

HRONICLE

VOL. XXVII.-NO. 45. MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1877.

"THE POETS AND POETRY OF IRE-LAND."

Mr. Stephen Joseph Meany delivered a lecture on the "Poets and Poetry of Irein the Mechanics' Hall, on Monland," day last. Ho sketched the lives of many of those gifted men who have made the genuis of verse racy of our soil, and in language as choice as Richard O'Gorman, he dwelt upon the effect which National music has to instil the mind with patriotic fervour. Writing lectures is by no means an easy task, and it is by special request of Mr. Meany that we are prohibited from giving a long report of the "Poets and Poetry of Ircland," in the "TRUE WITNESS."

THE CIRCASSIANS.

The correspondents of the London press appear to have a poor opinion of the Circassians. The Daily News "special" says :-

"The amiable Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks have recently been called to the Prophet's standard, and are following this summons, armed to the teeth, exulting in the hope of rape and plunder, for which the rich Wallachian fields present an excellent opportunity. Crowds of these fellows begin to till Rustchuk. They are mostly tall, slender-waisted, broad shouldered men, clad in long frocks and fur caps, all well horsed, riding or walking boldly, but with suspicious, restless, rolling eyes, shaded by bushy brows. There is little doubt now that these Caucasian warriors, who can only be compared with the American Indians, are designed to oppose the Russian light cavalry, and will prove perhaps more than a match for the less courageous Cossacks. Woe to the bordering countries of Roumania when these gentlemen, like a pack of bloodhounds, are set free in order to satisfy their rage."

THE CAUSE OF PERSIA'S HOSTILITY.

The reason why that terra incognita Persia has shown so much antipathy to Turkey, has been a mystery to most men. The Allgemeine Zeitung explains it by saying that :---

"The Persians have long had a grudge against the Turks as the possessors of the tombs of the Shifte martyrs, Ali and Hossein, at Nedjet and Kerbola. These tombs are in a marshy district inhabited by Bedouins, who often attack the Persian caravans of pil-

cover of the fire of which a force commanded by Omar Pacha crossed the river in November, 1853, and established itself in Oltenitza, having been allowed to fall into decay. Since the beginning of the present war, however, many of the works and batteries have been reconstructed or placed in a state of tolerable repair."

BULGARIA.

Bulgaria is a part of the great race of Slavs of which Russia is the recognised head. An exchange reminds us that :---

" It was erected into an independent kingdom in the middle of the seventh century, and coped successfully with the Byzantine Empire. It was converted to Christianity of the Greek form about the middle of the ninth century, but it had inde-pendent patriarchs, who did not acknowledge the theological supremacy of the Greek patriarchs, but after the capture of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 and the subsequent subjugation of the various provinces now under Turkish rule the Greek patriarchs succeeded in the control of the Church in Bulgaria, so that our people then had not only political tyranny to bear, but ecclesiastical tyranny as well. There were now heavy yokes upon their shoulders which they bore 400 years. The Bulgarians thought that in order to attain an independent existence it would first be necessary to throw off the yoke of the Greek patriarchs, and about fifteen years ago a struggle began to this end which, after lasting for fourteen years, resulted in the Sultan issuing a decree making the Bulgarians independent of the Greeks. It was felt at the time that this would eventually lead to political indepen dence. The Bulgarians, when they speak of their country, do not consider the Balkan Mountains as its southern boundary, as many now do. They always include Thrace and Macedonia as portions of Bulgaria, and if Bulgaria should become an independent State Thrace and Macedonia should go with it."

THE BLUE DANUBE.

The Danube is by far the largest river in Europe. Its main stem rises in the Black Forest within thirty miles of the Rhine and flows centrally through Europe-Bavaria, Austria proper, Hungary, between Wallachia and Servia, and between Roumania and Turkey proper-to the sea, having a total length of the main river of 1,700 miles. A contemporary says that it :---

"Has many large tributaries-the Inn and Iser, in Bavaria; the Drave and Suave in Styria and Croatia; the Theiss in Hungary; the Aluta Sereth d Proth in Roumania All b. except th *hi first two named tributaries, are navigable some of them for more than a hundred miles. The Danube itself is navigable for 1,545 miles, and with its tributaries for 2,000 miles. This magnificent river so closely resembles the Mississippi in some particulars and differs from it so widely in others as to make a comparison between them interesting to American readers. The Danube drains one-fourth as much as the Mississippi, including all its tributaries, half as much as the Missouri, and as much as the Ohio and Upper Mississippi together. It runs nearly eastward, has its sources and those of its large tributaries in the Tyrolian and Semmering Alps and in the Carpathian Mountains. Its passage through Austria and Hungary and again along the Turkish frontier is similar to the great American river with wide alluvial bottoms overflowed sometimes in great freshets. Its delta and its mouth are exactly similar to those of the Mississippi and have been blocked up by sand bars, now happily removed by the genius of Sir Charles Hartley. When the Danube breaks through the Carpathian Mountains it presents features closely resembling the highlands of the Hudson river, though the mountain tides are much higher and more precipitous."

ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CATHOLIC MEM-BERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. O'Clery, Captain Nolan, and Captain O'Beirne were admitted by his Holiness to audience on Thursday, the 24th ult., to present an address in the name of the Irish Catholic members of Parliament. They were introduced to his Holiness by General Kanzler, to whom Mr. O'Clery, as an ex-Zouave, was well known. The address, read by Mr. O'Clery in French, was to the following effect :---

"Most holy Father, the representatives of a Catholic nation, ever noted for its fidelity to the See of Peter, desire to lay at the feet of your Holiness successor to St. Peter and supreme ruler on earth of the Church of Christ, the expression of their sentiments of filial devotion, respect, and love.

"They desire to offer their heartfelt congratulations on the Jubilee of an episcopate so illustrious; and on the prolongation beyond the days of Peter of a supreme pontificate which, tried by persecution and ennobled by sufferings, is beyond example in the history of the Church-a pontificate which, has been a lengthened testimony to the eternal principles of truth and justice, on which alone depend the freedom and happiness alike of individuals and nations.

"That the life of your Holiness may be still further prolonged to see the restoration of the successor of St. Peter to the full freedom of his apostolic ministry, and all the inalienable rights and privileges of the Apostolic See, and to witness the triumph of truth and justice, is the fervent prayer of your devoted children, who, for themselves and for Ireland their country, humbly entreat, most Holy Father, your Apostolic Benediction."

The foregoing address was signed by all the Irish Catholic members. The Pope received it most graciously, and conversed for some time with the members of the deputation.

THE TURKISH STAFF AND THEIR TACTICS

The special correspondent of the Daily News writes somewhat despare zingly of the Turkish generals. In that respect, however, he is borne out by all men of experience. The Turkish soldier is a fanatic, the Turkish officer is an incapable:

"The Turkish staff is composed of smart-looking confident, but ignorant young officers, who, flattered by easy victories over an undisciplined militia srmy, deem themselves invincible, and have obviously disdained to study the history of their former wars with Russia. The same neglect has been exhibited by the modern Turkish generals, who instead of throwing the whole available army into the Dobrudscha, isolated and protected by the Black Sen, the Danube, broad lagunes, and overflooded marshes, contented themselves with garrisoning there a few thousand men, and neglected the only point where a passage was possible. They ought to have crossed on that very spot with an imposing force at the beginning of the war, in order to threaten the enemy's basis of operation in Bezsarabia. The Dobrudscha, stretching like an immense bastion towards the north thus outflanking Wallachia, once taken, the Russians can direct a decisive blow against the centre of the Turkish position with comparative ease and sccurity, an operation which they are going to carry out without a moment's delay. Already we learn that a considerable army corps has been quartered in the vicinity of Bucharest, and ere long the impassable old Turkish commander-in-chief will be roused by the shots of the Russian outposts. All I see here confirms my original opinion that the campaign is likely to resolve itself into a series of sieges and actions around fortresses and entrenched positions, defended by a limited number of more or less steady soldiers. As, according to the opinion of all tacticians, a besieged city is also a conquered one, unless relieved by an independent army in the field, the final result cannot be doubt-

to the bonded debt, the Turks had managed to run up a floating debt of \$150,000,000 a year ago, a considerable portion of which is due English bankers, shipbuilders and manufacturers. Since then the Tarkish Government has issued about \$100,000,-000 legal tender notes, which are now greatly dcpreciated, and coin has wholly disappeared from circulation. It is clear from this exhibit that, if the Bussians are allowed to overthrow the Turkish Government, the vast sum borrowed from the English will be lost, principal and interest, to the last shilling. The Ports has nothing left to show for the money except a fleet of Iron clads and a number of new seraglios well stocked with Circassian concupines. Considerable of the money went to Paris to purchase fashionable fineries for the harems, and some of it to the Clyde for the ironclade."

THE IRISH CANADIAN PILORIMS IN ROME.

