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London, Saturday, August 26, 1899

MGR. FALCONIO.

Some of the papers have been publishing details of the arrival in New York of Mgr. Falconio, the Papal Delegate to Canada, and have even given an account of his intended movements until his arrival in Ottawa, which, it has been said, will take place within a few days. These details are imaginary, as the Delegate has not yet left Rome.

MORMONISM.

At the Mormon headquarters in London, England, Elder Anderson claims that recently there has been wonderful success in Mormon propaganda in the Southern States, as there were over one hundred new branches established during the year 1898. Many Mormon churches have been started in places where there was neither church nor chapel. It is said also that this wonderful success has excited new opposition among the opponents of Mormonism, chiefly on political grounds, as these adversaries wish to see Utah reduced back to the position of a territory. The Mormon elders, however, assert confidently that persecution will have the effect of strengthening instead of weakening their cause.

DREYFUS.

The most contradictory stories are told of the expected result of the second Dreyfus trial, which is now going on. Some are confident that the ex-captain of artillery will be convicted of the treason of which he was accused, while others assert that he will be acquitted. Even if he were guilty, the unnecessarily harsh treatment to which he was subjected as a prisoner on Devil's Island for five years, would create some sympathy for him, but amid the conflicting testimony it is difficult for an outsider to know whether he was really guilty or not. If his treason was real, an example should certainly be made of one guilty of such a crime, but unnecessarily harsh treatment should not have been inflicted. It remains to be seen, however, what verdict will be rendered by the court-martial now in session. It would appear that every effort is being made by the Government to do justice on this second trial; and it is possible that even if the accused be found guilty, he may be freed on the plea that he has been punished sufficiently.

THE "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE" FOLLY.

Professor Bradley, the leader of the Faith Cure, or so-called Christian Scientists, of Detroit, Michigan, advertised largely in the papers of Toledo, Ohio, that on the evening of Thursday, the 10th inst., he would do some faith-healing on a large scale in front of the Government building, as he had secured some of the most prominent men of the city to come to the meeting and submit to treatment. The promised exhibition drew a large crowd, as the prominence of the men seemed to be an assurance that the performance would be genuine. Among those operated on was Sam. T. Fisk, a broker, who has been a cripple for years. Bradley declared he would send Fisk away "as good as new," and that he would do the same for his other patients. Bradley then commenced operations, but was uniformly unsuccessful. At last Fisk was operated on, and at command of Bradley, hobbled across the stage, whereupon he found he could not do without his crutches, which he then took up in order that he might walk.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE BOERS.

In the present difficulty which is going on between Great Britain and the Boers of the Transvaal Republic, several of our Catholic contemporaries of the United States are loud in the announcement of their sympathy with the Boers in their determination not to be reduced to subjection by the British Government. It is a fact, however, that the Transvaal Government is the only Christian Government now existing which deprives Catholics and Jews from the exercise of the franchise, solely on the ground of their religion. Even in the recent offer of the Transvaal Government to extend the rights of franchise to the Uitlanders, with restrictions, at a secret session of the Raad, or Parliament of the Republic, it was resolved by a vote of 16 to 12 to continue the disabilities against Catholics and Jews. A later despatch sent to

A "FAITH HEALER" FINED.

A faith healer named Mrs. Henrietta Blatch has been fined \$100 in Chicago for violating the medical act by administering medicine to Mrs. Annetta Flanders, who died under the "faith-healing" treatment of Mrs. Blatch and Alexander Dowle, a pretended "divine healer" of whom Mrs. Blatch is a follower. Dowle professes to heal by the laying on of hands, and Mrs. Blatch supplemented the treatment. It was this administering of medicine which brought her under the penalty of the law, which it appears would not have applied to her case if she had not used the medicine. Probably the "faith healers," or "Christian Scientists" would say that it was this fact of giving medicine, being outside of their mode of treatment, which was the cause of the death of the patient; but most people will say that the cause of death was the neglect of using the medical treatment which common sense would have dictated, but which the "faith-curers" repudiate.

