

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. Here at a distance from the turmoil of national strife we can view with some calmness "the situation," although we, like the rest of the world, will be influenced by the events which are now crowding upon European complications. It may, however, not be without profit to regard the growth of Secularism, and the tendency of religious sentiment in Europe for some years past. Seldom, indeed, will mankind now pause in the race of life to think of aught save secular matters, and they are satisfied to look to material results without investigating either causes or consequences. France was ushered in with the present century as the dominant military power, and despite the infidelity of its people individually supported as a nation the venerable universal Episcopalianism. The machinations of the continental secret societies attained their success upon the downfall of the last Napoleon, and the political voice of a Christian church was extinguished among the family of nations. Germany sprang into a foremost power, thoroughly dominant save as to the maritime element. Whilst the aim of Italy has been to eliminate political power from the church by depriving the chief Bishop of Christendom of temporal status, the German idea has been to render ecclesiastical jurisdiction amenable to civil law. The Falk laws scarcely desire to conceal the attempt to control Christian doctrine, and not merely to render its ministers subservient to civil polity. The Clerical Abuses Italian Bill was laid upon similar lines. There are principles of a penal character, infringing upon the religious freedom of those conscientiously professing a particular religion. England, after centuries of experience in this direction, stops short, and merely enacts the Public Worship Regulation Act, which applies to the votaries of the state religion, not, however, visiting secession with penalty.

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? What we ask is the prospect of religious freedom for the future over the fairest and most favoured spots under the sun, ultimately spreading across the cradle of our race, and these scenes of former empires, whose relics lie entombed like the structural strata of our globe? Let us, if we will, ask this question, not in favour of any particular creed, but of religious liberty in the abstract? The Russian Government has a state Church, and no member of the Russo-Church can change his religion no matter what his conscientious conviction may be, and the offspring of a marriage must follow the State religion, despite any private arrangement to the contrary. Surely this is sufficient despotism, but it appears now that it pressed a step further and that if by fraud compulsion or weakness of mind a Russian subject only once conforms to the Greek rite he will never be permitted to recant the step. His first change will be allowed, but "second thoughts" are prohibited. There can be no deathbed repentance under the Black Eagle.

The memorandum addressed by Cardinal Simeoni, to Prince Gortschakoff treats under fifteen heads of different justices under which the Catholic Church in Poland suffers. They may be summarized as follows:

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. It has completely upset the organization of the cathedral chapters and collegiate churches, and even the patrimony of the church.

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 Ploek and Sanio-gitie 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! What a craze fell over Britain twenty years ago—how demented we were to lavish eighty millions sterling, not merely upon an idea, but a baseless one!

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 outthorowed 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 high 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 *resurgens 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. Accordingly, on Tuesday at 9 a.m., the Chiefs of the various tribes, together with the warriors belonging to the retiring chief, assembled for the purpose mentioned above. The agent of the superintendent general of Indian affairs, Mr. Edward Chertier, presided. At the opening of the council, the agent stated that he had received instructions from the Department at Ottawa to call a council of all the warriors belonging to the tribe for the purpose of electing a new Chief in place of the Grand Chief Joseph Sky, who had resigned, and that he had prepared a list, and whoever had a mind to vote in favor of a new chief had better sign their names. After the agent had made known his intentions, the retiring chief rose, and in a few words in the native tongue instructed the warriors to which he had the honour to belong, on the value and importance of having a brave leader. The retiring chief on taking his place among the warriors of his tribe recommended Mr. Dalibout to succeed him. This was done in such prudence, maturity, and ability, that had the same thing happened among a class of our own nation it would be considered a mark of Christian heroism which would not only be published in the daily papers of the country, but would be the topic of the tea table. The young candidate, on being chosen the one to succeed his old chieftain, did not seem to value his position. So he in like manner recommended Mr. Ennies Jacobs. As far as I can understand this was done simply because Mr. J. Dalibout thought Mr. Ennies Jacobs was more suitable for the rank of chief than himself, so being that there were two warriors could vote for whom they pleased; but the warriors were all silent as if in deep meditation in regards to the qualities and abilities of the candidates that were before them.

ENNIES' LACHENIER

One of the leading orators, on coming forward stated that the warriors of the Boteskawekowa (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. He stated that the warriors should act in this case like the Apostolic Church of God in similar cases, to weigh the matter over in their minds and if Mr. Dalibout was the man that God wanted to represent them, God would make it known to them in their prayers.

