

LOCAL TAXATION IN IRELAND.—Dr. Hancock's annual return on this subject possesses special interest at present on account of the certainty of legislation on the question of local taxation at an early period. It appears that the receipts from local taxation in Ireland and from property connected therewith, but not including receipts from borrowed money or grants from the Imperial taxes in aid of local taxes, have been estimated for 1872 at £2,955,250, showing an increase of £118,501 or 4.2 per cent. on the estimate for 1871. The latest return from England and Wales for (1870-71) gives a total of £24,836,000, being a decrease of 0.7 per cent. on the preceding year. The grants from Imperial taxes in aid of local taxation in England amount to £873,847; in Ireland to £90,019. There is, however, an Imperial grant for the maintenance of the police in Ireland, amounting to £837,564, but Dr. Hancock remarks that as the police are entirely under the control of the Government in Ireland this sum does not constitute a contribution from Imperial taxes in aid of local rates.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS & THE REV. MR. O'KEEFE.—Yesterday a meeting of the Commissioners of National Education was held. The Rev. Mr. O'Keefe, of Callan, applied to be restored to his position as patron of the Callan National Schools. A long and heated discussion took place, in the course of which the entire O'Keefe controversy was discussed. A resolution was then proposed that Mr. O'Keefe be reinstated, and it was negatived by a majority of 10 to 4. Subsequently a resolution was proposed by one of the majority referring to Mr. O'Keefe's letter to the Local Inspector. This was unanimously adopted, the minority not voting.—*Cork Examiner, 28th inst.*

Two fatal accidents have occurred near Cork. Tuesday morning last the body of a man was found near the northern entrance of the Cork railway tunnel. Life was extinct, and the body bore marks of very severe injuries probably inflicted by a train. Part of the head was cut off and one of his legs nearly severed from the body. It is supposed he fell during the night at the entrance to the tunnel and that he was so severely hurt that he could not crawl off the line, and that a train passed over him during the night. The other painful occurrence happened near Mallow on the same morning. Two brothers Richard Nagle and Maurice Nagle, were exercising two horses belonging to Mr. H. Reeves, at Bearfoot demesne. The horse ridden by Maurice Nagle got very unmanageable, so that he could not keep him in, and he ran at a terrible pace through the demesne and under one of the trees, a branch of which struck Maurice in the head, and actually scalped him. His death was almost instantaneous.

AMATEUR ORGAN GRINDING.—While Bray market fair on Friday was in its busiest hour a symmetrical and well-fed "moke" suddenly appeared in the Main-street, in the sole charge of a respectable looking man, who led the animal by the head to about the centre of the street, where a halt was made. The proprietor of the cart then withdrew the covering of a small but handsome organ fixed in the cart, and pulled and twisted certain keys, turned the handle, and gave out music, beginning with a well known and popular air. The novel appearance and bearing of the artist at once drew together a large and curious crowd whose admiration seemed to be equally evoked by the performance of the organ, and the sang froid of the organist, who worked away with the utmost gravity until the round of tunes were completed. Then he went among the spectators to collect pence, and was rewarded with a good collection of "bronzes" which he transferred to his pocket with every appearance of satisfaction. After this he moved his donkey and cart lower down the street and repeated the performance, the crowd by this time having largely increased. The report was soon current that the itinerant was the "gentleman organ-grinder" who is said to be making a tour of Ireland in this voluntarily assumed character to decide a wager for a considerable sum, and the knowledge of what is supposed to be the real explanation of his appearance of course added much to the curiosity originally excited by the interesting stranger. After giving music for an hour or so through the Main-street, the artist withdrew, and was next seen on Saturday evening playing as before along the road by the Esplanade, pausing at different points to gather the contributions of his auditors, which, it is unnecessary to state, were all through very considerable. The "gentleman organ-grinder" is apparently about 45 years of age, with well-cut features, dark hair, beard, and moustaches of the same hue, and his aspect generally, aided by a fashionable suit of grey tweed with small felt hat, fairly satisfies his distinguishing appellation since he went on circuit with his donkey, cart, and organ. It is stated that he is staying at present in the Marine Hotel, and that he will "grind" his way to Dublin in due course.—*Freeman.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

