

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

## FRANCE.

A grand fête in commemoration of Joan of Arc, the patron saint of France, has just been held at Orleans. The Place du Martroi, where stands the equestrian statue of Joan, was gallantly decorated, and the monument itself liberally covered with flowers. There were solemn religious services at the Cathedral at which Mgr. Dupin, Bishop of Orleans, presided, and the Abbé Bernard, of Paris, preached a sermon, exhorting the heroic maiden. After the sermon a great procession was formed, and being joined by the Bishop, General Bataille, commanding the district, the Prefect, and members of the Council, and other bodies paraded the town, escorted by a numerous body of soldiers, among whom were fifteen veterans of the First Empire, wearing the St. Helena medal.

A good deal of scandal was given at Versailles, on the Feast of the Ascension, through a number of workmen being employed in the Palace, making a new kitchen for the President of the Assembly. It is strange to say the least of it, that the President should violate the law in such a public and defiant manner.

**SCIENCE AND FAITH.**—The *Rappel* has published an article in which it highly eulogizes the labours of the French astronomers, M. M. Leverrier and Poncelet, who were mainly instrumental in determining the exact distance of the earth from the sun. The *Univers*, commenting on that article, asks the pertinent question, How is it that the *Rappel*, and journals of its stamp, who ceaselessly declare that science is incompatible with the Faith, can reconcile the latter declaration with their praise of savants who are of the Faith? These two gentlemen know all that is yet can be known of astronomy—"they are, in our country, astronomical science embodied." Both are members of the Institute, both are in the first rank of the scientific world, and both are outspoken Catholics. These eminent representatives of science have also the gift of Faith. They know, and they believe. If science presents some difficulties as regards Faith, they do not ignore such difficulties. They know better than anyone else where they lie; perhaps they discover new ones for themselves; yet they are Catholics. Neither the Bible, nor the Sun of Joshua, nor the case of Galileo are for them obstacles in the way of Belief. We have heard M. Puleux, before an audience of working-men, justify from the loftiness of his scientific position, the Church against the accusations which ignorance makes in the daily Press in regard to the Galileo affair. What, then, do the clever ones of the *Rappel*, and similar papers, think of this agreement between Faith and Science? If in principle the two things are so incompatible as these writers pretend, how can they be practically reconciled in these men who are, according to the *Rappel* itself, themselves science and progress embodied?

**THE POPE AND THE FREEMASONS.**—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: "The Bishop of Orleans has received the following letter from the Pope, congratulating him on his pamphlet against Freemasonry."

Venerable Brother.—Salutation and apostolic benediction. In this war waged on all sides against the Catholic Church by the Masonic sect, your publication was most useful and opportune, especially because this sect, long secret, has now unmasked itself. It avows its designs, and in a certain country, not under the pretext of public rights, but in its own name, does guilty battle with the Church. It is useful because, the nefarious character of the sect being known, there is no honest man who must not turn from it with horror; and perhaps many members who do not know the secret mysteries will now withdraw. What is particularly useful is the perspicacity with which you demonstrate to all attentive minds the real tendency of the taking words, "Fraternity and Equality," which have deceived and seduced so many; and the true origin and object of the much-boasted liberties of conscience, of public worship, and of the press. After reading your work nobody can doubt that all this came from Freemasonry to overturn civil and religious order, and consequently the Church has wisely condemned those who practise and defend such liberties. It is manifest that all partisans of these liberties, albeit unknown to themselves, favour the Masonic sect, and the more honest they are the more disastrous is their support to such principles. We therefore wish you many intelligent readers, for it is no small advantage to perceive the snare, and as a pledge of Divine favour and our special good will, we give you, venerable brother, from the bottom of our heart, to you and to your diocese, our apostolic benediction. In the twenty-ninth year of our Pontificate.

Pius IX., Pope.

