

the outer darkness, so, if God could be less than God, it would have power to make Him so. And here observe, my brethren, that when once Almighty Charity by taking flesh, entered this created system, and submitted Itself to its laws, then forthwith this antagonist of good and truth, taking advantage of the opportunity, flew upon that flesh, and fixed on it, and was its death. The envy of the Pharisees, the treachery of Judas, and the madness of the people were but the instrument or the expression of the enmity which sin felt towards Eternal Purity, as soon as, in infinite mercy towards men, He put Himself within its reach. Sin could not touch His Divine Majesty; but it could assail Him in that way in which He allowed Himself to be assailed, through the medium of His humanity. And in the issue, in the death of God incarnate, you are but taught, my brethren, what sin is in itself, and what was then coming, in its hour and in its strength, upon His human nature, when He allowed that nature to be so filled with horror and dismay at the anticipation.

There, then, in that most awful hour, knelt the Saviour of the world, putting off the defences of His divinity, dismissing His reluctant Angels, who in myriads were ready at His call, and opening His arms, baring His breast, sinless as He was, to the assault of His foe,—of a foe whose breath was a pestilence, and whose embrace was an agony. There He knelt, motionless and still, while the vile and horrible fiend clad His spirit in a robe steeped in all that is hateful and heinous in human crime, which clung close round His heart, and filled His conscience, and found its way into every sense and pore of His mind, and spread over Him a mortal leprosy, till He almost felt Himself that which He never could be, and which His foe would fain have made Him. O the horror, when He looked, and did not know Himself, and felt as a foul and loathsome sinner, from His vivid perception of that mass of corruption which poured over His head and ran down even to the skirts of His garments! O the distraction, when He found His eyes, and hands, and feet, and lips, and heart, as if the members of the evil one, and not of God! Are these the hands of the immaculate Lamb of God, once innocent, but now red with ten thousand barbarous deeds of blood? are these His lips, not uttering prayer, and praise, and holy blessings, but defiled with oaths, and blasphemies, and doctrines of devils? or His eyes, profaned as they are by all the evil visions and idolatrous fascinations for which men have abandoned their Adorable Creator? And His ears, they ring with sounds of revelry and of strife; and His heart is frozen with avarice, and cruelty, and unbelief; and His very memory is laden with every sin which has been committed since the fall, in all regions of the earth, with the pride of the old giants, and the lusts of the five cities, and the obduracy of Egypt, and the ambition of Babel, and the unthankfulness and scorn of Israel. O who does not know the misery of a haunting thought which comes again and again, in spite of rejection, to annoy, if it cannot seduce? or of some odious and sickening imagination, in no sense one's own; but forced upon the mind from without? or of evil knowledge, gained with or without a man's fault, but which he would give a great price to be rid of for ever? And these gather around Thee, Blessed Lord, in millions now; they come in troops more numerous than the locust of the palmer-worm, or the plagues of hail, and flies, and frogs, which were sent against Pharaoh. Of the living and of the dead and of the unborn, of the lost and of the saved, of Thy people and of strangers, of sinners and of Saints, all sins are there. Thy dearest are there, Thy Saints and Thy chosen are upon Thee; Thy three Apostles, Peter, James, and John, but not as comforters, but as accusers, like the friends of Job, "sprinkling dust towards heaven," and heaping curses on Thy head. All are there but one; one only is not there, one only; for she had no part in sin, she only could console Thee, and therefore is not nigh. She will be near Thee on the Cross, she is separated from Thee in the garden. She has been Thy companion and then confidant through Thy life, she interchanged with Thee the pure thoughts and holy meditations of thirty years; but her virgin ear may not take in, nor may her immaculate heart conceive, what now is in vision before Thee. None was equal to the weight but God; sometimes before Thy Saints Thou hast brought the image of a single sin, as it appears in the light of Thy countenance, a venial sin, perhaps, and not a mortal; and they have told us that the sight did all but kill them, nay, would have killed them, had it not been instantly withdrawn. The Mother of God, for all her sanctity, may by reason of it, could not have borne one company of that innumerable progeny of Satan which compass Thee about. It is the long history of a world, and God alone can bear the load of it. Hopes blighted, vows broken, lights quenched, warnings scorned, opportunities lost; the innocent betrayed, the young hardened, the penitent relapsing, the just overcome, the aged failing; the sophistry of misbelief, the wilfulness of passion, the tyranny of habit, the canker of remorse, the wasting of care, the anguish of shame, the pining of disappointment, the sickness of despair; such cruel, such pitiable spectacles, such heartrending, revolting, detestable, maddening scenes; nay, the haggard faces, the convulsed lips, the flushed cheek, the dark brow of the willing victims of rebellion, they are all before Him now; they are upon Him and in Him. They are with Him instead of that ineffable peace which has inhabited His soul since the moment of His conception. They are upon Him, they are all but His own; He cries to His Father as if He were the criminal, not the victim; His agony takes the form of guilt and compunction. He is doing penance, He is making confession, He is exercising contrition with a reality and a virtue infinitely greater than that of all Saints and penitents together; for He is the One Victim for us all, the sole Satisfaction, the real Penitent, all but the real sinner.