HOME RELS AND FOREIGN COMPLICATIONS.—The Times says:—No one could say with any sense of certainty on which side of European politics England will next draw the sword, but in this absence of exact political opinion held in common by a majority of the British people consist the danger. Certainly the danger is at least double when in a time of universal excitement there is just as much chance of our being drawn in on one side as on the other. At present the only persons who are seriously calculating on the chances of war and discounting its value for their own uses are the Home Rulers and their new spiritual allies. A common plan of operation between Spanish Carlistism, French Legitimacy, Italian reaction, and Irish disaffection, is about the last chance Rome can see for regaining its lost ground. The Irish on their own soil, and their co-religionists on theirs, are perfectly entitled to do the best by fair means to secure their due share in our public councils; but as the price of their loyalty and the condition of their allegiance, they insist on special concessions, contrary to the principles of our legislation, and grossly unfair to the rest of the community. As matters now stand, the Roman Catholic Church is established in Ireland to all educational purposes, which is far more than can be said of the Church of England here; and it is nothing less than the simple truth that at this moment the general body of British taxpayers are lavishing immense sums annually in maintaining and spreading not only the Roman Catholic doctrines of a former age, but also the new tenets of orthodoxy and the new objects of Divine worship lately invented by our ingenious neighbors across the British Channel. Shocking as the pretended revelations of Mary Alacoque must be to all simple Christians, the whole British people are now instilling them into the minds of the rising Irish generation by means of State-paid schools, abandoned to the absolute control of the priesthood; and we are now told, in a way not to be mistaken, by Archbishops and Bishops, that unless we do this, and more also, we may expect to find Ireland a difficulty, if not a foe, on any question of national safety and honor.—Such is our position, at a time when the whole of Western and Southern Europe is either struggling for life in a stormy sea or hardly yet in harbor. If the British Government take one side, we know who will take the other. But a day of grace is offered. We may avert a catastrophe, the last, possibly, of this empire, if we will let Ireland take the portion that falls to her and go her way. If we let Ireland produce to the best of her capacity, soil, and climate, the France, Italy, and Spain of a hundred years ago, or say, 1845, then we may reckon on her fidelity and assistance in the hour of danger, provided also that we accept her lead and wait till Cardinal

Cullen and Mr. Daunt have settled between them what we are to fight for.

BUCHAN'S DREAM.—It is worthy of notice, in connection with the pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial, that two hundred years ago—October, 1672—a certain English tinker was discharged from Bedford jail, and that soon after his liberation he gave out that during his confinement he had had a "glorious dream," which he quickly got into book shape, and which was sufficiently successful to elevate the disreputable and law-breaking tinker into the position of a divinely-inspired prophet among his class of religionists and to well fill his hitherto sadly empty pockets. This was the celebrated John Bunyan, and the "Pilgrim's Progress" is the result of his "glorious dream." The production was written with a shrewd eye to business. It pandered fully to the bigotry of the day in which its self-constituted spiritual teacher lived, and it was, of course, eminently successful. In one particular, at least, this would-be prophet has been remarkably mistaken. The readers of the "Pilgrim's Progress" cannot have failed to have been struck with the passage wherein is described Christian's issuing from the Valley of the Shadow of Death and his beholding the caves of two giants, "Pope" and "Pagan," and the grounds before them all covered with the bones of their victims. Bunyan says that "Pagan" was long dead ere the pilgrim came that way, and that "Pope" had become "a toothless old giant, feebly muttering curses against Christian as he passed singing on his way, and obviously doomed very shortly to die and disturb men's minds no more." Prophet Bunyan lacked the omniscience of knowing that in that same year of 1672, a certain nun took the veil in an obscure convent of the Order the Visitation, and that after two hundred years a large gathering of his own countrymen would be proceeding to that same nun's shrine as a public testimony of their unshaken belief in that faith which the Almighty established upon earth, and of which the Pope is the earthly head. Could Bunyan rise from his grave now and come among us he would find the "expiring old giant" as young and as energetic as ever, and more than that, England gradually returning to the old and only true Christian faith. Thanks be to God that it should be so!—*Univers.*

