VOL. XXX.—NO. 18.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1879.

STUDENTS' SONG

With songs divine
Come wreathe the bowl,
And drink the sparkling measures.
Thy hand in mine,
With soul for soul,
Let's gather friendship's treasures
The true we greet. The true we greet
With accents meet,
And pledge with vows fraternal
From shore to shore,
For evermore,
Our hopes and loves supernal

Our hopes are bright
Ot future bliss,
And soft as breath of morning
We sip delight
In ev'ry kiss
Of love, our lives adorning
We laugh at fate
With hearts elate
And drive dark care before us
And while we sing
The echoes ring
In sympathetic chorus!

Tt. ladles' eyes
Hurrah! hurrah!
We drain the cup enchanting
Each lass a prize,
Hurrah! hurrah!
With tender feelings panting
We scan the skies
Of woman's eyes,
And in their beauty beaming
By night or day
They guide our way
To crystal love-shrines gles ming

Of oid, we read
That Venus prayed
A hunting-boy to love her—
A naughty deed,
But he, affald, Preferred to be a rover. Ah! were we there
The goddess fair
Would not have pined in anguish,
Nor would that tale,
Nor Venus frail
Through lonely ages languish!

To manly worth
We drink the toast,
And though we seek no dauger
Our pride of bt. th,
Our manly boast.

Is, fear to us is stranger!
Canadian skies—
Our lasses' eyes,
Canadian streams and mountains!
Fill bigh! fill up

The ruby cup
At I ove and Friendship's fountains! JAMES JOSEPH GAHAN.

POPULAR OBJECTIONS TO THE OHUROH.

Father Damen's Lecture at St. Francis Xavler's, Sunday, 80th November 1879.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

"Blessed are you when men shall revile and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.
"Rejolce and be exceedingly glad, because "Rejoice and be exceedingly great in heaven.
"For thus they persecuted the prophets that were before you."—St. Matt., v. 11, 42 13.

Dearly beloved friends: The blessed Saviour has foretold those who believe in Him, those who shall follow the religion which He came to establish should be persecuted, caluminated, slandered and misrepresented; for, says He, "The disciple is not above the Master, and if they have persecuted, the Master so they will also persecute the disciple." It is therefore the lot of the Catholic Church forever to be persecuted calumniated and slandered; and we see that this prophecy of the blessed Saviour has been fulfilled. Hardry had the Church of Jesus been ushered into existence than she was surrounded by hosts of enemies, who declared she must be destroyed, and even raised armies to crush this rising church, by the order of pagan emperors, by the sanction of high priests and the magistrates, Levites and scribes, and the doctors of the law. She was assailed by the sophistry of philosophers, and the intrigues of the learned, and even the emblems of death were employed for 300 years to crush out the rising Church of Jesus

It is computed by historians that during the first 300 years of the existence of the Catholic Church 20,000,000 people died as martyis for the holy Catholic faith; and when Constantine the Great was converted, and became the first Christian Emperor, therewas granted thepeople the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, and by that there was freedom of thought in the Roman Empire. Yet there was persecution in other parts of the world against the religion of Jesus Christ. And so it has been for the last 1846 years—the period of the existence of the holy religion; and when there was peace for the Church in one country there was persecu-

tion in another—just as it is to-day.

Now in this country we enjoy freedom of thought and can worship God according to the dictates of conscience; but while we enjoy it here there is persecution elsewhere.

SECRET SOCIETIES ARE CHURCH ENEMIES.

There is a fearful persecution, as you all know, going on against the Church in Prussia, Switzerland, Italy, South America and Mexico. In the latter country it is not pagans, infidels or Protestants that are persecuting the Church there, but it is secret societics, which is mere particularly the case in Mexico, where, not long ago, three hundred Sisters of Charity were banished from the land. All these Sisters of Charity were ladies of the highest respectability, and yet they were banished from the land. And why? Because it was said they were dangerous to the country. What! Three hundred meek women dangerous to a country; surely they must be a very weak Government to be afraid of 300 poor women.