He rises languidly from earth, and turns around to meet the traitor and his band, now quickly nearing the deep shade. He turns, and lo! there is blood upon His garment and in His footprints. Whence come these first-fruits of the passion of the Lamb? no soldier's scourge has touched His shoulders, nor the hangman's nails His hands and feet. My brethren, He has bled before His time; He has shed blood, and it is His agonizing soul which has broken up His bodily frame and sent it forth. His passion has begun from within. That tormented Heart, the seat of tenderness and love, began at length to labor and to beat with vehemence beyond its nature; "the fountains of the great deep were broken up;" the red streams poured forth so copious and fierce as to overflow the veins, and, bursting through the pores, they stood in a thick dew over His whole skin; then, forming into drops, they rolled down full and heavy, and drenched the ground.

"My soul is sorrowful even unto death," He said. It has been said of that dreadful pestilence which now is upon us, that it begins in death; by which is meant that it has no stages or crisis, that hope is over when it comes, and that what looks like its course is but the death agony and the process of dissolution. And thus our atoning Sacrifice, in a much higher sense, began with this passion of woe, and only did not die, because at His omnipotent will His Heart did not break, nor Soul separate from Body, till He had suffered on the Cross.

No, He has not yet exhausted that full chalice, from which at first His natural infirmity shrank. The seizure, and the arraignment, and the buffeting, and the prison, and the trial, and the mocking, and the passing to and fro, and the scourging, and the crown of thorns, and the slow march to Calvary, and the crucifixion, these are all to come. A night and a day, hour after hour, is slowly to run out, before the end comes, and the Satisfaction is completed.

And then, when the appointed moment arrived, and He gave the word, as His passion had begun with His soul, with the soul did it end. He did not die of bodily exhaustion, or of bodily pain; His tormented Heart broke, and He commended His Spirit to the Father.

"O Heart of Jesus, all Love, I offer Thee these humble prayers for myself and for all those, who unite themselves with me in spirit to adore Thee. O holiest Heart of Jesus most lovely, I intend to renew and to offer to Thee these acts of adoration and these prayers, for me a wretched sinner, and for all those who are associated in Thy adoration, through all moments while I breathe even to the end of my life. I recommend to Thee, O my Jesus, Holy Church, Thy dear spouse, and our true Mother, the souls which practise justice, and all poor sinners, the afflicted, the dying, and all men. Let not Thy Blood be shed for them in vain. Finally deign to apply it in relief of the souls in Purgatory, those in particular, who have practised in the course of their life this holy devotion of adoring Thee."

