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LETTER

THE REV. DR. CAHILL.

PRESENT POLITICAL ATTITUDE OF SPAIN. TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Boyle, Co. Roscommon. July 30th, 1856.

Beloved Fellow-Countrymen—The courage and success of General O'Donnell at Madrid, coupled with the advance of a French army to Bayonne, are cheering and unmistakable symptoms that the English infidel party will soon be crushed in Spain; and the country, and the Queen, and religion, rescued from the perfidy and the persecuting bigotry of England. Since the fatal consummation of the French revolution in 1793, the unfortunate destinies of Spain have scarcely a parallel in ancient or modern Europe. The weakness of her King Charles, the cowardice and meanness of his son Ferdinand, easily yielded to the grasping usurpation of Napoleon I., in the beginning of the present century, and laid the foundation of political degradation. The expulsion of her King, the accession to her ancient throne of Joseph, brother of Napoleon, the change in her constitution, the presence of two contending armies for ten years, have each and all wasted her revenues, revolutionised her institutions, and demoralised her people; but the worst feature in this catalogue of national evils was neither war, nor famine, nor pestilence: there was one misfortune infinitely greater than all—namely, her being taken under the protection of England, when Napoleon was subdued, after the battle of Waterloo. A similar infliction has befallen Portugal; and from that time to the present hour a curse has fallen on both countries, which, during the past three centuries, is the sure result of any nation over which England has ever exercised a dominant alliance.

The Duke of Wellington, under pretence of destroying all places which might give refuge to the French armies, demolished all her manufactories (the work of ages of skill and money); and thus at one blow he blasted her trade, beggared her merchants, ruined her commercial skill, and forced her to come to the door of England for the commonest articles of her own former enterprise. England, too, aided the West Indian colonies of Spain to rebel, separate themselves from the mother country, to declare new Republics, thus again reducing Spain to the attitude of a mean suppliant before the throne of England to beg protection against further foreign calamities. A similar scheme was practised in Portugal. And when these two Catholic countries were thus drained, beggared, and enslaved, England then abolished the Salic Law in both kingdoms, placed two Queens instead of two Kings (the rightful heirs) on their respective thrones; organised an English party in both dynasties, under pretence of protecting the Sovereign Queen: encouraged their ambassadors to call into existence an infidel conspiracy against Catholicity; and thus have nearly uprooted every vestige of the ancient laws and Christian character of the finest country in the world.

When Charles X. was expelled from France in 1830; and Louis Philippe (a younger branch of the Bourbon family) had usurped the French throne, at that moment England planned a change in the Spanish successor. A circumstance occurred in the years 1832 and 1833 which favored this English scheme, namely, Ferdinand the Seventh fell into a lethargy in 1831, in which he remained in a state of insensible torpor for two years: his two daughters were then only three and two years of age. Don Carlos, the King's brother, a steadfast friend of the Church of Spain, was the legitimate heir of the throne; but England induced Ferdinand to abdicate in favor of the elder daughter; and organised a conspiracy of all the infidel Spaniards (opponents of the Church) to support the claims of Isabella, the Infanta; and thus at once, England banished the legitimate heir, and, in point of fact, she became the sole protector, director, and mistress of Spanish affairs.

She enacted precisely the same scene in Portugal. When John the Sixth died in Portugal, his son Don Pedro, seized the empire of Brazil, in South America, and therefore by this act of rebellion (according to the laws of Portugal) forfeited his right to the throne. His brother, Don Miguel, was therefore the legitimate heir. Yet England advocated the claims of the infant daughter of Don Pedro: sent an English fleet, under Admiral Napier, to the Tagus; seized Don Miguel, abolished the Salic Law of Portugal, as in Spain; placed the infant daughter of the rebel, Don Pedro, on the throne of Portugal, and thus again governed, managed, and controlled the affairs of this wretched country, as they had already done in Spain.

