

Written for the True Witness.

THE WHIP-POOR-WILL.

I hear a bird in dark woods cry
"Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will"
Lamentingly to the night sky
"Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will"
Still goes that soft pathetic strain,
Like protests of a heart in pain,
Sad bird, why dost thou thus complain?
"Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will."
The stars are met all pale and cold,
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will,
Faintly they gleam o'er wood and wold,
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will,
The boldest bird his song will seal,
While solemn midnight moments steal,
Yet darest thou lonely voice appeal—
"Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will."
Is thy sweet heart then desolate,
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will?
Art thou forsaken by thy mate,
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will?
And criest thou that tender call,
By grove and hill and haunted fall,
On one naught to thee, and yet all,
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will?
Lowe, P.Q. D. C. DEANE.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

PEACE OPPOSED.—A special despatch from Belgrade says the Serbian Government's decision in favour of peace is opposed to the wishes of the whole people; the position of affairs is becoming dangerous for Prince Milan.

MADRID.—RELIGIOUS TOLERATION.—The Senate has adopted the clause of the constitution establishing religious toleration.

A COMPLAINT.—The Port has decided to complain of Austria for continuing to allow insurgent volunteers to cross her frontier into Turkey.

FRESH TALK.—The sentence of Court Martial at Salonica has been set aside as insufficient, on the representations of France and Germany; the parties will be tried again at Constantinople for lack of energy and foresight.

The Grand Vizier has notified the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the reforms already granted for those Provinces will be maintained in their integrity.

BEGRAD, June 17.—The Roumanian Government has arrested several Servians. Servia has sent an energetic protest against this proceeding to Bucharest.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 17.—Hassan, the assassin of the Cabinet Ministers, on the night of the 15th inst., was hanged this morning.

London, June 18.—A despatch from Constantinople reports the Turkish fleet, consisting of eight first-class vessels, will sail thence for Crete within a week on an important mission.

VIENNA, June 17.—The Czar has cordially accepted the invitation for an interview with the Emperor of Austria at Reckstadt on the 24th and depart on the 26th. Count Andrassy is expected to accompany the Emperor Francis Joseph on the occasion.

THE TURKISH TRAGEDY.—Reliable intelligence has been received that Hassan, when about to shoot Avni Pasha, said something apparently meaning that he desired to avenge the deposition of Abdul Aziz. Rachid Pasha was not shot but stabbed, while he was endeavouring to disarm the assassin. It is reported he was a devoted follower of the late Sultan.

The Russian Government has determined to discontinue sending convicts to Siberia, and endeavor to develop some of its valuable resources. Subventions to an amount of 300,000 roubles annually have been granted to three Pacific steam navigation companies in order to secure the calling of their vessels at certain ports where it is expected that capitalists may be induced to establish large works.

A Vienna special asserts that Nisic has received 6 months' arrears of pay. The correspondent of the Moscow Gazette telegraphs to that paper from Cetting that the Turks in Bosnia have unfurled the green flag for a Holy war against the Christians. It is stated that Servia will send an envoy to Constantinople to propose disarmament and peace in return for the cession of territory.

LONDON, June 18.—The Prince of Montenegro has resigned his position as representative of the insurgents in negotiation with the Porte. A Vienna special says the insurgent leader Galub has defeated the Sultan's forces at Petrovna, killing 200 Turks and capturing 2,000 head of cattle and sheep. A Berlin special reports that Austria has ordered the concentration of 128,000 regular troops and 169,000 of the Landwehr in the eastern and south-eastern provinces, for autumn drill.

BRUSSELS, June 17.—Le Nord, the Russian organ, says editorially:—"The language of British Ministers and the tone of the British press show that England desires the pacification of the East by a real improvement in the lot of its people. Russia will especially approve of the adoption of such a course by the English Cabinet, as she is indifferent as to what power effects the improvement in the present unbearable position of Eastern Christians. If England desires to take the initiative, she may count beforehand on the sympathy and approval of Russia and all the other European powers."

LONDON, June 17.—The Daily News special telegram from Constantinople reports that Hassan, after gaining admission to the Council chamber, locked the door and fired at Avni Pasha. The lamp was broken, and only a candle was left burning in the room. The assassin then threw himself on Avni, and plunged a cutlass into his bowels. He next fired at the Minister of Marine, and finally at Midhat Pasha. The police overpowered and captured him as he was attempting to kill Midhat Pasha. After he was seized he said he was sorry he failed to kill Midhat. The Minister of Marine will probably recover. The two murdered Ministers were buried during the day.