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. Slowly, and sadly we climb the mountains of civilization, and read our doom in the setting sun, our race are shrinking before the white man, we must soon hear the roar of the last thunder clap, which will settle over us forever. You must look for a man that can read and write in the English language, in case you cannot get a man in your tribe to agree with my description you had better take a boy from the school let the boy be named chief, but let him remain under our master until his mind is cultivated. By these means your next chief will adopt the habits and customs of the white people, your chief will be educated, he will know how to make laws, and also how to write and obey them, your chief must be honest, sober, and industrious, you must follow your intended chief from his cradle and see how he has conducted himself since he made his first Communion, 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 man that is a good Catholic, not only a Catholic inside, but he must be the same outside. In concluding his speech he referred to the kindness of the Government in attending to the business of the Indians, and advised all present to have a great respect for the officers that were appointed by the Government to superintend the Indian affairs. We must love and respect our good Father Burtin as he is appointed by God to teach us the true way to heaven, our schoolmaster as he instructs our children in the manners, customs and habits of civilization, our agent as he assists our chiefs in punishing liquor traders, and wood-stealers and many other laborious occupations which are intrusted to his care. This speech had the desired effect, the warriors aware of their position requested the agent to allow them to make their election general, but as the agent had no instructions from the Indian Department to that effect, the meeting had to adjourn until further instructions from Ottawa.

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 prevails 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 Indian 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.

Caughnawaga, March 11th 1878.

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. After inspecting the company, Captain Kirwan put the men through the manual and firing exercises, and several company movements, all of which were done in the most soldierly manner, proving that the men have paid great attention to the instruction Captain Kirwan has given them. The general impression among the officers of other corps present, was that the men for physique and smartness cannot be surpassed by any company in the Dominion, and the same may be said of the file and drum band attached to the corps. On the conclusion of the inspection Lieutenant-Colonel Harwood addressed the company, congratulating the winners upon their success and complimenting the company upon the highly creditable manner in which they had performed the few movements he had witnessed; also saying that Capt. Kirwan had cause to be proud of them.

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 Hally 24 points, dessert set, presented by Mrs. Col. Bond.
3rd prize, P. Conway, 20 points, butter cooler, presented by Miss Kirwan.
4th prize, Sergt. Huff, 19 points, eight-day clock, presented by Major Bond, Vics.
5th prize, T. Harding, 19 points, pickle stand, presented by Capt. Bourdon, 65th.
6th prize, James Murphy, 17 points, meerschmum pipe, presented by Capt. Lapointe, 65th.
7th prize, James Bourke, 15 points, silver-plated mug, presented by Col. F. Bond, P.W.
8th prize, Sergt. Downey, 14 points, silver-plated napkin ring.
9th prize, Thomas Finn, 13 points, card receiver.
10th prize, W. McAllom, 18 points, pair vases.
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; Capt. Tatlow, Prince Wales Rifles; Capt. Davis, Victoria Rifles; Lieutenant-Colonel Cavendish, Fifth Royal Fusiliers; Capt. Lapointe, Maitland, 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 nursing a deep plot for overthrowing the Government, establishing a republic and proclaiming himself dictator at one fell stroke. With these objects in view he first

PURCHASED A PAPER,

for what is a Government, even in case, without an organ? Week after week he produced insidious articles tending to undermine British Institutions and pave the way for his nefarious projects. The principle idea which he desired to establish was that there is such a place as hell, and the intelligent readers of the Wasp and Witness, who are now one in sentiment, will at once perceive the drift of the scheme, which was to impress upon the minds of his dupes the necessity for sending their enemies there. His next step was the organization

OF AN ARMY

and in this, as in his other design, he was but too successful. He formed this army, the St. Baptiste Company, on the model of the ancient Praetorian Guards, and knowing that even with their gigantic stature they would not be a match for the troops of all Canada he imitated the action of the Ameer of Scinde, and when they were perfect in discipline dismissed them and took on others, whom he drilled in like manner; and in this way soon found himself at the head of an army the tall of which the Witness man discovered in time to

SAVE A NATION.

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?

SO PERISH ALL TRAITORS

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 laid 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 Elmiria 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 he is afraid of meeting a defeat 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'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees" is far advanced in the Press, and will soon be published.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Nova Scotia 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.

MCCARTHY.—A Colonel McCarthy, has become a traitor to the cause of Cuba Libre. 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 snuffed 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.

MAGGARVEY.—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.