



The True Witness

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NEXT WEEK.
THE POPE'S ALEGATE TO CANADA.

**The Right Rev. Dr. Conroy,
Bishop of Ardagh.**

NEXT WEEK.
In next Saturday's Edition of the TRUE WITNESS will appear a

**PORTRAIT OF THE
Pope's Alegate to Canada,
DR. CONROY.**

**NEXT WEEK
WILL BE COMMENCED**

**A NEW STORY
KATHERINA,
A STORY OF IRISH VALOUR IN
THE NEW ZEALAND WAR.**
BY
M. W. KIRWAN.

GERMANY IN ARMS.

We clip the following *Morceau* from the *Dublin Irishman*. No doubt numbers of Germans will respond, not because they love fighting, but because their own or their fathers' property will be confiscated:—
"All Germans in Britain and Ireland have been called to arms. Several houses in Dublin, in which German waiters were employed, have thus been suddenly deprived of their services. The German Reserves are called out—therefore, Germany must be preparing for some blow."

WHY DID BISMARCK RESIGN?
A contemporary throws out the following hint as to the probable cause of Bismarck's resignation:—
"Was the true reason for Bismarck's temporary withdrawal from the duties of the chancellorship, that a change in the anti-Catholic policy of the empire had become a necessity in view of the war which has since begun? The man of blood and iron perceived that Germany would be drawn into the conflict should England and Austria interfere between Russia and Turkey, and that it would not do to have as passive opponents of the government the 15,000,000 Catholics that form nearly one-third of the empire's population. Unwilling that he himself should revise his own pet policy, has he gone aside for a time while others inaugurate the change?"

THE TURKISH NAVY.
The Turks have a Navy paid for by Englishmen; engineered by Englishmen; and commanded by an Englishman as well. All the iron-clads are English built, and the Turkish fleet is an English squadron flying the Ottoman flag. We learn that:—
"The duration of service in the Turkish navy is eight years active service and five years in the reserve or *redif*. There are in all about 50,000 sailors, equally divided between branches of the service. In time of peace not more than 5,000 to 6,000 sailors are actively engaged. There are 23 iron-clad ships, carrying from 2 to 17 guns; 4 iron-cased batteries, of 2 guns each; 17 screw steamers, carrying an aggregate of 640 guns, and about 80 other steamers, making a total of 115 steamers and 1,600 guns, but they do not represent any addition to the strength of the navy."

THE MONTH OF MARY.
The practice of dedicating the Month of Mary to the Mother of our Saviour commenced in Italy. From Italy it spread to France, and from thence it became universal. A contemporary says:—
"In every land where the priests of Jesus Christ continue the work for which He came into the world the shrines of the Mother of God will at this time be radiant with ornaments, and the praises of the Queen of Heaven will resound on every side. 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed are thou among women,' said the angel, and this salutation is daily on the lips of the Madonna's devoted children. They know the love they pay to Mary: is pleasing to God, for He so loved her as to choose her for to be the Mother of His Son. They know that the Apostles and the first Christians considered her as sacred and entitled to great reverence. They know that the wisest and noblest Christians have contemplated with awe her dignity as Mother of God and her many prerogatives, and have sought intercession with her Divine Son! They know that she is powerful with Jesus, who will gladly grant any request she may have to make. Therefore, to please God, to honor His Immaculate Virgin Mother, and to obtain the graces and favors which she will lavishly dispense, the children of Mary will, during this month, often assemble around her altars, contemplating her glorious privileges, and praying for her protection."

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

All accounts agree in saying that the Russian Navy is not as large nor as powerful as that of their antagonists—but then it is their own. We learn that:—
"The duration of service in the navy is fixed at ten years, of which seven are in active service and three years in the reserve:—
"The personnel of the fleet is as follows: Eighty-nine admirals, 1357 officers, 540 pilots (officers), 215 artillery officers, 88 port architects, 331 admiralty officers, 291 doctors and 504 civil employees and functionaries. Total, 4,089 officers. The number of men is 25,943.
"It is a difficult matter to get at the actual resources of the Russian navy, as the Russian Government has discouraged the inspection of its shipyards and arsenals. Thus it is not at all improbable that a considerable fleet of iron-clads will issue from the shipyards of Nicolaieff and Taganrog on the Black Sea to dispute with the English and Turks the possession of that important area of water."

PROTESTANT EFFORTS IN ROME.