**AUDACIOUS SWINDLING.**—A communication from Rheims (Marne) of the 14th says: "Some inhabitants of our city have just been the victims of an audacious swindler. This individual, whose name is Parsigny, had altered a letter of his name, added the particle 'de,' and taken the title of Count. Thus in a moment the adventurer had become Count de Parsigny. Being thus ennobled, he had associated himself with a journeyman mechanic, and set himself up as heir to a sum of 600,000fr., which he destined for the creation of a considerable foundry. But to instal such an establishment, a proper piece of ground, and some engines were necessary; a trifling circumstance for these unscrupulous gentlemen. The two rogues call upon a notary and an agent de change of our town, and pass a conditional contract at the office of the former for the purchase of land worth 150,000fr. The agent de change is told that he has only to go to Paris, to the house of an avoué, where he will receive the money. If necessary, the city of Tours, to which the pretended count had lent 200,000fr., during the invasion, would reimburse the sum. In fine, a steam-engine worth 45,000fr. was purchased at Lille. Everything went on well; the two swindlers were feasted in all places, and the count borrowed money without scruple from all purses. But the agent de change got nothing at Paris or at Tours. The judicial authorities proceeded to an inquiry and the sharpers have been arrested."

**FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.**—We gather from the *Paris* that the French Ambassador at Bern, the Comte d'Harcourt, has addressed to the Swiss Government a diplomatic note protesting against the expulsion from Helvetia territory of a French citizen, the Abbé Pétty, accused of having been the cause, more or less voluntarily, of a sacrilegious committed at the time of the burial of an old heretic. The accusation appears to have no foundation in fact and the *Paris* attributes it to the intolerance of the local authorities towards a Frenchman whose antecedents have been beyond all reproach. Count d'Harcourt calls on the government to institute a fresh examination of the circumstances connected with the expulsion, with a view to arrive at the just conclusion. The official reply is waited for with much eagerness.

## BELGIUM.

Some interesting details are published about the rise and progress of the Belgian iron trade, which within the last few years, has alarmed the English manufacturers by underselling them in their own markets. The first blast furnace, was not erected in Belgium until 1828. In 1873, 54 were in full working order, producing annually 897,373 tons valued at 22,890,000. But the most convincing proof of the enormous strides made by this industry in Belgium during recent years is found in the trade returns of that country. While in 1850 the excess of exports over imports of manufactured iron

only amounted to 255,000, their value in 1873 was 22,500,000, being 46 times greater. A single company engaged in the trade employed in 1872 more than 11,000 hands, of whom 8,912 were men, and the remainder miners, besides using 254 steam-engines, with an aggregate of 7,630 horse power, in aid of manual labour. Their works are placed alone out of thirty cover 200 acres, which are intersected by 21 miles of railway and include four coal mines within their superficies.

## SPAIN.

Very little fighting has been going on in Spain for some time. Don Alfonso's government are as anxious as ever to have done with the war, but they have neither men, nor money, nor energy. Of late General Jovellar, the minister of war, sent for Moriones, the old fighting general, who having been recalled a few months ago, has been literally *hors de combat* ever since. Being asked what he wanted to finish the war, the bluff old soldier replied, "Plenty of men, plenty of money, and no more of your meddling and muddling." This soldier-like speech has given much offence at the Spanish pipet office, and Moriones has been "invited" to proceed to Vichy in France for the benefit of his health. Plain speaking will do anywhere but in Spain. Not only is the whole of the native press gagged and fettered, but all foreign papers not friendly to the present regime are henceforth to be kept out. Thus the *Paris Univers* and *Union* have been prohibited, and the like fate has befallen that very harmless small print *La Caria*, a Spanish paper recently started in London by Senor de Loma y Corradi, we believe. In Guipuzcoa a few shots have been exchanged lately. There is a place called Guetaria where the Carlists occupy the whole town as far as the Straights of Choriompe and Ezquergabea, while the Alfonsoists have hitherto been holding undisputed possession of the Fort St. Anton and the Puente de Mazaparrilla. Within the last few days the Carlists have begun to bombard the places held by their opponents, but no success seems to have attended their efforts. They might, in fact, have saved themselves the trouble, for the forts of Guetaria are very unimportant, and not worth the powder and shot wasted on them.—*The Univers*.

**THE CARLIST WAR.**—The negotiations for the submission of the Carlist battalions in Guipuzcoa have been broken off in consequence of the exorbitant demands put forward by them. Hostilities will consequently be resumed along the line of the Orio. A victory is said to have been gained over the Carlists at Bruch on Mount Monserrat. The royal troops carried the positions occupied by the Carlists. On the side of the Royalists there were 93 killed and wounded, including three officers. The Carlist losses are unknown.