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.—The monthly meeting of the Catholic University Committee was held on Wednesday, 13th ult., and an adjourned meeting on Thursday. The attendance was very numerous, and amongst those present were the Lord Primate, the Archbishops of Cashel and Dublin, several of the Bishops, and a great number of the Clergy and laity of the Committee. The deliberations each day lasted for four hours. A considerable number of fresh donations and subscriptions were entered, and the progress of the undertaking is most satisfactory.—*Tablet.*

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL.—A correspondent informs us that an effort is about being made to procure funds for the completion of this fine structure, which was commenced during the Primacy of the late Dr. Crolly, and the works carried on with vigor until the occurrence of the heavy calamities which have fallen upon the country during the past few years. Our correspondent suggests that, in addition to the contributions of the town of Armagh, and of the Archdiocese, subscriptions in aid of this important and national undertaking should be set on foot throughout the kingdom, in order, by a general effort, to provide funds adequate to so great an occasion.—*Ibid.*

THE ENGLISH HIERARCHY.—MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC CLERGY IN DUBLIN.—His Grace the Lord Archbishop has called a meeting of the Catholic Clergy of Dublin and its vicinity, to be held at the Parochial House, Marlborough-street, at one o'clock on Monday, 11th ult., for the purpose of presenting an address of congratulation, through his Eminence Cardinal Wiseman, to the Catholic Clergy of England, and of expressing their gratitude to our Most Holy Father the Pope for his timely restoration of the ancient Hierarchy of the English Catholic Church.—*Ibid.*

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman left Rome on the 12th of October, and reached Florence on the 15th.—The announcement in Tuesday's paper of the sudden and unexpected arrival of Cardinal Wiseman in the metropolis occasioned considerable interest among Catholics and Protestants, and at an early hour a large number of respectfully attired persons, of both persuasions, assembled round St. George's Chapel, in the expectation of catching a glimpse of the newly-created Archbishop, and many, anticipating that he would officiate during the early morning service, entered the edifice; but they were doomed to disappointment, as the Cardinal not only did not attend the service, but had not arrived at his temporary residence up to the departure of those who were induced by curiosity to attend. Exactly at eleven o'clock, however, a private carriage, drawn by

a pair of greys, was driven to the entrance of the Clergyman's residence attached to St. George's Chapel, from which the Cardinal alighted, attended by his Chaplain, who carried a small leather portmanteau and a large packet of letters. His Eminence, who appeared in excellent health, was enveloped in a large blue cloak, and had a superbly bound Roman missal in his hand.—Amongst the many distinguished persons who called on the Cardinal at St. George's, on Tuesday, was the Right Hon. R. L. Sheil, to pay his respects to his Eminence previously to leaving this country for his embassy at Florence.—*Times, Nov. 13th.*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.—THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On Monday, the National Assembly commenced what promises to be a stormy session. On the following day, M. Baroche, Minister of the Interior, read the message of the President of the Republic to the National Assembly.

The message commences with a glance at the circumstances under which the election of the President and the Assembly took place; the country was disturbed by the last moments of the Constituent Assembly, and the gravity of events obliged the Assembly and Government to adopt important laws. Four hundred and twenty-one mayors and one hundred and eighty-three adjoints "had to be dismissed," and "if all those who have remained unequal to their functions have not been similarly treated, the cause is in the imperfection of the laws. To remedy this defect, the Council of State has already commenced the examination of a project of law; but it is difficult to conciliate the municipal franchise with the unity of action—the true force of the central power."

