

Radical tendency. Mr. Hume, Mr. Roobuck, and a gentleman whose name was only recently added to the list of the departed—Sir William Molesworth—had told them the truth respecting colonial government, and at a time when the truth was exceedingly unpopular. They showed great courage and resolution in saying things for which they were looked on at the time as little better than traitors or madmen; but either they were not traitors and madmen then, or we were all traitors or madmen now; because what they so rarely ventured to utter amid general disapprobation, no man in his senses in the British Parliament now would wish to contradict. Of Sir William Molesworth he must be allowed to say that he had the greatest satisfaction in owing the benefit and advantage which, during many years, he had derived from communication with him upon colonial questions, and in acknowledging how much he had learnt from speeches on the colonies delivered by the late baronet in the House of Commons. He was a man of comprehensive mind, of singular diligence and industry, well grounded in the principles of colonial policy, and in the history of our colonies, and full of resolution and determination in making his opinions known, while at the same time he promulgated those opinions in a manner entirely free from the taint of party spirit, and, not arousing against him hostile objections, he thus greatly increased the benefit which his wise researches enabled him to confer on the community. He (Mr. Gladstone) felt perfectly satisfied that those speeches which he delivered in Parliament would, although he was dead and gone, long continue to be consulted, and his name be held in honor on account of the valuable matter that they contained, not only with reference to the facts of the colonial question, of which he was a perfect master, but likewise with reference to the principles upon which the great colonial empire of this country ought to be governed. To him he (Mr. Gladstone) wished to pay his debt of gratitude; it was now come to be understood that the affairs of colonists were best transacted by colonists themselves, as the affairs of Englishmen were best transacted by Englishmen. Now it was no longer attempted to force English institutions upon colonies. Then it would be said, 'Don't you intend to have English institutions in colonies?' Certainly; have them to the fullest possible extent. The only question was, who were to be the judges of their fitness? He said the English were not good judges whether the laws that were useful in this country ought to prevail or not. Their fellow-subjects who inhabited the colonies themselves were the best judges; and, more than this, experience had proved that if they wanted to strengthen the connection between the colonies and this country—if they desired to increase the resemblance and to make English institutions popular, they must not associate with them the hated name of oppression. The colonies must feel no yoke on their necks; but let them understand that the relation between them and us was a relation of affection, and they might rely upon it that a great reward would be reaped in the possession of that affection unbroken and unbounded, and in all the grandeur which it would add to the renown, already so great, of this country. Defend them (said Mr. Gladstone) against foreign aggression; regulate their foreign relations; these things belong to the colonial connection with this country. Of the duration of that colonial connection let them be the judges. I say, and, moreover, I predict, that if you leave them that freedom of judgment it is hard to say when the day will come that they will wish to separate from this great nation. (Cheers.) Depend upon it they ought to have a share of your fame. At present the greatest purchasers of books relating to English history are Americans. Those who come over to this country visit the places where the remarkable incidents of English history occurred, and unless you make the name of England odious to them their only disposition is to love and revere it, and that love and reverence is by far the best security you can have for their continuing not only to render the Crown allegiance, but that allegiance which is the most valuable of all—which proceeds from the depths of the hearts of men. You have seen something of that in the occurrence of the last year—some of the colonies that lie at the Antipodes offering their contribution to our fund for the relief of the families of soldiers slain in the war. (Cheers.) This may be called, without exaggeration, the first fruits of the system upon which, during the last twelve or fifteen years, you have entered, of a rational mode of administration with reference to your colonies. There is so much public feeling in Parliament and throughout the country upon this subject that now, I trust, we shall see to the constant extension of those principles; and, for my own part, I shall re-

joice in having lived at a period when a change in colonial government has been brought about which promises much advantage to a country having such claims upon mankind as England—change of system in which we have really made a transition from misfortune, from folly—almost, in some cases, from madness and from crime—to the rules of justice, of reason, of nature, and of common sense. (Mr. Gladstone resumed his seat amid long-continued applause.)"

#### From Papers by R. M. S. Asia, December 8.

After various articles, *pro* and *con*, between the *Times* and *Post*, as to the question of peace being once more on the *tapis*, the latter yesterday admits that Austria is making a move in that direction, and in an article with all the significance of official type, intimates the terms on which alone England can consent to the renewal of negotiations:—"Sebastopol is destroyed—the Russian fleets have no existence—the Czar holds not one foot of the 'material guarantees'—the Danube is no longer his—the Turks, who dreaded, have learnt to contemn the power of their great neighbour—and the arms of England and France have virtually solved the 'Eastern question.' It was far different last year.

"Now, we have only to set up the facts achieved as permanent, and as forming the basis of the principles which must for the future rule the destiny of the East. Under these circumstances, the question of peace comes before us; and, on our part, it can be treated but in one manner. There is but one arrangement possible; and that is one which shall ensure the limitation of Russian ambition, the freedom of Turkey, and the future security of Europe.

"The most necessary condition for the attainment of these ends is the annihilation of Russian power in the Black Sea. Sebastopol must never rise again as a menace to the Turks—nor must any Russian fleet whatever be allowed to exist in the waters of the Black Sea. This is imperative, and secures the safety of Constantinople and the freedom of the shores of the Euxine. But, if the approach by sea towards the Turk be thus sealed against Russia, the approach by land must be equally made safe from her aggression. The mouths of the Danube must be given up by her, and they, with the Danubian Principalities, freed from her protectorate, must be secured to Turkey by the most binding guarantee. All pretension and interference with the subjects of the Porte must be fully renounced, and other arrangements with regard to the Baltic and the general interests of Europe must be accepted by Russia on terms which can leave no doubt as to the certain solidity and efficacy of the peace which may be brought about.