THE BRITISH PHARISEE.—It used to be a boast with the English press that if English murders were very numerous and very brutal, their perpetrators were at all events usually found out and punished. The statement was not strictly true at any time, but lately the papers find themselves compelled to abandon it altogether. The *Pall Mall Gazette* of Tuesday says: "The impunity with which murders are perpetrated now-a-days suggests something worse than doubt as to the efficiency of our detective police.—To say nothing of the bodies found in London under circumstances more than suspicious, and consigned, unidentified, to the grave with the vague verdict of a formal inquest for their epitaph, we may refer to more than one atrocious crime of which the authors are still at large." Having mentioned the Hoxton, Eltham, and Great Cornam streets murders, as well as the latest, the "Thames mystery," it goes on to say: "The old adage of 'murder will out' can no longer impose on the most superstitious minds, when only such murderers as are taken red-handed, or who give themselves up to justice, are ever known." This is really a bad and a sad state of things, and one of its results ought to be to teach the British press a little modesty and humility. Unhappily, it will do nothing of the kind. It will not have the effect of abating for more than a moment the Pharisaical spirit of those journals, and of the people for whom they are written. In the midst of the horrors by which they are surrounded they will go on assuming the immense superiority of British manners and morals as compared with those of all other peoples and will proceed, as it were from the serene and elevated standpoint which befits their natural character, to deliver religious, moral, and social lectures to all the world. This voice of egotism, this habit of self-esteem, is deeply rooted in the English nation, and appears to be almost ineradicable. The *Pall Mall Gazette* appears to be made momentarily uncomfortable by the reflection that "the perpetrators of the crimes we have named are probably mixing at this moment in the most matter-of-fact manner with their respectable neighbors, encouraged or tempted by cupidity." We venture to say they are doing much more than that. In conjunction with their respectable neighbors they are lamenting the bright state of Spain and Italy, denouncing Greek brigandage and Irish agrarian disturbances, condemning Ultramontanism, scoffing at the French pilgrimages, and expressing their regret that all other people are not as enlightened, as orderly, as mild, and as moral as the British nation. For such is the habit of the true-born Briton wherever he is, whether mixing with respectable people or with people with contrary character, and whether or not he be an offender, detected or undetected, against the laws of his country. For the cultivation of this spirit among the people the British press is largely responsible; and the journal from whose pages we have taken the foregoing quotations is not one of the least guilty among them.—*Dublin Nation.*

The *Times* correspondent says that the *Vaterland* "attacked Victor Emmanuel in outrageous language, and insulted the Emperor's honoured guest." He does not inform us in what exact words these grave crimes were committed; whether it was by the announcement of a solemn anniversary service, or a natural protest against the persecutor of Pius IX. by Francis Joseph. However, the *Vaterland* was confiscated by the Viennese authorities, and the tyrannous act of Imperial censorship, so far from being condemned, has possibly the sneaking sympathy of this genuine representative of the "Free press of England," who leaves his readers to seek elsewhere for the head and front of the offence against the Emperor's "honoured guest," and not to seek in vain, for in an obscure corner of the same copy of the *Times* we read that "The Vienna *Vaterland*, an Ultramontane journal, was confiscated on the day of the King of Italy's arrival for printing the following announcement:—On September the 20th, at 8 o'clock a.m., a Soul Mass will be celebrated in the Dominican Church, in the inner city of Vienna, in commemoration of the Papal soldiers who fell three years ago on the capture of Rome, carried by force of arms, and in defiance of international law. We invite the Catholics of Vienna to attend the ecclesiastical ceremony in great numbers.—The Directory of the Brotherhood of the Holy Archangel Michael."

No doubt this paragraph contains "the outrageous language"—of truth; and the greater the truth the greater the libel, whether on petty thieves or royal robbers. Even the hand-shaking of ancient foes cannot reconcile the past, after facts, or make himing respectable; and "the traditional policy of Austria," though aptly symbolised by the Double Eagle, can scarcely be said to dictate double-dealing with regard to Italy's "emancipation," and to the extent of stifling recapitulation of the truth with regard to the usurpation of Rome.