The National Guard was dissolved in 153 towns and communes, and a restraint has been put on the "detestable propaganda which was exercised by the primary teachers." The few ameliorative laws which have passed are rehearsed, and the release of 2,400 convicts since June 1840 quoted as an instance of indulgence. The means of creating Model Agricultural Colonies for male adult prisoners, and for relieving "the remains of our armies of the Republic and the Empire," will be demanded of the Assembly. The *ensemble* of this policy has considerably improved the financial situation. The expected deficit of 300,000,000 francs has been reduced to 100,000,000 francs, and there is every reason to hope that the equilibrium announced for 1851 will be realised. The ascending progress of the indirect revenue is sustained; the first nine months of 1850, compared with the corresponding months of last year, give an advantage of more than 28,000,000 francs, while the state of the Savings' Bank and the rise in the portfolio of the Bank, further attest the prosperous condition of the country. Three projects of law in connection severally with agriculture, pensions, and a better re-partition of the property-tax, will be abruptly laid before the Assembly. The progress of Public Works is recorded, and the necessity for the completion of certain lines of rail-road indicated. The "crisis which weighs down agriculture" invites solicitude, and the administration will neglect no practical remedial measures. The industrial condition of the country, it is asserted, has in general improved in 1850; to this the recent reports of the Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures testify. Several intended measures of an ameliorative character are enumerated; among them is a modification of the laws relative to patents, which is necessary, in order "to ensure to inventors a better guarantee of their rights." The Department of Commerce has taken all the measures necessary to enable the products of French industry to appear "with honor;" at the Great Exhibition which is to take place in London in 1851.

The attention of the Assembly will be called to the subject of penal legislation:—

"Six thousand convicts confined in the *bagnes* of Toulon, Brest, and Rochfort, load our budget with an enormous weight; whilst they become more depraved, and menace society at every moment. It has appeared possible to render the penalty of hard labor more efficacious and more reforming, less expensive and at the same time more humane, by utilising the progress of French colonisation. A law will be presented to you on that question."

Under the head of "Public Instruction and Religious Worship," it is stated that, after tedious negotiations, a measure, long since demanded, has been obtained from the Holy See—the erection of three colonial bishoprics and the appointment of three prelates for Martinique, Guadaloupe, and the island of La Reunion. The Sovereign Pontiff proclaimed, at the same consistory, three new cardinals, "granted to the French Church as an eminent proof of gratitude towards our nation, and of esteem for the French Episcopacy."

The effective of the land forces, which in the month of June, 1849, amounted to 451,000 men and 93,754 horses, and will shortly be reduced to the limits prescribed in the budget, to which it will be confined, "if political circumstances permit us." The condition of Algeria and the African colonies is described in the prevalent sanguine terms. "At Tahiti the maintenance of our protectorate preserves in the Pacific a *point d'appui* for our missions, as well as for our merchant and military marine." With regard to the maritime forces it is said:—

"Foreigners have paid homage to the fine organisation of our fleet assembled at Cherbourg. However, our maritime force is only composed of 125 ships, instead of 235, which we had in activity in 1848. It employs 22,561 men instead of 29,331, borne on the lists of the same year. The actual effective only suffices imperfectly for the protection of present interests engaged in all parts of the globe. The spirit

of our sailors is excellent, and their devotedness unbounded."

The assembly are then reminded of the features which have distinguished the foreign policy of the Government. As this is perhaps the most important part of the message, we will quote the greater portion of the remarks under this head:—

"Since my last message our foreign policy has obtained in Italy a great success. Our arms have overthrown at Rome that turbulent demagoguery which, throughout the Italian Peninsula, had compromised the cause of true liberty, and our brave soldiers have had the signal honor of replacing Pope Pius the Ninth on the throne of St. Peter. The spirit of party will fail in obscuring the memorable deed, which will form a glorious page for France. The constant aim of our efforts has been to encourage the liberal and philanthropic intentions of the Holy Father; the Pontifical power pursues the realisation of the formulas contained in the *motu proprio* of the 2nd of September, 1849. Some of the organic laws have already been published, and those which are to complete the *ensemble* of the administrative and military organisation in the states of the church will not be long delayed. It is needless to say, that our army, yet necessary for the maintenance of order at Rome, is equally so for our political influence, and which, having rendered itself illustrious by its courage, is no less admired for its discipline and its administration.

"On the different points where our diplomacy has had to interfere, it has nobly maintained the dignity of France; and our allies have never had to demand our support in vain.