**CARLIST PROGRESS.**—Castella's victory, in the Province of Huesca, was greater than was at first announced. The *Crusada Espanola*, whose correspondent was present on the field says that Castella fought after a forced march of twenty-six hours, surprised Delatro, and after an obstinate battle gained the day. Delatro, was killed with three hundred men, 400 were made prisoners and there also fell into the hands of the victorious Carlist Leader two guns, 110 horses, a great number of mules, 600 rifles and a large quantity of munitions of war.

## GERMANY.

**RESULTS OF THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH IN PRUSSIA.**—There is nothing so edifying as the statistics of the results of existing religious warfare in Prussia. A tabulated statement of these results was given a few days ago by the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, from which we extract the following data:

"During the first four months of this year the aggregate sentences of imprisonment found against various persons guilty of an infraction of the May laws represent a period of fifty-five years, eleven months and six days; and the fines for similar offences amount to £1382. 3s. 9d. Among those sentenced to fine or imprisonment we find 241 ecclesiastics, 136 newspaper editors and 210 other laymen. Forty-one convictions for insulting the emperor's majesty (*Majestatsbeleidigungen*) produced twelve years, eight months and fourteen days; and sixty-eight similar offences against Bismarck were punished with an aggregate imprisonment of eight years five months and eleven days, and fines to the extent of £31 11s. 6d. Besides, 30 newspapers were seized, 55 persons arrested, 74 domiciliary searches made; 103 persons were either exiled or interned, 55 associations were dissolved and 72 persons acquitted."

By the side of all these punishments we are not surprised to find that some of the worst offences remain constantly unpunished. According to the old laws of Prussia, any one insulting or ridiculing a recognized creed is liable to fine and imprisonment; yet, while scores of papers constantly delight in reviling the Catholic faith and its ministers, not a single prosecution has been brought on against any one of these since the 1st of January. Thus it appears that in Prussia it is an indelible offence to say a word against the majesty of King William or against Bismarck; whereas insults to God's majesty, and to the faith of millions are but venial offences, and appear as

Faults so countenanced, that the strong statutes Stand like the forfeits in a barber's shop, As much in mock as mark.

—*The Univers*.

The motives which are more impious than the law itself, for the new bill abolishing the Religious Orders, are now published in the *Germania*. The first "crime" of the holy people who are to be driven away is, "that they are subject to foreign superiors in Rome or in France, and on that account there is the utmost danger that they may be the instruments for plots made against the State. Secondly, the theory of obedience is the same as that in the society of Jesus, by which every activity of will and mind is annihilated. Thirdly, they are indicted to innumerable stultifying exercises, watched over on every step, quite separated from all who do not belong to their Order, and drilled to be only dead instruments in the hands of their superiors. Except 176 members of Contemplative Orders, all others are employed either in aid of the parish priests, or in teaching, or attending the sick, in consequence of which they have a great influence over the Catholic people." After these important "Motives" a curious statement is made. The Article 30 of the Constitution runs as follows:—"All Prussians are entitled to join in societies for any such purposes, as are not against the penal laws," and it cannot be denied that notwithstanding all official interpretations by that article, the right of establishing religious houses is granted to the Catholics. But the composers of these "motives" do not accept any such interpretation, and say that as Religious Orders cannot be considered as other societies, for "they are societies which deny the family and property, these foundations of the state!" In the end it is added that the Catholics cannot complain at not being allowed to establish Religious Orders, because the Orders are no material parts of the Catholic Church, and most of those Orders which now exist, did not exist during the first thousand years of the Church! Such are the reasons of that brutal Bismarck-Government for making a law by which thousands of the most loyal citizens who never did any harm to anybody, but were a blessing to the whole country are driven away from their native soil.—*Catholic Times*.

During the rejoicings for the Bishop of Munster's return from prison an English family hung out a Union Jack from their windows. In token of their participation in the demonstration. The police were indignant. The *Foreign Catholic papers* commenting on the fact bitterly remark that in the days of Lord Palmerston the insult to Great Britain would not have been allowed to pass unquestioned.

**IN AUSTRIA.**—The apostolic priest, Bishop, formerly a Canon of Breslau, has (says the *Monde*) addressed a letter to the Austrian Catholic press, which had called upon him to abandon his episcopate and enter the fold of the church, in which he declares that they ecclesiastical censures, with which he has been visited, render his return impossible. He winds up, of course, with some violent diatribes against the church of his baptism, and he announces his intention of going a step further, than Dollingerism and taking refuge in the arms of the heresim.