These secret societies are now the strong enemies of the Church, and are doing all the mischief against it in Italy, Switzerland and South America. Hence, the prophecy of the blessed Saviour has been fulfilled, and even in this country, where we have at least, from the Government, freedom of religion and consciouse, the prophecy of the blessed Saviour is diffilled, for here we are calumniated, misrepresented and slandered, and doctrines attributed to us which in reality we abhor.

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I have announced that I would answer tonight the popular objection against the Catholic Church. I notice that on the ticket of admission it is modern objections. This is a mistake. They are not modern objections that I propose to meet, but popular objections which are as old as Protestantism.

OPPOSED TO THE BIBLE.

Now, I will commence with one of the leading objections against our holy faith, and and that is, that Catholics are not allowed to read the Bible. This charge our Protestant preachers are hurling from their pulpits, to your house at night to murder you teaching in their Sabbath schools. They have and your family, you would not hesitate a mobeen constantly affirming that Catholics are not allowed to read the Bible. You, our friends, that listen to me, know that those charges are calumnies and slanders, and if our enemies would only open the Catholic Bible they would find upon the first page a letter from Pope Pius VI, exhorting "all to read this book for instruction, for information and for sanctification."

"But," says our Protestant friends, "the Catholics are afraid of the Bible, and dare not throw it open to the people." Why, the Bible is our fertification and our stronghold. It is out of that we refute the errors of heresy and of Protestantism. It is from the Bible that we prove all our holy doctrines. Why, if the Catholic Church were afraid of the Bible and wished to do away with it, she could have done so at any time for 1,500 years before Protestantism came into the world. Who gave us the Bible? You Protestants ought to be exceedingly thankful to the Catholic Church for having preserved it, for had it not done so, you would never have laid your eyes upon it. Before the art of printing was invented, in convents and monasteries there were holy monks and nuns, in quiet rooms, engaged in copying the Bible and of other books of great value.

OPPOSED TO EDUCATION.

Then again it is stated that the Catholic Church is epposed to education. What? Catholicism opposed to education? Why, she has ever been a fosterer of education. All the great universities of Europe, by whom were they established? By the Catholic Church. The Universities of Oxford, of Salamanca, of Paris, and the various other countries of Europe—all of them were established by Roman Catholics and Roman Catholic money. And those universities that were so flourishing and had thousands and thousands of students before Protestantism came into the world, have since been taken out of the hands of the Catholics, and are languishing and dying; and where they once had thousands of students, they now have only hundreds. These are facts which are admitted by all well-informed people, and I will give you a quotation from a Protestant minister in England. This

"It should be known by every reader of history that the Catholic Church has been the educator of the whole civilized world, not only in religion and morality, but in science, literature and art; and when Protestantism fell like an avalanche on these things with its armies, it was the Catholic Church that preserved them, and with a holy patience instructed the people in that civilization of which we now boast. The monasteries, colleges and universities of the Catholic Church enlightened Europe and prepared her for the discovery of the new route to India and spread civilization over the world. During those ages which Protestants are pleased to call the dark ages education of the most bencficial character was diffused by means of the Universites even more universal in those countries than at the present day."

This is the testimony of a New England preacher, who, by the grace of God, has now become a Catholic.

But need we go to Europe to be convinced of the zeal that the Catholic Church has for the education and enlightenment of the world? No; we can see right here in the United States what strides the Catholic Church is making in the spread of education throughout the country. There is hardly a city in the United States but has its college or university, its academy, and we may say that there is hardly a church but has its parochial schools. A few years ago, in New England, they were alarmed at the spread of Catholicism, and the people in Massachusetts said if the Catholics keep increasing in that way they will soon have the country, and so we will, we hope, by the grace of God. (Laughter.)