"These, the outlines of the only terms of peace which would achieve our objects, are the only propositions which the Western Powers would be justified in listening to—certain as they are that, if not consented to now, another campaign would enforce compliance.

"If the move which Austria is making towards negotiations have for its object the attainment of terms so satisfactory as these, and if she be ready, as Sweden and Denmark are, to give their verdict in our favour, and, when need arises, to enforce that verdict—then are the Western Powers bound to give heed to overtures which carry on their face no uncertain semblance—no diplomatic chicanery, but which are open, distinct, and honest."

#### IRELAND.

On Monday the Redemptorist Father Pecherini appeared at the Kingston Police-court, to answer the complaint of the Right Hon. Wm. Keogh, her Majesty's Attorney-General, for blasphemously burning and treating with contempt the Holy Scriptures, thereby tending to bring religion into contempt, at Kingstown, in the county of Dublin, on the 5th November instant. Defendant is described as of foreign appearance, about forty-five years of age, and of low stature. On being asked his name, he replied, in a defiant manner, "My name is Vladimir Pecherini, the name of the Russian saint!" A Mr. Kernan, an attorney, applied for a postponement, as the summons had been served only on Saturday last, at Mitchelstown, county Cork, and the Rev. Father had been travelling all night in order to answer it in person. Mr. Corballis, Q.C., on the part of the Crown, having consented, the case stands over until Wednesday next (this day), the Rev. Father having entered into recognisances, himself in £50, and two sureties of £25 each. Mr. Corballis then tendered information of George Brown against John Hamilton, for tearing a Testament and throwing it into the fire on the same occasion, and summonses were issued against defen-

dant for Wednesday next (this day). The greatest excitement prevails. A strong body of police are on the spot. A large mob assembled round the court, and several arrests were made. The Government have adopted the most effectual measures for the preservation of the public peace.

The Bible-burning case came on before the Kingstown magistrates again on Wednesday. As on Monday, there was again considerable popular excitement. Crowds filled the streets in the neighbourhood of the office; but a large force of the metropolitan police, both mounted and on foot, was present, and preserved order much more effectually than on the former day. At eleven o'clock, Father Pecherini, attended by his solicitor, Mr. Kernan, and several Roman Catholic clergymen, entered the court. Mr. Corballis, Q.C. attended by Mr. Rea, of the Crown Solicitor's office, arrived shortly after, followed by Mr. O'Hagan, Q.C., who appeared as counsel for Father Pecherini. Mr. O'Hagan said—

"His client felt, and he (Mr. O'Hagan) felt with him, that it was his bounden duty, as a minister of religion—having regard to his own character and the character of the church to which he belonged—to submit the imputations against him to the fullest possible investigation; and on the part of the Rev. Mr. Pecherini he would say that he desired investigation—courted investigation—and demanded it. If, therefore, his worship, in the exercise of his judicial discretion, considered, upon the information returned by the Crown, that there was a *prima facie* case against his client, he (Mr. O'Hagan) on his behalf, was instructed not to offer any opposition, but merely to say that the rev. gentleman was prepared to go before any tribunal selected by the Crown, and if he should be brought to trial he expected to be able to demonstrate his absolute innocence of the foul crime which had been sworn against him, viz., 'for blasphemously burning and treating with contempt the Holy Scriptures, thereby tending to bring religion into contempt.' His (Mr. O'Hagan's) client instructed him most solemnly to say that, neither directly nor indirectly, by any act of his or by any other person with his knowledge, privity, consent, or authority, was he guilty of such a crime as that charged against him.

"The first information tendered was that of Police-constable Halpin, who deposed that he remembered the 5th of November: he was on duty near the chapel. Between eight and nine o'clock he saw several boys wheeling barrows full of books. Saw a boy with a bound book, with gold letters, 'Holy Bible,' on the back. Saw a Testament also, but did not open it. Heard they were going to burn those books. A priest made his appearance, whom he did not see before. He threw the books into the corner of the chapel-yard outside. He stood by whilst the fire was lighting, and saw him stand by whilst the books were burning. The fire was over about nine o'clock."

"Charles Lawson deposed that he saw a parcel of cinders after the fire. Took some fragments out of the cinders, which were pages from the Bible. (Those fragments having been submitted to the bench, Mr. Bourke said they were passages from the Old Testament.)

"Robert Wallace, Wesleyan minister, deposed that he saw a number of boys kicking what he felt assured were small pocket Bibles into the fire. A boy took a portion of a book out of the fire and handed it to him. It was part of the Old Testament.

"Christopher Duff, a Roman Catholic youth of thirteen years, deposed that Father Pecherini asked him if he had a barrow. Said he had, and he asked would he bring it. Tom Doyle said he would bring another barrow. They brought their two barrows to the residence of Father Pecherini. Saw a good heap of books in the room; saw a book which he believed to be a Testament. When those books were put into the barrows he and Doyle wheeled them to the chapel-yard. Father Pecherini desired them to be lighted, after which he went into the vestry, and returned again to look at the fire.

"Halpin was here recalled, and identified the Rev. Vladimir Pecherini as being the person who was present when the books were lighted on the 5th November, in the chapel-yard at Kingstown.

"George Brown, whose appearance bore marks of the rough treatment he had experienced on Monday, identified John Hamilton as the person who was present in the chapel-yard when the books were burning.

"There being no defence entered, Father Pecherini was bound in recognisance, himself in £100 and two sureties, for £50 each, to abide his trial at the next commission. The boy Hamilton was also bound in recognisance to abide his trial."