At this part of my narrative a scheme was planned, and executed by England, which in point of perfidy, bigotry, and social atrocity, has no parallel except in English history. Spain and

Portugal having no funds to carry out these organic changes in their respective states, England offered to supply them with men and money, provided they, on their part, guaranteed to confiscate all the Church property in both countries. The bargain was agreed to: eight English bankers supplied the means: and the result has been that all the convents' lands, vineyards in Portugal, were confiscated: and all the convents' lands, vineyards, in Spain, with the exception of one Dominican convent, shared the same fate. Seventy-five thousand religious were thus sent adrift in Spain, and starved or died of broken hearts: and forty-three thousand shared the same fate in Portugal. The churches were turned into theatres, the clergy expelled, while England rejoiced at the success of her anti-Catholic policy. One hundred and ten Priests in Madrid were burned to death, or stabbed as they attempted to escape on the 31st March, 1833: similar scenes were enacted in several parts of the country, where resistance was offered to the Infidels; and thus English gold, and Anglican perfidy perpetrated the last stroke of subjugation in Spain and Portugal in the year 1833.

These facts, though sufficiently significant in themselves, yet had an ulterior development in the English mind. England intended to place two Coburgs on these two thrones, having already named the two German husbands for the two young Queens. They succeeded in Portugal by marrying a cousin of Prince Albert, to the Portuguese Queen: but the Spaniards defeated Lord Palmerston by marrying their Queen to her own cousin, the son of Don Francisco: and Louis Philippe overreached him by marrying his son, Montpensier, to her second sister. The Coburg scheme was thus so far defeated in Spain: not so, however, the English malignant bigotry to infidelize the country. Hence, from the year 1833 to the present hour the English Ambassadors at the Court of Madrid have been ever interfering with the internal affairs of Spain, and unceasingly employed in ridiculing Catholicity. Lord Clarendon became a Bibleman in that country, and employed one Barlow to import, hawk, and distribute English Bibles translated into Spanish.—Sir Edward Bulwer was ordered out of Madrid at twenty-four hours' notice for similar practices. The English press was expelled from Spain by an order in Council, for ridiculing the Spanish Court, slandering the Queen, and calumniating her husband.

From the year 1844 to the year 1854, England has extended her plans through Europe, and has employed emissaries in every Catholic country to spread Revolution, to teach irreligion, and to corrupt the people. Hungary, Switzerland, France, Naples, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, are unfortunately but too well aware of her atrocious stratagems: she promises what she calls liberty to all: but the result everywhere proves her falsehood and her lying declarations. Hungary now feels the weight of double chains from her connexion with England. Switzerland has been compelled at the peremptory demand of Napoleon to expel from her territory seventy-five thousand foreigners and cut-throats, and she now trembles before the rod of the Emperor. Naples despises the machinations of England, and with Austria at her back, has set Palmerston at defiance. Sardinia will soon learn the perfidy of her new acquaintance; and will repeat of her anti-Catholic policy, when Austria will take revenge at her gates, for her foolish reliance on perfidious England.

The downfall of England commenced in the Crimea; there French valor surpassed her, and there France saw her weakness, and has learned to despise her power. Austria has had a renewed evidence of her perfidy at the Paris Conference, and has taken additional precautions against her aggressions. And the persecuted Queen of Spain has at length succeeded in rescuing her laws and her throne from further English interference.—Although the late affair in Madrid appears small to ordinary political vision, it is still an event of the largest national magnitude. The English agent, the infidel Espartero, the Convent robber, the Priest killer, is now concealed in the capital; the Queen has thrown herself on the sole protection of the French Ambassador; the English Ambassador, Lord Howden, does not appear!—Napoleon has marched a French army to the frontier: and Lord Palmerston (in a speech of suppliancy, which excites a smile of contempt) hopes that the Emperor does not mean to initiate an armed interference! Yes, but he dare not ask him a question or stop the advance of his invincible Crimean battalions.

The whole transaction of the Madrid coup d'etat is the prelude to the perfect humiliation of England on the Continent of Europe: it is the clear signal of French protection in Spain; it is the triumph of Catholic truth; it is the overthrow of English Souperism all over the world: and it is an event which has awakened new hopes for the regeneration of Ireland.

