

THE CATHOLIC.

QUOD SEMPER, QUOD UBIQUE, QUOD AB OMNIBUS CREDITUM EST.—WHAT ALWAYS, AND EVERY WHERE, AND BY ALL IS BELIEVED.

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THE CATHOLIC.

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THE KING'S CONVOCATION.

A Convocation should be called,
We think on some day early;
Of all the Non-Intrusion Wives,
To try the Question fairly:

How far their Husbands have a right,
To leave a Church, where surely,
The Civil Courts don't hinder them,
To preach the Gospel purely.

Where Patronage (accused of late,
Of all our Church Disasters,
While Veto only was to blame,)
Has placed their Lords and Masters.

To try what right such Husbands have,
To ruin Wives and Bairs;
And banish them from House and Home,
To sleep among the Ferns.

If such be called the Rights of Man,
Where are the Rights of Woman?
We trust the Meeting will condemn,
Such conduct as Inhuman.

Those Clergy too, who mean to quit,
The Church without a sixpence;
Who may have Debts to pay, besides,
And can't raise six and eight pence.—

Had better look before they leap,
For gravely 'tis reported,
That fraud'lent bankrupts such as they,
May come to be transported;

A FATE more terrible by far,
And out of sight more real;
Than all their grievance, IN THE CHURCH,
Which purely is Ideal.

A recent Scotch Ballad.

ROMAN ASTRONOMERS' RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Although the Inquisition of the Roman church compelled the illustrious Galileo to renounce publicly his heretical opinions in relation to the Copernican system, and the famous Cardinal Bellarmine was instructed by that tribunal to reprimand him in person, it is a curious fact, that one of the best observatories in Europe existed at that time in the Papal city, in connexion with the college, and indeed, as long previously as 1572. In that memorable year, some variable stars, and others entirely new, made their appearance in the heavens, particularly one of the latter kind is the constellation of Cassiopeia.

This splendid stranger was observed by Cornelius Semma, on the ninth of November of that year, and also by Tycho Brahe on the same month, who left a volume on the subject, *defined* its proper position. It entirely vanished at the end of sixteen months, and is expected to re-appear in 1791. Several others equally remarkable have since suddenly made their appearance. It is believed that the Roman observatory owed its origin to the celebrated Gregory XIII., the reformer of the calendar. In this he was assisted by Christopher Clavius, a German Jesuit and Mathematician, who conducted his observations at Rome. This able astronomer signalized himself in a warm controversy with the Scaligers, and left behind him a valuable edition of Euclid.

He was succeeded by the Jesuit Scheina, whose name is found in the list of astronomers, though scarcely any account of his life has been preserved in modern biography.

John Dominic Cassini, the first of the illustrious men of that name, next had charge of the Roman observatory, which he retained until he settled in Paris under the patronage of the great Colbert. This astronomer distinguished himself by determining the period of Jupiter's revolution, which he was enabled to do by observing the shadows of its satellites cast upon its disk. He also detected some new satellites of Saturn, the Zodiacal light, and explained the causes of the libration of the moon.

His successor at Rome was the celebrated Francesco Bianchini, a universal scholar, an antiquarian, mathematician, botanist, architect, and astronomer. He drew a meridian in the church of St. Mary of the Angels, and erected its dial. He formed the design of drawing a great meridian through Italy, and occupied 8 years in the work at his own expense, but was interrupted in its prosecution by other business, and never finished it. He left behind him, among other valuable productions, a memoir on the planet Venus.

Roger Joseph Boscovich, a Dalmatian, was the next astronomer in charge of the Roman observatory. Benedict XIV employed him in many important works. He was two years engaged measuring a degree of the meridian in the Ecclesiastical States, and after a varied career he returned to Milan, and erected the observatory of the college of Bera. On the suppression of the order of Jesuits to which he belonged, he retired to France upon an invitation of Louis XIV., and received a large salary, with the office of director of optics, in the naval department. He paid great attention thenceforward to the principles of the acromatic telescope.

During the wars of the French revolution the science did not flourish at Rome; but in 1816, Pius VII., who had crowned Napoleon constructed the present observatory, and Leo XII., successor of Pius VII., restored to the Jesuits the direction of it and the Roman colleges, and with them it remains.

The present Director, Sr. De Vico, has published an account of its condition, and claims the possession of very superior instruments of the following kind:—a refracting telescope by Cauchoix, the French optician; an astronomical theodolite by Sanby; a chronometer of Breguet, (now dead;) and a meridian circle by Ertel.

It is alleged that very important corrections have been made in the French Nautical Almanac (*Connaissance des Temps*), in the calculations of longitude by observations on the falling stars; an idea first suggested by Dr. Maskelyne in 1782, first attempted in Germany in

1802, and recently perfected by the Neapolitan Sr. Nobile.

But the crowning glory of the Roman astronomers is the application of the art of Photography to the mapping of the heavens. The forms of the Nebulæ, in particular, have been transferred to a lithographic stone, whence, by an invention of Signor Rondini, they are again transferred to paper!

The beauty of this experiment is, that they are Daguerotyped under a high power, are perfectly accurate, and a large number of copies may be taken from the original impression.

As the existing maps of the known Nebulæ show a difference in shape at different eras, (which, by the way, is in accordance with Sir John F. W. Herschell's recent theories,) it is important that accurate pictures of their present form shall be handed down to future ages, by which means something more of their constitution and nature may be determined.

The nucleus of the Nebulæ of Andromeda was subjected to a magnifying power of eight hundred and twenty-four, and then Daguerotyped. By this process it was resolved into a great number of luminous, or, more properly speaking, brilliant points, which on being transferred, appear whitel upon a blue ground. Observations of a most interesting character are continually in progress; and some results, of which Herschell himself despaired, are now very satisfactorily attained.

It was the clever and original idea of adapting Photography to astronomy which drew our attention to the Roman observatory, and we hope this brief notice of the fact, in the columns of the Mirror, may excite the attention of some American astronomer, and lead to similar attempts. It is a very curious circumstance, that at different periods of the world mankind are awakened to fresh exertions in the loftier ranges of science by these phenomena of the skies. Their appearance, while it alarms the ignorant and credulous, awakens the reflecting and the intelligent to the consideration of that great FIRST CAUSE, whose moments are countless ages, and whose sum no mortal mind can estimate; whose sphere of operation is so vast that the results have not as yet reached us from the remote regions where their splendour commenced its illumination; whose power steadies and guides vast orbs of this creation, in their swift career, without collision, embarrassment, or danger! Well may we pause amid the dust, and heat, and turmoil of life's troubled day, to consider whether it is wise in us to give it all our thoughts, and what we have yet to do to ensure His protection in that untried state of being, into which, one after the other, we so certainly, thoughtlessly, and daringly plunge!—*New Mirror*.

CURE FOR CORNS.—The following remedy is simple and infallible, and costs nothing in pain or money. Soak the foot affected in warm water for half an hour or so, until the corn is somewhat softened—then pare it down as much as possible and put on a little common brown soap, say on going to bed, which should be confined to the part affected by a rag or cot. In two or three days a complete cure will be effected.—*Cincinnati Gazette*.

SAINTS' DAY.—The Puseyites direct their letters as follows:—"The Feast of the Visitation of the B. V. M.;" "The Feast of the Transfiguration;" "The Feast of St. Stephen," &c.—*B. Vindicator*.