Under the heading of Protestant efforts in Rome our London contemporary, the *Weekly Register*, gives some startling instances of uncoothness upon the part of the enemies of our Church. Writing of the aggressiveness of Protestantism the *Register* says that it is:—
"Displayed in the most public and offensive method. There is a triumph for small minds in bestowing insult on the imprisoned Pontiff; and missionary Protestantism rejoices in building its conventicle just opposite the residence of the Cardinal Vicar, its 'Free Italian Church' facing the Castel St. Angelo, where every visitor to St. Peter's must pass it by, its schools in the immediate neighbourhood of the Vatican and in scattering its tracts in churches, or thrusting them into the hands of unsuspecting loungers on the Pincio. A party of strangers—English-speaking, of course—visited the Vatican Galleries and Museums when they had reached the Sistine Chapel, one of their number, who seems to have been a minister, addressed his companions and proposed that a collection should be made within this chapel, to be presented to Rev. Van Meter, one of the most vigorous propagators of missionary Protestantism in Rome. Rev. Van Meter is about to withdraw from the Eternal City, as his 'sneers of war'—the contribution of enthusiasts in England and America—have seriously decreased, because the insults were not in proportion with the money he received. The collection was made, and realised nearly 400 francs. The guardian of the chapel, not understanding the language spoken by the strangers, were totally ignorant of the nature of the proceedings. So the triumph was achieved, and the hearts of the minister and his friends were made glad. The respectable class of Protestants are thoroughly ashamed of it, and denounce it as a vulgar outrage in the strongest terms. A case somewhat similar occurred some time ago. A Protestant, well-known for his hatred of Catholicity, entered the Vatican under an assumed name, and was present at an audience given by the Holy Father. He now boasts of having held in his hand a number of copper coins bearing the effigy of Victor Emmanuel, when the Pope blessed the rosaries held by the persons at the audience; and he laughs at the idea that the Pope blessed these coins unconsciously! How charming a deceit!"

TURKEY AND THE MIRIDITES.

A new element of disturbance has lately come to the surface in European Turkey, and if reports be true, has already been able to exercise an important influence on the course of affairs. This is the mutual hostility between the Porte and Miridites of Northern Albania, which is rapidly developing itself. This people were formerly among the staunchest defenders of the Sultan. But now, it is said, their disposition has been so altered, that the PRINCE OF MONTENEGRO reckons on their assistance, in the event of the renewal of warlike operations between himself and the Ottoman Government. His confidence in the assistance of these new allies, and his opinion of their capacity for mischief, have had no inconsiderable share in sustaining the tenacity with which he has insisted upon concessions that the Pashas at Constantinople are most unwilling to grant. The *Tablet* says:—
"The Miridites are a homogenous people consisting of many branches descended from a common parent stock. They are all Catholics, and are estimated at from 180,000 to 200,000. They occupy the northern portion of Albania, immediately adjoining Montenegro, including all that mountainous district, which has the White Drina on the North, the Black Drina on the east, and Rasan-Arsen on the South and stretches down in gently sinking declivities to the Adriatic coast on the West. Since the time of Scanderbeg, the middle of the fifteenth century, they have occupied a position of almost complete independence with respect to the Porte. The several tribes were subject to the control of their own chieftains in all domestic matters, while the whole country acknowledged the authority of an hereditary ruler of the House of Doda, who claimed descent from Scanderbeg and from a French family named Dababuz. This common ruler of the whole race bore the title of Prince; he acknowledged the Sultan for his Suzerain, but paid no tribute, being only obliged to send troops to assist the Porte when attacked by foreign aggressors. The military genius of the people rendered easy the

fulfilment of this obligation, and for centuries they were counted among the most faithful supporters of the Ottoman throne. In the very last war with Russia they fought with great bravery and distinction, under the command of their prince Bib-Doda, first on the Danube and subsequently on the Crimea; and the Prince was not only decorated by Abdul-Mecjid, but was raised to the rank of Pasha. These friendly relations, however, came to an end with the accession of Abdul-Asiz who seems from the beginning of his reign to have aimed at breaking down the independence of the Miridites by gradually undermining and suppressing their ancient privileges."

WHAT THE "NATION" THINKS OF THE POLICY PURSUED BY MESSRS. BIGGAR AND PARNELL.