The Queen of Spain has in an hour discarded her old enemy, England: adopted a new friend in

France: and a French army comes to her assistance in the teeth of the English Ambassador and in defiance of the power or the threats of his mistress.

Young Coburg on the throne of Portugal will, it seems, receive a visit very soon from our most gracious Queen: it is said during the autumn—it won't do. France has taken Spain under her imperial protection: and as long as Napoleon reigns in France, Spain may pursue her own course, restore her ancient laws, make restitution to her Church, banish her infidels, and set England at defiance. It is a clear case that Catholic Europe is now called on, from the aggressive policy of England, to confederate for their mutual protection: Sardinia is the new wedge which England has attempted to insert in order to disjoin the neighboring states. Austria is immediately concerned: Naples is remotely implicated: and the match is actually applied to the very roof of Italy. O'Donnell has selected a most appropriate time to save Spain, to free the Queen from foreign oppression, and to make a case for the combination of France with the surrounding threatened kingdoms. I firmly believe that the delivery of Ireland, from her long trials, is not far distant: that the union of the countries already named will leave England enough to do to take care of herself: and that Providence, at the end of ages of persecution, will listen to the complaints of Ireland against an oppression which, for duration, intensity, and savage infliction, has had no parallel in either the ancient records of Pagan cruelty or in the modern history of Christian martyrdom.

Believe me to be, beloved fellow-countrymen, your devoted servant,

D. W. CAHILL, D.D.

P.S.—I am in a position from documents of an incontestible nature, to prove that the monies advanced by English Bankers (on English Government security) to effect the confiscation of the Spanish and Portuguese churches are not entirely paid, and that the balance due has been lately peremptorily demanded by England: that is, she demands her blood-money in full.

PROTESTANTISM.

(From the Northern Times.)

Mr. Bremner, a Protestant traveller, after visiting Norway (the Norwegians are staunch Protestants, and have been so almost since the time of Luther)—writes: "The Norwegian people are only indifferent in morals." Softly said, it is true; but he continues—"They have a greater desire to take undue advantage of a stranger than I ever experienced in any other part of Europe. Though a rural population, of every five children born one is illegitimate, and in one district during a space of six years, the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate was one in three." Mr. Bremner visited the Female House of Correction, and "there found 33 prisoners condemned for life, nearly all of whom had been condemned for the too frequent crime of child murder." Verily, oh, Protestantism, thy influence for moral purity is as impotent in Norway, as it is in Great Britain to-day!

Sweden, according to the Advertiser, should be a paradise of purity and goodness, for there also hath Protestantism long been its exclusive prophet, guide, and friend. But what says Mr. Protestant Laing on this subject?—hear ye him—"Sweden is more demoralised than any equal portion of the dense manufacturing population of Great Britain." Certes this must be the last link in the chain of comparison. He goes on—"Having taken out their diploma as Christians, they never trouble themselves about their profession, afterwards religion seems to rest here." By the official returns for ten years, "one person out of every 49 of the inhabitants of the towns of Sweden had been punished each year for criminal offences."

Among the crimes of the rural population only, 2,735,437 individuals, there were for the same period an average yearly of 205 cases of murder, 10 of child murder, 4 of poisoning, 13 of bestiality, 9 of robbery with violence. "Figures" (continues Mr. Laing) "do not bring home to our imaginations the moral condition of a population so depraved as that of Stockholm. Out of every three persons passing me one is illegitimate, and one out of every 49 within twelve months has been convicted of some criminal offence;" and yet, says he, you may travel through the country, and, from appearances, come to the conclusion that the people are the most virtuous in the world.

Passing on to the model moral Protestantism of Great Britain, we give a few more sketches by Protestant artists. We must very briefly epitomise our extracts, because the entire paper would not contain the one half of those now before us.

