

SECULARISM.

It may be instructive, in the present alarming condition of European affairs, to pause and regard the current of religious sentiment in Europe for some years past.

But now Europe and Asia are menaced with the long expected erection of a colossal empire extending over the East such as was dimly imagined by the first Napoleon, and what are the prospects therein in regard to the spiritual interests of mankind?

The memorandum addressed by Cardinal Simeoni, to Prince Gortschakoff treats under fifteen heads of different justices under which the Catholic Church in Poland suffers.

I. The interdiction renewed under the severest penalties of a free communication of the Bishops and the faithful of the churches with the Sovereign Pontiff.

The decree of November, 1843, recently put in force with regard to the seminaries, removing those establishments from the jurisdiction of the bishops, and subjecting them to Government regulations in matter of doctrinal teaching as well as discipline.

3. Religious instruction is taken away entirely from the control of the bishops, to the prejudice of catholic worship and ecclesiastical authority.

4. The ukase of December, 1861, establishing a Commission of Worship and Public Instruction in the kingdom of Poland, is in open opposition to the fundamental principles of the Catholic Church, and to the solemn conventions of the Concordat, and its dispositions refer to religious and holy persons and things.

5. The administration of the dioceses has been especially deranged by the decree of December, 1865, relative to the organization of the secular clergy and the property of the Catholic Church in Poland.

6. Catholics are forbidden to join, in procession out of their churches, and ecclesiastics are only allowed to perform their spiritual

functions in their own parishes. They cannot leave their parishes without express written permission.

7. Preaching is very much interfered with in the churches, and is severely forbidden outside the sacred edifices. The priest is not allowed, under serious penalties, to refer to any Catholic dogmas and truths which the Government censure has excluded from the catechisms.

8. Priests are forbidden to hear the confession of an unknown person or one belonging to another parish, without a special attestation.

9. Catholic priests are forbidden to baptize the offspring of mixed marriages, or to admit to any sacrament a person who has once communicated according to the Greek rite.

10. By a manifest injustice the Archbishop of Warsaw, his Vicar General, the Bishop of Luck and Zitoun, the Bishop of Wilner, and many other ecclesiastics are kept in exile.

11. The episcopal sees of Plosk and Saniogetic have been left vacant.

12. In 1875, by means of an ukase of the Synod of the dominant church, the Greek united diocese of Chelm was suppressed, and converted into a schismatic eparque, though the inhabitants protested their desire to remain faithful to the Pope.

13. The state of the regular clergy in Russia and Poland is extremely sad. The different laws which dispersed the inmates of the monasteries and convents, and confiscated their property, oppress the clergy, and usurp the authority of the Holy See, are in formal opposition to the treaties and promises of the Imperial Government.

14. The attempt to introduce the Russian language compulsorily into the supplementary worship in the churches.

15. The College of St. Petersburg continues to interfere in the affairs of the diocese, notwithstanding the prohibition of the Holy See. Here then is a statement of authentic character as to the intolerance of religious liberty in the abstract to be enjoyed by different communions under the Russian constitution fully developed within the last twenty years!

Such being the future religious situation foreshadowed in the East, how, we ask, have political conditions changed during that period? Sebastopol only indirectly and remotely menaced the integrity of the Turkish Empire in Europe; yet the ukase ran through the "Crimean" juncture, delenda est, at all hazards of life and treasure. Now the Russian Eagle is flaunting before Constantinople, and how are former political conditions changed upon the face of Europe? The member for the University of London even declares that the occupation of the Turkish capital is of no importance to Englishmen!

Is there nothing beyond this? Alas, the hidden working of the secret societies of Europe are now revealing themselves. We have the official and responsible authority of the First Minister of the Crown for the statement that the war in the East is but the outcome of secret societies stirring up the populations, and we know from Eastern correspondents that the Bulgarians, whose sufferings under the Ottoman Government were the sentimental stock in trade of English politicians to rouse the phlegmatic Briton, are one of the most degraded populations in the globe, and have themselves outherded the Turks in fiendish atrocities.

But if the policy of England has held in check revolutionary projects upon our soil, the secret agency has directed its efforts to poison and pollute the public mind. Even the coming King deems it expedient to court and defer to the secret societies of Continental revolution.

