The Catholic Record.

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London, Saturday, April 9, 1892.

A MUDDLE.

A curious muddle has arisen out of the appointment of a successor to the late Rev. C. Spurgeon, the noted pastor of the London Baptist Tabernacle.

Mr. Spurgeon was a resolute opponent of lax doctrine, and it was because the body styled "the Baptist Union practically abjured the "traditions" of the Baptists that he gave up his membership in the Union. He accused it, justly, of holding out the right hand of fellowship to Unitarians and others who deny the necessity of any fixed Christian belief in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. As a consequence, he declared that the Union was on the "down grade" towards infidelity.

The Baptist "traditions," which Mr. Spurgeon regarded as of so much importance, are not of very ancient date, since they go back, in England at least, only to the days of Queen Elizabeth, though they were propagated on the continent of Europe a few years earlier. But such as they are, the Baptists have been very tenacious of them, and particularly of the doctrine that a man is not a Christian at all unless he has been "dipped" or immersed.

But Mr. Spurgeon's congregation seem to have already forgotten the teachings of their late pastor, and it is now stated that the Rev. Dr. A. T. Pierson, a Presbyterian minister of Detroit, is called to take charge of London Tabernacle.

Dr. Pierson was not immersed, but it the Presbyterian fashion, that is to say, he was "sprinkled" while an infant, for Presbyterians generally maintain that the Baptist mode of administering baptism is anti-scriptural, and in this contention they are as resolute as the Baptists are in theirs, that immersion is the only mode of baptism authorized in

Scripture. The question now arises, will the Baptists take Mr. Pierson as their minister, unbaptized as he is, according to their doctrine, or will Mr. Pierson repudiate his Presbyterian baptism, by submitting to be rebaptized after the over a period of more than twenty the further consideration of the Bill. Baptist mode?

It is not likely that the whole Baptist body will practically repudiate their palmary principle for the convenience of one man, so we may presume that Mr. Pierson will accept the Baptist practice, and will begin to preach the doctrine that immersion is the necessary gate to Christianity. Indeed some Baptist ministers have already given their views to the public stating that is the course which Rev. Dr. Pierson must follow if he is to be come a Baptist minister. Amongst others, the Rev. Mr. McArthur of New York expresses surprise that Dr. Pierson "has so long neglected this plain duty," and declares it "impossible in his case to give a satisfactory explanation for this prolonged delay.

It will be hard to convince the Christian public that the temptation to secure an increased salary is not Dr. Pierson's principal motive for repudiat ing Presbyterianism by accepting the conditions insisted on by the Baptists, yet it is a strange fact that the Protes tant religious press regard the transaction as quite legitimate and praiseworthy, and as an evidence of the Christian unity and the fraternity of together.

To our mind it is rather an evidence that Christian doctrine is now regarded by the sects as a matter of no importance, since Christian doctrines can be thus readily bartered for the consideration of a few dollars' increase of salary.

The indignation which was univerministers at the last session of the General Assembly, when the basis of nnion proposed by the Episcopalian Bishops was discussed, will be remembered by our readers. It was uncom-

edge that Presbyterian ordination is invalid, by accepting Episcopal ordination. But there is no indignation expressed when Rev. Dr. Pierson acknowledges the invalidity of his ordination by being constructed into a Christian through the mode used in Christianizing adherents to the Baptist sect. It becomes in this case an evidence of general Christian unity between the sects! Or should Dr. Pierson continue to act in the ministry without being rebaptized, we shall have him preaching from a Baptist pulpit the absolute necessity of dipping, whereas he was never dipped himself.

We fail to see any evidence of unity in fundamental doctrine, or consistent fraternity, whichever horn of the dilemma Dr. Pierson and the London Baptists may choose to impale themselves upon.

HYPNOTISM.

An occurance which took place in Canton, Ohio, a few days ago has once more called public attention to the dangers of hypnotism as practiced now-a-days by so-called professors of the hypnotic art.

Thomas Numan, the twenty-sever year old son of J. W. Numan, a prominent gentleman of Canton, has been for some time missing from his home, and it is believed that he was induced by two mesmeric exhibitors to leave there that he might assist at their exhibitions as a remarkable instance of the control exercised by the hypnotizers over their subjects, or rather victims.

