

dress of the author of this precious document, and if you are unable to do this, whether it would not be well to request them through the columns of the *Church Times* publicly to avow their name and address. At the present, it has the appearance that they are either ashamed or afraid to sign their names to their own productions. I must think that the spirit that prompts a person to endeavor to sow division and to promote strife in such a place as this, cannot be too strongly reprobated.

I have the honor to be, My Dear Sir, yours, very truly,

HALL FORSTER,
Church Warden.

Diocesan Church Society.

ARICHAU COMMITTEE.

The Annual Meeting of the Local Branch of the Diocesan Church Society was held in the Parish Church of St. John on Thursday evening, 17th ult.

Although the travelling was somewhat unfavourable for persons at a distance to attend, there was a respectable assemblage of members and friends of the Society.

After the singing of an appropriate hymn by the Choir, and the usual prayers, the President alluded to the loss the Committee had sustained since the last meeting, by the removal from the Parish of its late zealous secretary, F. Forbes, Esq., and announced that Isaac Leviscomte, Esq., had kindly consented to assume the duties of that office. Mr. Leviscomte, having been called upon, read the gratifying report of the Executive Committee for the past year.

The President then addressed the meeting at some length, and having solicited the best encouragement and support of the parishioners in carrying out the pious objects of the Society, remarked, in conclusion, that the liberal manner in which the appeal in its behalf was responded to last year, induced him to hope that the present would be attended with similar gratifying results.

The recommendation "to sustain and increase the contributions towards the funds of the Society," was moved by the Secretary, and seconded by Mr. Edwd. Binet. The mover adverted to the liberal support this Parish had received for the last 25 years from the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He reminded the meeting of the debt of gratitude it thus owed for the privileges and blessings of the Gospel furnished almost free of any individual expense, and strongly urged the parishioners to show their appreciation of those blessings, by contributing towards extending as far as possible the Gospel system, in the enjoyment of which they themselves were so highly favoured of God.

It was moved by Wm. H. Cutler, Esq., seconded by Mr. Ferrier, "That this meeting avails itself of the present opportunity to express its acknowledgment of the benevolent exertions of Messrs. DeCarteret and F. Forbes in promoting the interests of the Church generally, and especially of the encouragement and liberal support received from them towards the benevolent objects of this Society."

The mover prefaced the above Resolution by several gratifying remarks, and alluded to particular instances of the lively interest taken, and the willingness uniformly shown by the above named gentlemen, during their residence in Arichat, in all matters pertaining to the religious prosperity of the Church.

The constant friend of the Committee, Chas. F. Harrington, Esq., having been absent from town some time previous to the meeting, fears were entertained of being deprived of his assistance. He arrived, however, a few minutes before the appointed hour, and although evidently much fatigued, appeared in due time, and advocated 3rd Resolution. It was seconded by Capt. Adams, and was expressive of the satisfaction with which the meeting viewed the increased missionary efforts of the Society; but as the present year brought with it appeals quite as urgent as the past, Mr. Harrington directed serious attention to this fact, — a fact which he hoped would operate as an imperative call upon all members of the Church to give it increased efficiency by enlarged contributions.

The 4th Resolution was to have been proposed by Dr. Fixott, but a professional call prevented his attendance. It was therefore proposed by Mr. Jas. DeCarteret, and passed unanimously, "That as the last year's increase in the funds of our Local Branch of the Diocesan Church Society was in a great measure to be attributed to the laudable exertions of Mr. Edward Binet, this meeting gratefully acknowledges his past services."

Mr. Binet expressed his readiness at all times to promote the objects of the Society, and cheerfully consented to receive subscriptions for the present year.

At the conclusion the C. Psalm was sung and the benediction pronounced. The choir always ready to assist, was, upon the present occasion, ably supported by an Harmonicon, skilfully played, and recently procured through the individual exertions of a young lady of the Parish, to whom much praise is due.