A SAD INSTANCE OF NON-RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

Two weeks ago we gave in our columns an account of a family feud which has been raging for many years on the mountains of Kentucky, in which members of the three families engaged have been shot in succession, every death which thus occurs being the signal for the family of the victim to swear to kill the assassin, so that death by shooting is sure to be followed by the death of the last assassin within a limited time, and so on indefinitely. A new feud of the same kind has just broken out in Union county, in the same neighborhood, between the families Robinson and Savage, which also threatens to be kept up in the same way. William Savage was shot and killed by John Robinson, and Robinson was at the same time mortally wounded by Savage. The relatives of the two principals of this fight have sworn to kill the nearest relatives surviving in each family, so as to perpetuate the feud.

THE DRAMA OF JOAN OF ARC.

A sacred drama is now being performed at an obscure village in the Voges district of France, which bids fair to rival the world-famed Passion-play of Ober-Ammergau. It is the drama of Joan of Arc which the Abbe Mengin of the little village of Menilmonastel has succeeded in producing. The village has only 200 inhabitants, while the play requires 140 persons, independently of those who manage the mechanical part. Consequently the Abbe called into requisition the services of the villagers from Dombarie, which is not far distant.

GODLESS EDUCATION RE-SPONSIBLE.

Governor Chandler, of Georgia, has given an answer to several newspaper requests for a statement of his views on the race troubles of the Southern States, and the Georgia lynchings. According to the Governor's opinion, much of the evil of the race conflict has arisen from the intermeddling of carpet baggers who, immediately after the civil war between the North and South, indoctrinated the negroes with the idea of their equality with the white population under every respect. Corrupt politics, and a fishing for the votes of the negroes by intermeddlers from the North, have had a like tendency, and the notion of perfect equality thus begotten, according to the Governor, has also tended to make the negroes bold in the commission of those horrible crimes which have generally been the reason on account of which the whites have pursued them so relentlessly, and have lynched the guilty with such barbarity.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE BOERS.

The Governor adds that the crime which has been the cause of most of the lynchings is as much deplored by the better class of negroes, as by white men. We have not the least doubt that such crimes are detested by the better class of negroes, and it is much to be regretted that they have been committed. They are not, however, a justification for the outrageous lynchings to which the white population has been certainly goaded by their perpetration. It is always a grievous wrong for private individuals to take the law into their own hands, and the evil is rendered all the worse by the fact that the innocent have been punished equally with, if not more frequently than, those who were really guilty. The horrible barbarity with which these lynchings have been perpetrated is also inexcusable, even if the parties thus tortured were really guilty. The punishments inflicted by these lawless lynchings remind us of the horrors of Chinese executions, or of the punishments inflicted by the American aborigines upon their enemies captured in war. Such horrors brutalize all who take part in them, and as there have been so many instances in which females, and even children of the tender age who have been made to take part in inflicting torture on a palce

UNHAPPY FRANCE.

Paris, which is nearly always in a volcanic state, is to the front again with an attempt at revolution. Two anarchistic journals, Le Peuple and La Petite Republique, appealed to the cantonal to make a rising against the Government, and many small groups of Anarchists wended on Sunday afternoon to the Place de la Republique, where they coalesced and became a considerable mob, which was violently addressed by several Anarchists, among whom were Sebastian Faure and Faberot, two well-known Anarchist leaders. The mob was attacked by the police, and after some hard fighting was scattered. Several churches and religious edifices were attacked and much injured by the mob, and the Church of St. Joseph, near the Anarchist centre, the Faubourg de Temple, was completely wrecked inside, and set on fire. The populace protected the church, and between them and the police, the Anarchists were at length driven off. Statues, and highly valuable pictures were utterly destroyed, among the statues being the crucifixes and statues of the Blessed Virgin. The Anarchists appeared to have been encouraged to make this demonstration, by the fact that M. Guerin, president of the Anti-Semite League, defies arrest in his house, which is strongly fortified, and is protected by armed Anti-Semites who have taken a rebellious attitude. The Government has permitted this anomalous state of affairs to continue, in order to avoid bloodshed, and the Anarchists imagine that they have a weak Government to deal with. Twenty Anarchists have been arrested, and found to be armed with revolvers, loaded sticks and knives.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

