THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, NO.V. 3, 1876.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

A SILESIAN ELECTION .- There is great jubilation among the Catholics of Silesia at the result of an election just held for the electoral district of Cosel and Gross Strehlitz. Formerly the representative for this district was the local Protestant magnate the Duke of Ujest. But at the general election three years ago, the popular Catholic vote returned a local parish priest, Herr Gratza, of Himmelwitz, as a protest against the ecclesiastical legislation of the Prussian Government. This election was set aside, on the ground of some technical objection. The Emperor William interested himself in favour of Ducal candidate, considering it something shocking that a nobleman so much respected at Court should be set aside merely because he voted in favour of the law proposed by the king's Government. But the people were staunch, and at the new election. the priest again headed the poll. But his health gave way, and he died last spring. A new election became thus a necessity. The Duke was again a candidate, and felt sure of success now that his clerical opponent was gone. But he was opposed by Dr. Franz, the editor of the Breslan Kirchenblatt. The Duke polled 6,449 votes; the Catholic candidate 9,443. At the last election the Duke polled 7,237 votes, while the parish priest Gretza had 9,007. Thus on the present occasion the Catholics mustered 442 additional votes, while the Duke was deserted by 788 of his former supporters. This victory is the more remarkable and gratifying because of the immense exertions made by the non-Catholic. party. Indeed they did not hesitate as to the means in order to win. Many voters have been dismissed from their situations for having voted according to their consciences; labourers on some of the estates have been deprived of employment. All the influence of the Government, especially of the War Office was used in favour of the Duke. A committee has been formed at Breslau to provide funds to relieve the wants of those electors who have been deprived of a livelihood, and, if possible, to find employment for them .- London Tablet.

HEARDED CONFESSIONS.—Herr Zmura, a pariah priest in the Posen district, has been prosecuted for hearing confessions in a neighbouring parish. Pending the decision of the tribunal the parish priest was, by an order of the local authorities, exiled from his parish, and this banishment lasted four months. The court acquitted him of the charge.

A French correspondent of the Swiss Liberte gives assiduous and most intimate was Citizen Jousserandot, a gentleman deported to Cayenne after the coup of the 2nd December. He was once a perfect, and has been the advocate of all sorts of free thought. To-day he is professor of equity at Geneva, Before quitting the city M. Thiers went on a pilgrimage to the chateau of Voltaire, at Ferney.

The Defense, Mgr. Dopanloup's organ, says the Pope sends his blessing to Republican France, just as he would send it to Monarchical France. Only Protestants, Greeks, and Mussulmans confuse religion and government.

In the year 1862 there were in the Prussian universities 1,180 students of Protestant theology. In 1876 there are 280. In 1867 the number of students of Protestant theology in Holland was 533; in 1874 it was 232. In the University of Leyden from 188 the number has decreased to 36.

Adulteration, hitherto so very little known in Germany before the National Liberal era began have now become such a nuisance in the Fatherland. that people are almost afraid of buying the necessaries of life. Bread is often found to contain 10 per cent of plaster of Paris, lime, sulphate of barytes, and other injurious things. Beer and wine can now hardly be had pure from any merchant.

In Poland and Silesia the Bussian Government proceeds against priests with renewed vigour. Not less than thirteen priests received strict orders this week to abstain from teaching religion or appearing in public schools, and what is almost incredible, they were even forbidden to continue their personal relations with the schoolmasters; as if the Government had the right to regulate the social intercourse of its victims!