We begin with the report of the English University Commission, that model Protestant place where the Protestant teachers are made; and from thence are sent to teach pure Protestant

morals! The Rev. W. Wall, M.A., says:—"I wish I could say that the discipline of Oxford had much capacity for becoming worse—I wish I could say that immorality had yet to be introduced among our students." The Rev. W. E. Jeff says a stricter discipline is required to protect under graduates from houses of ill-fame, incontinence, &c. The Rev. M. Pattison said the three temptations of the place are fornication, wine, cards, and betting. The Rev. F. Temple says—"The villages around Oxford within a circle of five miles are now hot beds of temptation. It is frightful to think of the large proportion of under graduates who are tainting their minds with the effects of an impure youth." If these be thy future teachers, O Protestant Israel, what shall be the teaching? Hear what the Morning Chronicle, speaking of infanticide, saith of them—"The people of the rural districts, where virtue might be supposed to exist, have yet to learn a lesson in morality from the beasts of the field."

The Times asks, regarding the working of millions, "Do the masses crowd our churches when the bells invite them?—where are the artisans, laborers? &c. Will the statistics of Sion College tell us? We may at once reply, 999 out of 1000 are sleeping, drinking, sailing, or talking politics, or reading the Sunday papers, or seeing their dogs fight, or rat catching, or walking the fields." And where are their wives and families—and what doing? Oh, blessed Reformation!

A clergyman at Chester stood up at a public meeting and declared, "that half the farm-houses of Cheshire are nothing better than houses of infamy."

Another Protestant clergyman at Birmingham declared (speaking of those who are known under the designation of Protestants or non-Catholics), that not a factory girl above the age of sixteen knew what virtue was! And in some towns of Scotland it is stated to be even at a lower ebb; if we are to credit missionaries and ministers, and the police of Glasgow, Paisley and Dundee, the same may be said of factory girls under 14 years of age. "On horrors' head, horrors accumulate." Not long ago, at an investigation held before the Hon. Mr. Norton, in London, it was proven that in the metropolitan city of England there were places established where the systematic murder of infants for the concealment of infamy existing—where ladies from the country, of apparent respectability—certainly with plenty of money—arrive in town in a delicate state, and after some time return home in good health and with a clear conscience! Oh, the blessed civilisation of pure Protestantism!—a civilisation the tendency of which is of a far lower nature than the most degraded system of Paganism we have ever read of.

A Protestant missionary travelling through three English counties, says—"Darkness covers this part of England, and gross darkness the people." Another says—"That the very garden of England is a vast howling wilderness." Another, that the 300,000 people of Staffordshire "sit in darkness, and in the gloomy shadow of death." Another, "that there is not a worse place than this (Staffordshire); the men, women, and children, glory in blaspheming the name of the Lord." Another, that infidelity, like a mighty flood, is devastating Great Britain with the most awful errors and abominations." A Bishop of the Protestant Law Church states, that "one million one hundred and seventy thousand children grow up yearly to an adult state, sans education, sans religion, sans morality, and steeped to the lips in crime."

The Bishop of London informs us that in his own diocese there are 15,000 children of both sexes under 15 years of age living on prostitution and theft in London alone! Another, that in London alone, there are tens of thousands who know not the name of Christ, and have no idea that they have immortal souls to save, who cannot pray, and know not what prayer is. Then follow the revelations of our poor-law inquiries, our high and low courts of justice, the divorce cases in high life, infanticides, poisonings, and our every-day police revelations. The profligacy of the principal cities of Great Britain cast far into the shade that picture of the olden Pentapolis; and we have the horrid fact staring us in the face that these evils are increasing 15 per cent. in excess of the population, and yet in the face of these terrible evils which Protestantism has grown up to rankness in her own bosom, her advocates are brazen enough to stand up in the face of Europe, and with the Pharisee of the temple, thank God they are not like unto those unfortunate Popish publicans!

EXETER HALL AND ITS MISSIONS.

(From the Catholic Telegraph.)

We have to notice the impious comparison which these proselytising fraternities so frequently institute, not only between themselves and the immediate followers of the Redeemer, but even between themselves and the Redeemer in person.