Whilst men of the Tyndal and Huxley type dazzle us with subtle theories exalting the human understanding and appealing to our pride; whilst materialism obtains among savans, the middle classes and lower strata who cast a thought beyond the "Almighty dollar" are every day more and more engrossed in mere Secularism.

Exclusion of every thought of future existence is a comfortable frame of mind for men desirous of living in unrestrained license. Secularism is rampant in England, it is a science in Germany, and Russia will now extend it over the East. Unhappily France, notwithstanding the experiences of the Commune, has not yet recovered the shock, reaction and revulsion against hollow, hypocritical, libertine and treacherous Imperialism, and well might "angels weep" at the melancholy spectacle of the civil burial of Raspail!

War is now being waged between Secularism and the Episcopal element in the globe—it was so nigh 2,000 years ago when mankind rose up against the august personal presence of the Deity, whose Vicar now may well brave the brunt of the shock. His Divine Master submitted to the temporal overthrow, but the Eternal Faith towered the more majestically resissa vege tior assurgit.—From an Irish Exchange.

CAUGHNAWAGA.

HOW THE IROQUOIS ELECT THEIR CHIEFS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DEAR SIR,—It may be interesting to your readers, particularly to your political readers, to learn how the Iroquois of Caughnawaga attend to their political matters. At the close of Divine service on Sunday, 24th February, one of the Grand Chiefs announced in the Iroquois tongue, that on Tuesday, 26th day of February, a general council would assemble in the School-house for the purpose of electing a new Chief in the place of the Grand Chief Joseph Sky, who had resigned.

One of the leading orators, on coming forward stated that the warriors of the Boteskerawakewona (or big bear band, as this is the name of the tribe), should not be in a hurry, and advised all present to consider the matter over well before they would decide, as the choice of a chief was of great importance not only to the tribe that he was wanted in but to the reservation at large.

The old orator then went into detail on the Government of the Apostolic Church of God, and explained how God made choice of his good Bishops and priests to take charge of his children, turning his subject in order to illustrate it, he stated that the government of the white man was composed of educated men, and it was by these means that the government of the white man was good and would stand forever, but the government of our chiefs of old seems not to be of use to us to-day.

Our chiefs gloried so much in war, and in the chase, and depended upon their memory for the establishment of their laws. All this has passed away, we must try and become like the white man, we have the same chances to do so, we must do away with old Indianism, and cultivate our land and educate our children. Our Indians have withered from the land, our arrows are broken, our springs are dried up, our wigwams are in the dust, our council fire has long since gone out on the shore, and our wacry is fast dying to the untrodden west.

By this time, Mr. Editor, your readers will understand that nothing is concluded hastily with the Indians, and that self-interest which so often corrupts the senator of civilized nations, never prevail in the Indians when they discuss affairs which relate to the public good. They seem to possess the highest degree of the art of concealing their proceedings; for the most part, for the glory of the nation, and the motives of honour, are the chief objects at which they aim: As to what relates to private persons and the particular concerns of the village these things are soon decided among themselves but in regards to something which does not come under their reach to settle, trifling though it may be,

is sometimes a long time under deliberation, every thing is treated with a great deal of circumspection, and nothing is decided till they have heard the opinion of all the warriors.

What can be more impressive, than to see a man, that the present age of the world looks upon as a useless member of society, raising in the council room to address those who bow the same dignified stature, the easy repose of limbs the graceful gesture, the black speaking eye, excites equal admiration and expectation.

There is a mine of truth in this old orator's speech, where he says you must not look for a man that will teach you how to run foot races or play Lacrosse, but you must look for a good Boman Catholic, not one of those make-shifts that profess his creed inwardly, but he must become that professes it outwardly, I am trying your good patience Mr. Editor but please bear with me a little longer. There are not many Indians speeches on record, but even in this one there is a rich view of the characteristics of true eloquence that we have to raise from its pursuit with regret that many others were not preserved. E. R. A. F.

THE ST. JEAN BAPTISTE INFANTRY COMPANY.

The above Company paraded at the Quebec Gate Barracks last evening, at 7 30 p.m., under the command of Captain Kirwan, Lieutenant Barry, and Ensign Warren. The number on parade was 41 rank and file. The object of the parade was the distribution of prizes won by the members of the Company at rifle matches last autumn. At 8 30 p.m. Lieutenant Colonel Harwood, D.A.G. 6th Military District, accompanied by his staff made his appearance and was received with the usual salute.