"But," say the Protestants, "what will become of us if the Catholic become the leading religion in the country?" Why. nothing atall. Don't be auxious. You will then be just as free as now, and just as happy—and, perhaps, happier than now, for the Catholic religion is

NOT A PERSECUTING RELIGION.

And that is another idea the Protestants have which is erroneous. The Catholic Church abhors persecution for conscience sake, and she never tries to force people into her ranks. She works hard to convince the people of the error of their heresies, but she does it by reasoning and arguments, not by the sword. Well, if that is so, what about St. Bartholomew's night in Paris? That was a conspiracy against the lawful Government of France, Admiral Coligni, who had murdered a duke, wrote a very rebellious letter to King Charles IX, in which he said: "If you don't declare war against Spain, I and my partisans will be obliged to wage war against you;" and he had actually formed a conspiracy against the King and against his family, and that they should all be assasinated with the exception of Prince Conde, who was a violent Huguenot (Calvinist Presbyterian), and whom they intended to make King of France. This conspiracy was discovered, and the King give orders that the chief conspirators should be put to death, and so Admiral Coligni and his co-conspirators

rise up against the Protestants, or Protestants against Catholics. In spite of all these precautions of the King of France, 654 persons were put to death between the 23d of August and the 3d day of October, but that was against the order and proclamation of the King.

Now, what all of this? It was simply to punish the conspirators, which he had the right to do, because he knew that these conspirators were going to attempt his life and the lives of his family. If you should find out that a set of fellws intended to come and your family, you would not hesitate a moment to blow out their brains, and you would be justified in doing it.

This is precisely what was done on Bartholomew's night. They were not put to death because they were Huguenots or Presbyterians but because they were conspirators against the King and the royal family.

Protestant historians, according to the fancy that inspires them, have written that 15,000 persons were murdered. Well, suppose 100,000 had been, they were conspirators against the life of the King and they

ALL DESERVED TO DIE.

Others, again, have said there were 30,000, and some even have raised the number to 100,000; but the real history of the fact is that 654 lost their lives in consequence of this conspiracy against the King. We are indebted for this accurate number to a Protestant author, who, in 1852, went to great trouble to find out all the names of those who lost their lives in consequence of this conspiracy.

Then, again, it is not fair to claim this as the work of the Catholics, because it was the work of a King who was a Catholic.

"But," the Protestants say, "there was great rejoicing in Rome when it was heard that these persons were murdered." Well, perhaps there was, but it was not on account of the Huguenots being put to death, but because of a great victory of the Christian armies over the Turks.

THE INCUISITION.

Now, then, I will pass to another fallacy which the Protestants promulgate, and that is in regard to the inquisition. They say, " Was not that institution to promulgate the

Catholic Church and crush out Protestantism?"
I answer, No. It was commenced by Ferdinand and Isabella, not against Protestants, but against Jews and the Moors, who were constantly conspiring to upset the Spanish Government and throne. In order to prevent this and save the lawful Government the Inquisition was established. And has not the Government a right to protect itself against conspirators and murderers?

Was there not an Inquisition in this country during the great war between the North and the South? Were not men put in prison because they dared to express their ideas in this matter, both North and South?

Every government has a right to protect itself, and confirm its establishment. There were two tribunals in the Inquisition-one ecclesiastical and the other civil. The ecclesiastical tribunal was composed of clergymen but what had clergymen to do with the Inquisition? Their duty was to decide doctrinal points, after which they harded the offender over to the civil tribunal, and the latter inflicted the punishment. Every heretic was punished by civil law, not only in Spain, but all through Europe. The Church never approved of the cruelties that were inflicted, and many of the Popes have remonstrated and condemned them, and have even threatened that if they did not stop them, the parties responsible would be excommunicated.

But does not history tell us that wherever Protestantism was introduced and had the majority that they instituted the same cruelties? All through England and Holland the adherents of the Church were racked and punished. You have heard the stories around your winter fires, from your ancestors, how they suffered in Ireland and Germany.

