

ism or increase their loyalty but we are much afraid that it will have a very disheartening effect upon the volunteer movement. Volunteers are but human beings, and if they are trifled with after this fashion, the Government which thus trifles with them, cannot find fault if they display an apathy and an indifference in strange contrast with the spirit exhibited in 1866.

The press have said very little about the liberation of McMahon. Some few have commended the pardon, while they have condemned the manner in which it has been done, and others have taken strong ground against the release. The Cornwall *Freemholder*, John Sandfield Macdonald's organ, in an article on this question uses the following language:—

“A case that on its own merits pre-

sents no redeeming features and affords no reason for the exercise of the royal clemency, is precisely the case that should undergo the penalty which the law has assigned it, McMahon it will be remembered, was sentenced with others, all for the same offence. If his case presented no redeeming features, then his associates were in no worse position than he, and equally entitled with him to the exercise in their behalf of that mercy which has been extended to him alone. Until a general pardon has been projected we could not see any justification of the course pursued by the Minister of Justice in the case of McMahon—a case which, in his own words, ‘presents no redeeming features.’ This obeisance to national distinctions and sectarian jealousy is the meanest characteristic of our Government. When will it rise above that sort of thing? When shall we abandon our wretched peddling, jobbing, bigging practice of striving to please everybody, and take our stand on the broad and dignified ground that our administration is based upon the eternal principle of right.”

CONVENT REVELATIONS.

The Judicial Commission appointed to investigate the case of the imprisoned nun at Cracow commenced their researches on July 28, by going over the convent in company with an escort of police. In passing through the refectory they discovered, according to the *Kraj*, of Cracow, a secret chamber containing a whole collection of mediæval instruments of torture. Among these are two huge crosses weighing eighty pounds each, which guilty nuns had to wear on their backs as a punishment, two heavy stones of marble to be placed on the chest, and a number of ‘crowns of thorns’ with long and sharp iron nails. There were also several

girdles, also fitted with nails pointed inwards, which it is said were worn next the skin by penitents, and there was a sort of knout for flogging the refractory. The Commissioners next proceeded to the chapel, and found in the choir four coffins containing the bodies of four abbesses. The corpses are well preserved and can be seen through the upper surfaces of the coffins, which are of glass.

Later advices say that the enquiry is still going on, and several of the persons compromised, among them the confessor of the convent, have been taken into custody. The body of the former confessor, who gave the first intimation of the ex-