

Translator's Preface, the first point which is strikingly suspicious is, that the said printed work, from which the fragment was copied in MS., is no longer to be found, though it may possibly be hidden among the dusty and neglected volumes of some library. It is necessary to say, however, that the fragment printed in 1839, which is the subject of the prophecy in its mutilated state as said to have been held in great reputation for many years past, so that search would naturally have been made for the original, in order to obtain the whole, as well as to establish beyond all doubt its alleged antiquity.

The story of the transcription, from the pretended volume, seems improbable in the extreme. It rests entirely on a letter, which the editor of a French newspaper professes to have had in his possession, written in 1659, "by one of the most learned and conspicuous men of the province of Lorraine," who is named. This letter states, that the Abbe d'Orval (meaning, it would seem, the Abbe of the Cistercian monastery of Orval) having fled for refuge, with his monks and with certain property of the convent, to Luxembourg, on setting in order the documents he had brought with him, discovered the printed volume in question, and showed it to Marshal Bender, who was then at the place, some French gentlemen of rank who were present at the time in his saloon, took copies of it, which soon spread over the town and beyond it.

So much for the first discovery of the prophecy at the beginning of the great revolution, and so much for the narrative of it by an anonymous writer in 1839, half a century afterwards. We are further told that "the greater number of the copies neglected to transcribe all that related to the past, and contented themselves with that portion which was yet to be accomplished."

Here are the strongest indications of fraud and imposture. It was very improbable that all the copyists should have transcribed only the prophecies yet to be fulfilled, because the sole proof that they were acting in the spirit of copying them consisted in the question addressed by past events having already happened, according to the prediction for which reason the above modified statement is made. But if some copied the whole, how is it that only a fragment, beginning with Napoleon, is now to be found, especially as the original copies from various quarters, in 1839, were all in French? Of this not a word is said.

The style appears to convey strong internal evidence of its forgery, at the end of the last century. The following is a specimen, in the language of the first half of the sixteenth century.

How, ye sons of Brutus, call ye upon the deities that are about to desert you. Great God! What a clash of arms! A full number of moons is not yet completed, and behold many warriors are slaying.

It is done, the mountains of the Lord, in dissolution, have cried unto God, the sons of Juda have cried to God from the stranger land, and behold God is no longer deaf.

The place of crime is supplied by the great stream, hath returned its waters, all crimsoned with blood to the sea! (p. 14.)

The Translator's preface has a similar statement. Some days after the first edition of my "Reception" had appeared, I was fortunate enough to procure a more faithful copy of the prophecy than that which I possessed, and I acquired the conviction that it had been transcribed in Italy by a highly respectable person (whose name I do not name), from the edition printed at Lyons, being in 1644. This copy is in every respect a better one than the one which I possess, and it is from this copy that the pages that preceded were so worded that the print was quite illegible in many parts. (p. 10)

On which we remark— 1. That the cause of the second transcription still remaining, only a fragment is a wide difference from the former case, and in consequence, is probable. For any one who knows anything of old books is well aware that however bad their condition, the pages are never (for they cannot possibly be) so worn that the printing becomes illegible.

2. That the translator states the fact as if of his own knowledge, which he could not really possess, and not on the authority of the copyist. 3. That a prophecy, a fragment of which had excited great popular interest for thirty years, would certainly have not only been copied out, but reprinted entire, as far as it existed, had the original volume really come to light again in 1822. Had we been told that the first part of the book had been torn out, it would have been a safer fiction. The clumsy story given above carries with it its own contradiction.

One circumstance only remains to be noticed. The prophecy was really current at the end of the last century, of which there seems to be some evidence, it is still a prophecy, or a forgery, since it contains the most distinct allusions to the career of Napoleon. But the answer is very simple. Napoleon died in 1821; the "discovery" of the volume, of the volumes of 1544, took place in 1823. No one pretends to have seen written copies, containing the clauses relating to Napoleon, previously to this occurrence. That they were forged subsequently, to give that present credit to the document which, from the alleged deficiency of the first part, could not be attached to it, is a plausible and irresistible conclusion.

Indirectly it would seem by the expression used. To carry out this absurd assertion, we find a word occasionally supplied in places in the fragment, as if by conjecture. Thus, on p. 12, "He quits the great city, &c. &c."

The Cross;

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, SEPT. 30.

NEWS BY THE STEAMER.