It had been stated by the reporters of the press that a movement was on foot to unite under one Government, or at least to affect an alliance between the South American Republics, in order to counterbalance the present preponderance of the United States in the two continents of America, or to counteract the aggressiveness of the latter country in claiming predominance in the whole Western Hemisphere. It has since been semi-officially denied that such a project is entertained, and probably the denial is correct: so far as the question of any immediate general union is concerned; nevertheless it is again asserted that negotiations are going on with the view of effecting a close alliance, if not a complete union between some at least of the various Spanish-American Republics.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

It is not necessary to infer that the proposition to effect such a union is dictated by hostility to the United States, but when it is considered that these States have become so powerful, and are extending their rule gradually, but surely, it is certainly the part of wisdom if the smaller and weaker States of America should consider whether it would not be to their advantage to unite against possible, and even probable future, aggression, from whatever quarter it may come. Many of these Republics have been bullied from time to time by European powers, and they were totally unable to resist the claims made upon them, whether right or wrong. England, France, Germany, Italy, have in turn menaced either the South American Republics, or the petty Spanish-American States of North America, and the adjacent islands, and even warships have been sent to their harbors to threaten their cities with bombardment unless they should yield to the demands made upon them, and they did yield in every instance, rather than endure the horrors of war with the powerful nations which threatened them, except indeed, in the latest demands made by Great Britain upon Venezuela. The dispute between these two powers is to be settled by arbitration, and not by the annihilation of the weaker power; but if this has been the case in this instance, it was not quite because Venezuela's rights or claims were deemed worthy of being respected, but because the United States came to the rescue. That country was not pleased to see a European nation riding rough shod over one of its own neighbors, and for this reason, as most of our readers will recollect, the great union of which we speak is not, indeed, likely to be effected all

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

very plainly declared that if Great Britain undertook to settle by herself and in her own way her difficulties with any American State, she would have to settle with the United States as well as with the weaker state concerned. In fact President Cleveland laid down the law that the principal arbiter in regard to the troubles of the weaker nations of America must be the United States of North America. We need not take it for granted, however, that the United States was entirely disinterested in taking this course. The brow-beating which Spain endured in regard to Cuba is still fresh in the memory of all our readers, and the result is that Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Island of Guam are now held by the great American power, with no one to dispute its right of conquest, and the Philippine Islands are in dispute, only because the Filipinos themselves are determined to have their say in the matter, before being handed over to another foreign master, further distant from them than were even their Spanish rulers.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

Who knows when it may occur that the United States Government may come to the conclusion that she needs territory in South America in order to safeguard her interests? It is not so very long since Mexico held sway over Texas, California, Colorado, and New Mexico, all of which are now in the United States domain. They were taken into the union by force of arms, on pretences the right or wrong of which we need not debate here; but the fact stands out distinctly that when the United States will come to the conclusion that it wants more territory toward the South, it will not hesitate to grasp it. The small, or we should rather say the sparsely settled, Republics of South America would, one by one, easily fall a prey to the power of the United States, should the time come when it might desire to take possession of them. Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at if South American statesmen are seriously considering the advisability of effecting a union of some kind between their respective countries. If such a union were effected to-morrow, this should not be regarded as an act of hostility, either to the United States, or to any other power. It would be simply an act dictated by the instinct of self-preservation, which is the first law of nature.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

