

Palmer is to be executed at Stafford on Saturday, the 14th instant. Since his arrival there, which a great crowd assembled to witness, the convict has been taciturn, but his manner does not indicate any appearance of his being dejected. The recent proceedings will, it is said, cost the country £10,000. Every possible exertion is being made by Palmer's friends to obtain a commutation of his sentence, but if he escapes hanging it is difficult to say for what crime any one will ever be hanged afterwards.

The *Times* this morning, (June 4) with reference to Palmer's conviction, states that the jury on their retirement, without discussing the subject of the prisoner's guilt or innocence, agreed that each individual jurymen should write his verdict, and place it under his hat. Within ten minutes from the time of leaving court this determination was carried into effect, and on raising the hats the word "Guilty" was found under every one of the twelve! The delay in returning into court with the verdict originated in a feeling that, considering the life of a fellow-being was at stake, any suggestion compatible with the innocence of the prisoner which might occur to the mind of any individual jurymen should not be precluded from discussion by a hasty verdict.

Accounts, dated from Stafford last night, state that a change is gradually coming over the prisoner Palmer; and the coolness and self-possession displayed during the first few days of his incarceration, after his return from London, are deserting him. He passes sleepless nights, and during the day his mind appears to wander.

The *Chronicle*, which, with the *Morning Herald*, is strenuously advocating a reprieve, with a view to further scientific inquiry, in contradiction to the above statement, says that on Saturday Mr. George Palmer and the Rev. Thomas Palmer, the prisoner's two brothers, attended him in Stafford Gaol, and although the reverend gentleman prayed earnestly that the prisoner would confess, if guilty, he at once said he had nothing to admit. In the most calm and earnest manner he assured his brothers of his innocence, sent some of his hair to his mother, sister and son, and begged that the latter might be assured that his father was murdered, but not a murderer. His manner and demeanour were altogether unchanged, except when speaking of his child and mother. He sleeps and eats well, and expresses himself perfectly resigned to his ignominious fate, and says he has not the least hope of reprieve, as he thinks the public wants his blood to satisfy a medical theory which he, as a professional man, expresses his opinion of as "diabolical ignorance."

Now that the war is at an end, the allowances from the Patriotic Fund will be increased—a shilling per week to each class of widows of non-commissioned officers and privates, and a proportionate increase to the widows of officers. The increased outlay will be £12,000 a year. There are at present in receipt of allowances—officers' widows, 74; children, 143; orphans, who have lost both parents, 6; non-commissioned officers and privates' widows, 2,850; children, 3,310; orphans, who have lost both parents, 113.

Mr. Labouchere has appointed the Hon. Harry Cavendish Gray to be his private secretary at the Colonial office, in the room of Lord Sandon, elected, on Wednesday, member for the borough of Lichfield. The noble lord promised an "independent" support to the Government of Lord Palmerston.

The *Daily News* describes the following scene in a chapel:—On Tuesday a large concourse assembled, by public invitation, at the Hill Farm (Mr. Gatwood's), Stambourne, to celebrate the 'jubilee' of the Rev. Jas. Spurgeon, who has just attained the forty-sixth year of his ministry in this village, as pastor of the Independent Chapel. Considerable preparations had been made, and there were probably from 1,500 to 2,000 persons present at the services. The public duties were conducted by members of Mr. Spurgeon's family; the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, of London, being the preacher, assisted by his younger brother (a student) and his father, in leading the devotions of the meeting. Many of the surrounding ministers of Churches, with their congregations, came from great distances to testify their respect for the venerable parson of Stambourne meeting. The devotional exercises, and the sermons, on the whole, were suitable to the occasion. The collections were liberal, and everything would have passed off comfortably, had not the preacher made a very strong attack upon the Rev. Thomas Binney's book *On Making the Best of Both Worlds*, which he denounced as a specimen of the 'new heretical theology.' A very painful scene ensued. At the close of the sermon