A parent has been summoned by the Exeter School Board to answer a charge of neglecting to send his child to school. The reply of the father, if it be not too imaginative, does not extol the Act of 1870. He asserts that "education at the Board School is very deficient; for they neither teach history, geography, nor grammar, but keep the boys singing all the day 'Three Blind Mice'." If this statement be true, we do not wonder at the Board to instruct himing himself better able than the Board to instruct his child. We do not know if a contemporary is correct in supposing that the poem is an allegorical one typifying, under the appellation of

"Blind Mice," the union between Broad Churchmen, Dissenters, and Infidels; but we certainly think that songs, however nicely they may be adapted to secular education, should not be allowed to occupy the exclusive attention of the children attending the Exeter Board School.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF COAL.—The *Sheffield Telegraph* describes an extraordinary scene in that town. A new sewer is being put down in Thomas-street, and the excavations have laid open a seam of coal which there crops up almost to the surface. News of this discovery was quickly spread among the humbler residents of the neighborhood, and the result was that several hundred women and children put in an appearance with baskets, buckets, sacks, and all kind of receptacles, for the collection of the "black diamonds" as they were thrown up by the workmen. The separation of the coal from the earth and stones certainly involved some little trouble, but the crowd was enterprising and patient, and the division of the spoil was conducted with a fair degree of decorum.

The following circular has recently been issued from the Admiralty.—Several instances having recently occurred of marriages having been performed on board Her Majesty's ships on foreign stations by the commanding officer, no chaplain or consul being in the neighborhood, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty referred the question of the validity of such marriages to the law officers of the Crown. As the law officers have given their opinion that marriages solemnized under the circumstances stated above are not valid, their Lordships are pleased to direct no marriage shall in future be solemnized on board one of Her Majesty's ships by the commanding officer.

The Cunard Steamship Company intend withdrawing their vessels from the West India service and establishing a daily line of steamers between Liverpool and New York.

The Standard says the state of Ireland is infinitely worse than it was before the passing of those measures which were to restore it to peace and loyalty. We see it more than ever bent upon meeting away from English rule and spasmodic fanatism, easily kept under by the mere measures of the police, has been succeeded by an organized movement of almost national proportions for the repeal of the Union. The disease which was slight, local and intermittent, has now become chronic and violent.

A CONSERVATIVE RESOLVE.—The *Daily News* says:—Should the Tories which have been recently pursued prevail at the next general election, we may reckon on five or six years of Conservative Administration and legislation. There will be a new Conservative. Mr. Disraeli, with a majority in the House of Commons, would be a very different Prime Minister from the Mr. Disraeli whom we have known in office with a minority. In the previous Administration, of which he was the real though not always the nominal chief, he was obliged to bid for Liberal and even Radical support, and he often outbade his Whig rivals. Mr. Disraeli would certainly not dissolve a House of Commons in which he has a working majority, if a few constituencies declare against him or should he fail to find a seat for a Solicitor-General. The rumour which attributes this intention to Mr. Gladstone, though weight has been given to it by some careless and unguarded words, is to us simply inexplicable and incredible.

The *Telegraph* says:—Mr. Disraeli had no policy at all last spring, when power was at his disposal, and his followers have no policy now, except pieces and patches from Mr. Gladstone's when 29 constituencies encourage them to tell the country what they mean to do. Reaction, that does not venture to reach distrust, that joins with intolerance to defend outrageous freedom; and dissatisfaction, which borrows future measures from the repository of Liberalism—such is what we find when we analyse the noise and stir. Once more we say that, if the issues of Government were not so momentous, it would be sport royal to put the Conservatives in, that we might again note what tremendous Radicals they become in "reaction against Liberalism."