GERMANY PROTECTING HER SUBJECTS.—The Official Gazette states that the Imperial Government some time ago opened negotiations with Spain for the purpose of freeing German residents in Cuba from the extraordinary war taxes levied there. Differences arose respecting the interpretation of the treaties on this subject, and a series of difficulties, including the general political situation, were put forward as preventing Spain from acceding to Germany's demands. Germany, however, has succeeded in obtaining the concession that the process of distraint and forced sales of property for payment of said taxes shall be suspended, in cases of German residents, until an understanding is attained.

DEATH OF FATHER VICTOR DE BUCK, THE BOLLANDIST.—We regret to learn by late advices from Bruxelles that the distinguished Bollandist Father Victor de Buck breathed his last on the 23rd ult., at the College of St. Michel. This will cause profound sorrow to many in Ireland, since his labours on the great "Acta Sanctorum" were devoted especially to the illustration of Irish hagiology for several years past. His learning and virtues are well preserved in the record of his life-long labours and zeal to promote the glory of the saints, who we trust are ready to receive him in the kingdom of eternal glory. Several works of his, in the Latin, French, and Flemish languages, have already seen the light, besides his special contributions to the "Acta." For the past two years the illustrious divine and scholar suffered much from the cerebral inflammation which, finally, we believe, hastened his lamented death. Fortified by the sacraments of the Church, he expired

in the sixtieth year of his age. He was buried at Forest on last Friday, after the solemn ceremonial for the dead concluded in the Jesuit Church of St. Michel.—Freeman.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The following is an official account of the assassinations here on the 15th inst. A Circassian named Hassan who left the military school four years ago with rank of Lieutenant and was appointed to a Captaincy in the army of Bagdad, for certain reasons was retained at Constantinople, where he was variously employed. When Hassan recently received appointment to the grade of Adjutant-Major and was assigned to duty with the army of Bagdad, he alleged various pretexts for remaining at Constantinople and was consequently arrested and imprisoned. He was released yesterday on condition of his proceeding to Bagdad to-day. Yesterday he called upon the War Minister, when he was informed the Minister was attending Council at the Prime Minister's residence; he proceeded there and the guards believing him an aide-camp permitted him to enter. Hassan fired point-blank at Hussein Avni Pasha, Minister of War with a revolver which he had in his pocket and while the other persons present were pressing forward to seize him Rachid Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, a servant of Midhat Pasha, named Ahmet Agha, and a soldier were killed and Rachid Pasha, Minister of Marine and another soldier were wounded.

The recuperative powers of France and the marvellous extension of its commerce are well illustrated by a table lately published in the Boston Journal of Commerce, which that journal claims to have received from a well informed and entirely trustworthy correspondent. In 1825 the imports of France, according to this account, amounted to 401,000,000 francs, and the exports of the same year to 544,000,000 francs. In 1874 the former had increased to 8,508,000,000, and the latter to 3,701,000,000, respectively. This shows an increase of about 800 per cent. in fifty years. But this is not so much to be noted as the fact that the largest amount of this increase has taken place since 1849. In 1847 the exports were only 729,000,000 francs. From that time forward the progress has been marvellous, scarcely interrupted even by the terrible Franco-Prussian war. In 1872 the climax was reached by the exports amounting to 3,787,000,000 francs, against a total in 1848 of 690,000,000—an increase of more than three billions of francs. We question if any nation can show so remarkable an exhibit.

PROTESTANTISM IN SPAIN.—"We have heard so much lately of the disgraceful want of liberty, which is experienced by Protestants in Spain," says a writer in the London Weekly Register, "that we naturally like to know what is the exact number of Protestants who are subjected to this infamous tyranny. The best authenticated reports are surprising. It appears that four thousand is the outside of the number of all kinds of Protestants in Spain. And this, too, after more than a quarter of a century of eager and ardent proselytism. Bibles have been sent by ship loads to Spain; tracts have been distributed throughout the country; missionaries have done all they could; and yet, spite of the sympathies of innumerable tourists, Spanish Protestants only number four thousand. We are gravely asked to alter the religion of Spain, to introduce there the divisions of our country, solely to gratify these few bewitched Spaniards, and the tourists who call themselves Protestants. A concession has been made, on the part of the Spanish Government, in the direction of admitting private Protestantism; but neither the Government nor the people would ever consent to make a Babel of the gloriously united Catholic Spain."

