

and Dr. Keenan, of Newry, one of his parish priests. This investigation was held by order of the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda. We do not know how the evidence has found its way into the newspapers, but we confess we are by no means edified at its publication, nor can we tell what useful object was to be achieved thereby, before it had been transmitted to the Supreme Judge at Rome. Had this dispute been originally confined to Ecclesiastics only, we firmly believe it would have been amicably settled long since. But, as elsewhere, some of the laity have rushed into the sanctuary, and mixed themselves up with questions which they had neither power nor knowledge to decide. Need we wonder that scandal and confusion have been the consequence of this usurpation?

We see with regret an account of the death of the Rev. Nicholas Carroll of Moncoin, one of the most respected and estimable parish priests in Ireland. We copy elsewhere an obituary from the *Waterford Freeman*, an excellent and well-written journal, which has been recently established in that city.

The conversions at Oxford, and amongst the Puseyites generally, have been steadily increasing, and many of the converts were going through the exercises of a spiritual Retreat in some of the English Catholic Colleges. Prayers for the conversion of England are offered up throughout France, and a beautiful pastoral has been published on the subject, by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons. The Venerable Cardinal de la Tour D'Auvergne, who has been Bishop of Arras for the last 44 years, has set out for Rome, on a visit to his Holiness, and for the purpose of receiving the Cardinal's Hat, which he has been unable to do since his promotion to the Roman purple, some years back. A new promotion of French Cardinals is again spoken of; and the Archbishop of Paris amongst the number. The accounts from Rome as well as from the north of Europe are filled with rather favourable anticipations of the consequences of the late interview between the Czar and his Holiness. Time will tell. We have our own doubts. 'Nemo repente fuit turpissimus,' says the Roman satirist, and it is not all at once that the ferocious heart of a despot, like Nicholas, can be softened by civilization or religion. Nothing however is impossible to God; and the reflection of indignant public opinion, in the civilized portion of Europe, may open his eyes to the future consequences of his ruthless policy. Nicho-

las has been made to feel at Rome that he was looked upon as the Nero or Dioclesian of the nineteenth century. The venerable Abbess of Minsk has drawn up by orders of his Holiness a circumstantial detail of the atrocities practised on herself and the persecuted nuns by an apostate tool of the Emperor. Perhaps we may give the entire history to our readers, though we fear its perusal will freeze their blood with horror.

A Consistory was held at Rome on the 19th of January, in the Vatican Palace. Fourteen new Bishops were nominated to vacant Sees in different parts of the world, and three new Cardinals were made, an Italian, French, and Portuguese, viz: Monsignor Riario-Sforza, Archbishop of Naples, and born in that city 5th December, 1810; Mgr. de Carvalho Patriarch of Lisbon, born at Coimbra, 10th February, 1793, and Mgr. Bernet, Archbishop of Aix, born at St. Flour, 4th September, 1770. In this Consistory also Cardinals Simonetti and Piccolomini, who were created on the 24th of November last, received their titles from his Holiness, as Cardinal Priests of *S. Lorenzo in pane e perna* and *S. Balbina*.

Amongst the Bishops appointed in this Consistory is the excellent Abbe Marilley, Parish Priest of Geneva, and now Bishop of Lausanne and Geneva. The Catholics in that part of Switzerland were filled with unbounded enthusiasm at the news of his promotion. Few Catholics who have visited the Lake that have not made the acquaintance of the zealous and indefatigable Cure of Geneva. He was reared in the school of the venerable Abbe Vuarin, his sainted predecessor in Geneva, who suffered so much persecution from the intolerant Calvinists of that city, and from a personal knowledge of his character we have no doubt that his episcopal career will be honourable to himself, and a glorious one for our holy religion. May the spirit of God direct and strengthen him, for he is called to one of the most difficult posts in the Church!

The mother of Cardinal Altieri died at Rome on Christmas eve. She was born Princess of Saxony.

On that hallowed evening the first Vespers of the Nativity were chaunted in the Sistine Chapel. Cardinal Micara officiated. After Matins the Midnight Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Ferretti. On Christmas day the Pope, attended by his whole court, assisted at the High Mass which by virtue of an Apostolic Brief was celebrated at the High Altar.