THE ASSAULT WAR.—A variation has been made in the manufacture of buck-shot cartridges by substituting bone dust for plaster of Paris in order to fill in the interstices between the shots, and solidify the charge sufficiently to preserve its cohesion until it shall have left the muzzle of the gun. Bone dust is an article hitherto unused in the Royal Arsenal, but as soon as a necessity for it was shown, a quantity of bones were obtained by contract, and a mill set to work grinding them. From the experiments made with the two kinds of buck-shot cartridge at the targets it appears that those in which bone dust is used make 20 per cent. better practice than the original pattern. The men and boys belonging to the Royal Laboratory are likely to be busily employed for some time in making these cartridges, and the scene at the pay tables on Saturday, which were thronged by a crowd larger by some hundreds than usual, the bulk of the workpeople having augmented their wages by overtime, was something like the busy times of the Crimean war. There are no signs yet of another party arriving to take away the stores which are prepared for the Gold Coast. The railway iron, which is being supplied from the Darlington Iron Works, continues to arrive at the Royal Arsenal, and other goods are being delivered daily. There is some talk of sending out some of the pumps used in Abyssinia, or those just returned from the Antium Manoeuvres, some hundreds of which have within the last two weeks been sent into store. Gear is being provided by which the locomotive engines, or steam sappers, can be used for pumping purposes as well as for travelling and for working the steam saw. So many officers have volunteered to join Sir Garnet Wolseley's expedition to Coomassie, officially called, "special service on the West Coast of Africa," that it is said no more will be required, and among all ranks there is expressed willingness and even desire to take part in the expedition, but volunteering among the rank and file is not generally in favour, being regarded as not strictly within the line of duty, upon the theory that a good soldier should only go where he is sent, and have no choice of his own in the matter.—*Daily News.*

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN LIVERPOOL.—A fatal case of cholera occurred at Liverpool on Monday on board a French brig called the *Rosaire*, which arrived in the river from Havre on Saturday. The *Rosaire* had docked in the George's Dock, and was boarded at three o'clock by a Police officer to whom all was reported well. The disease seems to have broken out immediately afterwards, for at six the officer was called on board, and was informed that the captain died at half-past three, and that two of the crew were also attacked. Dr. French, medical officer for the borough, was also sent for, and on arrival pronounced the case to be one of cholera. The vessel was ordered out into the river into quarantine, and as soon as the tide served she was taken into the Slynce. The body of the deceased, whose name was Lesant, was sewn in canvas, and buried outside the port. Under skilful medical attendance the two men attacked rallied during the day, though remaining in a dangerous position. Strict precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of the malady.

BLOCKADE RUNNING ON THE GOLD COAST.—It has already been stated that a blockade had been proclaimed along the whole coast of Guinea. A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—As I am writing, a brig belong to Messrs. Swanzy, of London, called the *Alligator*, had arrived with 3,360 kegs of gunpowder on board, and the captain acknowledged to have landed 370 kegs at Grand Bassam, a place some ten miles west of our territory, where Messrs. Swanzy keep four steam launches for the purpose of

going up the lagoons and rivers which border on Ashantee land.

Dr. Cumming addressed a large congregation at his chapel in Crown-court on the subject of miracles, and with reference principally to the recent pilgrimages. He said he wished all Prime Ministers were like Prince Bismarck, who had expelled 4,000 Jesuits from Germany, 2,000 of whom had gone to America, while unfortunately the remainder had come to England, and were now permeating all classes of society, doing their utmost to forward the cause which they had in hand.

Dr. Housen, the Protestant Dean of Chester, has been to the Old-heretic Congress at Constance, and rushes into print to express his warm satisfaction at what he saw and heard. His main points are that the breach with the Papacy is decisive and final; that the laity shall have a large share in the constitution of the hierarchy; that offers of union with other heretics, both east and west are to be made; and that church doctrine is to be revised, church history re-written, and church regulations thoroughly sifted—all of which things are as old as the hills in connection with schisms from the Church of God, and plainly prove that the title of "Old Catholics" is as false as are the principles of those who assume it. There has never been a heresy yet in which every one of these things has not been done—special attention having been invariably paid to the items we have italicised. But such heresies have one by one died away, or split into inconceivably numerous sects, while the Papacy—as it pleases the Dean to call the Church of Christ built on a rock—alone remains intact. Is not that fact an incontrovertible proof that to her alone are the words of God applicable: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"

The Edinburgh *Daily Review* records an amusing conversation which took place in the galleries of the Free Church Assembly one day lately: Young Lady—"There's old Dr. A.—going to speak. Isn't he a bore?" Old Lady (laughing)—"Well I suppose he is; but do you know I rather like him?" Young Lady—"I can't bear him." Old Lady (after some time)—"who is that nice old gentleman speaking?" Young Lady—"Ah, that's Mr. B.—, of C.—?" Old Lady (hesitatingly)—"Don't you think he is rather prosy?" Young Lady (indignantly)—"No, indeed, I do not. Allow me to inform you that that is my father." Old Lady—"Oh, indeed! Then I am glad that I hit the mark so gently, because 'Old Dr. A.—' is my husband. So I suppose we have both got a lesson, my dear; don't you think so?"