Emperor William gave his chief court preacher a tremendous dressing down a few days ago. That worthy, Newman, instead of preaching Christ and him crucified, preached Queen Louise and her glorified, and gave a very imaginative account of her interview at Schwedt, after Jena, with her sons, the late King and present Emperor, whom she urged in the true Cambyes vein to redeem and avenge their country. The ceremony moved everybody to tears and applause except the Emperor. He waited until the preacher appeared at the chapel door, divested of his clerical habiliments and ready to return home, and accosted him with, "No such scene as you have elaborately described ever took place. The words attributed to her certainly expressed my mother's sentiments, but all that she said to her sons was 'You see me in tears. I weep for the sad fate which has overtaken us. The King has been mistaken as to the efficiency of his army and of his leaders; therefore, we have been defeated, and are obliged to fly.'" The preacher, thus corrected, could not excuse nor defend himself. The Emperor added: "Let me advise you not again to give a sermon of this sort. My family and myself go to church to worship God and to hear the Gospel preached; not to listen to flattering notices of our deceased ancestors."

The Jewish Chronicle accounts for the interest Dom Pedro takes in Jewish affairs by the fact that he is of Jewish descent. During the persecution of the Jews in the Spanish peninsula in the middle ages, many Jews left or pretended to leave the religion of their fathers, and were known as "New Christians." They became numerous, and married extensively with families of noble birth. A certain King of Portugal, says the Chronicle, becoming alarmed at the power wielded by individuals of Jewish descent, issued a decree that every person with Jewish blood in his or her veins should appear at Court, distinguished by a white badge, the King hoping by this edict to banish all such persons from this Court, as he believed no one would be willing to acknowledge his Jewish blood. On the day named he was surprised to see more than three-fourths of his court wearing the white badge, and he was astonished when the Prime Minister entered himself wearing, in a conspicuous manner, the same emblem. He asked him furiously what his business was. His answer was: "I have come to carry out your Majesty's orders. Here are two white badges (at the same time producing them); one is for her Royal Majesty, your august spouse, and 'And for whom is the other?' thundered the King. The reply was: "For your Royal Majesty."

MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN BULGARIA.—At Perouchitz, a village of two thousand inhabitants, at the foot of the Rhodope ridge, the population had given no signs of disaffection, and had, on the contrary, sent word to the authorities at Philippopolis to solicit protection against some Mussulman neighbours who evinced unfriendly intentions. No notice was taken of their application. Some of the Mussulman mountaineers of the neighbourhood soon assembled round the village and called upon the Christians to deliver up their arms. Upon their refusal a struggle began, which ended in the complete destruction of the village. Of its inhabitants only about nine hundred women and children were spared, who are now sheltered at Philippopolis in a state of utter wretchedness and destitution. Five hundred women and children of the village of Avratlan, which has met with the same fate, have also sought the same refuge. Those of Balak and other localities are equally burnt out of their homes, bereft of their fathers and husbands, and starving in the streets of Tartar Bazarjik and Outlookkeia. Bands of armed Mussulman marauders—chiefly Circassians—have been organized, who carry on havoc and desolation from village to village, and who do not even spare the lives of inoffensive wayfarers. Murders are so frequent that some of the bodies are left to rot unburied in the fields. Twelve of the fugitives from Perouchitz, women and children, have been massacred at the very gates of Philippopolis. Complete anarchy reigns in one of the richest provinces of the empire; and only at two days' distance from the capital. In the town itself

of Philippopolis the alarm is, naturally, very great. Rumours circulate of hostile intentions harboured by the Mussulmans against the Archbishop, and the Bulgarian nobles of the place, who are pointed out as the instigators of the insurrection, &c.—London Times Thracia Correspondence.

GROWTH OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.—The German Statistical Office has just published an abstract of the results of the census of 1875. This document shows a large increase of the population, if we compare it to the foregoing census. On the 31st December, 1875, the total of the population amounted to 42,757,812 inhabitants. On the 1st December, 1871, 41,058,792 inhabitants were counted, including, of course, the troops then stationed in France. According to these figures there has been an increase of 1,699,020 inhabitants within four years, or as much as 1.01 per cent. a year. Within the years 1867-71 the population had increased by 951,617, or only 0.58 per cent. (average) a year. (In these figures Alsace and Lorraine have been included.) Within the last census period the population therefore increased by 700,000 inhabitants or 0.73 per cent., more than within the foregoing period of years. Only a part of this difference may be ascribed to the war between Germany and France. The principal reasons of the increase lie in a reduction of emigration and in a strong over-balance of births against deaths. If we look at the figures of each separate country we find that the population of Prussia alone increased by 1,032,215 inhabitants whilst its average yearly increase had amounted to 1.07 per cent., against 0.69 of the foregoing period of four years. The increase was, however, greatest in Saxony, where the population of two millions and a half increased by 200,000 inhabitants—that is, 1.32 per cent. a year, against 1.3 per cent. in the foregoing census period. In Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Hesse, and Baden the growth of the population has not been as strong as in Prussia and Saxony. Of the other twenty states, only Mecklenburg, Lubek, Waldeck, and Alsace-Lorraine have suffered a reduction in the number of their inhabitants. The reduction is, however, very much less important than it had been in the foregoing period of four years, and the sole cause was emigration, which in these states took place on a larger scale—in Alsace-Lorraine on account of political reasons, in the other states on account of the slow state of industrial progress.

