unless such juror shall have been previously excused, order an execution to be issued for the amount of the fines, in the name of the prothonotary, who shall have the same collected immediately, and shall pay the same into the county treasury, and the prothonotary shall have a commission of five per cent., and the sheriff ten per cent., on the amount so collected.

8. The county treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and payments under this act; such account to be laid before the session, with his other accounts.

9. So much of chapter 151 of the revised statutes, "Of costs and fees," as relates to the fees payable to jurors in the supreme court, and also so much of the chapter hereby amended as is inconsistent with this act, are repealed.

10. Talesmen shall be entitled to receive one shilling and three pence on giving a verdict on the trial of civil causes, inquisitions, and issues; such sum to be paid by the prothonotary out of the thirty shillings paid in by the plaintiff in the cause on which such talesmen were awarded and returned.

11. The number of special jurors to be hereafter drawn, when such juries are ordered, shall be thirty-six, and such numbers shall be reduced by striking to eighteen.

12. In all criminal trials four jurors may be peremptorily challenged on the part of the crown.

13. In case of the illness of a juror after he shall have been sworn on any civil cause, it shall be in the discretion of the presiding judge to allow the cause to proceed without him, and the verdict shall be valid provided seven of the remaining jurors shall concur therein.

14. This act shall come into operation on the first day of June next and shall continue and be in force for three years from such first day of June, and from thence to the end of the next session of the general assembly.

10a.