TESTIS IN CŒLO FIDELIS

The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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THE GREY NUNS.

The Inmates—Industries—Discipline—Centenarians—Sources of Revenue—Where the Grey Nuns are Scattered.

(CONCLUDED.)

A percentage of the poor innocents thus left are sick or sore, and, naturally enough, many of them die. It is also just possible that the nurses are not as careful of them as they might, or as they ought to be, but the Sisters procure those of the best character they can, and surely are not to blame for what they cannot help. On the other side of the corridor—a few doors further on—were thirty or forty little girls of tender age singing and playing away as fast and as merrily as they could. They were dressed in a grayish check, and like the boys looked remarkably well, though if their dormitories were upstairs they might look a little rosier. The Sisters have to economize space, as can be observed at a glance, by the utilization of every spot. A long alcove, for instance, in which is placed a table, is used for a dining room for the children, and in the dormitories their little beds are crowded closely together in such a manner that it can be readily perceived the requisite number of cubic feet of air which doctors say are necessary for hygienic purposes cannot be obtained. During the day one bed is placed under another, in order to leave room for walking, and at night they are pulled out so as to cover the whole floor. A Sister takes charge of each ward and sleeps in it, so that she suffers in exactly the same proportion as the foundling child or the helpless cripple. The beds are scruplously clean, the inmates' clothes are clean, the floors are clean, and so are the walls—the whole building from base to summit, and from flank to flank, is so marvellously clean, so wonderfully free from speck or dirt of the slightest description, as to excite astonishment and admiration in the minds of the visitor, be he prince or peasant. If any one asked the writer what the Grey Nun hospital was remarkable for, he would answer—"First, for cleanliness; second, for regularity; and last, for silence." And yet the place contains within its precincts six hundred and thirty persons not one of whom, except the sisters, is able to take care of him or herself. The Windsor Hotel is dirty in comparison with it. Who then keeps this place in such a state, for of course the Grey Nuns are lazy and slothful, (see *Witness*). Further on in another compartment, still in the basement are the larger boys, some of whom are learning trades while others are at their school lessons. Those boys are from six to twelve; ten or twelve of the more intelligent of this class are being educated at Mr. O'Donoghue's Academy. There are also in the Grey Nunnery, always, some half dozen youths who are educated by the Seminary, but are fed, lodged and clothed by the institution. These are boys who evince marked ability but are too poor to pay for their education. Some of this class often make a noise in the world—and many, whose names for obvious reasons we conceal, are to-day distinguished in their professions of divinity, law and physic. We next proceed to a room where words of command are given in English, and advancing, find a small boy drilling twenty-four of his comrades with all the consequence of a sucking Napoleon. "Quick march," "shoulder arms," "right face," "halt," "rear rank take close order," "advance," are words of command delivered in rapid succession, and executed with the precision of the Victoria Rifles. Among those future heroes is a little Indian from near the Lake of Two Mountains and an Italian boy from Genoa. Although the boys all, or nearly all, speak French, the words of command, we observed, were given in English. The next compartment is used for both a school and dining-room, still with a view to the economy of space. While proceeding along the passage to the quarters of some of the aged and infirm (all the time in the basement), Sister ——, who acts as guide, informs us that, on an average, about 700 infants are left at the hospital, and that 130 are at present out at nurse. She also tells us that there are a great many children, and old men and women, at St. Joseph's Asylum, a branch of the Grey Nunnery; and points out the fire-alarm, the police-alarm, the hose (which is always ready, in case of fire), and other useful articles indispensable to such a large establishment. An agreeable temperature is kept up through the aid of hot-air pipes. In the basement are also situate the shoemaker's shop, in which four men are employed, but those are on pay and work by the day, going home in the evening. We next enter a large room in which are forty-eight old men and young, including the lame, the blind, the deaf and the dumb, all having infirmities which utterly preclude them from earning a living outside in the world. Here for instance is Daniel Ravey, from Monaghan, Ireland, with a fine large head and piercing eye, and whose age is one hundred and six years all but a few months, Jacob Lunday, age 67, without a grey hair in his head and of feeble intellect as denoted in his face, yet Jacob can sing an anti-Orange song of interminable length if one had only time to listen to him. Jacob hails also from the North of Ireland. Here, likewise, is a man or a boy (you can't tell which) with an idiotic face, who has been left at the hospital gate one fine morning of late, without a line to tell his history or a word giving his name. In an opposite room sits a fine old gentleman named Perrault, a French lawyer from old France, who is paralyzed and helpless, but cheerful, genial and contented withal. After visiting several other rooms in the basement of minor interest, we ascend, and, passing by the rooms and offices on this tier, go still higher, and enter in succession the drying room, the laundry, the ironing room, knitting department and all the branches of industry which might be termed rough. On this flat is a dormitory for the convenience of young girls in delicate health. In a compartment adjoining are the postulants who have not finally decided to take the veil. There are altogether in the Grey Nunnery 57 novices and 32 postulants. The women's infirmary, containing 43 patients, comes next under notice. There is here a woman who is an orphan of the ship fever of 1847. She was admitted in that lamentable year, and has remained ever since, being perfectly helpless from disease of the spine. A good many of the women are that way afflicted. There are in fact in this ward poor women suffering from all sorts of ailments known to humanity, besides the deaf, the dumb, and the blind. The Nuns call them all girls, though some of them are from fifty to ninety years of age. There are here several helps of the establishments who have grown old in the service, and are superannuated. There is an old French woman in the infirmary ward who possesses a marvellous memory. She can tell without the slightest degree of hesitation the precise day of the week and month, and the year in which a named event has taken place, and this though she is perfectly illiterate and blind. She strings beads with great despatch and accuracy. A good many of those patients make fancy work, which is sold for the general benefit of the hospital, for no one whose services can be utilized is allowed to remain idle in the Grey Nunnery. It would take more of our space than we can afford to describe all the compartments of the institution, or even half of them, so that we must hurry on. There is a special room dedicated to the use of the insane, that is to say, of those who are not violently so, but are utterly unable to help themselves in any possible way.