a minister rose up and protested against Mr. Spurgeon's remarks on Mr. Binney, and a general state of confusion ensued in the congregation. Some clapped, some shouted 'Hear, Hear,' others cried 'Turn him out,' &c. The rev. gentleman, however, persisted in defending Mr. B., and explained that the design of Mr. Binney's book was to promote and illustrate the Scriptural doctrine, that 'Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.—(1 Tim. iv. 8.) He said, 'I charge Mr. Spurgeon with having uttered a public falsehood.' In reply, Mr. S. denounced the speaker for 'wishing (he said) to gain public notoriety by means of his (Mr. Spurgeon's) popularity.' And in his subsequent prayer at the close of this painful scene, he petitioned that the Lord would forgive him for the sin he had committed, and make him sensible of the wrong he had done in not having first gone privately and reproved him, according to the Scriptural rule."

CHRISTIANITY IN ASIA.

The East is, and is likely to be, the scene of tragic events. Scarcely has the Turkish Pasha been condemned at Constantinople for the abduction and murder of the poor Christian girl, (whose father has since disgraced himself by trying to raise money on his child's misfortune), than another miserable outbreak of wickedness is reported. M. Guarmani, English Agent at Marasch, in the province of Adana, has been burnt to death in his house, with his wife and children, by a Mussulman mob, urged on to a "demonstration," by a subordinate of the Government. It is said that a severe retribution is to follow this savage lawlessness. The utmost excitement prevails, and spreads in all the provinces of the Ottoman empire; but the Sultan is firmly resolved to carry out his decree of toleration.

At the same time, however, many scandals and great confusions, disgrace Oriental Christianity; officials under the old regime in many places fear the change, even though it be for the advantage of their creed. Nor are the plots of the Latins wanting to fill up the measure of Greek misery, and postpone or frustrate the hope of its alleviation. A scandalous outbreak of the Armenians, stirred, it is said, by the Latins, (who attempt to cultivate their friendship), made the Easter of the Greeks in Jerusalem a time of humiliation rather than festivity; it was a piece of mere unprovoked violence and jealousy, suppressed with difficulty by the civil authorities, perpetrated in the midst of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and at the most solemn moment of the sacred rites.

CHRISTIANITY IN EUROPE.

Uncertainty and insecurity are the marks of European civilization also, just now. The Hungarian bishops declare for a modern interpretation of the Concordat. The Archbishop of Vienna, and those around him, urge strong measures, and a circular signed "Joseph Ohmar," the Prince Prelate and Cardinal himself, has interdicted Protestant interments. Strong remonstrances have poured in, and the Emperor practically annuls the episcopal decree. The Vienna conference is on the point of terminating; and this imperial act is awkwardly timed, as it can hardly be considered by the conclave before it breaks up. The Jesuits are making the greatest exertions in all parts of the empire, especially in Croatia and Slavonia. Two churches have been given up to the order in Vienna, the University Church being one; and negotiations are on foot to place the Academical College in their hands. At Feinsberg, as well as Vienna, they have opened a "Lyceum." The extent of the social tyranny attempted on the basis of the Concordat, may be estimated by the fact that a wealthy Jew is just deprived of the care of his own daughter by the Church, on the allegation of a nurse who was called to attend the child in a sickness, and, being a Roman Catholic, took the opportunity of privately baptizing the child, which (according to Austrian law) is now a Catholic, and reported to be the inheritor of a large fortune; M. Pincherli, of Vorona, (such being the father's name and place) of course is violently resisting.