There have been some fresh insurrectionary outbreaks in Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Waterford, but not of a character to alarm the Government, or to inspire any hope of success. At the best accounts, troops were moving from all quarters to the scene of the disturbance; and there is very little doubt of this attempt at insurrection ending like that at Douglas Common. The Irish papers state that this outbreak has originated from agrarian rather than from political causes. It was reported that several were killed on each side, and that the Police barracks of Waterbury was burned by the insurgents. A bridge on the road from Waterbury to Larch was broken down to prevent the passage of the military, and some pieces of cannon were taken from the demense of the Marquis of Waterford.

The Government must see from this renewed attempt at insurrection, the necessity of speedily applying a remedy to such grievances. The causes of discontent must be very deep rooted which could excite large masses of the people to assemble after their leaders had been arrested, after witnessing the energy & vigour of the authorities have recently exhibited. Never, during the last two months, did the prospects of an European war appear more imminent than at present. England, notwithstanding the efforts of her disinterested and every day of Europe, can hardly prevent the storm which seems about to burst forth all over the Continent. If it was of political as such a crisis to leave the vast mass of the people of Ireland in a state of disaffection, which must be increased by the failure of the potato crop, and by the severity of the approaching winter.

Lord John Russell has left Ireland, but the object of his visit has not yet transpired. Before

his departure he was served with a Crown summons to attend, as a witness, at the trial of Mr. Saurin O'Brien. Austria has consented to accept the mediation of Prussia and England with respect to the affairs of Italy, but insists on such terms as seem very likely to be made the basis of peace between herself and her Italian subjects. Vigorous preparations for a renewal of the war continue to be made on both sides. The Austrian troops have been withdrawn from the Roman States, and an ample apology made to Pius IX by the Austrian Commander.

The armistice concluded by the efforts of England between Denmark and Prussia, has been rejected by the Germanic Diet, and the Ministry have in consequence resigned. Hostilities are about to commence again. The Prussian Ministry have also been obliged to resign by a vote of Assembly. Everything in Berlin seemed to be in the greatest confusion.

The King of Naples has again got possession of Messina, after a desperate struggle of several days. The Sicilians fought with great bravery, and the loss on both sides was immense. The English and French fleets were spectators, but took no part in the contest. Sicily has not succeeded in maintaining her independence, but we trust that fortune will yet crown her with success. Her people deserve to be free—they have fought bravely for their country; their struggle, like that of the Irish people, is for national independence and a national legislature.

BURNING OF A CHURCH.

On Friday morning about 12 o'clock, flames were perceived issuing from the tower of the church of St. Peter and Paul, in South Boston, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Father Fitzsimmons, and in a short time the entire building was enveloped in flames. This magnificent structure, now a shapeless heap of blackened ruins, was one of the most chaste and beautiful churches in our country, and will prove, we fear, an irreparable loss to the city as well as to the Catholic community. By some the conflagration is thought to have been the work of an incendiary, and by others—which is more probable—to have resulted from sparks from another fire, raging at the time in Sea Street. The following is from the Daily Evening Traveller of this city.

The Boston Fire Department were promptly on hand, but unfortunately were unable to save this beautiful building from total destruction. Their efforts were, however, successful in arresting the further spread of the flames, though the Orthodox and Universalist churches were in great danger, and narrowly escaped being burnt. Indeed the former was at one time on fire in the bell tower, but the flames were seasonably put out.

The dwelling-house of the Rev. Mr. Fitzsimmons, adjoining, took fire and was partially damaged, and the occupants of all the houses in the neighborhood had hard work to save their property. The burnt church was a substantial stone building, erected some fifty years ago. Its entire cost was about \$75,000, and its interior decoration was of the most elegant and costly, describing. An organ, built by Appleton at an expense of \$4000, and a beautiful crucifix by Bail Hughes, were burnt. The vestments and altar furniture were saved. The insurance, as we learn, is as follows: at the American office, \$20,000; National, \$10,000; New England, \$10,000. The Firemen's office had \$3,000 on the organ.—Boston Catholic Observer.

ANOTHER CHURCH BURNED.—We regret to learn from the daily papers that the church of St. Peter and Paul, South Boston, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Fitzsimmons, was destroyed by fire last Friday night. The church is said to have cost \$75,000, only about one half of which was insured. A large and costly organ and beautiful painting of the Crucifixion were destroyed. The vestments and altar furniture were saved.