Of this class there are men, women and children. There is a complete dispensary in the hospital where the Sisters make up the prescriptions written for them by Dr. Schmidt, their physician. There is also a dentistry in the establishment where teeth, the most beautiful, the most artistic, and the most *natural*-looking are manufactured, as well as any dentist on the continent could do them. Indeed, one of the sisters showed us a complete set in her own mouth. Hurrying on to another chamber we are shown authenticated relics of the saints, gold and silver ornaments, the remains of the foundress Madame d'Youville, and a thousand other interesting objects too numerous to mention. Dolls of the most elaborate and refined workmanship are turned out in another room, while in still another, one of the Sisters has charge of the artificial flower manufactory and turns out wreaths of *immortelles* wonderful to behold. These flowers are, by a delicate process, given the perfume of the natural beauties they represent. Real flowers are also waxed over in such a manner that they can be preserved in all their original loveliness of color and scent for an entire year. We need scarcely state that all those branches of industry are carried on to increase the revenues of the institution. In the summer season Americans buy, on an average, $50 worth of flowers per week, besides other little nick-nacks. Going yet further on to the second flat, we come upon flags and banners of a gorgeous description, sent in to the Sisters for embroidering, which is elegantly and elaborately done; as well as vestments, badges and collars. One of the latter there in course of embroidery for the President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society was of the most gorgeous description, heavy as it was with gold fringed bullion. The new church being erected in connection with the hospital will be very handsome when finished, and we may add very costly. It is at present spacious and so constructed as to afford room to a great number of people. The income possessed by the Sisters arise from interest on money and rents of houses and lands and amounts to $28,000, but of which they have to pay $6,000 a year interest on money borrowed at different times, but more especially of late, owing to causes from which all classes and branches have suffered, namely, the general hard times, arising from depression of trade. Hence it is also that they are under the necessity of resorting to a lottery in order to make both ends meet, for while the number of the poor, the aged, the paralytic, the blind, the lame, and the general debilitated of all creeds, conditions and nationalities is constantly and rapidly increasing, the income does not advance in the same proportion. Besides there is the hospital they are adding to the building, and which they commenced when the times were good.

There can be little doubt, however, that when the people throughout Canada at large learn from the public press for what a noble object the lottery has been gotten up, the necessary funds will be generously given, for in all Canada there is not an institution that deserves patronage more than the Grey Nun Hospital of Montreal.