As an example of this impiety we subjoin an extract, in which the writer unblushingly asserts that—

"The Priests of Rome have the same aversion to the Gospel that the men of Genesaret to Him who first brought us the Gospel. 'Those men besought Him that He would depart out of their coasts,' and the Irish Priests, scarcely taking the trouble to beseech with one voice, demand that all Bible-readers shall begone."

Now, though this cant might sound very well in the ears of an Exeter Hall audience, there is in reality neither truth, analogy, nor parity of reasoning in it. The men of Genesaret, as every one knows, believed neither in the Gospel nor in Him who promulgated it. They adhered to the creed of their fathers, and hence they besought Him who introduced a doctrine novel to them to depart out of their coasts. But it is a malicious untruth to assert that the Priests of the Catholic Church have the same aversion to the Gospel that these men had. How could they have an aversion to that of which they were made the depositaries and guardians by Him who was its author? No; the Priests are averse to none but those portions of the miscalled Gospel which the Reformers have mangled, distorted, and rendered altogether spurious. They have the same reluctance to accept these portions as Gospel verity as the Herald would have to accept for its alleged value a gold or silver coin, one-half of which, when tested, would be found to consist of dross or base metal. The Bible-readers whom Priest and people alike demand to "begone," are the utterers of this counterfeit coin, the circulators of this spurious Gospel. Comparisons in general are said to be odious, but when such dregs of the community, as nine-tenths of these Bible-torturing worthies are known to be, are compared to the apostles and disciples of the God-man the comparison is not only intolerably odious but horribly blasphemous.

"St. Paul was thrice stoned" (says the Herald) "and yet this cruelty did not prove St. Paul to be wrong."

Certainly not. Nor in the right either. But let us ask who commissioned the Apostle to preach the Gospel? Was it such a motley group of religionists as the Exeter Hall conclave, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Irish Church Mission fanatics, or the London City Mission? Was the commission to teach all nations not issued by Christ Himself, and did not the Apostle teach the Church to preserve the very words that fell in his presence from the Divine Lips—words that could, therefore, comprehend neither more nor less than the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

"Real religion" (as defined by the Herald) "is an earnest thing."

No doubt. Why, then, employ mountebanks, scape-graces, dunderheads, and hypocrites to teach and preach it? Are they fit pillars to support the edifice against which God said the gates of hell should not prevail? What is there earnest about these men, save the desire of laboring earnestly in the service of the Father of Mischiefs? Are they the "good tree," which, according to the Scriptural rule laid down by the Herald, "makes the fruit good?" What is the kind of seed required to produce the "good tree and the good fruit?" Were the Reformers that seed? If so, a cursory glance at their history will show that, as a whole, a more loathsome mass of moral putridity never existed. What, then, let us ask, could the tree produced from such germs be? What it was and is—hollow, unsound, and unstable—a scattered, stunted, and lifeless trunk, with branches frittered to fragments, with leaves withered and dispersed, with fruit rotten to the core, deadly, blighted, and diseased. And yet this is the fruit, this the Word of God which the emissaries of the Evil one, in the guise of Scripture-readers from Exeter Hall, prescribe as well for the Catholic poor in Cork and Sligo as for the infidel reprobates of Stepney and St. Giles's.

But, as a climax to these impieties, the Herald concludes with the following string of utterly unfounded assertions:—

"The statistics of Europe have abundantly established the fact that the false religion of Rome produces, whether in Ireland, or in Belgium, or in Italy, a plentiful crop of murders, adulteries, and thefts, and other crimes, as shown in Mr. Hobart Seymour's collection of Government returns."

Who Mr. Hobart Seymour is we have not the felicity of knowing, but by way of set off, we will quote a statement made by a pet of the Herald's own party, Sir J. Packington, on the Education Bill, No. 2. Sir John's words, as reported in the Times of 12th June, 1855, are as follows:—

"That the whole number of convictions in that year was 90,000—indeed no comparison with other countries could be properly drawn, for he was sorry to say that the amount of undetected crime in England was so serious that any calculations founded on the number of convictions must prove fallacious."

We could adduce authorities without end to prove that what with known murders, murders the perpetrators of which are not apprehended,