FRENCH PILORIMS AT THE VATICAN .- ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER .- On the morning of the 25th of September the pilgrims of the diocese of Tarbes were received by Pius IX. in andience in the Con-sistorial Hall. The address was read by the Abbe Nogaro, Archpricst of the Cathedral of Tarbes. An album, containing 20,000 signatures, was also pre-sented to the Pope. The names were those of persons who met at Lourdes to pray for the safety of the Church and of the Pontiff. To the address read by the Abbe Nogaro the Holy Father made the following reply :--"I feel a new and a great consolation in my heart when I thus find myself in presence of these pious ecclesiastics and these devoted Christians, whose happy fortune it is to live beneath the shadow of that miraculous image of Our Lady, which God employs as the daily means of performing signal wonders, dispensing His graces, and demonstrating to all the Catholic world the richness of His mercy. Ab! would that all men, and especially all Christians, were always to sit beneath the shadow of that mystic plant which produced the fruit of Our redemption, and cancelled from the forehead of mankind the handwriting of eternal condemnation. "Let us commend ourselves to this blessed Virgin, let us hear her counsels and put them in prac-tice. When wine was wanting at the marriage in Cana, Jesus Christ, who wished by His presence to sanctify the natural contract of matrimony and raise it to the dignity of a sacrament, was there and so was His most sacred Mother. As soon as ever she perceived the confusion and perplexity of the mistress of the house and of the servents, she was moved with compassion, and she it was who obtained from Jesus Christ the first miracle which is recorded by the Holy Evangelists. She said to the servants, 'Go to my son and do that which he tells you-Quodcumque dizerit vobis, facile.' "My beloved, this is a lesson for us, teaching us that we should hearken to the voice of the Mother of God, and execute the counsels she gives to us in this valley of sorrow. She sends us to Jesus Christ to hear from Himself that which he wishes us to do. Jesus Christ wishes nothing else from us save that we shold go to Him and follow Him. He calls to us, but all do not respond to His call. He calls and says-' Venite ad nuptias.' But many answer, ' Villam emi!' Vanity, haughtiness, and pride are for these a great obstacle in the way of drawing near to Jesus Christ, and therefore they remain away from Him, alleging, ' Non possumus venire.' "Jesus Christ calls to others, and these answer-⁴ Fuga boum emi quinque. Alas ! my friends, this is a materialistic age, as I have before on several oc-casions, observed. How many are there in the world [and many of them we see in Italy itself], who adopt the most unjust methods to improve their position ! And this is the reason why many, who previously were confounded with the lowest people, are now enriched beyond measur by the means acquired in the confusion of the revolution; and this explains how he who lived before among the wretched now sits proudly in a princely car-riage drawn by champing steeds. One part of their riches come perchance from certain estates which once formed the patrimony of the Church, and which, as experience tcaches, are wont to destroy both the properties, and possessors. These, persons also answer to Obrist's call ; We cannot come. . At last Jesus Christ turns 'to others," who

answer : Uzoren duzzi et ideo non poisum venire. There are they who live in the mire of their passions, and who are immersed in the vileness of corrupt lives.

"But let us beloved Sons, repair to Mary, and repair to her confidently, invoking her, as the Church invokes her, as Virgo potens. She was po-tent to crush the serpent's head. She was potent to conquer heresy throughout the whole world, and she will be also potent enough to repress the evil passions raised throghout all the earth. I, for my part, pray that she will give peace, and safely conduct from the plains of Sennaar and regions of liberated Albanian prisoners taken during the Babylon all those who have lost the true paths. recent fighting. An article published in an official But inasmuch as her enemies and those of her Son are still prouder and fierce, she may employ force to cause those engaged in the conflict, not only to persist in good intentions, but to arm themselves courageously for the combat.

to your persons, your families, and to all that con- aling on its own case. Obviously if six powers cerns you. I bless the Bishop and his diocese, and meet to discuss recommendations to be made to a pray it may obtain, by means of the Blessed Mary, all those graces of which it most stands in need. " Benedictio, &c."

THE BREACH OF PORTE PIA .- The storming of Rome in September, 1870, was this year commemorated with unusual sclemnity throughout Italy, the officials of the Government assisting the festivities in various ways. The former Ministries looked coldly on such demonstrations, and gave them but small encouragement. This year, however, the Ministry is supposed to represent the extreme revolutionists, and to fayour their old friends the Mazziniana. In Austrian, or rather Italian, Tyrol the inhabitants of the Trent district who desire annexation to Italy were bold enough to celebrate the 20th of September, and to manifest rebellious designs against Austria. The manifesto of the "Trent National Committee" says that Austria for a year back has been renewing the cruelties, horrors, and severities which formed a page of eternal infamy in the political history of Italy." The Austrian Government it says, "dissolves our associations, fetters the liberty of the Press, suffocates liberty of thought, destroys our material from Vienna to the Times states that Prince Auer-resources, takes away the security of individuals, sperg's reply in the Reichsrath to the interpellation and on mere suspicion throws patriots into prison to keep company with common malefactors." The will probably be an animated debate on the mountains around Trent on the 19th of September mountains around Trent on the 19th of September subject in that body. The Servian Cabinet were lit up with Bengal lights in three colours, and difficulty is in a fair way of being settled. It the fronts of the principal houses in Trent were is probable that Mr. Nicolet will consent found on the morning of the 29th covered with patriotic [?] inscriptions .- Tablet.

