

FRANCE—THE CATHOLIC CLERGY.

They pretend that the clergy are or Henry the Fifth, and the Madame Cavaignac, the mother of the chief of the Government, being a legitimist, has brought her distinguished son round to legitimate principles. Never were there statements more destitute of foundation than these.— You ask me what has been the course of the clergy during the last six months?

The Clergy of France are no longer politicians. They have, during the last eighteen years, confined themselves strictly to the line of their sacred duties. They are poorly paid, and they are hard worked, and they labour incessantly and with cheerfulness, and consequently with success:—Some of them may hold political opinions, but they never express them. Under the sage guidance of their immortal chief, slaughtered so treacherously by the Red Republicans on the 25th of June, the clergy of Paris became the most zealous ministers of religion that France had ever seen; and in the course of that time they recalled to their church, not by political declamation, but by their precepts and their unremitting ecclesiastical efforts, the population who had during nearly forty years been estranged from them. This immense good they effected without in the slightest manner mixing in politics; and of this affection the proof is to be found in their passing through the late Revolution, not merely unharmed, but without insult.

Some of the clergy may, I repeat, cherish monarchical predilections, but if they had evinced them at any period they would have been slaughtered on the 21st of February last, immediately after the massacre by the Municipal Guards.— Had the clergy of France, in our time, been politicians, the churches in which they now sacrifice to the Almighty would be desecrated—barracks or magazines probably. They did no such thing, however. Poor, worn out with incessant toil and exertion in their holy mission, they—the successors of the martyrs of 1792 and 1793—inspired by the wise counsel and the spunky example of their metropolitan, whose vigour and energy were only surpassed by his piety and charity—they proceeded onward in the course to which he pointed, and they dissuaded from Deism and Atheism, and they won over to the church the population which had abandoned, execrated, cursed it; and the sacred edifices into which some half dozen disrespectful spectators, from mere motives of curiosity, entered in the course of a day, became thronged with faith-worshippers. All this resulted from the labours of the exemplary Catholic priesthood of France, in their own proper calling (if I may use a term so familiar.) They were not thanked by votes of clubs or public meetings; but the merited, and they received, the acknowledgements and the blessings of Denis Affre, the late Archbishop of Paris, and will, let us hope, obtain much higher rewards.

Such men are incapable now of undoing all that they have done by plunging into politics.— The alleged conversion of General Cavaignac to Legitimacy, by his most respectable and talented parent, is utterly destitute of truth: but, as I propose being present at the proceedings in the National Assembly, to-day, on the subject of the Committee of inquiry, I am obliged to sum up the remaining topics in very few words.

THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

This week has added little to the development of the vast movements going forward around Vienna. After an agonising period of suspense, during which all who could leave the place fled as if from a devoted city, and those who remained busied themselves, with Republican determination, in measures of defence, Jelischich and his hordes of Croats sat down before the capital. Auersperg and the Austrian troops were already in strong position with out the walls, and, on the other hand, rumours were rife of Kossuth and his Hungarians being on the march to the relief of the Viennese revolutionists, whose movement had perhaps been brought about by Hungarian gold. Thus were nations gathering round that ancient seat of empire—*jam jam lap sura*. One looked each day for the news of a great battle; however, for the present, nothing worthy of note has taken place—except of out-post skirmishes metely a deputation from the Diet to remonstrate with the Slavonic chief, which he received graciously yet courteously, and lastly, his retreat towards Syria, without effecting a junction with Auersperg. A few days will clear up his plans, but as yet the statements are various, both as to the numbers and discipline of his troops, and the prospects of a conflict.

The strife between the Croatian and Slavonic races, now that it has once burst out, was sure to affect the troops in Italy. Collisions have taken place, though without any great result hitherto. The black and difficult future for Austrian rule in Lombardy, is not amended by the illness of the old Fabius, who has won for it so many triumphs. There is hardly any other news from Italy, except the meeting of the self-styled and self-summoned Italian Congress at Turin.

In Prussia, matters proceed much as they have done for some weeks past; the King becoming more and more a mere sceptred shadow, like Louis XVI. after the first triumphs of the Revolution. A step has been made towards destroying the noblesse by abolishing the laws affecting intermarriages with plebeians. The oath of fidelity to the King is not to be required of the Burger Guard. The Assembly has ruled it that he no longer reigns "by the grace of God."

In Spain, after the brief reverses sustained at first, the Carlist cause seems becoming formidable; a conspiracy has been discovered in the garrison at Barcelona, and avowed, it is true, but its extent, and above all, the proof it affords that the army cannot be trusted, renders the position of the Government anxious and uncertain. Cabrera is in the field, and has been victorious in one or two of those skirmishes, between a few hundreds or scores on each side, of which Spanish advices always supply such lengthy details.