The *Nation* supports the policy of "obstruction" as pursued by Messrs. Biggar and Parnell. The following extract from our contemporary will show that the *Nation* does not mean to rest and be thankful:—
"The denunciation of the conduct of Messrs. Parnell and Biggar uttered by Mr. Butt some nights ago in the House of Commons has, we believe, caused a feeling of pain among the mass of the Home Rule party in Ireland and England. Mr. Butt's complaint of Messrs. Biggar and Parnell was that they were wasting the time of the House by a system of mere obstruction—a thing, he said, which the Prime Minister himself should not be allowed to do. But supposing this charge to be quite true, we may be permitted to doubt that it will constitute a crime in the eyes of the Irish people. What interest have they in the smooth and speedy despatch of the House of Commons? The House of Commons is not their friend; the House of Commons has no intention of doing anything for their advantage; the House of Commons means to obstruct and reject every measure proposed by the Irish representatives for the benefit of Ireland. This being so, the time of the House is of no consequence to the Irish people. To economise it is no business of the Irish members. Let the Government, if they choose, complain of the drag which is being put on the overloaded parliamentary machine; from them the expression of grief or indignation will come naturally enough; but that it equally well becomes an Irish Home Rule member is more than we can see. The Irish members, so far, have done their part well; but if they are in earnest, and if Ireland is in earnest, their future policy will not consist of a mere repetition of the past. It is in their power to do something more than put forward the same pleas, meet with the same refusals, and then begin the operation over again."

VERY HIGH AND VERY LOW.

The unmanly squabbles between High Church, Low Church, and Broad Church are having a bad effect in England. When Christians pelt each other with mud, scepticism is encouraged, and when infidelity is amused Christianity is not benefited. We learn from an English Contemporary that:—
"The Ritualists are ill at ease. And little wonder that they are! It would be amusing, were it not pitiable, to witness the vigour with which the various Church organs of different sections of the State Church in England pelt each other with mud. The President of the English Church Union, as is well known, is the Hon. Mr. Wood. This gentleman is the son of Lord Halifax (formerly Sir Charles Wood), of Hicketon Hall, near Doncaster. The Vicar of Hicketon, too, like Mr. Wood, is a vehement High Churchman, and recently sent a letter to the *Yorkshire Post* (which may be described as a half-and-half Church organ.) The editor, in a leader of Tuesday last, mercilessly retaliates upon the Vicar of Hicketon. Speaking of the Ritualists, the rev. correspondent described them in his letter as 'a powerful and a growing body, possessed of intelligence, learning, and position.' It is little wonder that the Low Church editor of the *Yorkshire Post* crushingly rejoins by stating that there is 'much exaggeration in all this.' It states that some weeks ago an article appeared in a religious political newspaper, written in favour of disestablishment, arguing that bishops should be self-elected, and it contained the extraordinary statement that not one of the prelates who occupy the four chief sees in the Protestant Church in England is either mentally or morally fit to take charge of the smallest parish in England. This is certainly a remarkable statement, and one that, we think, may be fairly recommended to the consideration of Dean Stanley and other great guns of the Protestant Church in England. It is all the more important as coming from one of the Church's own organs."

A COMPARISON OF THE BELLIGERENT FLEETS.

Single-handed on land there cannot be much doubt that Russia is more than a match for Turkey. Nor does it appear that single-handed at sea, the result of the conflict is likely to be the other way. The Turkish fleet has been modelled on the English system and built in England, but it was built by contract. A contemporary thinks that:—
"The Russian iron-clads are all built specially for the waters on which they are to be engaged, and are therefore, all available. No one will question for a moment the courage and seamanship of the British sailors, but latterly, owing to some unforeseen circumstance, they are brought in daily peril of their lives by the awkwardness or stupidity of those who manage or construct their ships: Witness the loss of the Captain, with 500 lives, and the Vanguard, fortunately without any sacrifice of life; the explosion on the Thunder, and the frequent breaking down of the machinery of the most valuable ships in the English navy. Such are

rarely if ever heard of in any national fleets, and it therefore suggests that if this vast naval power is strong in the number of its ships it is certainly weak in their management. The question of fuel also enters into the consideration of the relative strength of the belligerent fleets. Russia has her own coal at or near her own coasts, while England and Turkey must draw and depend on depots of supply that some unforeseen event may cause to become exhausted. If an iron-clad is swift and powerful it is always at the expense of an immense consumption of fuel, which, if it fails to be supplied, leaves the mighty vessel as helpless as a log. When the shallow and exposed entrances to the Russian fleet cannot enter them, but the Russian fleet would be "bottled in" effectively as at Sebastopol. It, however, the Turkish fleet, unaided by the British, is beaten in a single great battle and driven toward Constantinople, so that the Russians may seize and torpedo the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus, then the united fleets of Europe could not force the passage again if vigorously resisted."