**THE DOVER ASSASSIN.**—The Germanist of 11th May has a short notice concerning the Janseistic sect in Holland. It appears that whenever an election to a Janseistic Bishopric takes place the Chapter at Utrecht announces this to the Pope, and requests his confirmation. Hereupon there follows, on the part of the Holy See, the annulling of the election and the condemnation of the elected. Although this business has been going on for much more than a century the Janseistic Schismatics do not desist from it, but put themselves forward as faithful and obedient sons of the Church. While in reality they insult her by their hypocrisy. This practice was not omitted on the occasion of the election of Mr. John Haykamp, on the 15th of December last year. The answer of our Holy Father, Pope Pius IX. was issued under date 31st March last. This answer is not addressed to the pseudo-Bishop of Utrecht, but to the only legitimate and Catholic Archbishop, his Suffragan, and the whole Catholic people of the Netherlands. In this Brief the annulling and condemnation of the election is pronounced with all Christian love, but with a solemn earnestness, which distinguishes all the transactions of the Apostolic See. It is to be observed that on the 28th of April the sacrilegious consecration took place, which entails the threatened excommunication.

**PASS PERSECUTIONS.**—On Sunday morning, 9th May, between six and seven o'clock, Herr Otto North, the responsible Editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, was arrested and carried off to the Klappergeländ, there to undergo six months imprisonment. This arrest so carried out is quite at variance with the practice hitherto prevailing in Germany, which always permitted an interval between sentence and imprisonment in press cases, in order to allow time for an arrangement of business matters. But in the case of political opponents the Prussian Government seems to have quite given up all observance of any of the milder forms of procedure.

## AUSTRIA.

**THE ATTACK ON DON ALFONSO (BOURBON D'ESTE).**—The truth regarding the late attacks made on Don Alfonso and Dona Blanca at Graetz is now beginning to leak out, and we are not surprised that it emanated not from the native inhabitants but from the foreign students—Prussians, Servians, and Italians. It was, says the Graetz correspondent of the *Liberte*, directly promoted by the German National Association of the University, the main object of which society is to Prussianize the local institutions. The people of Graetz were most anxious that the good Prince and Princess should remain amongst them, naturally considering it as a high honour to have such near relations of the Royal Family of Austria residing in their midst, and they are greatly annoyed that their guests should be driven away by Foreign Infidels and the creatures of Bismarck. Already the city of Prague, the capital of Bohemia, has invited Don Alfonso and Dona Blanca to take up their residence there, and a deputation of the Bohemian nobility has offered them a place in the just named city. It is probable that the offer will be accepted.

The Governor of Styria, says the *Univers*, has dissolved all the University Associations of Graetz save those of a purely scientific nature. Most of these societies were Pan-Germanic in their nature, and were directed against the fundamental principles of Austrian unity.