APPENDIX.

There are 258 of this distinguished Sisterhood in all, distributed as follows:—

Red River	64
Mother house, Montreal	72
Other places in the city	57
United States	36
Country places	29

Of the Grey Nuns of the city, 72 are in the Mother house on Guy street (headquarters), 20 at St. Joseph's Asylum, 12 at the Nazareth institution, 7 at St. Patrick's Asylum, 7 at St. Bridget's Refuge, 5 at St. Charles' Home, and 5 at the Bethlehem Infant School.

The Lady Superior of the Grey Nuns is Mother Reed, in religion called Sister Ste. Therese Elizabeth. She is assisted by Sisters Devins, Costello and others, who have charge of the several industrial departments. In conclusion it may be added that it almost surpasses belief how those Nuns, most of whom have been brought up in affluence and refinement, can bring themselves to the daily drudgery that their religious duties impose upon them, but that they do so anyone who will take the trouble to go over the Guy street Hospital will never more entertain the faintest shadow of a doubt.

For town wear there are two distinct types of fashionable bonnet. The small-trimmed mushroom, or cottage bonnets, and the elegant broad-rimmed chapeau in the Gainsborough, beef-eater or Roger de Coverly style.

THE AMHERST MYSTERY.

Denounced as a Fraud.

THE SPIRITS AS INCENDIARIES

Other Manifestations.

HALIFAX, N.S., December 13.—There has been much talk for weeks past in this Province over what is known as the Amherst mystery, a girl named Esther Cox being the principal in the case. A representative of the *Chronicle* of this city yesterday investigated the case in Amherst, and that paper this morning publishes a report of which the following is the substance:—

First, it may be as well to recall the fact that the spirits were charged with the exceedingly unprofessional act of setting fire to the house in which Esther lived, her brother-in-law's house. There were six separate fires, which broke out simultaneously. The fire wards were summoned and visited the place. They found numbers of burnt matches wherever the fire had broken out. They also ascertained that the house was originally bought for $800, and was insured for $600. They intimated to the family that if the spirits played such pranks again through the medium of Miss Esther it would be their duty to have her arrested and treated as a lunatic. At the same time, the agent of the insurance company annulled the policy, and refused to carry on the risk. This, it is stated, had the desired effect of entirely checking the incendiary tendencies of the spirits, and it has also had the effect of convincing several persons that the manifestations are a fraud and a delusion, and that the girl is purposely deceiving the people. Esther has been for about a month since her return from Sackville engaged in working for Mr. John W. White, who keeps a dining saloon on the Main street. She remained there till last Sunday, when she fell sick, and removed to a friend's house, where she is now being nursed. Mr. White gives her a good character as a quiet, hard-working girl, and is convinced that she does not deceive anyone. He ascribes the manifestations which he himself saw, to the agency of electricity, of which Miss Cox is chock full. Entering his saloon from the street, the visitor finds on the right hand three stalls or cabinets such as are to be seen in every restaurant. On the left hand is a counter, and on the wall shelves with various goods. To this counter we shall presently return when describing the tea chest performances. At the back of the saloon is the kitchen, the scene of some of the most remarkable displays. A door leads into it, and on the right hand side, in the corner, is a cooking stove. Along the wall, on the right hand side, is a dresser with a barrel of oysters in front, and at the further end an old brandy cask, iron hooped. Next this is a chair. Along the wall, at right angles of this, and facing the saloon door, is a flour barrel, and some five feet to the left of it, an empty box, apparently an old biscuit box, standing up on one end, and bearing a small wash bucket. On the 4th of this month, between 2 and 3 p.m., Esther Cox was sitting between the stove and the door of the saloon; the oven door was shut, but it suddenly opened and shut again with a noise, this being repeated so frequently that Mr. White at last opened the door wide and jammed it back by means of an axe. Esther then placed her feet on the edge of the open oven to warm herself and went to sitting, when presto, the oven door flew off its hinges and fell at her feet with a loud clatter, Mr. White being a witness of the fact and stating that the girl did not touch the door herself. He replaced the axe which had been flung off by the springing of the door itself, and scarcely had this been done when bang, it came off again, to the great apparent terror of the girl. W. H. Rogers, fishery inspector, hitherto one of the most incredulous Amherstians, came in shortly after and was told of what had happened. He was brought into the kitchen and Esther was made to sit down again in the same place, the door jammed open as before and Mr. Rogers and another party closely watching her. It was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and of course, broad daylight, though somewhat dark in the corner where the stove is placed. In twenty seconds from the time Esther sat down the same thing occurred, namely, the axe was violently thrown away, the stove door flew off its hinges and fell at the girl's feet. Mr. Rogers is positive she did not touch the door or axe with either her feet or her hands. She refused to sit there again or to repeat the manifestation on the ground that it hurt her and made her nervous. She then sat down on a high stool in the middle of the kitchen so that her feet were entirely off the floor, and Mr. Rogers and the other persons present could see the floor clear in all directions. There is no cellar under that kitchen, but rappings were at once heard under the floor, immediately below the stool. Mr. Rogers said in a loud voice, "Give us one loud, distinct rap," and forthwith he was gratified with a sonorous rap. "Now two raps," he said, and two sharp raps sounded out. "Now three raps," which came promptly in answer to his demand. These raps were both louder and sharper than those heard previous to the questions being put, and Mr. Rogers, thus encouraged, continued to interview, or rather to communicate with the spirit, Esther still sitting on the stool.