IDOLATRY.

It is said we violate the command of God which says we shall not make any graven images. To this I say we do not have them to worship, any more than the Protestant does who keeps a picture of his father and mother. We have those images because we love the persons they represent.

Nor do we bow down to or worship them We have them merely as souvenirs, and surely we have the same light to be courteous to those representations of the first persons who lived on the earth as the living have who gracefully bow to one another on the streets.

Protestants find a great deal to complain of because we have so much to say about the "Blessed Virgin Mary." If they will read their bibles they will find that the mother of Jesus was so styled in its pages, and why should not the mother of the Son of God, who represents the noblest, sweetest and grandest life be called "blessed?" Suppose it was possible for the mother of George Washington to come to St. Louis, what crowds would come out to see her? Now, have we not as good a right to honor the mother of our Saviour, who was infinitely above the mother of Washing-

ton? In view of these things, well may the Protestants say, "What in the world is going to become of us? Here we are half Papists. Every Protestant who reads his bible must read "Hall Mary," for it is there in the first chapter of St Luke's gospel? Our Protestant friends are just like the fools of old, "They have eyes, but they see not; ears they have, but hear not; and mouths, but they speak not." It is only when they hear the "Hail Mary" of the Catholics that they find fault with what they have read over and over again in their own bibles.

AGAINST REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS.

H'rance to prevent the rising up of citizens And this republic, probably, owes its existing a significant probably and the strange of the significant probably of of the significant probably

told there are bad men in the Catholic Church. I would respectfully suggest that, if only the guiltless Protestants are allowed to cast stones, there will not be many hurt. I have travelled all over this country and Canada, and I find bad men in every Church; even among the Protestant clergy we find some very bad characteristics.

CLOSING TRIBUTE.

The Father then closed with this tribute to the young communicants of bt. Xavier's Church:

I was very much delighted this morning at the 7 o'clock Mass. My heart expanded with joy, and I was happy to see such a grand crowd of men going to Communion. I am sure that the angels of God were delighted with it, and that the blessed Mary smiled upon you as her adopted sons; and I hope you will all endeavor to spread the faith all over the world by your good example, by your purity, and by your practical religion; for thus only can you secure the blessed joy the Saviour has promised to those who believe and are baptized, namely, that they shall be saved—those who have practical religion; for faith without works 18 dead. Our faith must be animated by charity -charity that induces to the observance of the commandments and is guided by the presence of the Holy Ghost.

May the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost descend upon and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Cardinal McCloskey on Irish Distress

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of New York delivered himself of a great and impressive truth on Saturday last when he suggested that the saving of human lives. imperiled by existing distress and an impending famine, was before and beyond any sentimental effort at political amelioration. In his interview with Mr. Peter O'Leary, the Cardinal deplored the fact that the excitement begotten of the Land agitation in Ireland seemed to overshadow for a time the more immediate claims of a starving people; and while studiously avoiding any condemnation of the Irish movement in its political aspects, the plain interpretation of his words is that the romance of the Paruell policy—the romance, that is, comparatively—should yield to the realities of the demands of hunger, cold and nakedness. In this all sensible men will agree. No patriot, and certainly no philanthropist, will gainsay the assertion that the preservation of human life has the first claim on human effort. All other ills can bide their legitimate time for amendment, but the evil that carries famine and fever in its train cannot await the tedious process of parliamentary