## ITALY.

**ROME.—THE VATICAN.**—May 8.—Unfavorable reports touching the health of his Holiness were lately set about. There was no foundation for them, and it is difficult to account for them save by supposition that false rumors were deliberately circulated by the badly-disposed persons who desire a change in the Pontificate for their own purposes. The Pope's state of health is better now and for some time back than it was two years ago. His carriage, his step, his strength of voice, his endurance of the fatigue of audiences, all show that no perceptible diminution of vigor can be traced this spring in Pius IX. His medical attendants pay him bi-weekly visits, as is their duty, but their visits are merely perfunctory. For a few days the sky has been cloudy, and the atmosphere dull and heavy, so that a walk in the Vatican gardens at half-past 12 or 1 p.m. is not so agreeable as a promenade through the galleries and corridors, and consequently Pius IX. has preferred the latter to the former. On Ascension Day the Pope limited his afternoon walk with his guests to the loggia of the Sala Matilda. He suffered perhaps a little from his exertion the day before in addressing the French pilgrims. Yet on that day (Thursday, 6th of May) he received several batches of visitors, and on the day following (Friday) he received over two hundred visitors, to every one of whom he spoke a few words, made a short speech in French to them all together, and then took his usual walk down the noble staircase to the library, where he remained conversing cheerfully with the members of his Court for half an hour. He then returned to his own apartments, in going and coming declining the assistance of his servants, and displaying a briskness in ascending and descending the broad stairs, which astonished some of the younger men who were present. On Monday, May 3rd, the Master of Ceremonies, with his bride (sister to the Marchioness of Brte), were received by his Holiness in the Sala Matilda. They were accompanied by Lady Herbert of Lea. On the same day the children of a charitable institution were admitted, and the Pope stood for twenty minutes, patiently standing while two very young children, a boy and a girl, delivered orations, which brought smiles to the face of his Holiness. No less than eight Cardinals were present, namely, Sacconi, Pitta, De Pietro, Franchi, De Luca, Bartoloni, Bilio, and Monaco. The 5th of May was the Feast of St. Pius V., and on that day a number of French pilgrims thronged the halls of the Vatican. There were nearly 800 altogether. Some of them were men famous for their literary merits and services to the Church. Some of them bore names distinguished in history. They had previously visited the Basilica, and on the 5th had visited that of St. Peter's, whence they ascended to the audience. The Holy Father entered the hall of audience after twelve o'clock, accompanied by ten Cardinals, many Archbishops and Prelates, and by his chamberlains on duty. Lady Herbert of Lea, the Master of Ceremonies and the Hon. Mrs. Maxwell, and several distinguished strangers were present, by special favor, to see the reception of the French pilgrims. The Vicomte de Damas read the address of the deputation, and many of the listeners were deeply moved when the Vicomte spoke of the wrongs inflicted on the Holy Father through the fault of Frenchmen, and the consequent necessity that France should repair the evils she had done. More guilty than other nations, her reparation should be the nobler. The fact that Pius IX. had not despaired of France, was an encouragement, and France, in return, would never despair of the cause of the Holy See. The Holy Father, with his usual happiness, responded to this address and asked, "Why should I not count upon France when I have so many proofs of the devotion of Frenchmen to the Holy See, not merely in deputation-like the present, but in various other ways?"

I know the proceeded, and all men know that the times are difficult, and that all the sentiments, whether of respect or of blame, which proceed from your hearts, cannot be openly manifested. The enemies which surround and menace us are many. We must employ prudence; which is a cardinal virtue, yet it will cease to be a virtue when it infringes on the rights of truth and justice. You have mentioned St. Pius V. Let us throw back our thoughts to this time, two centuries ago. Then it was the custom before entering the field of battle to try the lot of war against the pride of the infidel, to make processions of penitents and to offer public prayers to implore the aid of God; and these religious acts preceded the battles, victories, and triumphs. Nor did the prayers of that Pontiff cease, with his victory, but he continued his supplications that God would render the fruits of victory of lasting benefit to His Church. Just before his death he went to visit devotionally, the seven churches, accompanied by one of his most famous generals, Mark Anthony Colonna. Although fainting from fatigue, the Holy Pontiff persevered in finishing his pilgrimage, and returned to the Vatican to receive in no long interval the crown of eternal glory from his Father in Heaven. Do you, beloved, remember the example of St. Pius V. when you visit these basilicas and when you perform your pilgrimages? Would that I myself could accompany you. But if the faithful spectre of the revolution prevents my going with you in person, my heart will be with you, and my prayer will mingle with yours at the foot of the altar while you cry—"That Thou mayest deign to repress the assaults of Turks and Heretics, we beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord." Even now in Constantinople and elsewhere the churches are taken by assault and violence and given over to schismatics. The Mussulman, no longer impeded by any Christian Kingdom, shows his true nature of hostility to the faith. But thanks to God the Catholics, both laymen and clergy, stand firm in the truth; and schism makes no progress. If I, like Pius V., were to make known my desire to those who occupy the seats of power, my voice, I am sorry to confess it, would have no echo. Uncertainty, fear, and frequently malice, obscure the minds of those to whom I allude. Let then, my children, our prayers be our armaments. These prayers let us Marshal in order, as did Jacob, when he went to meet his offended brother Esau. First the servants, then the rest of the numerous family, and last of all Rachel, the fair Rachel, well suited by her goodness and sweetness to allay the resentment of Esau, unjustly irritated. And in like manner let us array in our favour the Saints of Heaven, the Angels of God, and, finally, the Queen of Angels and of Saints, the Mother of God, in order to beat down and destroy the enemies of Her Son and of His Church. Let us apply, lastly, the words put into our mouths by the Church on this day, namely, that by the merits of St. Pius V. *Hostium superitis insidiis perpetua pace letemur*. The Benediction then followed. Among the pilgrims were the Vicomte de Levy Mirepoix, Marquis and Marchioness de Campagne, Count and Countess de la Bourdonnaye, Marquis and Marchioness de Gerny de Beauregard, Count and Countess de St. Pierre, Baron d'Iversen, Marquis and Marchioness de Villebois, Count de Caulaincourt, Monsieur and Madame de saint Simon, Monsieur and Madame de Vriesen, Count and Countess de Bouy, Count Boselly de Lognes, M. and Madame de Giry, and the Comte de Lansade Jonquieres. —*Corr. of London Tablet*.