These mesmerists, who style them selves Professors Kennedy and Flynn had been for some time giving public exhibitions of their powers at Canton, and so great was the influence they ac quired over young Numan that he could not be induced to stay away from their shows, but while they were going on he would rush from home to the exhibition hall, where he would go through most ridiculous antics, to the great amusement of the audience.

On one occasion before his most recent freak he left home and went as far as Altoona, Pa., and returned when he recovered his reason, stating that he could not resist the impulse which was on him, and which it is preis probable that he was baptized after | sumed was the result of the hypnotic influence exercised by the mesmerisers.

> Numan is now a complete mental wreck, illustrating the danger which exists for those weak-minded persons who allow themselves to be brought under the hypnotic influence.

Concerning the real nature of hypnotism, scientific men acknowledge that they know but little as yet, though several eminent specialists have devoted many years to the study of the subject. The experiments of Dr. Delboeuf, of Paris, have extended ears, and he declares that during thi time he has effected many astonishing cures by means of the influence he exercised over the minds of patients subjected to the hypnotic tests. It appears limits of the constitution. that the hypnotizer brings the will of the patient entirely under his control, and by this means the latter may be made subject to sensations of pain, or may become totally insensible to pain, so that some diseases may be produced, and others removed, according to the will of the operator. It is, at all great danger in hypnotic experiments by unskilful as well as unscrupulous operators, and several European gov ernments have prohibited them en-

The proceedings at the Gouffe murder trial, which took place in Paris last year, and from which it appeared that Eyrand, the principal, had made very rapid strides in Germany, and to whole of Scotland; for nearly all of Madame Bompard a sharer in the crime by putting her into the hypnotic state, will be remembered by our readers. It was denied by Eyrand's counsel that he was the principal, and is the prevailing religion outside the the latter gave testimony that so far Madame Bompard, that she had herfeeling which binds the different sects | self arranged the crime, and induced him to enter into the plan. The medical testimony as to the effects of hyponotism was contradictory, as Dr. Liegois, head of the medical faculty of the College of Nancy, testified that "any persons being hypnotized become in the hands of the experimenter complete tools, morally and physically, so sally expressed by the Presbyterian that they could be made to commit who had much experience in the hypnotic experiments which have that he believed the Nancy experipromisingly declared that Presbyter- ments were conducted with less skill

tions of pretended facts which exist only in their imagination. He did not doubt the good faith of Dr. Liegeois, but his conclusions lacked scientific proof, as no such precautions were taken at Nancy as at Saltpetriere to prevent simulated trances in hypnotized subjects."

One thing is clear even from these contradictory testimonies, that there is great danger, especially to those whose minds are in any way weak, in subjecting themselves to hypnotic or mesmeric experiments.

France is one of the countries in which the practice of hypnotism is prohibited by law, and at a recent meeting of the Quebec Board of Health, the President, Dr. E. P. Lachapelle, stated that he had called the attention of the Government to the danger of mesmeric experiments. Dr. Duquet, of Longue Point Asylum, also called the attention of the Board to this danger, and it is expected that the Quebec Government will follow the example set by the Governments of Europe which have forbidden mesmeric ex hibitions and operations.

We believe there is no law in Ontario forbidding hypnotic lecturers from bringing people under their influence, and there are constantly travelling through the Province so called Professors of Mesmerism or Hypnotism who make their dangerous and disgusting experiments for the sake of the door-money given by audiences who take delight in witnessing the imbecilities of humanity. Of course, none but the weak-minded will allow themselves to be operated on at these exhibitions, but we strongly recommend our readers not to counten ance them on any consideration, still less to allow themselves to be operated on by the itinerant lecturers who traverse the country under the highsounding title of Hypnotic Professors filling their pockets at the expense of the poor dupes who are induced to ruin themselves physically and morally by allowing themselves to be mesmerized.

We hope the time is not far distant when these exhibitions will be prohibited in Ontario, as they are already in the countries of Europe we have already referred to.

THE GERMAN EDUCATION BILL.

It was formally announced in the Prussian Diet last week by Count von Eulenburg, the newly-appointed President of the Council, that in view of the fact that the discussion of the Primary Education Bill of Minister von Zeidlitz had created serious and unreconciled differences in the Diet and the country at large, and as no satisfactory agree ment can be expected at present, the Government refrains from insisting on To added that the Government re to itself the right to decide when and in what form the matter will be taken up again without overstepping the

The proposed Bill by no means conferred any special favors or privileges on Catholics, though it proposed to confer on the Catholic clergy the right of supervising Catholic education; but similar powers were proposed to be given to the Protestant clergy as regards the education of Protestant chilevents, well established that there is dren; yet so resolutely was it opposed by Protestants that all the Protestant congregations of Berlin, with one exception, were among those who petitioned the Diet against it.

