

On the 27th ult. the French Ambassador, Baron Brenier, while passing through the Strada di Toledo, where much agitation was prevailing, received several blows on the head with a loaded cane. He fell senseless and was carried to the palace of the Legislation. The outrage is attributed to the anti-reform party.

From another source we learn that desertions in Messina, in Sicily, were very frequent, both among officers and men. Large quantities of ammunition had arrived from Palermo. It was believed that a considerable expedition would be sent to Calabria.

Garibaldi is said to have sent one of his agents to London in order to negotiate a loan of 80,000,000*fr.*, the revenues of Sicily being offered as a guarantee.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

In conformity with our plan of affording to the readers of the *Church Press* as much information as possible relating to the greater Ecclesiastical and Educational Establishments of the New and Old Worlds, by occasionally sketching the history and present condition of some of them, we have this week (from the recent discussions touching the removal of the above school) culled what we think will be of general interest. Westminster School was founded by Queen Elizabeth, and entrusted to the management of the Dean and Chapter; and, built as it was in the protecting shade of the most celebrated ecclesiastical structure in England—the even then venerable Abbey,—from its very foundation it took up a position which far eclipsed Winchester and Eton Schools, which, though of earlier date, were at that time but of secondary importance, and when Harrow and Rugby, of course, had not yet come into existence. It was from the first the educator of the greatest and noblest in the land; and was of such importance, that Archbishop Whitgift had great difficulty in preventing Trinity College, Cambridge, from being attached to it,—as New College, Oxford, is to Winchester, and King's College, Cambridge, to Eton. It was, however, connected by Queen Elizabeth both with Christ Church, Oxford, and Trinity College, Cambridge, by means of certain Studentships in the one, and Scholarships in the other, restricted to boys at St. Peter's College, Westminster. This connection, though not so entirely organic as was at first intended, is still perpetuated, and three or four scholars are elected annually to these foundations in both Universities. The Headmastership is alternatively in the gift of Christ Church and Trinity. During the reign of the Stuarts and the earlier Georges, Westminster was still the principal place for the education of the English Aristocracy, (and during the 17th and 18th centuries was filled with youth from Northumberland to Cornwall.) Under the Hanoverian dynasty, up to late in the reign of George III., whilst holding still its high position, it gained the character of being "the Whig School" and "Old Westminsters" point in triumph to the fact that in a recent liberal ministry of which Lord J. Russell was Premier, and to which the Marquis of Lansdowne lent his name and influence, the Cabinet Ministers were almost, if not entirely, educated at this ancient School. During the last 40 years, however, new forces have been brought to play upon it which have materially changed its fortunes.

Brick and mortar have spread like an immense fungus all round the healthy meadows, and the once rural classic retreats round London. Green fields are now transformed into fashionable squares or close plebeian alleys. Similar effects have also influenced all the other public Schools of the Metropolis. St. Paul's School, the first at which Greek was taught in England is now shut in between warehouses and wharfs in the middle of the city; Merchant Taylor's, with its University Prizes is on a still more confined spot; the Charterhouse, "Thackeray's Charterhouse" is hidden in the wilds beyond Smithfield; the Blue Coat School with its prison-like looking bars amid the roar of Newgate Street. But these as belonging peculiarly to the middle classes of London, still keep up their numbers and answer the intention of their foundation.

But it is not only the immense growth of London that has contributed to the decay of Westminster by confinement of space; the increase of manufactories with their smoke and effluvia have bold with fatal effect upon it. And the greatest of all is the change of the Thames. Westminster associations have always been connected with the river, it is here that the boys received their first physical training, displayed their first prowess and won their first victories. But the once silvery Thames is at this point now a foul ditch, and the immense steam navigation has rendered it entirely unfit for rowing. The School contains now only about 130 boys, of which but 30 are day boarders; the Londoners then can scarcely complain if this noble School be removed to some more favorable spot upon the banks of the Thames. What has already been carried out under similar circumstances with regard to Leeds Grammar School, and is about to be carried out at Manchester must also be done with Westminster, if the school is to survive as a first class public School or retain its old connexions. A meeting of "Old Westminsters" has already been held in the Jerusalem Chamber in the Abbey and was attended in great numbers by the leading nobility and gentry of England, including Dukes, Bishops, leading Statesmen and men of Letters.