The Roman papers chronicle no less than five distinguished suicides, which took place in as many days. The most melancholy case was that of Francesco Chiesa, a cabinet maker, with a wife and two sons. He was hardly fifty years old and before the Piedmontese invasion was a well to do artisan; moreover he had by strict economy and constant toil succeeded in putting by a competency amounting to a hundred thousand francs. He invested his savings in some banking concern which has been mined in this new prosperity, and in a moment lost the labour and the saving of thirty years. His melancholy and despair were observed by his friends, and he said to one of them: There is my son (a lad of eighteen) whom I had provided for, is now a beggar, and I am a beggar, too; better I should kill him, and then throw myself into the Tiber with a stone around my neck. This of course was taken as the utterance of excitement, but it proved a deliberate resolve, for the unfortunate man took his son down into the cellar, after opening his shop in the usual way, and there hacked the poor boy's throat with a hatchet, left him in the cellar, and ran out, as is supposed to execute the rest of the threat. He has not been seen since, and it was not until some hours after his leaving home that the dead body of the son was found placed head foremost in a hole in the cellar. The last seen of him was outside Porta Pia, when he ran, as if mad towards, the Nomentan bridge. Next day Gherardo, Amalodi, a road-maker of Rieti, shot himself in the throat with a pistol and died instantly. Another man, named Carlo Ramoneta, a tax-collector, went aboard a vessel just leaving the Ripetta, and when it got under weigh stood on the poop, raised his hat to the sailors, and said, "Young men! I salute you," then threw himself headlong into the stream. Other similar instances might be added, but we leave off here as it is not so bad as the rest, for this one was saved and given over to the municipal authorities. *O Roma Felix!* if thou art happier, better, more prosperous, with thy new felicity, as they say thou art, regenerated, reformed, renewed, where are the proofs of these good things, and whence came these horrors unknown before the rays of the new "Sun of Liberty" brought them to light, or rather hatched them into existence?

—*More CENTENARIANS.*—Mr. Thomas Durlay, writing under date, Instituto Educativo Internazionale, Padova, Italy, May 5, sends the following account which he has translated from the *Conte Canova*:—"In Turin there still lives in the Institution of St. Calvario a certain Margaret Scavarda, who has attained the age of 105 years. She was born Christmas Day, 1770. She is the widow of a porter in the Royal Palace, who saw no fewer than four Sovereigns pass before his door. He entered the Royal service under the reign of Victoria Emanuele I., and continued during the reigns of Carlo Felice, Carlo Alberto, and Victoria Emanuele II. Margaret is in full possession of all her mental faculties. Although she has lost her teeth she still masticates exceedingly well. She walks erectly and rapidly and is a real prodigy. Their Highnesses the Dukes of Genoa and Corgnano, the Mayor, and many of the chief citizens interest themselves in the old lady, and assist her frequently materially."

## UNITED STATES.

**A NEW CHURCH FOR POLISH CATHOLICS IN MINNESOTA.**—On Thursday, June 10, Rt. Rev. Michael Heiss, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, Wis., will lay the cornerstone of a new church at Pine Creek, Minn., where the Rev. Adolph Shigurak has gathered around him some 120 Polish families. The Pastor has succeeded in collecting some \$10,000, and the contract for the building has already been given out. Rt. Rev. Dr. Heiss will also administer the Sacrament on the day above stated.

The Catholic Church of Cleveland, Minn., has just had a new roof placed on it and it is intended to add about one-third to its size in order to accommodate the rapidly increasing congregation.