A special despatch to the Globe announces that the Irish Canadian Pilgrims arrived safely in Rome and were presented to the Pope on Friday the 15th inst. It says :-

"The Pope yesterday received the Canadian pilgrims, forty-two of whom were introduced by Father O'Dowd, who presented an address. He said the pilgrims expressed their absolute obedience to the Holy See and congratulated the Pope. The long and dangerous journey they had encountered was a cause of joy, affording them an opportunity of attesting their affection and devotion to the Pope. The Canadians presented a magnificent mitre, several specimens of Indian workmanship, a silver vase, and a donation of $\pm 4,000$. The Pope thanked the pilgrims, and expressed his joy at their escaping the perils of the ocean. He blessed the pilgrims from Canada, and expressed his best wishes for the prosperity of the country."

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.

The Irish M. P's., have not been idle in the cause of the political prisoners. We learn from a contemporary that some time since thc :---

"Irish members of the House of Commons formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of visiting the political prisoners regularly, and assisting their friends and relatives to see them also at the times permitted by the jail authorities. There are still living ten of these unfortunate men. Five of them were condemned to death, but had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life. Three were assigned life sentences, and two obtained penal servitude for fifteen years. A couple of them are confined at Portland, three at Dartmouth, two at Chatham, one at Portsmouth, and two at Spike Island. Three of them were soldiers, and on behalf of Sergeant-Major [McCarthy, who fought in the Crimen and through the Indian mutiny, very

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olden time. Now-a-days those walls afford but meagre defence, and would prove but a slight imprdiment to cannon of moderate calibre. During the last twenty years nothing has been done to improve the crumbling fortress; and the defensive improvements undertaken during the Crimeau war

In Advance.

TERMS: City Subscribers \$2.50 Country " 2.00

were left to the mercy of time and decay. "All the steamships which ply on the Danube call there ; and it is now by means of these advantaages, one of the first and most flourishing ports on the Lower Danube. The inhabitants amount to about 30,000. Nearly the half are Turks ; the remainder are composed of Americans, Jews, Greeks, Germans, English, Italians, and French. Scarcely any nation of the East or West but has a representative in this city. There you can see the thick lipped negro and the agile Arab sipping coffee with the Turk or Chinaman; the English an I Greek merchant disputing on some commercial enterprise, or the industrious German communicat-

ing his experience to the sluggish inhabitants. "The minarets of the Prophet, which amount to about thirty, announce to the stranger the rule of the Crescent, and when glittering in the glare of the mid-day sun, contribute a light and brilliancy to the dark and monotonous exterior of the Turko-Bulgarian town. There is also a Catholic church here and convent school. The church is of no great protonsions, but is very neat and tastefully kept. The convent is kept by Irish nuns of the Order of Passionists, who a rived here something more than three years ago, at the invitation of Mons. Paoli, Bishop of the diocese. The religious had at first great difficulties to contend with. Their efforts were appreciated by their worthy bishop, who used every means which his zeal could dictate to forward their efforts and nourish an institution which has already produced such fruit; nor is their zeal alone confined to education. Their charity also urges them to attend the sick and dying, and whatever time is at their disposal they use it to comfort the sick poor and to lessen their last pains by recounting to them the glory and beatitude of a happier home which awaits them : and many whose hearts were closed to the exhortations of their pastor listened to words of comfort from these unselfish ladies, and were so induced to avail themselves of the comforts of religion in their dying moments. Their schools are frequented by children of every nationality, and besides the French and German languages, which are the principal languages of the school, instruc-the are also imparted in English, Hungarian, and Italian."

OCONNOR POWER AND THE IRISH CAN-

ADIAN PILGRIMS.