Chas. F. Harrington, Esq., was elected as Vice-President, and Messrs. Grouchy, P. Bosdet, E. Binet, H. Fixott, M. D., and Geo. Jean, Esqrs., as members of the Committee for the ensuing year.

The meeting was in every respect of an encouraging and satisfactory nature. About £16 was subscribed. Although it cannot be expected that so large an amount as last year can be realised, in consequence of Ship Harbour district being no longer included in the Parish of St. John, and also from several pressing demands made upon the congregation, and cheerfully responded to during the past year, yet there is reason to believe that each will give according to his ability.

Arichat, Feb'y, 1856.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Guyaboro' branch of the Diocesan Church Society, was held in the Lower Hall, on Thursday the 10th Jan. All proceedings of a business nature having been deferred to a future committee meeting, the evening was occupied with passing resolutions, connected with the nature of the Society. The meeting was respectfully attended, and it is confidently hoped that the interest which our Church people take in the Society, will be manifested by the increase of the contributors.

News Department.

FRANCE.

The spirit and importance of the Austrian Concordat may perhaps be better understood by comparing its language and provisions with that of the French Concordat of 1801. For instance, the different tone of the commencement of the two instruments is very striking. The latter begins with a "mutual" declaration made by either party on an evident footing of equality, and involving important principles. The French Government recognises the Roman religion as that "of the great majority of French citizens," and the Pope acknowledges "that that religion has received, and expects to receive, the greatest benefits from its establishment"—i.e. its legal establishment—"in France." Here, by both parties, the regular action of the State is recognized; and thus, although by a subsequent declaration, the Roman Catholic religion is to be "freely and publicly exercised," yet it is to be so exercised "conformably to such regulations as the Government shall judge necessary." To speak of the religion of the "majority," is, of course, necessarily to recognise that of a minority. But although Protestants are much more numerous throughout the Austrian dominions than they are in France, no recognition whatever is made of them on the side of the Secular Government in the Austrian Concordat. They are treated as a thing not even fit to be alluded to in a convention with the Holy See—if, indeed, convention the late series of stipulations can be called—for, contrary to that of the French act, the commencement of the Austrian Concordat sounds more like the enumeration, by one party only, of a fundamental principle. "The Catholic, Apostolic, Roman religion," it is said, "shall be always preserved with all its rights and all its prerogatives, which it enjoys by the established order of God." &c. And, again—"The Roman Pontiff enjoys, by divine right, the primacy of honour and jurisdiction," &c. And hence follows the acknowledgement and recognition, by the internal Government of the country, of official arrangements between its own Bishops, clergy, and people, with a foreign authority, unsubjected to any control on its part; the same uncontrolled communication by the native prelates, on their side, with their clergy and their flocks, and the exercise by them of all their ecclesiastical rights and functions, on the same footing. All which points, according to the French Convention, are, nominally at least, and by principle, placed under the surveillance, at once, and protection of the governing power, as are all other acts of its subjects. In the same way, in the nomination to bishoprics, the sale of ecclesiastical property, the establishment of monastic institutions, and, above all, in the contraction of marriages—so important a point in Germany, where mixed marriages are so frequent—the civil power is ignored, or nearly so, in the Austrian instrument, while it is rigorously kept in view in the French. Indeed, with the exception of the formality of the oath taken to the Sovereign by the higher prelates—in France exacted from the priesthood of the second rank also—and said to have been long refused assent to, on the recent occasion, by the Court of Rome, there is scarcely a point in which the difference of relations now existing between Austria and Rome, and those heretofore established between the latter and this country, does not stand out in glaring contradiction. Those who pay attention only to the political condition of Europe pretend to discern, in such a state of things, the main object and aim of the policy of Austria; and which they profess to regard as being no other than an effort to counterbalance and counteract the present too strong preponderance of French influence over the Governments of the Italian Peninsula,

and of Rome in particular, by the concessions made to, and the intimate alliance contracted with, the Eternal City.—*Corresp. London Guardian.*

The Dublin papers agree in representing the tide of emigration to be setting backward from the United States to Ireland, and, slowly but steadily, the Irish population to be returning to the old country. The immigrants come laden with Yankee dollars, and show great solicitude about plots of land and the growth of potatoes. "Some," says the *Evening Mail*, "are even so provident as to have written over from the States to bespeak seaweed and guano to be deposited against the time of their arrival in the locality where they propose to commence operations."