The arguments in favor of removal were many and unanswerable, viz: Numbers and competition are of vital importance in a School, and if there is no longer a fair proportion from which to select, its connection with Christ Church and Trinity College must be very soon cut asunder as damaging to those noble Institutions; again amid the dense population of London, moral supervision during hours of leave is next to impossible; the great risk too of the Old

Westminster sport was urged, and the limited space, which is now insufficient for educational purposes. Against these the sole argument is the breaking up the grand old local associations, and its local connection with the Abbey and the spot which must ever be classic ground to every member of the Anglo-Saxon race. Sir J. Graham, who was recognized by the Duke of Richmond as his fag in their school boy days, reserved his opinion as to the propriety of removal, but urged besides the old *religio loci*, the single advantage it had over the other public Schools of attending debates in the Houses of Legislature. Lord Ebury, who can allow no occasion to pass without shewing his iconoclastic tendencies, recommended its being turned into a common commercial day school, but as usual met with not a single supporter.

No conclusion was come to, but an early meeting fixed upon when, besides additional evidence, the Marquis of Lansdowne and Lord J. Russell would attend. We are decidedly of opinion that the removal is absolutely necessary, and hope that care will be taken to select a proper site somewhere on the upper Thames, taking care that it has every convenience for carrying on the old aquatic training, so much missed at Harrow and Rugby for want of water,—that it be not placed in a swamp like Winchester,—or in a place so notoriously unhealthy as Eton.

Communications.

[The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions of their correspondents. Their columns will be open to all communications, provided only that they are of reasonable length and are free from personalities.]

To the Editors of the *Canadian Church Press*.

GENTLEMEN,—Can you give the church at large any information relative to the amount of progress made in Toronto, in carrying out the wishes of the Bishop. Clergy and select laity of this Diocese expressed last Synod, to the effect that steps should be immediately taken by the several congregations of the city, to club together in order to make provision for the support of some suitable clergyman, who should devote his whole time to the duties of chaplain to the hospital, the gaol, the lunatic asylum, and other like public institutions of the city?

It was a very gratifying thing to see so desirable an object as that contemplated by the mover, (himself one of the city clergy,) so warmly seconded by the sense of the whole Synod. No time should be lost in prosecuting this admirable labour of love. There is every willingness on the part of the authorities, within the institutions, to do what in them lies to further it. And it is earnestly to be hoped that the city clergy, in whose hands lies the carrying out of the work, will exhibit no supineness in the premises. They can easily satisfy themselves of the great desirableness of having a special chaplain for these institutions, by conversing on the subject with their highly intelligent officers.

Dr. Gardner (of the hospital,) will tell them that, in his opinion, there is ample work at the hospital alone to occupy the entire time of a chaplain. Persons are being continually brought in, who require the immediate attention of the clergy. They frequently become delirious, or die soon after admission. No clergyman officiates on Sunday. A lay reader attends on that day. The Rev. Messrs. Baldwin and Baddy go together there one week-day. Considering the amount of work that ought to be done in a Cathedral Church, and in the important Parish of St. James, it is perhaps to be wondered that its slender staff of curates-assistant are able to make even a weekly visit.

The Governor of the Gaol, Mr. Allan, is fully alive to the great importance of regular clerical services, and would do ever-thing he could to promote it.

Again: Dr. Workman, of the L. Asylum, speaks of the great importance of regular Clerical Visitation, not only for services, but for individual visitings. Sometimes patients, deprived of reason on every other subject, are sane on that of religion, and would derive much benefit, not only spiritually but even physically, from the visits of a judicious Chaplain.

Then again, the very Government Inspectors of gaols, hospitals, &c., Messrs. Meredith and Layton, confess the deep importance of a really efficient Clerical attendance on those places. The Inspectors, in their May Report, state that the chief hope they have of diminishing crime is through the influence of religion.

Now, brief as this information is, it is surely most satisfactory, as far as it goes; and it was well worth the little trouble bestowed in obtaining it.

I shall conclude with a fact that fell immediately within my own knowledge. It is this, that the mover of the Resolution of Synod was at the time wholly ignorant that we have among us, by God's good Providence, "the right man for the right place,"—a young Clergyman of excellent standing,—in full vigour of mind and body, who has a strong predilection for just this very sort of work.

I could not be otherwise than struck with the coincidence of his having informed me, only a few weeks before Synod, how much he should like such sort of employment as that now determined on, by the adoption of Rev. Mr. Girvin's resolution;—the said Rev. Rural Dean being at the time, wholly ignorant that a Chaplain, "ready to his hand," was actually sitting in Synod.

Happening, as I do, to know that there are two other positions very likely to be open (one is already open,) to the Clergyman alluded to, I sincerely hope we shall not lose the present excellent opportunity of giving the right man his right work.

If his Lordship thought proper to appoint the Clergy of Toronto, together with their lay delegates to Synod, a COMMITTEE to take up a Subscription for the purpose, through the City, it would be amply filled up in twenty-four hours. It is to be regretted that some such measure was not proposed in Synod, for there cannot be a doubt that it would have been at once carried, *nemine contradicente*.

Yours respectfully,
CARPE DIEM.