The prizes were then handed to the winners as follows:— 1st prize, P. Coghlan, 26 points, cruet stand, presented by Col. Harwood. 2nd prize, John Holly 24 points, dessert set, presented by Mrs Col. Bond.

The three last prizes were not presented, as the winners were not present. There were a great many spectators present, not a few of whom were of the fair sex. Amongst others were the Misses Kirwan Mrs. Frank Bond, Mrs. Barry, &c. The officers of the sister corps present were Lieutenant Colonel Stevenson, Field Battery; Lieutenant Colonel Bond, Prince Wales Rifles; Lieutenant Colonel Whitehead, Victoria Rifles; Captain Tatlow, Prince Wales Rifles; Captain Davis, Victoria Rifles; Lieutenant Colonel Cavendish, Fifth Royal Fusiliers; Captains Lapointe, Malepart, Du Plessis, Bourdon and Terroux of the 65th Mount Royals. After orders were given for the company to parade at an early hour on Sunday morning next, for a little instruction preparatory to the burial with military honours of a comrade who died in the General Hospital yesterday, the band played "God Save the Queen," and the parade was dismissed.—Witness 8th inst.

A TERRIBLE CONSPIRACY.

ATTEMPT AT REVOLUTION.

CANADA SAVED BY A REPORTER.

FULL PARTICULARS.

(From the Wasp.)

Through the patriotism and prescience of a Witness reporter Canada, and perhaps the British Empire have been saved from a terrible civil war. It seems that Captain Kirwan has since his arrival in this country been nurturing a deep plot for overturning the Government, establishing a republic and proclaiming himself dictator at one fell stroke.

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His intentions were to effect a rising on the night of the Emmett Concert and while Montreal was thrown of its guard by the turmoil incidental to the occasion to fall upon the Witness office, seize the press, gag the editor and issue his proclamation. Right rifles were stored away in each house friendly to his cause, and mountain howitzers in certain advantageous places. When the attack on the Witness succeeded it was next resolved to march upon the Spectator office and force the Rev. Mr. Bray to act as army chaplain. Then the Montreal Bank was to have been sacked, next the Y. M. C. A. the members of which were to be pressed into the service. But why go on? Are we not now all aware that by the foresight, the patriotism, the keenness of smell of a heroic Witness reporter the whole scheme has been frustrated, McKenzie still reigns while the gloomy conspirator sits in his cold prison cell with a brown loaf and a pitcher of water beside him?

SAVE A NATION.

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PERSONAL.

SERVIA.—7,000 men of the Servian army have been disbanded.

CZAR.—It is now said the Czar consents to Greece being represented at the Congress.

BEAUDRY.—Mayor Beaudry, was inaugurated on Monday last.

ANGLIN.—The Hon. Mr. Anglin will speak at the St. Patrick's Concert in Ottawa.

WHELAN.—The Witness says Mr. J. P. Whelan will oppose Mr. Ogilvie in Montreal Centre.

INFIDELS.—A Bill is said to be pending before the Legislature of Virginia excluding infidels from holding any office in that State.

HUNGARIA.—The Hungarian delegations profess themselves ready to enter upon a war (with Russia) should it prove unavoidable.

MURPHY.—Mr. George Murphy, enters upon his duty as Chief of the water police on the 21st of next month.

O'BRIEN.—The County of Quebec will probably be contested in the Liberal interest by Mr. O'Brien, Mayor of Beauport.

REDEMPTORIST.—The Redemptorist Fathers are conducting a mission this week in the Notre Dame Cathedral.

KIRWAN.—Mr. M. W. Kirwan True Witness is to lecture at Perth to-morrow Thursday evening. Subject, "Irish Soldiers in Foreign Lands."

ROSSA.—O'Donovan Rossa said recently in New York that in some respects the Canadians had more liberty than Americans have.

DOUGHERTY.—Judge Dougherty has decided that moveables exempt by law from seizure cannot be hid for rent.

FORTE.—The Forte has assured the British Ambassador at Constantinople, that it is powerless to help the 250,000 starving refugees now crowding the Capital.

BURKE.—General Burke in his lecture at Toronto on the 4th inst said: "I am no lover of annexation, and I only wish that you may remain faithful subjects of Canada."