A HAPPY REPLY .- Strange and manifold were the ideas non-Catholics formerly had of a Catholic priest and many were the annoyances to which he was subjected in those bygone days. A certain missionary father happened to be travelling on a stage coach, of which he was the only male occupant, all the rest being ladies. Among them was one evidently "Miss Somebody," probably a Sunday school teacher or the maiden sunt of a minister, for to talk religion seemed to be her forte. Having learned from the driver, at one of the way stations, the vocation of the male passenger, she promised her travelling compaions, it is presumed in the ardour of her zeal, a grand display of controversial power. Scarce had the gentleman returned to his seat, and the stage got fairly under way, when every eye was turned on the discovered "Popish priest," and the lady began, "Pray, do you think man can forgive sin?" "Most assuredly I do, madam," replied the priest; "most assuredly I do, and ladies too, I trust." This was more than was anticipated, and the good-natured smile among her companions seemed to intimate, "take care you have awakened the wrong passenger." The lady was not to be silenced. "Pray, sir, please explain ; I don't understand you ; how can man forgive sins?" "Why, madam," replied the priest, "suppose a neighbour had calumniated you, or unkindly censured your motives, and, upon reflection, had repented of what she had done and had come imploring forgiveness; could you not or would you not forgive her? Assuredly you would. Yes, you would pardon her sins ; if ladies have such power why not the gentlemen ?"

HORRIBLE SUFFERING OF ARMENIAN CATHOLICS .-The Missions Catholiques gives a painful picture of the persecutions inflicted on the Catholics of Armenia by the barbarians, Redifs (reserves) and Bashi-Bazonks. The church at Gorzoul, diocese of Artvin, has been rifled, and the ciborium, with its sacred contents, stolen away. One of the bandits was arrested, and the clergy summoned to prosecute but they were secretly told that if they obeyed they would be slain, and they knew it was no idle threat. About the same time four or five Catholics were foully murdered for the sake of the money in their pockets. No complaints were made, as it was known that the authorities were either conniving or powerless. At Kars, a rather famous place, the Redifs, to the number of twenty entered and robbed the priest's house in the middle of the night. To prevent the alarm being given they rolled the cure up in his own bed clothes, and so rougly that he was nearly smothered. The mudir, or under governor, of Zeytown, had a Catholic servant, whom he submitted to horrible tortures for some household irregularity. One of these was to drive needles into the fingers between the nails and the flesh. Then the wretched creature was suspended by the feet in the stable, so that his head just grazed the ground and in this position he was swinging backwards and forwards like a monster pendulum. When the general population heard of this outrage it was indignant, but the mudir denounced the peo-ple as having taken up a "Bulgarian atti-tude," and this ominous expression stilled all remonstrance. At Biredjek the Redifs did what they liked with the Christians at large, beating the men, grossly insulting the women, and threatening death at the slightest resistance. The clergy sent indictments to the grand vizier, whereupon the governor compelled them to withdraw them on pain of slaughter, and they consented, in order to save a fearful massacre, for which the Turks were impatiently waiting. It is openly declared in the bazaars, by the Moslems, that if the third band of the reserve is called out, the men will go, but before setting forth to the front they will murder all the Christians in the province. The same fanatical and alarming language is uttered in various other provinces as well, and terrible is the appre-hension. On the 21st August a band of 250 Redifs while billeted in the village of Sari Hamza, appropriated everything they wanted, without payment, and then sallied out into the streets, where they committed the most horrible outrages. Many of their victims died under their abuse. The men of the village had to fly to the mountains, to escape massacre, and the governor was either unable or un. willing to do anything. A statement having appeared in the French paper Decentralisation to the effect that a venerable priest had come into possession of some unpublished essays of St. Francis, discovered in Switzerland, a correspondent has written throwing doubt on the news. He says that about a dozen years ago a fellow went about offering for sale treatises on pious subjects, which he pretended were the autograph works of St. Francis de Sales. He did a good trade amongst the credulous. The present writer saw some of the manuscripts, and their falsity was apparent on a moment's testing. He then published the matter, in order to warn the public, and prevent the possibility of future editions of the real works being tainted by spurious productions; and he now urges on the venerable priest who is said to have acquired another specimen to institute inquiries at once, and see that he has not been misled.

