

DISCONTINUANCE OF HOST SALUTES.—The *Malta Times* of the 29th ult., states that orders have been received from England, in pursuance of which the order requiring sentries to "carry arms and present arms, as the Host passes," has been removed.

THE MORTARA CASE.—I told you that Sir Moses Montefiore, had arrived in Rome to present a memorial to the Pope on the case of the young Mortara, but though ten days or a fortnight are passing away since his arrival, no permission has as yet been obtained to present it. Great praise is due to our diplomatic agent, Mr. Odo Russell, who well supports the prestige of his family name in defence of the interests of religious liberty, and who has spared no exertions to forward the views of Sir Moses. On applying, as I believe he did, in the first instance to Cardinal Antonelli, the Cardinal declared he could do nothing; the case was terminated—it was unlikely that the Pope would receive him. "Perhaps Monsignore Talbot might be able to do something," Monsignore Talbot was more hopeful, thought that the Pope would receive Sir Moses, but recommended an application to Monsignore Paca. So the application was made; yet, though a week has passed away, no answer has been returned. Holy Week furnishes a good excuse for delay, but interviews would have been granted readily in any case but that in which the rights of the natural and Divine law had to be placed against the canon law. The interview will probably be granted, but no result be obtained, and the world will be furnished with another instance of the enormous pretensions of a Church which outrages humanity by claiming the right to tear a child from its naturally appointed protectors.—*Letter from Rome.*

One or two items of Colonial news will have a special interest for our readers. It appears by the last arrival from the Cape that the Transvaal Boers have abandoned their intention to go to war with the neighboring tribes. We suppose that the mission station at Kuruman is now relieved from all danger of attack by these lawless settlers. This wise resolve will probably turn out to have been the result, either of a warning from Governor Grey, or the prospect of the arrival of an English regiment at Natal. These Boers attack none but the defenceless.

"RELIGIOUS" RIOTS IN INDIA.—The Government of Madras have furnished an account of the riot at Tinnevely, upon which we presume, from the fact of publication, they intend the public to rely. The story is told with much minuteness and with apparent candour, and will undoubtedly create a great sensation at home. The line of conduct adopted by the officials involves the question of the future position of Christianity in India more distinctly than any recent incident. But there is a question involved in this matter far more important than any conceivable riot. It is simply whether Christianity is to be tolerated in India. It is not a dispute about authority, or ascendancy, or even equality, but merely of toleration. If tolerated, however much they may be despised, or hated, or oppressed, the Christians have still a clear right to pass quietly along the Queen's highway. It was for asserting this right that they were hooted and stoned by the mob of pagans, who were encouraged by the native officials, till by a natural transition they turned their rage on the official Christian, the joint magistrate. They were then, and not till then, made to leave the highway clear. That the compulsion involved a loss of human life may be regretted, but the mob brought it on themselves by their resistance to the law. By the simplest rule of citizenship the Christians were entitled to the protection they found. If Government are unwilling to grant it, they will cease not only to be Christian, but to be a Government at all. If they are unable, the quicker we give up Tinnevely to the Brahmins and their King the better. Our sole moral claim in India is that we keep the peace, and allow the Gospel a free path. If that end can be obtained peacefully it is well, but, if not, it is our duty not to shrink from enforcing order by the sword. When we refuse to recognise that necessity we shall meet the fate we shall have so amply deserved.—*Friend of China.*