"Who are you, any way?"

"The devil!" was the next question answered by three clear hearty raps.

"Who are you after, Miss Cox?"

Three more raps taken to mean an affirmative reply.

"You want me, too?"

A single rap, exceedingly decisive, indicated that the devil didn't want Mr. Rogers.

"Not at present, at least," suggested one of the audience.

"Are you a living human being?" asked Mr. Rogers.

Three raps.

"Are you dead?"

One rap.

This concluded the conversation for that afternoon, but in the evening Doctors Clay and Carritte, who have been attending Esther professionally, Mr. Rogers, Esther and her sister being in the kitchen, the rappings were heard, beginning again this time on the wall. Dr. Carritte now became the questioner:

"How many persons are in this room?" he asked.

Quick came the answer—five distinct raps, which was quite correct.

"How many persons are there in the next room leaning against the counter?"

One rap, evidently for one person, but the "spirit" put his phantasmal into it that time as there were two or three people at least engaged in leaning against the counter. Only one, however, could be seen from the kitchen, which to some minds will account for the spirit's mistake.

Mr. Rogers states that whenever Dr. Carritte or Mr. White took hold of the girl's hand during the manifestations the rappings would instantly cease.

Mr. John W. White, the proprietor of the saloon, described fully the manifestations he had himself seen, including the stove-door business already related. He also saw the following one afternoon about eight days ago:—Esther went into the kitchen to wash her hands in the wash-bucket, which, as stated above, stands on an empty box opposite the saloon door. She stood off a little bit to avoid splashing her dress, when, without a word of warning, box and bucket began sidling away from her. Mr. White, who was in the kitchen with Mrs. Worth and Miss Trenholm, called out to her to stand still, which she did, while box and bucket continued their pilgrimage towards the empty flour barrel, four or five feet away, resting contented when they had accomplished that distance.

The reader will remember that in the further corner of the kitchen stands an ex-brandy cask, iron-hooped, and close to it a chair. On this chair sat Esther knitting peaceably, when suddenly was heard a sound as of a very hard pen scratching writing on the top hoop of the barrel, winding up the sentence, whatever it was, with a dash. Esther was sitting "cheek by jowl" by the barrel, it must be remembered, but Mr. White is positive she had nothing to do with the scratching, and she herself denies it, so there is a sweet bit of mystery for those who like it. Others may hint that the knitting needle was the spirit. Now for the tea chest. The chest stands underneath the counter near the window of the shop side of the saloon, and on a chair there sat Esther at her knitting. Mr. White was sitting in one of the stalls on the opposite side writing when he heard the chest, in which were 10 or 15 pounds of tea-lead move repeatedly. Esther pushed it back each time and complained of its undue familiarity, saying as she rose to move away that the chest was following her. Mr. White desired her to sit down again and looked over the counter so that he could see both the girl and the chest. As she rose to go and walked off the chest started after her and moved until it jammed between the counter post and the chair. Mr. White has seen the bed clothes moved on the bed while the girl was lying there, and the pillows pitched off on to the floor.