This is not very surprising, as the Emperor William declared that the purpose of the Bill was to prevent the increase of infidelity, which is making foster Christianity among the people It has long been well known that Protestantism in Germany has become rationalized, and that open infidelity Catholic. We cannot be greatly sur was he from having influenced prised, therefore, that a bill the object of which is to foster orthodoxy should meet with formidable opposition. The infidels of the Diet, led by Professor Virchow, were a unit against it.

But it is more perplexing to imagine why the Protestant clergy were in array against it also. Yet even this we can understand when we consider the attitude of the Protestant clergy on the question of religious education even in Canada and the United States. any crime. Dr. Brouardel, however, Their attitude in Germany arises from similar causes. The Protestant clergy would be quite willing to have Protes been conducted at Saltpetriere, testified tant schools under their supervision, but they have a mortal antipathy against Catholic education, and it is a piece of unendurable intolerance. ians could not conscientiously accept than those at Saltpetriere, and in his for this reason they would prefer to a union on the terms proposed, namely, opinion the conclusions of the Nancy run the risk of having the children of for forty-nine years divided between

value. He said that all hysterical tive religious training rather than patients are addicted to making asser- leave Catholics free to educate theirs in the Catholic faith. Protestants are intelligent and honest as themselves lax in the matter of doctrine, and are not very particular whether their children grow up with or without the knowledge of Christian doctrine. this we may add that the so-called nonsectarian schools, which the Protestant ministers advocate, are in reality Protestant schools. All the religion Protestants generally care for is the ex clusion of everything Catholic, with some reading of the Bible, and they would wish to have the Catholic children educated in accordance with their view of the matter. They would then have some hope of at least arrest ing the growth of Catholicism, which is very rapid in Germany. They would thus, in a few years, have a generation with little or no religion, and, as Protestantism adapts its creed to the whims of the day, it would be a Protestant generation just suited to the desires of their hearts.

But these ministers will not have their way in this. The Catholics of Germany are too staunch to their religion to neglect their children, and they will continue to educate them in its fame was, in its organization, Catholic schools, as they have done in the past. They would prefer, of course, that their schools should be placed upon the same footing with the other schools of Prussia, as far as Government aid to education is concerned, but even if the laws impose an extra tax upon them for the support of godless schools, they will still maintain efficient Catholic schools, just as the Catholics of the United States do under similar circumstances.

We have no hesitation in predicting that the bigots who are opposing the Prussian Education Bill will suffer more from their own bigotry than will the Catholics.

We have said that the Bill did not propose to grant any special favors to Catholics. It simply proposed to allow them to use their own money to educate their own children in accordance with their conscientious convictions, and it is this feature that the bigots opposed. We have every confidence, however, that sooner or later the Catholics of Germany will be able to insist upon their rights. The Catholics of the Empire have increased their ratio to the whole population from 33 to 36 per cent. in ten years, and this growth is still going on. The majority cannot for much longer resist the just demands of a minority so numerous and influential as the Catholic body must be before many years elapse. The willingness of Kaiser William and his Cabinet to grant justice now is but an earnest of what may be expected from the Diet itself very soon.

IONA.

The Duke of Argyll has roused the Isle of Iona by giving to Bishop Haldane, of the Protestant Episcopal church, a site on the island for a villa which the Bishop proposes to erect, and a petition has accordingly been forwarded to the Duke signed by the two island ministers and their parishioners requesting that the donation be withheld. The ground on which objection has been taken is that the Bishop intends to use part of the villa as a chapel, a fact which will render his residence on the island odious to the strict Presbyterians who constitute almost the whole population.

The population of the island is no large, as the petitioners state that it comprises only one hundred and eleven adults. But there seems to be as much bigotry and intolerance concentrated among them as would suffice for the these have protested against any other denomination of Christians being allowed to have any place, even fo private devotion, on the island.