We learn from the London correspondent of the Ulster Examiner that :---

The Irish Canadian Pilgrims reached London at six o'clock on Wednesday morning, 6th inst., but owing to the uncertainity which prevailed as to the time they were expected here, and their limited stay of a few hours, the Catholics of Lon don could not gratify a desire which was general among them of tondering to their transatlantic brethren a formal reception. Arrangements had been made ior a deputation, consisting of Lord Petre, vice-president of the Catholic Union; Mr. H. Matthews, Q. C. ; Mr. Wegg-Prosser, and Mr. W. S. Lilly, to call upon them at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras Station, where they had proposed to remain over Wednesday night, in order to convey to them the congratulations and to tender the good offices of the Uniop. Circumstances, however, had compelled them to limit their stay in London to a few hours, and it was found impossible to arrange for their receiving this visit. They were called upon by Mr. Lilly and some gentlemen connected as correspondents of the Catholic Press, and also by Mr. O'Connor Power, some of the pilgrims being personal friends of his. The story of their voyage, as given by themselves, was rather a pleasing one. Although they encountered during the greater part of the time adverse winds, they had rough weather only for a day or two. During the whole of one week the ship sat still in a dead calm, and all around was perfectly tranquil, sunshiny, and agreeable; so a number of small boats were put off, so the pilgrims whiled away the time by rowing round the ship and making excursions some days of five or six miles across the ocean. Father Dowd, a grand type of the soggarth aroon, who is, by the way, a native of Drogheda, which bistoric town he has not seen for twenty-nine years, is the leader of the pilgrimage, and from him I learned that the pilgrims who left London Bridge for Paris on Wednesday afternoon were to remain in Paris until Monday, and proceed thence to Lourdes (where the beautiful banner of the pilgrims will be deposited), arriving in Rome on the 11th instant. Father Dowd has notified Monsignor Kirby of the time of his intended arrival at Rome, and expects that the Holy Father will admit the pilgrims to an audience on the 12th or 13th inst. They bring with them valuable presents for his Holiness, but, more than all, the warm unwavering affection of Irish Catholic hearts."

grims for purposes of pluader; and Persia that if she herself should become possessor of the holy shrines, with Bagdad, the nearest large town, she will be able to put a stop to these predatory expeditions. Already, besides the troops stationed by Russia's request at Tabriz, Persia has a corps on the line of operations to Bagdad, and other troops are being raised all over the country. All these military movements are probably only intended to act as a diversion in order to detach a portion of the army which is now being attacked by the Russians on the frontiers of Asia Minor.

MR. BIGGAR, M.P.

Mr. Biggar-who has recently become a Catholic-attended a meeting held at Leeds to commemorate the Jubilee of the Holy Father on Monday, and spoke as follows :---

"Though not a young man, he was a young Ca-tholic (loud cheers). His experience of Protest-ants, gathered both from their pulpits and platforms, was that, to a very great extent, they were maligners of the Catholic faith and of Catholic practices. The faith of Catholics, he felt, was bound to prosper, and to become yet the universal faith of the whole of Christendom (applause). The Established Church in England was a failure, not so much as a political or social institution as that it did not touch the sympathies of the great mass of the people. The great means of spreading Catholicism had been because, like the Irish people, Catholies had been persecuted. The people of Ireland had been persecuted by an alien aristocracy, and still its people were spreading and becoming a power in the world (great cheering). In England he found that in every quarter of the country there was more zeal amongst the Catholic body than any other religious body (cheers).

TURTUKAI.

Turtukai, the point at which it is very generally anticipated, especially by foreign military commentators on the present operations in the East, that the centre or main body of the Russian army will endeavour to force the passage of the Danube, is situated about half way between the fortresses of Rustchuk and Silistria. We leave from a contemporary that the :---

"Width of the river at this portion of its course is but little more than 800 yards, and both banks are firm and always passable. Immediately opposite the town the river Argiech, which is joined some fifteen miles to the north by the Dembowitza flowing down from Bucharest, discharges its waters into the Danube, and would, therefore, afford great facilities for collecting bridging material on the north bank, and even for performing under cover-much es the preliminary work of the actual construction of the bridge itself; while there is a good highway from Bucharest to Oltenitza on the north bank of the river opposite to Turtukai. The fortifications at Turtukai are not of any great strength, | capitulated on condition of being allowed to retire the works, which existed there in 1853, and under

IBRAILA.

Ibraila has generally played an important part in former hostilities between Russia and Turkey. At the beginning of the campaign of 1828, says the Pall Mall Gazette :---

"It was held by the Turks, and was at that time a town of 24,000 inhabitants, surrounded by a semicircular enceinte, formed by nine bastioned fronts, both flanks of which rested upon the banks of the Danube. This bank again is here formed by precipitous cliffs some eighty feet high. On the west side the base of the cliffs is washed by the river : but at the eastern extremity of the fortifications there is rather broad level space between the actual bed of the river and the steep bank. This strip was swept by the fire of a formidable work, in which were three tiers of guns disposed one above the other. A straight wall running along the top of the bank joined the two extremities of the bastioned fronts, and so completed the enclosure of the town. The Danube at this portion of its course divides itself into two main arms, of which the one washing the fortress is about 400 yards wide. On the opposite side of the other and broader arm of the river lies Matchin, some four miles distant from Ibraila. When the 7th Russian Corps appeared before the town on the 11th May, 1828, the fortifications were in good repair, and armed with 300 pieces of ordnance. The garrison consisted of 8,000 men, and ample supplies both of provisions and of munitions of war were stored in the magazines. Consequently the town was able to offer a formidable resistance, and it was not until the Russian flotilla of eighteen gunboats had defeated and utterly routed, by a night attack on the 8th June, the Turkish fleet of thirty-two vessels of all sizes, and was thereby enabled to bombard the place from the water side, that on the 17th June the garrison

WHAT TURKEY OWES TO ENGLAND.