He has also seen the pillow move up to her, then back again, and then up to her once more. While Esther was rolled up in the quilt the sheets would be seen to rise as if a couple of cats were running up and down. And two hats placed on this spirit jigged round in a lively fashion. Nine others besides Mr. White testify to having seen this. A Mr. Doncaster, a few nights ago, in the presence of a gentleman who related the facts to our reporter, offered the girl a dollar if she would make a basket of vegetables gambol behind her, but the "spirit" was unequal to the task, and the dollars remain uncarned. There remains the writing on the wall, of which a good deal has been said. Here positive proof has been obtained that the girl does the writing herself, in this wise: Two gentlemen paid their ten cents admission to the *seance* which previous to the girl's sickness was given almost as a regular thing. The writing, which may be best described as cursive, was always produced in the dark, the girl being furnished with a pencil, and the spirit, as she claimed, doing the rest. The two gentlemen were supplied with matches, and suddenly produced a light, when Esther Cox was revealed in the act of tracing on the plaster of the cellar wall the letters which were afterwards to be shown as the spirit's handiwork. She was highly indignant at being found out, but was prevailed upon to give the spirit and the spectators another chance. She stipulated that the gentleman should not again strike a light. [illegible] forgot to bind the second who took charge [illegible] the liefers and again exposed, what cannot be termed aught else than a piece of deception. Esther Cox undoubtedly writes the obscene and blasphemous sentences hitherto ascribed to a supernatural being endowed with a remarkable command of foul language.

Nor is there anything extraordinary in her using expressions of the most repulsive nature, for it is certain that in the course of the scene which broke down her nervous system, and has been the cause of her nervous sickness, she heard language sufficiently bad to impress itself very vividly on her mind. The fact that she writes, which has been strenuously denied, but is now proved out of the mouths of at least two witnesses, will naturally tend to shake the belief in the other manifestations, and under all the circumstances of the case a wise incredulity is really the best thing. The girl's physical health is good enough. She has no fever, though she is weak and has no appetite, but there is indication of a disposition to—says her medical attendant—disease of the general system. In the absence of Dr. Carritte, she is being treated by Dr. Black, whose opinion is that the fright and shock to which the girl was subjected some time ago have completely broken down her nervous system, and that she is now well nigh incapable of controlling herself. She is, in fact, in a state of constant nervous tension and excitement, which is aggravated by the presence of the spectators and has led him to forbid her being seen by anyone. Dr. Black believes that most the manifestations are worked directly by the girl herself, without being conscious of it, and that any deception there may be in the matter she is innocent of, for she dreads feeling the influence, which, she says haunts her with such persistent malignity and is pleased beyond measure when relief comes by the cessation of the rappings and of the demonstration on the part of the stoves and boxes. The case is a peculiar one, but is by no means so far as one may judge, so extraordinary as Dame rumor made it out.

The story of the events grew and grew in transmission till it became a palpable fable, and theorists of all kinds have seized on it to bolster up their views. That trained, disinterested, calm and reliable observers should have an opportunity of noting, the manifestations would be highly desirable as there is much in the case that would prove of value to scientific men. That the devil has anything to do with it or that spirits are concerned in the matter is what no one endowed with common sense will believe.

A RELEASED FENIAN.

Arrival in New York of Patrick Tierney—the last but One of the Fenian Military Prisoners—Set Free After Thirteen Years' Imprisonment.

[*From the N. Y. Herald of Friday, 13th inst.*]