The South American Republics have many interests in common. Spread over so large an extent of territory, they have, of course, many diverse and opposing interests also, but not more so than other countries which are spread over a large area, but are still able to sink their diversities for the sake of their common protection. The States of the great North American Republic, spread over an immense area, have themselves diversities of interests no less than those of Spanish South America. The inhabitants are by origin of all the nationalities of the world. Their occupations are more distinct and varied than those of any other people, not even excepting China, with its four hundred millions of inhabitants. The American people, occupying themselves with trade and commerce, all the arts, sciences, and manufactures, agriculture, mining, etc., have interests almost irreconcilable with each other; and yet they have so managed as to put their differences in the background, in order to be ruled by one central government, while each State governs itself in regard to all local matters. Why should not the South American Republics take example from this, and do likewise? A Latin South American union would not have half the population of the United States, even if all the Republics of that continent were joined together. Their union would, therefore, not be for aggressive purposes, but solely for mutual protection and defence, and to make themselves respected by the other nations of the world. Their commerce would be vastly increased: constant intercommunication being established among them by a political union; agriculture, and all the manufactures of the country would be vastly improved, and many other advantages would be derived from this new order of things; and the fact that one language is already established throughout the whole continent, and that for the most part the people are homogeneous in religion, it seems, would make a political union on the Federal plan very feasible and satisfactory. We have said that one language is everywhere established. The fact that the aboriginal tongues are also spoken does not interfere with the truth of this.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

This great union of which we speak is not, indeed, likely to be effected all

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

at once. Many jealousies exist which have a powerful influence throughout the South American Republics. These have not only given rise to dissensions between the different States, but have been the cause of numerous civil wars. But time would consolidate the divers countries into one, just as the various interests of the people of the United States have been sufficiently reconciled to make them an undivided and patriotic people at the present moment.

LATIN AMERICAN UNION.

A large proportion of the people of South America are the aboriginal populations, and to some extent many of the tribes are not even yet civilized. The same energy and progress could not be expected from them, therefore, which is looked for in a population which, like those of the United States and Canada, derives its origin from fully civilized Europe. But there cannot be a doubt that the union which has been mooted would hasten their complete civilization, and prepare the way for progress in every respect. This union idea is not Utopian, and we are informed that already President Roca, of Argentina, is now at Rio Janeiro as the guest of Brazil to prepare the way for a union of some kind between these two countries and Chile. The presidents of the three countries are to meet at Buenos Ayres next month for the same purpose. If they succeed in their purpose, the union they will effect will certainly be a nucleus for the greater union of which we have here spoken. We have no doubt that the recent Penary Council of the South American Bishops, held in Rome, has contributed greatly toward giving shape to the negotiations which are now going on. It is stated that the Council showed a brotherhood which was not deemed possible to exist between the people of the various countries of South America. No doubt, also, the wise Pope Leo XIII. encouraged the idea of a union which would strengthen the whole South American continent.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

An article which appeared in the New World, from the pen of Professor James H. Hyslop of Columbia University, on the result of investigations in which he has been engaged in regard to Spiritualism, has excited a good deal of comment and discussion in the press, most of these comments being unfavorable, as those of the New York Sun, the Baltimore American, and other leading journals, while a respectable minority, including the New York Independent, take somewhat a favorable view of his researches, expressing the hope that from them may result some insight into the extent to which the so-called Spiritualistic manifestations may really come by communications from the other world. Nearly all admit, however, that for the most part Spiritualism, as it is practised by mediums generally, is nothing better than a transparent fraud.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

There have already been some investigations conducted by scientific men into the character of Spiritualism, the result being that the manifestations were pronounced fraudulent. The Baltimore American sums up the results of Kiddle's and Marsh's investigations by telling that "Washington had a fit of the blues because he had to acknowledge that he had been animated during life with inordinate vanity." Bonaparte "suffered with anguish" because he had been inhuman through ambition; Shakespeare wrote some verses (which are said to have been ridiculous dog-gerel) regretting the evil influence of his dramas; and though Adam and Eve, Cain and his wife, Noah and his sons, David and Goliath, Samson and his parents, Solomon, Jonah and Job were all called up to be interviewed, none of these were able to tell anything new regarding the world's history at their respective dates, and the most patient of men, Job, was the only one of these spirits who actually talked and would give no answer whatsoever to the questions put to him!