"It is thus that, in concert with England, we have sent several forces into the Levant, to show our loyal sympathy for the independence of the Porte, which supposed that Russia and Austria meant to infringe, by demanding in virtue of ancient treaties the extradition of Hungarian and Polish subjects, refugees on the Turkish territory. Thanks to the wisdom which these powers have brought into negotiations on the question, the integrity of the rights of the Ottoman empire have been secured.

"In Greece, as soon as we learned the acts by which England supported her reclamations, we intervened by our good offices. France could not remain indifferent to the lot of a nation whose independence she had so much contributed to; she did not hesitate to offer her mediation, despite the difficulties raised during the course of the negotiations, and succeeded in softening the conditions imposed on the Government of Athens, and our negotiations with Great Britain resumed immediately their accustomed character.

"In Spain we have seen with pleasure the ties which made the two countries become closer by the mutual sympathy of the two Governments. Thus, as soon as the French Government learned the criminal attack directed by some adventurers against the Isle of Cuba, we sent new forces to the Commander of the Antilles, with an injunction to unite his efforts to those of the Spanish authorities, to prevent the recurrence of similar attempts.

"Denmark excites still our most lively solicitude. This ancient ally, which had so much to endure on account of her fidelity to France at the period of our disasters, has not yet, notwithstanding the bravery of her army, subdued the insurrection which has broken out in the Duchy of Holstein. The armistice of the 18th July, 1849, has been recognised by the *interim* of Frankfurt, which had charged Prussia to treat in the name of Germany. After laborious negotiations, a treaty, was signed on the 2nd July, through the mediation of England, between Denmark and Prussia. This treaty, ratified at first by the Cabinet of Berlin and her allies, has just been equally so by Austria and the Powers represented at the Assembly of Frankfurt. While these negotiations were proceeding in Germany, the Powers friendly to Denmark opened conferences at London, for the sake of maintaining the integrity of the states of the King of Denmark, such as has been guaranteed by treaties. If the steps taken by the Allied Powers have not yet succeeded in putting an end to the struggle engaged in the North of Germany, they have at least obtained the happy result of curtailing the proportions of the war, which only exists now between the King of Denmark and the unsubdued provinces.

"We will still insist upon the King of Denmark assuring by institutions, the rights of the Duchies. On the other hand, we will give him all the support which he has a right to require from us by virtue of treaties and of our ancient friendship.

"In the midst of the political conflicts which divide Germany we have observed the most strict neutrality. So long as French interests, and the equilibrium of Europe, shall not be compromised, we will continue a policy marked by our respect for the independence of our neighbors."

"The position of France in Europe," adds the President, "is dignified and honorable. Wherever her voice is heard, she advises peace, order, and right; she is listened to everywhere." The *résumé* is confined to remarks on his own position. He has often declared that he considers as great criminals those who by personal ambition would compromise "the small amount of stability guaranteed us by the Constitution." The invariable rule of his political life will be, "in every circumstance, to do my duty, and nothing but my duty." He reminds the Assembly that he alone has the disposal of the army, and that he has always turned his personal influence to the cause of Order. Every one but the President may endeavor "to accelerate the revision of our fundamental law." The recommendations in favor of a revision of the Constitution made by the Councils-General were addressed only to the legislative power. As far as regards himself, he shall always conform to their wishes, when expressed in a legal manner. The conclusion of the document—the tail with the sting—is as follows:—

"The uncertainty as to the future creates, I am aware, many apprehensions by reviving many hopes. Let us all learn to make the sacrifice to the country, of these hopes, and only to occupy ourselves with its interests. If, in the present session, you vote the revision of the constitution, a Constitutional Assembly will assemble for the purpose of reconstructing our fundamental laws, and regulating the fate of the executive power. If you do not vote it, the people will, in 1852, solemnly manifest the expression of its new pleasure. But, whatever may be the solution of the future; let us understand each other; in order that it may never be passion, surprise, or violence, that will decide the fate of this great nation. Let us inspire the people with that repose, by being calm in our deliberations; let us inspire them with a profound feeling of justice, by laying aside, on our own sides, all appearance of selfishness; and then, believe, the progress of our political