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London, Saturday, Sept. 19, 1891.

IMPENDING FAMINE.

Heavy rains and disastrous floods have during the last two weeks been playing havoc with the crops in Great Britain and Ireland.

Legislative independence, or Home Rule, it is to be fondly hoped, will put an end, and forever, to this state of things.

The despatches received during the week continue the doleful tale of deepening distress and most gloomy prospects for the coming winter.

The General Methodist Conference of Michigan has just made a huge stride on the question which has been agitating Methodist circles within the last few years—the question of permitting women to take part in the government of the Church by being elected as members of Conference.

But foreign rule and English laws destroyed Ireland's happiness as a people and well nigh ruined her existence as a nation.

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WHO IS THE "LADY"?

A new sensation, which from present appearances emanates from a well-known, or at least well advertised, former no-Popery lecturer, has cropped up in Chicago and Cincinnati.

An English woman calling herself Miss Vera Ava, and representing herself as wealthy, appeared suddenly in Chicago on the first of August and stayed at the residence of Rev. Dr. Bolton, a minister attached to the Centenary Methodist Church of the city.

On the 9th of September Miss Ava requested Mrs. Bolton to accompany her to the Jesuits' College, where she had some business to transact.

These particulars were given by Mrs. Bolton to a reporter of the associated press. She added that Miss Ava was of prepossessing appearance, about thirty-eight years of age, and must have weighed two hundred and ten pounds.

The missing woman had purchased a house on Monroe street and had left a family named Mingay in charge. Members of this family stated to the reporter that though Miss Ava was accustomed to say that she was wealthy, they were doubtful of this, as they had no reason to think that this was the case.

Father Kelly, the parish priest, stated that he had received a visit from a lady who came in a carriage, but after an interview, he had shown her to the church through the door leading to it from the college, and had left her there, as she expressed a wish to pray there.

The strangest part of the story is now to be told. A lady calling herself Miss Vera Ava appeared suddenly in a Cincinnati drug store, on Friday, the 11th inst., declaring that she had no recollection how she had reached Cincinnati from Chicago.

The whole story is a very fishy one, but it becomes somewhat clearer by the fact that telegrams sent to the New York and Chicago police with her description were answered with the suggestion that she is the celebrated Madame Diss De Barr, who made the circuit of the States some years ago as an eloquent and acceptable lecturer against Popery.

There is, undoubtedly, some good reason in the remarks of the Observer, to this extent, that any Protestant Church is forced by necessity to insist that its ministers shall teach the doctrines which it upholds, for otherwise it would acknowledge its own falsity.

centuries. She was imprisoned for her frauds, and was forced to disgorge part of her ill-gotten gains.

The Cincinnati police think she is insane, but this is not certain. She is, however, kept in the House of Detention until more be known of her.

Another thing which confirms this view of the case is that she refuses to tell where she lived before coming to Chicago.

Father Kelly, of Chicago, when told of the new phase the matter had taken said the thing was too absurd to talk about.

Miss Ava is just the right kind of person for a popular no-Popery lecturer.

THE HERESY TRIALS.

We observe in the press, both secular and denominational, that the battle is still raging between the various factions in the different sects concerning the manner in which Dr. Briggs, of the New York (Presbyterian) Union Theological Seminary, was dealt with by the General Assembly at Detroit this summer.

This is not very new to be wondered at, because this now celebrated case has attracted the attention of the whole community, inasmuch as Dr. Briggs denies the divine inspiration of Scripture, and thus saps the foundation itself of Christianity.

Our readers will remember that Dr. Briggs, on his appointment to the chair of Biblical Theology in the seminary of which he is a professor, openly denied the divine inspiration of Scripture, and maintained that reason is of equal authority with it.

Professor Smyth, of New York, is one of those who think that the General Assembly acted liberally towards the other professor. He has said that the Church is in "a panic which blinds, stultifies and demoralizes."

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should believe. A Church which maintains such a principle as this surely can have no right to insist that either clergy or laity should be bound to accept any special creed, and any punishment inflicted for refusing to teach any particular doctrine is an act of unreasonable persecution.

A greater inconsistency cannot be imagined than to proclaim the complete liberty of man to believe what he pleases, and yet to condemn him as a heretic for not believing some special doctrine.

