

THE POPES.

There is a striking contrast between the present Pope, and his predecessor, Gregory, who, as already stated, never attempted to ameliorate the condition of his subjects. His life was spent in inactivity and self-indulgence. After his death, there were found in his palace, no less than *twelve thousand bottles of choice wines*, which were sold by order of his more abstemious successor, Pius IX, and the money received for the sales given to the poor.

An amusing caricature and dialogue were got up in Rome, after the death of Gregory, representing St. Peter and Gregory going to Paradise. The journey being hard and tedious, for an aged man like the Pope, he complained to St. Peter in this manner:

"How is it St. Peter, that our journey is so long? I did not know that Paradise was so far from the Vatican." Saint Peter replied:—

"If you had allowed the construction of Railways and Steamers in your State, we should have arrived long ago. But now you must stop awhile in purgatory!"

After having remained some months in purgatory, where he met his friend O'Connell, (so the story goes,) Gregory set out with St. Peter again on his eternal journey. Coming in view of Paradise, the Pope asked St. Peter why the angels and his late predecessors in the Papal Chair did not come out to meet him?

"Dear Gregory," replied St. Peter, "as for the Popes, there are few of them in heaven, and the news of your death has not yet reached them, as it would have done, if you had established *telegraphs*, and granted *freedom of the press*."

When the Saint and Pope arrived at the gate of Paradise, St. Peter asked Gregory for his key, which, after some time the Pope found, and handed to him; but it proved to be the *key of his wine cellar*!

THE SAFETY VALVE OF WISE GOVERNMENTS.

REFORM.—All governments and societies of men do, in process of long time, gather an irregularity, and wear away much of their primitive institution. And therefore, the true wisdom of all ages hath been, to review at fit periods those errors, defects or excesses, that have insensibly crept into the public administration; to brush the dust off the wheels, and oil them again, or, if it be found advisable, to choose a set of new ones. And this reformation is most easily, and with least disturbance, to be effected by the society itself, no single men being forbidden by any magistrate to amend their own manners, and much more, all societies having the liberty to bring themselves within compass.—*Marcell.*

PUBLIC OPINION.—When a nation changes its opinion and habit of thinking, it is no longer to be governed as before; but it would not only be wrong, but bad policy, to attempt by force what ought to be accomplished by reason. Rebellion consists in forcibly opposing the general