THE EASTERN WAR

An extraordinary Council of Ministers was held on the 26th ult, to consider the armistice question. The German, Bussian, Austrian and Italian Ambassadors conferred together on the 27th ult. Dervish, Pasha has withdrawn from Podgoritza to Groudy district, in rear, of Polotha. The surrender of Medan to the Montenegrins has produced a strong impression in Albania. The Montenegrins have liberated Albanian prisoners taken during the form in the London Post explanatory of the latest phase of negotiations on the Eastern question, says - If an armistice is agreed upon, then comes the question of conference. Russia objects to Turk-ish participation therein. It may be assumed that "Lastly, I give my blessing to you, and extend it this refers solely to the position of a power deliberseventh, there is something anomalous in giving the latter a casting vote in their decisions, but it is impossible for a moment to consent to the exclusion of Turkey from the European system, of which, in virtue of the treaty of Parle, she forms part. It ought to be practicable to find a method by which a representative of the Porte may sit in the conference. So as to obviate this difficulty before the conference' is summoned, questions of its basis and object which might occasion protracted and dangerous debate should by unanimous agreement should be reduced to the simplest terms, which may be stated thus :- The basis of the conference is the maintenance of the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire; the object is the amelior-ation of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Sultan. This basis could not alarm Turkey regarding Herzegovinian rights. This object is one which Russia professed alone to have in view We are not without foundation for the hope that the solution here foreshadowed may happily be affected." The Pall Mall Gazette, in a leading article talks quite hopefully of peace prospects. A despatch on the Eastern question is not satisfatory. There to retain the portfolio of Minister of War. A telegram from the Minister of the Interior at Deligrade to Prime Minister Ristics, in reply to an inquiry, says the Tarks have not taken Djunis. A Reuter telegram from Paris says, private advices from Constantinople represent that the French and German Ambassadors have received instructions to support the proposal for a six weeks' armistice. A special from B:ussels declares that the triple alliance cannot be shaken, and adds that in the event of a conference Bussia will energetically uphold therein the programme of pacification originated by Eng-land. A Times despatch from Belgrade confirms the statement that self-wounding is again becoming frequent among the Servians. During the fight at Keivet a distinguished officer brought half of a Russian battalion to the front, saying he was compelled to leave the other half behind to prevent the Servians from running away. A Reuter Belgrade de-spatch reports that General Tchernayeff has ordered the inhabitants to evacuate Deligrade. An eye witness, just arrived, describes the position of Tchernayeff's army as follows :-- "The centre is under Depreviotouch, and occupies the heights of Djunis; the right, under Horvatovitch, is behind Schleigovatz, and the left, under Popovich, occupies Alexin atz. On the whole the Servian army is in a precarious position." Telegrams to the Times from Vienna, save information received there directly from Constantinople, shows there is still a sensible difference between the Russian and Turkish proposals for armistice; Turkey wishing to make prolongation certain, if peace is not concluded within the original term, and Russia only admitting the possibility of

prolongation. The Times Belgrade telegram confirms the report that General Tchernayeff has been disabled. It points to the orders for non-combatants to quit Deligrade and neighborhood as exceedingly significant. A telegram to the Daily News from Belgrade announces that General Tchernayeff has rccovered, and is expected to arrive in Belgrade, where some decisive action is looked for. The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily News says he is in-

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調査の対象に対応の目的 if at a solid October 1878. 1.1

Charles -

formed that the Sultan has accepted the armistice without conditions. A Times despatch from Vienna explains the contradictions concerning the capture af Djunis. It says the position of Djunis consists of a series of entrenchments along the Djuniskar stream, the key of which is two large redoubts to the north of Djunis. These were taken on the 21st, There may be some position further on, which the Servians may still hold, and which they consider as belonging to Djunis. The Berlin correspondent of the Times telegraphs that Gen. Ignatieff, at a private audience, has informed the Sultan that if the armistice were accorded to Russia he would be content to submit the question of autonomy to a conference of the Power. The correspondent remarks that Russia evidentity wants to exclude Turkey from the Conference, but as Austria is likely to persist in opposing a conference at all in this Parliament, Russia's proposals probably will not much embarrass Turkey.

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