discussion or hillside agitation. The Cardinal in his observations suggestively implies the course of action to meet nis approval. In London, bishop of Westminster had invited the temperance societies in the great metropolis to take action, and, this done, Cardinal Manning issued a pastoral to the clergy of the archdiocese to aid in the good work. Here, Cardinal McCloskey indicates a like course, throwing out the hint that the temperance and other Irish organizations should take the initiative, and certainly more than hinting that then the Church, through its ministers, would take the proper stand with the people. We trust that the suggestion will not be lost. It is all well to hold preliminary meetings for a Parnell reception, to organize committees to give welcome and hospitality to the chosen leader of the Irish cause—though, from all appearances, such reception will not be rendered necessary in the near future-but the first claim is for the suffering people, as Cardinal McCloskey so pithily puts in. We do not undervalue that national feeling which would tender its best gratulations to a prominent patriot; but we attach more importance to the humanity that would send relief to the bedsides of the famine and fever stricken. By all means give Charles Stewart Parnell a greeting in America worthy of the man and his cause; but let not the enthusiasm in this regard overshadow the paramount claims of the poor in Ireland .- N. Y. Star.

HANLAN'S FUTURE.

The Australian Match. TORONTO, December 12.—Trickett still de-

clines to allow Hanlan anything for expenses, but is willing to row him for \$10,000. An Australian gentleman paid \$65 for a Cable message to Hanlan and never received an answer, either by wire or post.

Hanlan's course in giving Courtney another chance is not favourably viewed by his friends here, who think he is a fool to waste more time over the Union Springs man. Hanlan is building a capacious and handsome summer hotel on the site where his old home formerly stood. His homestead, with which the people of Ontario presented him, will be built about half a mile away in a most favourable and pretty locality on the Island, commanding a fine view of the Lake to the

Catholic Colonization.

We have received a number of very interesting and instructive pamphlets from the Catholic Colonization Bureau of St. Paul, Minnesota. This society is under the auspices of Bishop Ireland, a man who has done so much for Irish Catholic colonization, and the secretary is the brilliant Irish literateur, Dillon O'Brien. The location of the present lands for settlement is in Minnesota, Lyon county, and comprises 45,000 acres. There are now The church is said to be opposed to repub- four Catholic colonies in that State. The chief conspirators should be put to death, and so Admiral Coligni and his co-conspirators licanism. This is talse. The republics of advertisement of the Bureau will be found to the number of 151 were put to death on that night in Paris, 1572. In the morning that night in Paris, 1572. In the morning the King gave orders to the Governors of the King gave orders to the Governors of the merce at the timely aid in the life-struggle fornished with a pamphle for the control of the control of the control of the said to be opposed to republic of advertisement of the Bureau will be found elsewhere in the True Witness and in the Evening Post. Anyone desirious of enquiring them were established by Roman Catholics.

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Jottings of the Times.

Skilled artisans who may meditate emigration to Australia ought to know that there are thousands of their class out of work in the Australian cities. Indeed the distress is heartrending.

We have now the Zulu version of the killing of Prince Louis Napoleon, and, just as we expected, there were only eight savages in the party that attacked Carey's troop. Fright magnified the foe, and lent fleetness to the flight.

His Holiness the Pope has been presented with an offering of £600 from the diocese of Cork. £8,000 as Peter's Pence, from the diocese of Cambrai, £362 on the part of Mgr. Aneiros, Archbishop of Buenos Ayres, and £100 on behalf of the Bishop of Avila, in

The Liverpool Mercury understands "that the Earl of Derby has addressed a lengthy epistle to a near relative, giving his reasons not only for resigning his position in the Conservative Government, but abandoning the Conservative party and throwing his influence in Lancashire on to the Liberal side."

The Travailleur, Radical sheet of Montpelier, has not its responsible director into trouble. At the suit of three plaintiffs, who complained of defamation, he was condemned to fines aggregating to 5,000 francs, and imprisonment extending over two months. Need we say that the Travailleur has taken leave of the public?

The Empress Eugenie went through France by permission of the presideut, to attend the leathbed of her mother, the Countess de Montijo; but before she could reach her destinatian the Countess passed away. Another beavy blow to an already sorely-tried woman. Surely the widow of Napoleon the Third has had need of patience.