We are not aware that blame is attached to any one in this or the other instances which have lately happened, but the frequent recurrence of such deplorable accidents suggests the necessity of great care and vigilance on the part of those charged with the custody of the sacred temples of the Most High. Rev. Catholic Herald. We have been positively assured that several most estimable and distinguished men in this and the adjoining counties are equally alarmed at their establishments and squaring their limited means with the circumstances of the times.—Lancaster Examiner.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROME.

The session has come to an end, and the Bill for establishing Diplomatic Relations with the Holy See is now the law of the land. The Ministers at Downing street are at liberty to write to Rome, but Rome is not at liberty to write to them. Such is the great generosity of a British Parliament. England is to have the power to send an Ambassador to Rome, but of any class, but the Sovereign Pontiff shall not send to us whom he pleases. The most important, the most learned, the most trustworthy portion of his subjects is forbidden to manage the negotiations for the Representative of His Holiness. The Sovereign Pontiff, himself a Priest, is deliberately told by Parliament that we will not receive a Priest as his Minister. Certainly, this is a new way of conciliating Princes, to begin diplomatic relations by a verbal insult and an act of deliberate hate to the very class of which the Pontiff is himself the Head.

Again, the Pontiff is not called by his proper title. We make no scruples of addressing foreign sovereigns by their own titles and dignity. Protestant, Mahomedan, and Heathen Sovereigns are treated with respect, their styles admitted, and their honour consulted. But the most ancient Sovereign, the most powerful, and the most awful, is to be treated with insult, his authority denied and his titles disowned. The Head of the Catholic Church, the Sovereign Pontiff, the supreme dispenser of human and divine law upon earth, is contemptuously treated, and because—he cannot resent it.

The British Parliament, in its corporate capacity, refuses to recognize His Holiness in that character which every member of that Parliament privately admits to belong to him. The See of Winchester has not always been celebrated for its reverence to the Holy See, and Rome has no pleasant recollections of Wolsey and Stephen Gardiner.

Charles Sumner, although neither a Bishop nor a Priest, but invested with the civil powers of Gardiner, contrives, like that worthy, to devise means of annoying the Holy Father. He proposed that the Papal character and dignity should not be recognized, and the Peers of England adopted his resolution. The Pope is, therefore, according to the new act, not the person with whom the Government proposes to treat, but some other person—namely, the Sovereign of the Roman States; not even the Sovereign of the Papal States, but a layman in a lay capacity, and, as Lord Palmerston very innocently said, anxious to make railways. So far so good.

The Solicitor General, however, very honestly admitted, that the intentions of Government were wholly of a different kind. He knows nothing of railways or any such affairs; his object was to deal with the Pope, not with the Sovereign of the Roman States; and one function of the ambassador was to be the extinction of the Papal authority in this country. The Solicitor General discreetly admitted that it would be the duty of Government, through the ambassador, to obstruct the Pope in the execution of his office, and he illustrated his meaning by saying that the Pope must not be allowed to create a Bishops' hierarchy in England. If the Pope wishes to make Dr. Walsh a Bishop, or Winchester the English ambassador to prevent him, and thus with the concurrence of the English Government.

So much for the intentions of the English Government, about which we heard so much, but pure and disinterested they were, and how free from all ecclesiastical colouring. The pure and patriotic Whigs have promoted a measure of simple justice and national honour, with the avowed object of securing the Holy See, and of circumscribing the religious liberties of a large portion of her Majesty's subjects. Civil and religious liberty, for which Whigs have shouted and eaten public dinners, is now by these very Whigs to be abridged because Catholics are likely to profit by it. The Government has created a hierarchy, designs the whole debate on the bill on both sides of the House took their intentions for granted, and the Solicitor General openly said Lord John implicitly avowed it. The Penal Laws were multiplied by the Whigs; and by the Acts were they multiplied and executed, and now these very men, grown bold, lay unholly hands upon the Sovereign Pontiff himself. We have seen that the Whigs have been the authors of the schemes, and their homed professors valued at their full worth; Lord Minto's sojourn at Rome, his intercourse with the Pope, and the respectatory son, are not forgotten. The Holy Father, who is not moved by the rebelliousness of his own subjects, is not likely to forget his dignity, though the English Government call upon him to waive it.—Tablet.