EDUCATION.

Few will deny that in the vast English-speaking portion of this flourishing Dominion, we Catholics do not occupy that position in the social scale to which our numbers and natural abilities entitle us; and this clearly deprives us of that fair share of influence which we could otherwise bring to bear in upholding Catholic principles, in defending and forwarding Catholic interests, so often disregarded and trampled upon by anti-Catholic majorities, as the education question itself amply proves. Of course the influence of hundreds of years of penal proscription in the Old land is still felt; and this in a great measure explains our scanty proportion of representatives in our Federal and Local legislative assemblies, in offices of honor, influence and emolument. Our fathers came out here impoverished by the injustice and bigotry of their rulers. They came with humble aspirations; for, having so long been kept down the bill, habit somewhat reconciled them to their inferior position. But it is now high time that we should look up. We are here in a free country, with equal rights to enjoy, if we are only wise, clever and united enough to demand and obtain them. We are not inferior to others in energy or talent. Let us, therefore, earnestly and perseveringly cultivate these abilities; and, to multiply and perpetuate the excellent results that shall arise from this self-culture, let us also generously patronize our schools and colleges—for education is a sure, speedy and easy way to success in every course of life; and, when thoroughly Catholic, education is also the path of truth and virtue which leads far higher still—to the realms of eternal bliss and glory.

Much still remains to be done to render our Catholic schools thoroughly efficient and successful. This is a matter of the greatest importance for the future of our Catholic population; and to it we should devote our utmost attention, activity and zeal. Nor should those whose position and means enable them to give their children a superior training, a College education, neglect to do so. The higher education which is required to fill advanced posts with honor and to the best advantage is not to be acquired in a few short years. The mind of youth, like a young plant, slowly and gradually develops itself, and is all the more healthy and vigorous when nature is not forced, when the mind is not burdened beyond its age and strength. To dissipate the mists and clouds with which ignorance fills the understanding, and thereby extend its views and render it clear-sighted, quick and penetrating; to store the memory with the treasures of knowledge which the wisdom and learning of ages have collected, cannot be done in a hurry. And yet this task must be accomplished by those whom we shall put to the fore to represent us and fight our battles, to forward our religious, political and social interests; otherwise they will be unfit for the honorable trust confided to them. This is why I advocate a thorough, a complete college training for those of our youth whose parents can well afford to give it to them. This is why I most heartily advocate the patriotic and genuine Catholic sentiment of my very esteemed friend, the able editor of this truly Irish Catholic journal, of the 7th inst.—"The higher education of the people for whom we write is of the first importance to the maintenance of their position in the race of life with the College-nurtured competition springing up around them; and therefore does the opportunity of building on the foundation of the College of Ottawa an Alma Mater to nurture the intellect and to direct the virtue of the Irish Canadian youth, commend itself earnestly to every support that it may command under the direct appeal which it makes to their pride of creed and race. With an able corps of Professors selected from the Oblate Fathers, and the special powers for which the Catholics of Ireland battled so long granted in its charter, it promises, as the only Catholic Institution which can grant degrees, to become the Catholic University of Ontario."—R.M.B. Irish Canadian.

A man in want of a coat called upon a couple of enterprising German Jew clothiers. The senior of the firm soon found a "first-class fit." In answering the question as to the price the response was "Tree-pound-ten." "Well, I like your coat very much," said the customer, "but I don't like the price." "Never mind, mine friend—ze price is nothing, so you like ze coat. Ve let you take 'em at tree-pound-five." The customer still complained at the price, saying that three-pound-five was too dear. This was too much for the Jew; so, taking his customer to the extreme end of the shop, and drawing him into a dark corner, he whispered into his ear, "Mine friend, I let you have zat coat for two-pound-fifteen." "Very good," said the customer, "I am satisfied with the price, but I should like to know the meaning of this mysterious performance." "Vell, mine friend, you see, dat leetle man dere? He vas my broder. He got the ze heart disease, and so help me gracious, if he vas to hear me tell you I take two-pound-fifteen for zat coat, he'd drop dead on ze spot!"

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