Touching the negociations between the Holy See and France, the Ralia stated that the Pope was willing to sacrifice the Jesuits to obtain concessions on other points of Ferry's measure. The Osservatore Romano rejoins that the assertion is utterly devoid of foundation. The Holy Father will never approve of any project tending to the exclusion

Whatever the distress in Ireland, the export of cattle continues as briskly as ever. Recently there were sent to England 21,757 cows, 15 554 sheep, and 14,696 pigs in one week. The cows alone would furnish a meal each to 21,-750,000 adults, the sheep to 1,555,400, and the pigs to perhaps 3,000,000; so that in one week flesh meat enough left Ireland to far more than provide a dinner for every man, woman, and

for the memorial to the late Cardinal Cullen the form of a national cathedral in Dublin, equal to the mediaval structures in England or on the Continent. England or on the Continent. Towards this object Mr. E.D Gray M P. has promised £1, 500, and other Catholic noblemen and gentlemen have signified their willingness to contribute largely.

The London correspondent of a Liverpool daily contemporary, in a recent letter, told his readers that the tower of Cologne Cathedral will be the highest in the world, and then, for the information of antiquarians appends the altitudes of several other spires. Considering that antiquarians had an opportunity of reading all his figures and a few more in most of the papers of last week, we are disposed to think he must have been exceedingly hard up for material.

An inhabitant of Palermo, Catalalmo da Cefalu, who was captured by five brigands, has been found dead in a cave of Monte Pellegrino, his head cut off and the body shockingly mutilated. The brigands had demanded 200,000f. ransom, but on the family declaring their inability to collect more than 7,000f., they ultimately agreed to take 8,500f., which was accordingly sent; but the recipients kept it all themselves, whereupon the accomplices who guarded the prisoner resolved to murder him. Nearly all the culprits are in custody.

Mr. Gladstone has entered upon the Midlothian campaign, and our Scottish friends are so proud of his presence amongst them that General MacPherson's partial failure in his they are making his progress an ovation. It is not easy to judge, however, whether there is a reaction in that region or not. Scotland generally catches the same political impression as England, as was shown in 1868 and in 1874, and though Mr. Gladstone's great great influence may give him a good chance in Midlothian it remains to be seen whether the country at large will be moved by his persuasive orations.

Some of the Manchester newspapers have ecently beaten their American contemporaries in their powers of invention. During the last month or two they have given accounts of Fenian meetings of an extraordinary characters, which they alleged took place in the city, the "speeches" at the gatherings being reported at length. We have heard curious stories of the origin of these reports, but we are told that the meetings never took place, and consequently that the speeches reported never could have been made. Have our contemporaries any explanation to offer of this strange circumstance?

It will be interesting to our army men to learn the details just published of the rations given the British soldier in the field. A pound of bread, a pound of fresh meat, half a pound of fresh vegetables, three-quarters of a pound of flour, and, at the discretion of the commanding officer and medical staff, a pint of porter or half a gill of spirits for the daily ration. As it is not always practicable to obtain bread, fresh meat, or fresh vegetables, three-quarters of a pound of biscuit, flour or rice are to be considered equivalent to the ration of bread, a pound of salt meat or threequarters of a pound of preserved meat may be substituted for the fresh meat ration, and two ounces of preserved vegetables, one ounce of

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE VICEROY OF INDIA.

A Native Fires Twice at Lord Lytton without effect-The Criminal is Arrested-The Queen Congratulates the Viceroy on His Escape.

