

leges, and immunities as are now by law, usage, or otherwise had and enjoyed by any other ambassador, envoy extraordinary, minister plenipotentiary, or other diplomatic agent or agents, accredited by Her Majesty to any foreign Power, or by any reign Power to the Court of London."

Several amendments have been already proposed and carried.

The words "Sovereign of the Roman States" are to be substituted for "Sovereign Pontiff."

On a motion by the Earl of Eglinton that no person in holy orders, no Jesuit, nor any person bound by monastic vows should be admitted as an ambassador from Rome, a division took place: Ayes, 67; Noes, 64; majority, 3.

The Duke of Wellington moved the following, as a declaratory amendment:—"Whereas it has been enacted and declared, in the provisions of various ancient laws of this realm, that the Sovereign thereof, acting by and with the advice and under the authority of both Houses of Parliament, is the sole and supreme head and governor of all matters ecclesiastical and civil within this realm, or elsewhere, the dominions of the Crown of England; and the same Acts contain provisions, having for their objects to control, regulate, and restrain the acts, conduct, and relations of the subjects of this realm with foreign powers upon the said matters; and whereas it is essential to the welfare of these realms, that the said provisions as to the Crown and Government thereof should be invariably maintained; and it is expedient, nevertheless, to remove any doubts which may exist as to the competence of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to establish diplomatic relations with the Sovereign of the Roman State."

This also was adopted.

Switzerland.

Persecution still rages in the Canton de Vaud. The decree of the Council of State, prohibiting all religious meetings not authorised by law, was renewed on the 28th of December. Its operation is thus described by the Rev. M. Gallienne, Wesleyan Missionary at Lausanne:—

"By the Decree, nearly 6,000 persons in the canton were, and are still, of course, deprived of the public means of grace. Since then, we have held no meetings, and have encouraged our friends to spend their Sabbaths in family worship, private prayer, and social intercourse, until better days come. A few meetings have been held by ministers of the Free Church, but in a very private way; for people suspected of going to a meet-

ing are followed, in order, if possible, to discover the place of meeting; and the police, and even armed soldiers, or *gendarmes*, have paraded the town to detect the meetings, and punish transgressors. I have mentioned before that our house is closely watched. It was only on Friday last (Dec. 10) that two ladies, coming to pay us a visit, were followed by two spies, who entered into the garden in front of the house, and inquired what those ladies came here for? Indeed, it was with difficulty that they were persuaded to retire, and mind their own affairs. But in many places in the canton, excitement is very great indeed; in two cases, beside the one I mentioned before, musket-balls have been fired into houses known to be occupied by Christians; in one instance the musket burst, and the unfortunate man was himself badly wounded, and fell to the ground, confessing his murderous intentions, and asking an interest in the prayers of those whose lives he had sought. But the other case was truly painful; the ball struck a pious young woman, who was sitting at the window, and who died two hours afterwards, praying for her murderer. Indeed, the country is in an awful state of demoralization. To the formalism, which for some years served as a cloak for true religion, has succeeded open profaneness and infidelity, the result of socialism and radical principles."

Another account, from a Correspondent of the London *Nonconformist*, contains some painfully interesting particulars:—

"On Christmas eve, a quiet home fireside was invaded by a rabble gang, who suspected some peaceable old women of creating a disturbance with their Methodism, but finding them, on the contrary, enjoying a frugal meal of tea and cakes round a bright log fire, they retreated awkwardly and with confusion. Another scene occurred in the house of a worthy minister, at the time confined to his bed. All at once the significant sounds of riot approached the doors, and threats were shouted of forcing the windows, breaking in the door, or setting them all on fire. The sister of the good man had the courage to present herself and refuse them entrance, protesting that there was no meeting in the house whatsoever; but the would-be patriots were not to be kept at bay by a mere woman; the door is unable to resist their pressing advance,—one good crash tells the whole tale,—men, women, and children scrambling over each other like cats and dogs let out of a bag, search this way and that to find the wicked heretics; even the bedroom of the sick minister undergoes a rigid scrutiny, but nothing presenting itself upon which, with any show of reason, they could vent their rage, once more discontented and muttering,