The Methodist Review is another periodical which is lavish in its praises of the Assembly, which, it says, "has demonstrated to the world that the Presbyterian Church is greater than any man in it," and it foretells that "the effect of the action of that Church will be to check . . . the rationalistic tendency of younger scholars who imagine that the bible in its literary character is wholly misunderstood, and that they have come into the world to correct old errors and elevate the great book on new and solid foundations."

We venture to say that the action of the Assembly will have no such effect. Rationalistic thought has already made such headway among Presbyterians that it cannot be so readily checked.

It must be remarked also that in vetoing the appointment of the Doctor the action of the Assembly was really very weak. It passed no condemnation against the doctrines which he taught, and many of the ministers who voted with the majority in condemnation of him expressly declared that they did so, rather on account of his vacillation, which they thought made him unfit to be a Professor of Biblical Theology, than on account of his Rationalism.

DEATH OF EX-PRESIDENT GREEVY, OF FRANCE.

Francois Paul Jules Greevvy, ex-President of the French Republic, died on the 9th inst. He was born at Mont-Sour-Vaudrieux in the Jura, on 15th August, 1807, so that he was in his eighty-fifth year.

When Napoleon made his celebrated coup d'etat which placed him on the French throne as Emperor, M. Greevvy retired from political life, but in 1869 he was again returned as deputy for the Jura, and when President McMahon resigned in 1876 Mons. Greevvy was elected by 563 votes to succeed him, General Chauzy receiving 99 votes.

M. Greevvy was thoroughly Republican in his politics, and during his occupancy of the office of President his Government put into operation many of the anti-Catholic measures which are now proving to be so disastrous to

the country. Among these was the abolition of religion from the schools and their laicization, the present result of which is that a generation has grown up in which a large percentage of the youth are neglectful of the practice of their religious duties.

THE UPPER OTTAWA

We spent a few very enjoyable days last week on the Ottawa River, and we fancy that were the grandeur of scenery and other attractions of this romantic and beautiful stream better known thousands would stop to enjoy them every summer, who now flit by on the C. P. R., without thinking that such marvels of picturesque loveliness are passed by unnoticed and unknown.

Pembroke is but a few hours' ride on the C. P. R. (Pullman if you choose) from Ottawa city. You find the most pleasing and obliging entertainers in mine host and hostess of the Copeland House, who pay every attention to your comfort and enjoyment and give every possible information about the Ottawa, Lake Allumette, the Chapeau, the Petewawa, the five hundred wooded isles scattered over the broad expanse and along the swelling bosom of the Ottawa from Allumette Isle to the "Oiseau Rock" on "Deep River," finishing up with the tumbling cascades of the Deux Joachims.

Such recalling to ally they have been tried ever since 71, on this occasion the special bitter it is now asserted new hostility Should this it is known to meet the al Austria and powers have Triple Alliance effort has also to draw Eng and it was eve agreed to it however, is stances which point to the ed given her ad How is Fra alliance which? Russia especially all with those of and it seems find any frien there is no ce has been made though by the passed between might suppose powers there standing of so Russia's des quests in the conflict with France has esse England of these Powers carrying out of driving En After the co the Russians t occasion of t Cronstadt, it land's desire that she had any alliance for this reason the fleet to Po French paper acceptance of dent Carnot.

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Pembroke has a very successful and ever-increasing branch of the C. M. B. A., with eighty-five members all in good standing, and all not only practical, as the rule requires, but zealous and fervent members of the Catholic Church.

At 8 a. m. you embark on the steamer "Ottawa," under the guidance of Captain Duggan. The latter, of Irish birth, as the name implies, has been earning fame as a trustworthy, genial, and attentive ship-master for the last

twenty-two years aboard and ar Duggan you vined that y enjoyment.

TO I WAR

For the last been once mor rumors that w even almos some of the trol the desti of themselves tint of Euro been in the a years, yet the and we may h continue to r fact is not to b events have oc make the pros it has been f view of the m concerned, th most fearful w witnessed, if t threatened sea

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The French been deeply a of this fatal b bellicose talk in on account time the Germ erent, both in courage and in and in retori fight again.

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