GRAY.—Mr. C. Gray, late of the Shamrocks was Captain of the Elmira Lacrosse team that played the Onondago Indians last week in New York. The Indians won.

BISMARCK.—The Chancellor is ill once more. It is said that when in a fit of meeting a deat in the Reichstag, so nervous has he become, he suffers from an attack of dyspepsia.

McSHANE.—Mr. Michael Farmer, entered a protest in form against the election of Alderman McShane Jr., St. Anne's ward, at the meeting of the City Council on Monday.

VARRITY.—Rev. Father Varrity, of Chatham, N. B., is in Ottawa soliciting subscriptions to assist in re-building the cathedral and college at that place recently destroyed by fire.

KENNEDY.—The St. Patrick's Catholic and Literary Society of Quebec have passed resolutions of condolence on the death of the late Mr. James Kennedy, their Vice-President.

EMMANUEL.—A well informed contemporary says: It is a curious fact, and one that is not generally known, that King Victor Emmanuel was by the strict law of succession, the rightful King of England. He was descended in a direct line from Charles I.

O'HART.—From a proof sheet of the interesting work on "Irish Pedigrees" says the Freeman's Journal of Dublin, we find that the second and concluding series of Mr. O'Harts "Irish Pedigrees" is far advanced in the Press, and will soon be published.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Nova Scotian Bar Society has adopted the draft of a Bill for presentation to the Legislature to abolish trial by jury in civil cases except where cause is shown why there should be a jury.

PALLISER.—Sir Wm Palliser, the inventor of the rifled converted cannon, has offered to present to the Canadian Government a seven-inch and an eight-inch rifled gun, to be delivered at Quebec free of cost.

WILLIAMS.—Henry Williams, a private of St. Jean Baptiste Infantry Company was buried with military honours on Sunday last. The 75th Mount Royals kindly attended the funeral at which there were two bands about 200 volunteers, and about 1,000 citizens.

ROSSA.—The owner of the Royal Opera House, at Toronto, at which O'Donovan Rossa was to lecture, has refused his sanction. Opinion is divided, but it now thought the promised lecture will not be given. If it was for some traducer of the Church or of the Irish, the Opera House would not be refused.

McGRATH.—Father McGrath, of New York, who has been preaching a retreat to the English speaking portion of the male congregation of Cathedral parish, Ottawa, was presented with an affectionate farewell address on Sunday, previous to leaving for home. His labors were very successful.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN LONDON, ENGLAND.—St. Patrick's Day this year will be celebrated in London with more than usual eclat. The Agricultural Hall, one of the largest buildings in the metropolis, has been engaged for a ball and concert, and there will be a number of commemorative dinners.

ROBINSON.—At an orange meeting held recently at Belleville, Mr. Tom Robinson said that he had made arrangements with the Grand Trunk to carry the brethren from Kingston to Montreal at \$2 for the round trip, and the fare from Belleville would be about \$2.50. We thought that Mr. Tom Robinson had been cautioned not to address any more public meetings of orangemen.

McARTHUR.—A Colonel McCarthy, has become a traitor to the cause of Cuba Lebra. He offered to sell his compatriots for \$5,000, a Colony in the Spanish army and a royalty upon a patent torpedo. His offer was miffed and accepted, and it was owing to the information he gave that the "Estrella" was detained and the last hope of the insurgents was defeated. Whatever men may think of the long protracted rebellion, there can be but one opinion of the traitor who sold his friends.

O'LEARY.—Mr. P. O'Leary will soon leave Montreal for Quebec, en route for Liverpool. Mr. O'Leary's travels are somewhat remarkable for the fact that they were commenced without prestige and with very little means, and were successfully carried out by individual resources. He has travelled the whole of North America, from ocean to ocean and may be said to have worked his way, by lecturing and writing. He is to give an address at the dramatic performance of "Emmet," which is to be repeated in the Theatre Royal on Monday night.

MACGARVEY.—A. Mr. MacGarvey, moved the following resolution at a meeting of the North Frontenac County orange lodge: "Whereas the Orange Association is founded upon the principles of equal rights and liberation, and also on the Word of God as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures; and whereas certain rights and privileges have been conceded by the Legislature of Ontario to Roman Catholics which have hitherto been withheld from the Orange Association." We would like to know what rights and privileges have been conceded by the Legislative to one religion that is not conceded to another.