An Italian paper states that a tough and hardy old fellow recently passed through Lyons, France, on his way to Savoy, his native country. No less than eighty years ago, when he was forty one, he was sentenced to the French galley for life. The other day he was released, at the age of 121. It is said that he has a little property in Savoy, the interest on which has been accumulating exactly 100 years, or since he arrived at the age of 21. The old fellow enjoys perfect health, although he stoops so much that his face nearly touches his knees. A condemnation to perpetuity in the galleys in France is considered to have expired after 100 years' confinement. Only one other case of an individual having outlived his term of punishment was ever known, and that was a native of a little village in Dauphiny, who at the age of twenty-one was condemned to the galleys at Toulon for the term of his natural life. From Toulon, the patriarchal sinner, numbering in years 122, found his way to his native village; but, alas! no one there knew him. Nor did he seek to recall it to the memory of any one, for next day the melancholy man took the road back to Toulon, in due time reached it, and, on imploring to be received at his old lodgings, was there allowed shelter, and died the next year.

Mr. Giborno is now in Egypt to make arrangements for laying the submarine electric telegraph from Constantinople for Alexandria, to cross Egypt, and to be hereafter extended from Suez to India.

A celebrated Arab horse belonging to Halseem Pacha, who had challenged all England to produce her conqueror in a race for £10,000, has just been beaten in an eight mile race at Cairo, by an English racer.

We are glad to find that arrangements have been made for the issue of a new copper coinage, the want of a sufficient supply of which has been severely felt of late by retail dealers. We think that some inquiry as to what has become of the old and good copper coin, the thistle pennies and half-pennies, ought to be instituted. It is within our knowledge that from being plentiful, the scarcity became sudden and unprecedented—while as substitute a whole heap of spurious and counterfeit thistles made their appearance.

D. O. S.

4th Rule of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund: "Every Clergyman of the Church of England in the Diocese, wishing to avail himself of the benefits of this fund, shall, within six months from the 10th Octr. 1855, or within one year from taking orders, or from his admission into the Diocese, apply to the Sec'y for a Certificate of pension, and shall pay the annual sum or premium therefor, as hereafter mentioned."

The above limited time expires on the 10th of April, 1856.

5th Rule. "Any applicant after such period of time, shall only be permitted to receive such Certificate at the option of the Sub. Com., and upon such terms as they shall direct."

The premiums for 1856 on Certificates already issued, are due on the 1st. Jan'y, 1856. The last day on which such premiums can be received is Saturday, 9th Feb'y, 1856.

EDWIN GILPIN, Jr. Sec'y.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

The subjoined highly satisfactory Telegraphic Despatch was received at the Merchants' Exchange Rooms, on Saturday 9th inst., at 1 p. m.

The R. M. S. *Patria* arrived at New York this morning, bringing Liverpool dates to Jan. 26th, being her regular day.

Consols quoted at 90½.

Cotton advanced one-sixteenth of a penny per lb.—sales for the week 70,000 bales.

Wool market declined—limited business at previous prices.

Wheat—prices not quotably higher.

Corn declined one to two shillings per qtr.

Provisions—business limited, but prices remain without any change.

Baron declined.—Lard lower.

Coffee—prices a shade higher.

Sugar—a small advance reported.

Tea—market firm with upward tendency.

Increasing confidence in Peace!

The Czar has ordered a suspension of hostilities in the Crimea!

The U. S. M. S. *Pacific*, which left Liverpool on her regular day, had not arrived at N. York.