A man in Chicago publishes a proposal, first addressed to Bishop Cheney, to pay \$50,000 to any person who will prove to a jury to be chosen jointly by the proposer and acceptor, that the Christian Bible is inspired, infallible, and authoritative in distinction from, and superior to, all other "sacred books" of the world's literature. —*Eliaz Colbert, of the Chicago*

*Tribune*, without preference to either side, consents to receive overtures towards the acceptance of the challenge.

**SYSTEMATIC USE OF FORGED PAPER.**—New York, June 2.—A *Utica* despatch says: Charles P. Washburne, miller and grain dealer "at Rome," has been operating largely in the Chicago market, and the recent decline in prices involving his financial ruin discloses about one hundred thousand dollars of forged paper in the banks of Rome and Utica. He confessed that he had kept his forged paper moving at all times for three years past, and has been able to protect it until now, it having been his custom to provide for this paper at maturing, with drafts so promptly that none of it ever got back to the party whose name appeared as the "maker," and this prevented an earlier discovery. His final and ruinous venture, was an attempt to carry a million and a half bushels of grain to Chicago. The Fort Stanwix Bank is the heaviest loser.

**BURN FIRE.**—New York, June 2.—A Port Jervis despatch says heavy fires have again broken out in the mountains in Sullivan and Delaware Counties, and are doing much damage. The village of Bethel in Sullivan County was surrounded two days, and was saved after a fight with the flames for a day and a night by the populace. Three buildings were burned and two men seriously burned. Near Manunk Valley, fires were started on Thursday by a farmer named John Stanton, who set fire to a log pole in one of his fields, and in a few hours over a thousand acres of splendid timber land, a mill and 300,000 feet of lumber, and miles of fence were destroyed. That fire has spread northward into the Sacket Pond region and southward through the town of Forestburg, carrying destruction before it. In the town of Fallsburg and Mawakating conflagrations are so fierce that families have been obliged to fly from their homes to save their lives, leaving their effects, stock, &c., to be destroyed. In Delaware County loss of life is reported—that of Wm. Corben, a wealthy and prominent farmer of Bainbridge, who was surrounded while fighting fire on his farm; his remains were recovered on Saturday burned almost to ashes.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.**—WASHINGTON, June 1.—The following is a recapitulation of the public debt statement:—Debts bearing interest in coin bonds at 6 per cent, \$1,311,516,500; bonds at 5 per cent, \$590,532,750; total—principal \$1,722,149,250, interest \$33,450,895.56. Debts bearing interest in lawful money certificates of indebtedness, at 4 per cent, \$678,900; navy pension fund at 3 per cent, \$14,000,000; total—principal \$14,678,000, interest \$181,900. Debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, principal \$7,375,810.26; interest \$208,443.18. Debts bearing no interest, old demand and legal tender notes, \$377,135,722.50. Certificates of deposit, \$55,345,000. Fractional currency, \$4,815,773. Coin certificates, \$19,910,000; principal, \$498,007,095.50; unclaimed interest, \$23,594.84. Total debts—principal, \$2,240,210,155.76; interest, \$33,864,530.58; total \$2,274,074,686.34. Cash in Treasury—coin, \$84,251,502.69; currency, \$4,358,107.77; special deposit held for redemption of certificates of deposit, as provided by law, \$55,345,000; total, \$143,954,710.46. Debts less cash in treasury on June 1st, 1875, \$2,130,197,975.88. May 1st, 1875, \$2,131,309,431.91. Decrease of debt during the past month, \$1,181,456.03; decrease of debt since June 30, 1874, \$12,968,262.38. Bonds issued to Pacific Railway Co., interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding, \$64,623,512; interest accrued and not yet paid, \$1,615,587.80; interest paid by the United States, \$26,264,102.34; interest repaid by transportation of mails, &c., \$6,116,589.85; balance of interest paid by United States, \$20,147,505.49.

## TO OLD SUBSCRIBERS.

The following persons will confer a favor by forwarding their present address to the *True Witness* Office, as the Publisher is anxious to communicate with them:—

P. J. O'Shea, supposed to be about St. Thomas.  
Joseph Kelly, when last heard of was Station Master at Port Dalhousie.  
Thomas Duignan, when last heard of was P. M. at Nenagh Co. Grey.  
Thomas Nelson, when last heard of was at Kittleby Mills.  
Robert Kennedy, when last heard of was at Nobleton.  
Daniel McCarthy, when last heard of was at Hawksville.  
D. Shea, Pensioner, removed from Guelph.

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June 11, 1875.

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