AN IRISH WAKE.

The "wake scene" in the *Shaughrann* has been often hissed in England. It is a gross exaggeration of Irish Character. We take the following from the *Dublin Irishman*:—
"Dion Boucicault has done much to elevate the Irish drama—his labour has been so excellent that, even now, we hesitate to criticise any portion of any of his plays. It will be felt, however, that the criticism of the kindliest.
"We object, then, to the 'wake scene' in the *Shaughrann*, because it is not consistent with his work. It is a false note in a fine melody. It is a patch upon the purple of his merit as an author. The wake scene might have appeared in any of the poor plays that traversed Irish life—the *Shaughrann* itself is a noble production.
"We speak of the wake scene as it is put upon the stage rather than the substance of it. If Mr. Boucicault had ever listened to the *carine* in the country, with its mournful modulations and impressive wail, he would not have made the Mourner a ragged old hag, with dress in tatters, hair and red kerchief pulled over her face, pipe in mouth, and jug in hand. Such a presence would be considered a dishonour to the corpse in the poorest hut. It is no credit to our country anywhere, and must give strange ideas of the Irish to the ignorant English and Scotch.
"It would have been as easy to make the scene picturesque, as repulsive. Let the Mourner be robed in a deep blue Munster mantle, or in the scarlet Connaught cloak, with the hood, in either case, drawn over her dishevelled locks. Then you will have a weird and wild presence, but a picturesque one. This would be a real representation not creditable to the country, and we trust that Mr. Boucicault will at once approve of the change, and the Dublin manager will at once adopt it.
"A 'wake' is not the ludicrous thing some people fancy who hear only of the occasional scandals committed in its name in great cities among a disreputable class. It is an ancient and a sacred custom, practised by the Oriental, practised by the Greeks, and preserved by the Celts from of old time. It has a meaning, a pathos, and a poetry which should not be forgotten."

A CHANGE OF POLICY.

There has been a change of policy in India, Lord Lytton the Governor-General, is encouraging the policy of placing natives in the highest positions in the State. This boldness startles some of our English contemporaries, but the "*Nation*" thinks otherwise. It says:—
"For some reason or another as yet unknown, Lord Lytton, the Governor-General of India, recently announced his intention to employ natives in the higher service of that country. 'The Viceroy's new cry,' we read, of 'India for the Indians,' we believe to be as erroneous in theory as it is mischievous in practice.' The proper cry, in this old lady's opinion is 'India for the English.' 'It must ever be borne in mind,' it is said, 'that in admitting the natives of India to places of trust, and in conferring upon them political duties and privileges, we are holding out to them means and opportunities for attaining native ascendancy, and weakening English rule. The triumph of native ascendancy! the weakening of English rule! Surely the idea conjured up by these words is something awful to contemplate. The triumph of native ascendancy! The triumph of Armageddon is a pleasant vision in comparison. 'When we take into account,' it is added further on, 'the weighty truth uttered by one of India's most successful and experienced administrators, Lord Dalhousie, that no prudent man would venture to predict the maintenance of continued peace in India, it may well be a matter of surprise to learn from the present Viceroy that the future policy for India is to be one, which, should a war from without or a rebellion from within threaten her, will add a hundredfold to the complications which must ensue.' In other words, India is disaffected, and in a time of rebellion native officials would be likely to side with their own country rather than with England, whose interests alone, and not those of India, are to be considered in this connection. England conquered India for the purpose of self-aggrandisement, and it must now give up the prize or rule it with that same purpose held steadily in view. Other supporters of the British dominion in Asia may advocate its continuance on the ground of its services to the people of India and to civilization generally in that quarter; it is the proud confession of this West-English newspaper that it is and must be maintained for the advantage of England; Constitutional government, or ruling a people in accordance with that people's wishes, may be a very good thing in certain places, but this West-English priest will have no constitutional government in India, if the existence of British authority in that country is thereby imperilled."

CUBA.

Affairs in Cuba look badly for the Spanish forces. Our latest telegrams inform us that General Martinez Campos has suffered a defeat, and if so, we may expect to hear of some important changes before long:—
"The Spanish army found itself assailed fiercely on the front, flank and rear; and as experience teaches us that any army similarly circumstanced, if not utterly annihilated, will suffer a disastrous defeat, it is but natural to suppose that something very much like that has befallen the grand army now on its imprudent advance into a hostile territory leaving the enemy in unknown numbers on its rear, at liberty to cut off his base of supply, if not to develop an overwhelming movement to crush it.
"Two brigadier-generals are reported killed in the attack, and General Martinez Campos is said to be shot through the thigh. No estimates can be made yet as to the losses of men and material on either side, but it is surmised they must have been very heavy."