Turkey owes her existence, not only to British bayonets in the Crimea, but to British money invested in her ships. It is said that the Turkish Government owes English capitalists more than one thousand millions of dollars. A contemporary tells us that :---

"The first loan was male in 1854 to meet the expenses of the war with Russia, and was for \$15,090,-000. It was then the Turks got their first taste of British gold. The next year they borrowed \$25,-000,000 more, and almost overy year since they have added to their dobt, as the following table shows:---

Year of issue.	Amount borrowed,	Interes per con
1854	\$ 15,000,000	G
1855	. 25,000,000	4
1858	25,000,000	6
1860	10,350,000	6
1862	40,000,000	G
1863	40,000,000	G
1865	161,816,815	6
1866	30,000,000	6
1867	12,500,000	. 6
1869	111,111,100	6
1871	28,500,000	G
1672	55,631,000	6
1873		6
1874	300,000,000	6
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Total.....\$924,908,915

The breaking out of the insurrection of Bosnia last year, and the war with Servia, afforded the more to nature than to art. It is true it is sur-Tarkish Government an excuse for declining to rounded by two immense walls, now crumbling to pay any interest to the bondholders. In addition dust, which have stood its friend effectually in the regarded as one of great danger.

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by the officers under whom he served. So far they have not succeeded in producing any relaxation of punishment. Captain Condon, one of the men concerned in the Manchester affair, in which Mr. Brett was killed, is an American. A remarkable circumstance respecting the proceedings of the Fenians at Manchester is that one of the men sentenced to death was afterwards released unconditionally, as it was found he had had no part in the affray, and it is now known, and I believe acknowledged by the police authorities, that the man who absolutely killed Mr. Brett was never brought to trial at all."

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EGYPT AND THE WAR.

The Bey of Tunis is said to be gathering together a large army of infantry and cavalry for the service of the Sultan. Reports from Jeddah speak of great activity among the followers of the Prophet at Mecca, Medina, and all the towns of Arabia. One of the many correspondents of the Daily News writing from Alexandria says :---

"That men are enlisting as soldiers with enthusi-aism, and the Sheriff of Mecca has engaged to furnish, at his own expense, 5,000 troops. In Egypt on the contrary, no anxiety nor even intention to take part in the war is exhibited. No preparations for the departure of troops are visible either on shore or afloat; indeed the troopships and transports seem less ready for sea than usual. This state of things may arise from the fact that Arabs of all classes believe in Turkey being more than a match for Russis, and in the conviction entertained that if other countries interfere in the war (England especially) it will be to check Russia, not Turkey. Some talk of fighting for their religion, but as a rule, from various causes, there is a lack of patriotism amongst the oppiessed and impoverished natives, and moreover some thousands of their brethren have been doing duty for twelve months past in Turkey."

The Times special correspondent, writing from the same place, on the other hand, states :- "As the telegraph will have already informed Europe, troops are to go from here to assist Turkey. Eleven thousand men are in Alexandria, four transports are ready for sea, and the expedition only awaits the arrival of a Turkish convoy from Constantinople. A special war tax has been voted by the Egyptian Parliament, and is to be raised on the land as an additional impost of 2s per acre. So there is an end of the hope that Egypt would keep out of the strife."

RUSTCHUK-THE BULGARIANS.

Rustchuk, the capital city of Bulgaria, commands a very elevated position on the Danube. A correspondent of the Ulster Examiner says :

"It is a fortified town, but its fortifications are due

LATEST NEWS.

A despatch from Havana gives a very gloomy skotch of affairs in Cuba.

There is a report that Greece has commenced hostilities against the Porte, but it is not confirmed.

A Rustchuck despatch gives a terrible account of outrages against Christians in the Province of Tultcha

A vote of censure on and want of confidence in the present Government was passed by a large majority in the French Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

The fighting in Asia last week, which resulted so disastrously to the Turks, took place at two different points, near the Phasis river, between Kars and Erzeronm ; and at Soukoum Kaleh, where the Circassian troops especially suffered heavy loss. The tide of victory has rather turned against the Mon-tenegrins. Suleiman Pacha makes Nicsics the base of his operations against them, and their position is

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