The "City of Chester," which arrived last night, brought to these shores the last but one of the prisoners held by Great Britain on the charge of Fenianism. His name is Patrick Tierney, and he had been confined at Spike Island Prison, in Cork Harbor, Ireland, for nearly 13 years. He was arrested in May, 1866, charged with stabbing, with intent to kill, an informer named Jno. Warner, and upon the 21st of June following was convicted and sent to the prison named, where he remained, enduring hardships more or less severe, until the 4th of the present month, when he was taken off in a small boat from the prison and placed on board the "City of Chester." The Queen's pardon was granted on the 18th of November, and is conditional upon his never again setting foot upon English territory. At the time of his arrest Tierney was a soldier in the Eighty-seventh Royal Irish Fusiliers, known as the "Faugh-a-Ballagh" regiment, and was only 25 years old. He appears to be in good health and spirits, and talks cheerfully of the future. He entered the British army at the age of 18, and was consequently about seven years in the service when convicted. Previous to becoming a soldier he had been a leather worker, and while confined he learned the stonecutter's trade. His mother died in 1872, while he was in prison, and he was never informed of the fact until a few weeks ago, when he learned it from his brother. Mr. Tierney took up his quarters at Sweeny's Hotel, in Chatham street, after his arrival, and was there called upon by a number of reporters, to whom he told the story of his sufferings and release. He complains of the treatment he received at the hands of the principal warden of Spike Island Prison, who loaded him with chains and then forced him to do the work of a man with free hands. That official, he says, told him on his arrival at the prison that he was on a level with the meanest pickpocket within the walls and would be made to feel so before he left it.

ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE.

On one occasion, driven to desperation by unjust and invidious hard treatment, he tried to escape to the mainland in a boat, but was captured, confined on bread and water for months, and then, being convicted of an attempt to escape, was treated with increased rigor. Although suffering from an abscess in the back and pains in his limbs, caused by wearing heavy fetters, he was not allowed to go into hospital. His release came about through a visit from his sister, in March last. He told her how he was treated, and her efforts in his behalf resulted in the sending of a commission from Dublin Castle to inquire into the truth of his statements. He had an interview with Sir Walter Crotton and Dr. O'Connor, of Cork, who were on the Commission. After that a royal commission was appointed to inquire into the treatment of the political prisoners. Its members were the Right Hon. Spencer Talbot and Sir Henry Holland, members of Parliament.

SENT INTO PERPETUAL EXILE.

They examined the prisoner as to his treatment, and were kind enough to inform him that Her Majesty had graciously determined to release him. On November 20 he was informed by Dr. Barlow, of Spike Island, that he was about to be set free on condition that he should leave the country forever. Tierney asked if there was no alternative, and was told there was none. Then he asked that his friends be telegraphed, that they might see him before he should leave. He was told that if he did not leave just then he could not get away for fourteen days more, and had only ten minutes to decide. The prisoner said he had been so long confined that a few days more or less was not of much consequence, and he would wait to see the friends from whom he had been separated so long. Pending the time of release thus postponed the Doctor offered to admit Tierney in the hospital, where he could have some little comforts and nutritious articles of food.

"Would you have permitted me to enter the hospital but for the fact that I am released?" asked the long suffering prisoner.

"Certainly not," was the reply.

"Then I'll get along without your nutriment for the time I have yet to remain," said Tierney, and he did so.

His friends were permitted to have an interview of twenty minutes' duration with him, and then he was left in doubt as to when he should be set free. He was notified one day five minutes before the boat left the island. Seventeen pounds ten shillings and tenpence were given to him as the earnings of his thirteen years, and he was marched down to the boat by the Deputy Governor. Instead of being rowed over to Queenstown, to be put on board of the tender, he was pulled round the island in a small boat by prison warders and put on board the "City of Chester." The officers and men treated him with great kindness, and he had a prosperous passage of a little more than eight days.

The newest slippers have one broad strap crossing the instep and buttoning on the outer side of the foot with one button. Other slippers have duchess bows of ribbon which entirely cover the instep.

Gold pins and ear-rings in Japanese designs have the fans in colored enamel; an open fan, with flying birds painted on it, needs to be examined with a glass in order to appreciate the delicate workmanship.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

DARMSTADT, December 14.—The Princess Alice died at 7.30 this morning. The Grand Duchess was born April 25th, 1843. Her father the late Prince Albert, died on Saturday, December 14th, 1861, a remarkable coincidence.

Another despatch says:—The Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt was unconscious from 2.30 until the time of her death. The Royal family had assembled at Windsor Castle to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort. The Queen's health, never very robust of late, has been greatly affected by the sudden shock.