IRISH EMIGRATION.

The Registrar-General (Dr. Burke) has prepared and presented to Parliament a very interesting paper in the shape of certain observations on the emigration statistics of Ireland for the year 1876. A contemporary summarizes the document thus:—
"There were 38,315 emigrants left Ireland in 1876, being a decrease of 14,082 as compared with 1875, and being by far the smallest number that left the country for any year since 1851, the date at which the returns commenced to be collected. The decline of the great exodus stream is markedly the fact that the emigration of 1876 was little more than one-third of the annual average for the preceding 24 years. Another noticeable fact in last year's emigration is the sustained and increasing disfavor in which the United States is held as a theatre for emigration. In 1876, 16,787 of the emigrants from Ireland went to England and Scotland, 14,887 to the United States, 3,655 to Australia, 1,558 to New Zealand, 677 to Canada, and 43 to other countries. In other words, little more than a third of the total emigration went to the United States, which in former years absorbed the vast bulk of the people who left the Irish shores.
"The highest absolute number (1,355,827) of Irish born is found in the United States of America, next in order comes Great Britain with 778,638 (570,868 in England and Wales, and 207,770 in Scotland); then follows the dominion of Canada with 219,451, Victoria with 100,468, New South Wales with 62,943 New Zealand with 29,733 Queensland with 29,972, and South Australia with 14,255; 4,377 in Newfoundland, 3,712 in Prince Edward Island, and 3,569 in Western Australia. Munster and Ulster lost 9 per cent. of their population by emigration during 1876, Leinster and Connaught only 3 per cent. Two-thirds of the Ulster emigration was to England and Scotland, especially to the latter country. During the year, 12,137 immigrants (nearly all hailing from the United States) landed at Irish ports. During this period of twenty-five years it appears that 2,443,592 persons, or 42.2 per cent. of the population emigrated from Irish ports."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN PRUSSIA.

The following list will give some idea of how they manage things in Prussia. The record will stand at the wrong side of the account when Prussia comes to square up.
THE "CULTURKAMPF" IN PRUSSIA.
"In Prussia the six following Bishops have been deposed by the Government:—The Archbishop of Breslau, the Bishops of Paderborn and Munster, and the Auxiliary Bishop of Posen. The proceedings against the Bishop of Limburg, and Bishop Namzowski are still going on. The Sees of Treves and Fulda are vacant by death.
"About 600 members of different orders and congregations have had to leave the diocese of Cologne, amongst whom are 120 priests, who had been active in the cure of souls.
"The following houses have been dissolved:—The Carthusians in Hayn, near Rath; the Franciscans in Aix-la-Chapelle, Hardenburg and Dusseldorf; the Dominicans in Dusseldorf; the Jesuits in Aix-la-Chapelle, Bonn, Essen and Cologne, the Lazarists in Cologne, Neuss, Munster, Malmédy, Bedburg; the Trappists in Marianwald; the Redemptorists in Aix-la-Chapelle; the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, in Marienthal; the Christian Brothers in Burtseid; the poor Brothers of St. Francis in Cologne; the Alexian Brothers in Aix-la-Chapelle. Besides these the following have been expelled: The Benedictine Nuns in Bonn and Viersen; the Poor Clares in Derendorf; the Carmelite Nuns in Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne and Neuss; Sisters of Notre-Dame in Essen; the Ursulines in Hesel, Cologne, and Dusseldorf; the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus from 15 houses; the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, from the orphanage in Cologne; the Sisters of Christian Charity in Crefeld, Solingen, Steele, and Viersen; the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Rath; the Sisters of St. Francis in Villich, of St. Salvator in Muhlheim on the Rhein, and of St. Vincent in Norf, near Neuss.
"In the archdiocese of Cologne there are 94 parishes without a pastor, 81 without a curate.
"In the diocese of Paderborn 90 priests have died since the May Laws, and there are none to supply their place.
"In the diocese of Munster 60 parishes are without a priest.
"In the diocese of Treves 140 parishes, with 136,573 Catholics, are without a priest. The whole diocese has 731 parishes; consequently one-fifth of the parishes are without a priest. Last year (1876) 25 parish priests of this diocese died.
"In the diocese of Limburg 17 parishes—in that of Hildesheim 11, (with 6,640 souls), in that of Breslau 64,