The Duke of Argyll would be the last to grant to Catholics any such favor as he has accorded to the Protestant Episcopal Bishop, but he is disgusted with the intolerance displayed by his tenants against Episcopalianism or Anglicanism, and in his reply to the minister of one of the Kirks-the Rev. Mr. McMillan-he states that nearly every steamer during summer brings to the island more pilgrims and visitors than there are inhabitants on it: and thousands of these are members of the Episcopal Churches of England, Scotland and America, and as these visitors should have the opportunity of worshipping God according to the way to which they have been accustomed, he regards the petition as

The islanders themselves have been

to remind them that people quite as can see no sense in their dissensions and differences, from which he infers that they should practice some toleration towards those who differ from them. He also informs them that he has too much faith in Presbyterianism This week we begin the publication to think that it must rely on persecution of others for its stability, rather than on "the legitimate weapons of historical and theological argument. He would therefore be ashamed to be 'jealous or alarmed when the mem bers of another Church seek under reasonable circumstances for those external facilities for public worship on which the different sections of the Presbyterian Church on the island seem to set even an excessive value for themselves."

In the course of this letter the Duke says that "Iona is regarded with the deepest interest and affection by the whole Christian world. No branch of the Christian Church has any exclusive claim to the natural manifestation of this universal feeling. The early Celtic Church which first gave to it all wholly unlike any Church now existing in the world." He adds that after many centuries there was substituted for this ancient Church "a branch of the great Latin communion that occupied the whole of Western Europe. Every stone of the existing ruins belongs to those centuries-an epoch essentially bound up with the Roman Catholic system.

The Duke has the reputation of being a fair Archæologist. If he deserves his fame he must have noticed that the error into which he fell in describing the ancient Church of Iona as nonde script in its organization is refuted by his subsequent statement that every

stone testifies to its Roman character. The fact is well known that the ancient Church of Iona was planted there by St. Colme, or Columbkille, who also established there a monastery about A. D. 700. There is no doubt about the thoroughly Roman character of St. Columbkille's Catholicity, and the Iona monastery was a seminary whence went forth missionaries to instruct others in the faith. From it went forth Bishops Aidan, Colman and Finian, who converted Northumberland to the faith. This would certainly not have been the case if the faith of Iona were different from that of England, and of the Christian world. It is in the desperation of a hopeless cause that the theory of a non-Roman faith having been set up in Iona was invented by the Calvanists, and reiterated by modern Anglicans with the purpose of justifying their schism. Schism would not really be justified by such a fact as the existence of a schismatical Church on an obscure Scotch island, if it were a fact, but it is not.

Notwithstanding this mistake, the Duke of Argyll's letter was a very fair one which does him credit, while it shows that Presbyterian antipathy to prelacy is as bitter as it was when Jane Geddes nearly killed the Dean of Edinburgh by throwing a stool at his head when he read the Book of Common Prayer in Edinburgh Cathedral.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MICHAEL DAVITT'S article in the Nineteenth Century, warmly praising the Northwest, attracts attention, see ing his former hostility to immigration. He urges an Imperial loan of £10,000,000 sterling at low interest to the Dominion and local Governments to settle 100,000 select colonists now driven to the British cities from rural that country. districts.

As will be noted by a cablegram published elsewhere, it seems that the Orangemen of Ulster threaten all manmer of dire consequences in the event of the establishment of a Home Rule Parliament in Dublin. Few will believe that this miserable clique of petted and pampered anti-Irish Irishmen are serious in their designs. It would be a case of the tail wagging the dog. The threats will, however, serve to accentuate the conviction that Orange loyalty, as well as Orange love for law and order, is now, as it has always been, a sham and a fraud.

THE editor of the Toronto Mail is once again after the habitants and the cures of Quebec with a huge club. His hostility to our fellow-subjects in the east is becoming somewhat tiresome, and impelled, as it is, by a very stupid bigotry of the Ballykilbeg Liberal papers treat the proceedings type, few people pay any attention to as buncombe, and the predictions it. In an editorial lately published the Mail stated that the French-Cana-

dians were fleeing the Province to

the Duke takes occasion from this fact priests, but towards the close of the article the remark slipped in that the emigrants were taking their spiritual guides with them to their new homes When our Toronto friend leaves this world for the one beyond, his biographer will not be able to claim for him an overwhelming regard for truth