CALCUTTA, December 13 .- Intense excitement was created here this afternoon by the attempted assassination of the Viceroy, Lord Lytton. His Lordship had just returned to this city by railway from the frontier, and was met and welcomed at the station by a large gathering of his friends. After the customary greetings were over the party entered their carriages, which were in waiting, and proceeded on their way to the Vice-regel Palace. They had gone but a short distance when a pistol shot, fired by some person in the crowd which lined the streets, was heard, the ball passing immediately over the head of the Vicero who occupied the rear seat of his carrie. The first shot was followed almost immediately by another, which passed completely over the second car-The horses were brought to a standriago. still by the drivers, and the populace gathered near them, increasing the excitement with their shouts and cries for revenge. Everything was at once thrown into Babel-like confusion; the members of Lord Lytton's staff dashed among the crowd determined to find the assassin if possible. Fortunately one of them succeeded in arresting the man who had fired the shots. He proved to be a native, and was or pretended to be considerably intoxicated. He was sur-rounded by the throng, and immediately hurried to prison, to wait sobriety and investigation. No one was injured by the shots, which were aimed too high to do execution. Immediately after the arrest of the would-be assassin, the Vice-regal party proceeded to the palace, where they arrived without any further molestation. No attempt at rescue was made by the native population, although no end of threatening utterances were heard directed at the Viceroy, English officers and all British authorities. The city is thoroughly aroused over the event, and there is a very lively discussion from the work of public instruction of the of its circumstances and significance, both in most meritorious teaching body.

Government circles and among people of the Government circles and among people of the mercantile classes. The native population are loud in their expressions of their abhorrence of the murderous act, and the native pobility and gentry are especially extravagant in their denunciations. But among English residents in the city it has intensified and brought into strong relief the anxiety which has long existed. A repetition of the scenes of mutiny of 1847 has for some time been a sort of probability. The Queen, immediately

AFGHANISTAN AFFAIRS.

The Truth Leaking Out-Gravity of the Situation.

London, December 15 .- A despatch from Cabul says the discovery of papers at Cabul, exposing Russian intrigues in Afghanistan, is

NEW YORK, December 14.—The Tribune's London special says the gravity of the Cabul news arouses military and political apprehensions that, owing to rigid censorship, the whole truth is unknown. The Liberal journals frankly say that Roberts is fighting for life. His whole force of 5,000 is pitted against the entire Afghan army, whose strength is unknown. It is believed Roberts will overcome the present attack, as he holds a strongly fortified position about Cabul, but unless he is victorious an insurrection in Cabul is certain. Candahar is also threatened by 11,000 troops advancing from Herat. The Times urges the Government to abandon Afghanistan after a crushing resistance. The Standard gives the same counsel The public is uneasy from daily accumulating evidence that merciless cruelties have been perpetrated on the Afghans.

CALCUTTA, December 14 .- General Roberts telegraphs a confirmation of the report of attempt on Friday to capture the ridge above Bala Hissar at Cabul. On Saturday morning General Baker attacked the Afghan position with two and a half regiments of infantry, two regiments of cavalry, and eight guns, and captured the hill, driving the Afghans from all their positions. A letter dated Candahar, 1st instant, says General Stewart had been instructed to send a message to Ayoub Khan, the Afghan commander at Herat, requiring him to hold Herat in the name of the British Governmen,t and threatening the advance thither of the British in case of his failure to do so.

General Roberts telegraphs from Cabul on the 13th instant that the enemy have been defeated on all sides, but, notwithstanding lheir heavy losses, parties of Afghans still remain in the neighborhood. General Reberts had announced his intention to attack on the 18th instant unless these parties dispersed. The total British loss during the three days' fighting was 43 killed, including six officers, 6 wounded, of whom 10 were officers.

-Last Friday's leading Liverpool grain circular says:—"The grain trade exhibits a further progressive improvement. At the provincial markets both English and foreign wheat was taken readily at an improvement of 1s per qr. Cargoes in all positions show a proportionate improvement. At Liverpool since Tuesday there was a good business in wheat and maize on the spot, both for consumption and speculation at 1d to 2d improvement on Tuesday's rates. To-day an advance of 2d on all descriptions of wheat, as compared with Tuesday's rates, may be quoted. Millers do not willingly concede the advance, but a fair business was done. Flour was in compressed vegetables, or a quarter of a pound good request and 6d to 1s per sack dearer.