At Paris, the great event is the formation of the new Ministry. General Cavaignac has at length fairly called the practised talent of the old regime to his councils, thus adding at once to his weakness and his strength. The question of the state of siege has been agitated during the past week, but without any other result ascertained beyond the continued although mitigated opinion, that it is still necessary.

In Ecclesiastical politics, it is interesting to mention that the Abbe Dupanloup has taken the direction of the *Ami de la Religion*, which will be supported by the influence of the Catholic names of Father de Ravignan, and MM de Montalembert, de Falloux, and De Champagny.

TORONTO CONSECRATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL.

On Friday, Sept 29th, the ceremony of consecrating the new Cathedral of St. Michael took place. Five Bishops, representing the Sees of Montreal, Kingston, and Bytown, together with a large number of the Clergy from various parts of the province, were in attendance. The services were led by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Montreal, who officiated as chief celebrant; and the sermon was delivered by the Right Rev. Bishop Phelin. The text selected by his Lordship, was from II. Paral. vii. 11—16. The subject was treated with much ability, and in a spirit of devotion. The duties of christian charity, and of the cultivation of universal peace, were strongly insisted upon, and the Bishop took occasion, in recommending these virtues to his audience, to make reference to the apostolic exertions of the founder of the Cathedral, the late lamented Right Rev. Bishop, whose memory would remain endeared to his people by the calm and peaceful walk, which during his happy but short mission among them, he had pursued. He also took occasion to allude to the gratifying results which, in his own diocese, had been produced, by the course he had himself pursued since his appointment; and most earnestly entreated the Catholics of the Diocese of Toronto, to persevere in the good work which had been commenced by the departed Father. The spirit of Christian forbearance, and humble submission to the requirements of Providence, recommended by Bishop Phelin to his auditors, was certainly in strong contrast to that which has been evinced by several of the Clergy of other religious denominations, during the last few weeks, whose denunciations of the doctrines and services of the Catholic Church, have been neither few nor gentle. We should, however, be but very defectively carrying into practice the duties recommended by the Right Rev. Prelate, were we to attempt any reticent notice of these unchristian and ill judged allusions to the ceremony of consecrating the Cathedral of St. Michael. We believe we shall best fulfil our duty as a Christian and a journalist, by treating them with the censure of our silence. We have ever made it our study to abstain from animadversion upon the peculiar religious opinions or discipline of our fellow men. We do not believe that we should ever induce others to adopt our opinions, by treating theirs with derision or con-

tempt; and it is our conviction that those public journalists who have thought proper to indulge in such insulting language as that used by the *British Canadian*, the *Church*, and the *Brantford Courier*, in referring to the recent consecration, have added nothing to their own respectability or popularity, by their intolerance. It would certainly be very painful to us to know that the Catholic press of this country had so far deviated from the line of duty, or Christian forbearance, as to offer a similar offence to their Protestant brethren. We believe no such instances can be adduced, and we trust that whatever may be the provocation given, the same rule will continue to be observed. The inability of Bishop Hughes to attend at the service was very much regretted, particularly as his disposition was the cause of his Lordship's absence.

THE RUSSIAN CLERGY.

All the writers, of every nation and creed, with whom we are acquainted, are unanimous on these points; all declare, *una voce*, that to appreciate, or even to imagine, the moral or social degradation of the Russian clergy, it is necessary to have lived amongst them. The very proverbs which are current in Russian society, of every class, and which are heard in Russia alone, reveal their true character. "Son of a priest," is the last insult, to which a man has recourse in reviling an enemy. "Am I a pope, that I should eat twice?" is the disdainful allusion to the habits of the half famished clergy. "Like pastor like flock," is the comment upon the irregularities of laymen. And these are only specimens. Like the fallen priesthood of Syria and Armenia, the chief characteristics of the Russian clergy appear to be habitual drunkenness, profound ignorance, and the lowest of a sordid and animal existence.— "The drunkenness is so common amongst them," says Chesiner, "that it excites no observation." In the ships of this navy, he adds, where they always receive an increase of salary, "the commanders usually place the chaplain under arrest, twenty-four hours before divine service, to make sure that he will not present himself drunk before the altar." Their general character may be gathered from the official and annual "reports" of the "holy synod" itself. In the report for 1836, it appears that during that single year, one in fifty of the whole Russian clergy, was under condemnation by the public sentence of the various tribunals. Since that period, the moral state of the clergy, if we may believe the reluctant testimony of the synod, has steadily deteriorated. In 1837, comparing the number of offenders with the total number of clergy, it was found that these amounted for the whole empire to twenty-four! in 1838, to one in twenty, and in 1820, to one in twenty. In the years, from 1835 to 1830, the synod reported 15,443, or one-sixth of the 102,400 clergy of every rank and grade, were under judgment, and that as the supreme power, himself declares, "for infamous crimes." *Public Review.*

IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS at New York in the month of September, 1848:—From

Ireland	7,481
Germany	3,870
England	2,746
Scotland	695
France	340
Holland	198
Switzerland	200
Spain	124
Wales	2401
Norway	81
Sweden	15
West Indies	31
Denmark	9
South America	25
Italy	22
Poland	27
Portugal	19
Mexico	6
Russia	131
Total	15,917

Total amount of immigrant arrivals at this port from January 1st to September 30th, 1848, 143,236, upward of one half of which were from Ireland.

The statistics of the lunatic asylums of this country, go to show that, of the female patients, four sixths are wives of clergymen. We derive our information from a clergyman who is entitled to confidence, and who has paid especial attention to the subject. *Atlas.*

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

Dr. SILVESTER, an Italian by birth, and an eminent chemist, has discovered a mode of hardening the human body to the consistency of stone or solid marble, which he is about to exhibit in London. His specimens have excited great astonishment. One was the head of a lady, with the hair parted and dressed, retaining its flexible properties and colors, although the surface from which it grew resembled stone— somewhat like a wax model; also a child's head plump and dimpled as in life, and a tongue petrified, as if it had never uttered a sound. This petrifying process is said to be simple and cheap. A bouquet of choice flowers—the juices first extracted by a pneumatic process—preserved their natural colors, but were as hard and rigid as if some cunning workman had carved them from Parian marble; for not only the leaves and petals were rendered stone-like, but the minute hair-formed stems were rendered coralline.

EMIGRATION.—Within the memory of the oldest inhabitants the spirits of emigration was never more rife, during the spring of the year than it is now, though it is on the brink of winter. Scarcely a day passes in which strangers are not observed tending their way towards the seaports of Drogheda or Dublin, flying from the misery which threatens their homes upon the arrival of winter. Numbers are collecting their little stores for transmission, fearing, should they delay till spring, that the small means in their possession, would be exhausted in the support of "leg-bail" to landlords, creditors, and rate-collectors. *Meath Herald.*

Good—Inspruck, Oct. 10th.—So soon as the infamous decree of the Frankfort diet, banishing to perpetuity the Jesuits, Liguorians, and Redemptorists, had reached Inspruck, and had spread through the surrounding country, a large deputation of the Tyrol peasantry waited on Baron Von Berz, the Governor, and demanded that the convents should not be touched, and that no further annoyance should be given to their clergy. They added: "We are good Catholics, and will no longer let the radicals of Vienna make laws for us at their pleasure."

A convent of Redemptorists at Inspruck, with only some six priests, has in it, at all of the Conventuals of the order, the main-stay of the German soul. We do not inquire whether more of the Jesuits are to be found there or not.

The Congress of Chili was in session at latest date. The Government had published a decree, ordering that in all events brought against the Bishops, the metropolitan is the proper judge, sitting the acting of the Council of Trent as authority: according to which the secular courts take cognizance of criminal cases, and ecclesiastical courts of civil.

A motion has been brought forward in reference to public education—that the Government should enter upon it more fully; and that inspectors should be appointed, who shall visit all the schools now established or may be established in the republic; whether they be public or private. Fifty thousand dollars, it has been proposed, should be appropriated, to be used by the President, at his discretion, in attracting immigrants from Europe. An agent of the Government went forward in the last steamer, to negotiate in Europe on the same matter. The *Mercurio* says: The first thing which the European emigrant asks of America is toleration of his religious opinions. Freedom in the public worship of God would attract more European emigrants to Chili than millions of dollars.

CARRIER PROCEEDED.—Capitain Allen, arrived at Kingston on the 6th instant from Boston. When about three miles E. N. E. from Scituate Light, a pigeon was seen flying toward the schooner, and very soon came on board, apparently much fatigued. Tied to the legs of the pigeon was sixteen pages of paper, making seventy two inches in length, and four inches wide, containing the news by the steamer Cambria, which was then in sight, bound for Boston.—The subject can be examined by calling on Benjamin Deane, Esq., of Kingston.—*Plymouth Merchant.*

CHARGE TO HOME.—Theodore S. Fay and Mr. J. R. Broadhead, both American Secretaries of Legation abroad, are prominent candidates for the vacant Charge here at Rome.