> of a very interesting sketch written by Mr. James M. O'Leary, of the Post Office Department, Ottawa, entitled "Grosse Isle-1847." It is the most complete account ever given to the public of the terrible sufferings endured by the Irish emigrants who came to Canada at the period named, Mr. O'Leary deserves the gratitude of our fellow-countrymen both at home abroad for his noble and self-sacrificing labors. The task he had undertaken was most difficult, and no one save he who had his heart in the work could have brought it to so successful an issue. Search had to be made during the greater portion of a year, through Quebec city, Provincial and Imperial papers, page by page, and every scrap of information utilized. It is a tale of woe, and as our countrymen follow the lines, they will, we are sure, offer thanks to God that brighter days are now the portion of the old land, and that still more glorious ones are to be seen breaking through the clouds that have for centuries hovered over the holy isle. Nor should we forget to offer a fervent prayer that the souls of the noble people who were cut down by the hand of death-when they had taken flight from the grasp of the heartless tyrant-may be admitted to the joys of eternal glory.

ANOTHER CONVERT.

Dr. W. H. Ruddiek of South Boston, Joins the Catholic Church

Dr. William H. Ruddick of South Boston, a prominent militia officer, a social favorite and a physician of repute, has formally ren copalianism and joined the Catholi Church. Dr. Ruddick is very high in the Masonic order, he is a Grand Army man and a member of the Knights of Honor. He will resign his member ship in Masonry and in any other secret societies to which he may long, membership in which would bring him into conflict with the do trines and canons of the church. Ruddick was received into the fold on Saturday, March 19, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, on Broadway, by Right Rev. John Brady, D. D. bishop of the archdiocese. His sponsor at the baptismal font was Rev Supple, D. D., of the Gate of Heaven church, who has been his instructor during his search after the true religious light. Over a week ago the Republic learned of Dr. Ruddick's con version, but, at his request, suppressed the information, as he was not at that time prepared to have a public announcement made. In conversation with one of our representatives he said: "The satement made by Rev James F. Spalding at the time he resigned the rectorship of Christ Church, cambridge, to become a Roma lie, fits my case as closely as it did his, and fully describes the process of my conversion. For a long time during my life as an Episcopalian I held the 'Branch theory,' and believed myself to be a Catholic. My religion and studies, however, showed me after a time the unreasonableness of this theory."-Boston Republic.

THE ULSTER "EQUAL RIGHTERS."

They State That They Will Revolt Against Home Rule in Ireland

London, April 1. - The Standard says :- "The Unionists intend to contest every seat in Ireland at the next general election. The object of this test is to ascertain whether there has been a growth of Unionist opinion in

The meagre official report given to the press after yesterday's private caucus of the Unionists of Ulster gave no idea of the warlike tone of the speakers at that meeting. that their days are numbered as belong ing to the Government majority, and seeing that the Irish Parliament is a dominant fact of the near future, these advocates of constitutional order under the Tory regime met to declare war in the event of the Liberal majority altering the constitution. throbbing throughout the speeches was, however, only faintly heard in the resolutions adopted. The meeting was held at Dawnshire House, the residence of Lord Arthur Hill, Comptroller of the Queen's House. members were present except three. Some fiery spirits urged a plain declara-tion of an immediate resort to arms when Ulster is placed under Dublin Parliament; but though the menace was often used publicly by Saunderson during the Home Rule crisis of 1886, the leaders of the group now find it prudent to veil their threats in more moderate language. rebellion as mere vaporing. Interviews with several Ulster delegates in the lobby to-day gave the impression of an intense hostility to Home Rule, even that they should practically acknowl- school of hypnotizers are not of great Protestants grow up without any posi- two jarring Presbyterian sects, and escape from the oppressiveness of the keener than at the time when the

movement was orga was partly subscri men, and Col. Saun he would respond to As shrewd an obser dolp Churchill still ; that Ulster will figh his nature will in the alter the Liberal po time the Ulsterites' will be a vigorous a and Great Britain constituencies to An ab menaces. enables the chief co Colonel Saunde Harland and T. W. provincial committee ent of whose actio at a convention in ntide. Althoug Irish members co only subject for de to-night called Mr. to the fact that a Comptroiler of the sed a resolution of the Irish to diso declining to comt statement intimated that he subject. CATHOL

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ing immoral pictur obacco. Public of against displayin posters that the ev extent been supp mined are the diss pictures to accomp ed to the toba means they are moralizing our yo pictures cannot be mails, nor should permitted to circ forfeiture of lices would be suppress Y. Catl If the Bible Soc Donay version of without addition.

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