It is hardly surprising, all things considered, that the Grand Duke of Tuscany be so alter his mind, and shrinks from his contemplated Concordat. England and France have been writing to Pio Nono very uncomfortably about the state of things in the Papal dominions; and all Italy begins once more to share in the excitement of Piedmont. Nevertheless, the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Turin, have met and protested against the new Education-law, and energetically determined to resist it. Elsewhere it is to be seen the Bishop of Limbourg in the very act of promulgating a decree, forbidding to do it without a placet. Everywhere there is a growing

complication of affairs; the monastic orders being the hope of Rome, and (unhappily) the civil power the chief stay of the Reformists. This year being the time for the election of superiors of many of the religious fraternities, a grand opportunity is offered of making them still more subservient to the views of his Holiness. The Theatines, Barnabites, Cistercians, Carmelites, and, more than all, the Franciscans, have ostentatiously asked Pio Nono to nominate their Generals.

A somewhat remarkable movement is going on in Sweden. Roused by the fear that Roman aggression, felt so deeply elsewhere, might soon spread among the Lutherans, a strong attempt is made to revive a stringent discipline on the model of the sixteenth century. A Catholic curé has been prosecuted for receiving two Catholic children into his school, though sent by their parents. And attendance on certain private catechings is required as a condition of communion; while yet the receiving of the Holy Sacrament is obligatory on all high functionaries of a certain class. Some gentlemen have lately been refused communion, (with all the "consequences," of course,) because they were absent from Catechism!

RUSSIA.

At a recent visit to the city of Warsaw, the Emperor Alexander attended a ball at which the Polish nobility were present; the Emperor took the opportunity to announce that he had signed a general amnesty which was to extend to all the Polish refugees and emigrants. Prince Gortschakoff has since made the official announcement in a circular to the different Russian Embassies in Europe, charging them to make the amnesty known to Polish absentees, whom he supposes to be anxiously doubting the clemency with which their submission would be received. He writes:

"His Majesty the Emperor is willing generously to forget the whole past life of all fugitives that have long been under the influence of error, or have been guilty of offences, whether they be natives of the kingdom of Poland or of the neighboring Provinces of the empire of Russia; he declares himself to be in mercy willing and ready to receive their submission, and to permit their return to their homes, without their being liable to any judicial prosecution or other examination. His Majesty permits them further, as soon as they have returned, to re-enter upon all their civic rights, and those who during a space of three years shall have conducted themselves irreproachably will be admissible to the service of the State, in which they will have an opportunity of evincing their sincerity, by making themselves useful to the country. The only persons that will be excluded from these benefits are such as have shown in their conduct an irreconcilable hostility to the Imperial Government, and still retain this feeling."

Editorial Miscellany.

Mr. Howe has written another letter to the *Chronicle*, detailing some of the outrages upon the railway. These, it would seem, have been truly diabolical in several instances—and are well calculated to remove any impression which the numerous scribes who prate of the crime and demoralization of England, and the superior enlightenment of the people of Ireland, may have made upon the astonished minds of a Colonial population who have not so learnt national history. They afford a most pitiable exhibition of uncultivated human nature, and the wonder is that forbearance has been so long exercised. We trust that the most decided measures will be adopted to ensure peace and quietness, and to prevent any national peculiarity from so mischievously asserting itself, as has been so frequently done of late. We are almost convinced, from a perusal of these letters, that if prompt punishment had been administered in the first instance, the recent outrage upon an enlarged scale might have been prevented. They are not the less valuable that the evil is now of sufficient magnitude to call for a public example.

Yesterday, being the anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne of these Realms, was observed with the usual honors. The Citadel was tastefully decorated with flags—and the ships in harbour also displayed their colours.

Some scoundrels, lost to all sense of shame or honesty, removed the corner stone of the Lunatic Asylum laid on the 9th inst., and despoiled the receptacle of the Inscription, coins &c., on the night of Friday last.

It is said that a public ball on the part of the citizens, is to be given to the officers of the Crimean regiments recently arrived, and some public demonstration to the men. We are in favour of any substantial mark of respect towards them, but demur to the Ball, which would hardly be safe or sanitary for either side during the inflammable months of Summer.

The great gig race, between Halifax and New Brunswick, which was to have come off in our harbour yesterday, has been postponed till Friday next, on account of the elections going on in the sister Province.