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

It might be added to all this that Noah Webster and Shakespeare have been made by some mediums to talk in modern slang language. Sir Walter Scott has been exhibited as speaking in a dialect which is neither Highland nor Lowland Scotch, nor any other dialect which has ever been heard in any of the British Isles. But in regard to facts of this nature, the Baltimore American says: "Professor Hyslop will not be able in all probability, to add anything of note to this rubbish, and scientists will be astounded that an intelligent professor can be so deluded as to offer it as scientific testimony, much less proof."

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

We will not venture to assert that communication with the dead, is absolutely impossible. We know from the Holy Scriptures that under some extraordinary circumstances such communication has taken place, with the special permission of Almighty God, as occurred in the instance when Saul visited the witch of Endor who brought to him the Spirit of Samuel, who revealed to him the future. 1 Kings, xxviii. (P. Bible 1 Sam.) Nevertheless, consultations with the spirits of the dead are forbidden in Scripture, and assuming that they really occur in spiritualistic seances, they are unlawful, because prohibited.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

The seances of spiritualists may be sometimes these forbidden communications with the dead, or they may be so in part, but it is certain that they are generally mere impostures. In the former case it is sinful to take part in them, and in the latter, it is a folly which becomes sinful because the intention is to have communications with the dead which are prohibited by the law of God. We may express the true state of the case in the words of another periodical, the Providence Journal, which ridicules the acceptance of "the witness of the spirits whom a slatternly medium in a dark room may summon to talk with a sordid circle of hysterical cranks." This is a graphic description of the "Spiritualistic seances" as they ordinarily take place, and the wonder is that a learned professor of Columbia University should think it worth his while to defend Spiritualism manifested under such conditions.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPIRITUALISM.

The Spiritualists have made their theory into a form of religion. That religion is based upon the revelations from the spirits consulted, or said to have been consulted, during the present half century. It is almost needless to say that such a gigantic system of fraud and superstition could be erected on such a foundation. If the witness of imaginary spirits be taken, the system is a fraud; and if spirits really manifested themselves and gave evidence on the nature of the future life, the system has been based upon methods forbidden by the law of God, and it must, therefore, be diabolical. We cannot expect truth to be the result of revelations which come from the father of lies. Years ago a bequest was left to the University of Pennsylvania for the purpose of investigating scientifically the claims of spiritualism to be a means of ascertaining the mysteries of the other life. There were, since then, several investigations made, and mediums innumerable were tested, but in every instance they were found to be either frauds or failures; and on every occasion since when investigations have been made, the results have been similar. Surely the time is past when the system should be seriously investigated. So thought the faculty of Pennsylvania University, which, after repeated investigations, seriously conducted, at last turned over the bequest into the general funds of the institution.

IRELAND'S HOPE.

The following letter from the Hon. Edward Blake to Mr. Wm. O'Brien, in regard to the prospects of the Irish National party to gain Home Rule in the near future, will be read with mingled feelings of hope and regret. Mr. Blake's services to Ireland and the Irish National party are highly appreciated by the party and the people of Ireland generally, though the factionists, who have been the cause of the disruption of the party, and who have given the deathblow to the well-founded hopes which Ireland not many years ago entertained that she was on the point of gaining that justice which she so persistently demanded, have abused him, and endeavored even to goad him into saying or doing something which might lessen the influence for good which he was able to exert, owing both to his ability and his conciliatory course.

IRELAND'S HOPE.

The disinterestedness of Mr. Blake's adherence to the cause of Ireland can not be doubted. As the Freeman's Journal points out, he gave up his prospect of a glorious personal future in Canada for the sake of promoting Ireland's cause, and he has since sustained that cause without faltering amid its most gloomy surroundings. The Irish Nationalist party has been torn into three contending factions, hating each other on the most trivial pretences, and on issues which should long ago have been consigned to the tomb of oblivion. Mr. Blake has had nothing to do with these dissensions, nor has the greatest provocation caused him to

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