LONDON, December 14.—The blinds are down at Buckingham Palace, St. James' Palace and at Marlborough House, in consequence of the death of the Princess Alice. Dean Stanley left London last evening, to spend the anniversary of Prince Consort's death at Windsor. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice are also there. All of Her Majesty's Ministers and members of the Government have sent expressions of their sympathy.

The *Central News* is informed that the Queen, though greatly grieved, is not ill. A telegram from Windsor says the flag at the Castle is at half-mast. The bells at the Royal Chapel and Eton College are tolling, and nearly all the houses, public and private, in the Royal borough are closed.

VERSAILLES, December 14.—In the Chamber of Deputies to-day Count de Goutant Biron questioned the Government respecting the treaty of Berlin. Mr. Waddington, Minister of Foreign Affairs, defended his conduct at the Congress, where he avoided compromising French neutrality or entering upon any binding engagements. He had supported Greece because that was the traditional policy of France. There would be united action of Europe in behalf of Greece on the initiative being taken by France.

DARMSTADT, December 15.—As early as Friday morning, the physicians recognized the condition of the Grand Duchess was hopeless, and sent a secret message to that effect to England. Symptoms of suffocation appeared at one o'clock on Saturday morning but were temporarily removed. The Grand Duke was then induced to leave the room, but his mother remained, ministering to the Princess until the last. The Grand Ducal Court and Hesse-Darmstadt generally, will go into mourning for twelve weeks.

LONDON, December 15.—A correspondent at Peshawer understands that General Brown's advance on Jellalabad has commenced, and meets with no opposition. It is impossible that the Turkistan reinforcements, which the Ameer is said to be intriguing for, will arrive in time.

LAHORE, December 15.—General Roberts telegraphs on Tuesday:—We have finished our reconnaissance to the top of the Shaturgardan Pass and returned to Ale Khel without firing a shot. The country is friendly. I am rapidly fortifying the Peiwar Pass camp. General Roberts was to leave Ale Khel for Khuram to-day. General Brown has sent a Sikh regiment back from Dakka to Peshawer on account of sickness. General Biddulph has constructed a road over the Khojuk Pass unopposed.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 14.—Caratheodori Pasha has assumed charge of the foreign office. Aldoal Kerim and Redif Pashas, with other exiled officials, have been sent to Rhodes.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 15.—Prince Labanoff, Russian Ambassador, has presented a note protesting against the new Turkish loan, and declaring that Turkey had no right to alienate her resources prior to liquidating her engagements, including the war indemnity.

The Council of Ministers has decided to settle without delay questions pending with Greece, Persia, Montenegro and Austria, and conclude a definitive treaty with Russia as soon as possible.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 15.—It is denied here that Russia would object to the new Turkish loan.

LONDON, December 15.—A Philippopolis correspondent says English and Austrian members of the Roumelian Commission were compelled to quit Jeni Alieri Saghrai in consequence of the excited mob.

PESTH, December 15.—It is stated that the recent conspiracy in Constantinople was a serious attempt to replace the Sultan by his brother Reshad Pasha. The Sultan had to be dissuaded from executing Reshad and Mahmoud Damad Pasha. The former is confined to the Seraglio.

COPENHAGEN, December 15.—The marriage of the Princess Thyra to the Duke of Connaught will take place on the 21st instant, as originally intended, the funeral of the Princess Alice having been fixed for December the 18th.

NEW YORK, December 17 (noon).—Gold has just sold at par, the first time it has touched that figure since the suspension of specie payment in 1862.

A Pain in the Side may be the Precursor of a pleuritic attack. It should not be neglected. If you have none at home send to your druggist and buy a bottle of BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA and Family Liniment, bathe with it frequently the parts affected, and the danger and pain are past.

RELIABLE.—No remedy has been more earnestly desired and none more diligently sought for by the medical profession throughout the world, than a reliable, efficient, and at the same time a safe and certain purgative. Dr. Harvey's Anti-Bilious and Purgative Pills supply this want.

IT WILL RELIEVE THE BABY.—There is no mistake about it. MRS. WINSLOWS SOOTHING SYRUP, for children teething, not only relieves the child from pain, but regulates the stomach and bowels, cures dysentery and diarrhœa, softens the gums, reduces all inflammation, and give rest, health and comfort to the mother and child. It is pleasant to take, and gives universal satisfaction.