Coal has been successfully cut by machinery at Felsall. The *Birmingham News* believes this to be the first successful application of machinery to coal cutting in Staffordshire.

UNITED STATES.

THE REVEREND O. B. FROTHINGHAM, A "LIBERAL" PROTESTANT, UPON THE ALLIANCE.—At Lyric Hall, on the Sixth Avenue, opposite Reservoir square, a large congregation assembled yesterday morning to hear Rev. O. B. Frothingham. His subject, "The Evangelical Alliance" was an unusually taking one, and of course large numbers were anxious to hear his views on the matter. His text were the words, "That they all may be one." The words chosen for his text were, he began, a limited prayer—a prayer not for the whole world, but for the disciples of Christ. Within the past few days there had been assembled in New York what is known as The Evangelical Alliance. It has been a very remarkable scene. . . . This Evangelical Alliance has the air of vast comprehensiveness. Every effort has been made to give it a broad aspect. But they may speak in different tongues, and may come from remote sections of the world, and yet all be Scotch Presbyterians. This was a Protestant Alliance. The great body of nationalists was left out in the cold. It should protect all shades of protest against Rome. We find, however, that it was comprised mainly of Methodists and Presbyterians. The Baptists, a large and growing denomination, found but feeble representation. The Moravians were much more largely represented. If we take the Church of England, large and influential as it is, and if we take the Episcopal Church in this country, large and influential as this church is here, we find them not in the Alliance. Other denominations, thoroughly orthodox, are also omitted. The Congregationalists are but feebly represented. The Swedenborgians, the Unitarians, and the Friends are not there. The Unitarians—a party of great consideration in its wealth, its culture, and social position, a party that will not consent to be ruled out of the orthodox lines—are not there. Surely an alliance leaving out of its organization so many Protestants cannot properly be called a Protestant alliance. It was only a fragment of Protestantism. The Alliance cannot successfully fight Roman Catholicism. It has made the confession openly. As a religion, Roman Catholicism has every advantage over Protestantism, in wealth of resources and general influence over the people. How is the fight to be waged? Not by force of doctrine, for Roman Catholicism is a more acceptable doctrine than Protestantism; not by force of organization, for the Roman Catholic organization has existed nearly two thousand years; not on the ground of faith and works for in these regards Roman Catholicism is far ahead of Protestantism.

Protestantism must come out for liberty, pure and simple. It must drop sectarianism. Only by exercising a larger charity and more comprehensive benevolence can Protestantism succeed at all in carrying on its fight with the tremendous power of Rome. It is idle to denounce science as false. Unless Protestantism proposes to take science by the hand—not patronizingly, not a little finger, but a whole palm; unless Protestantism says, "You are my brother, we are seeking truth together, to know things as they are," unless Protestantism does this she can never disarm infidelity. Let it say to science, "I believe you, you believe me; let us cease to haggle about definitions; let us work together without jealousy." The soul of good in infidelity will then come out.

DEFERRED AGONY.—They say that when the news of his mother's death reached the Shah at Moscow, he sent home the Shahnesses, and declared that the royal grief should be postponed until his return to Persia, which reminds Kate Field of the Yankee woman who, upon being told at dinner of her husband's death, exclaimed, "Just wait until I've done eating, and I'll show you some tall crying."

The ninth census report of Massachusetts shows the Congregationalists to be the largest of the Protestant sects in that State. They possess 500 of the 1,764 church edifices in Massachusetts, and provide sitting for 269,314 persons. Next follow the Baptists, with 286 churches and 139,035 sittings. The Methodists come third, with 297 churches and 117,325 sittings. The Unitarians rank fourth, with 180 churches and 98,390 sittings. The Protestant Episcopalians follow, with 100 churches and 45,245 sittings, and are closely pursued by the Universalists, with 57 churches and sittings for 35,577 persons. The Catholic Church possesses 196 church edifices; and if the same method of computing members by the seat-room were followed, she would outrank the Methodists, for her churches contain 130,415 sittings but everybody knows that in Massachusetts, as elsewhere, most of our churches, especially in the large towns and cities where most of them are situated, contain three or four different congregations every Sunday and holiday. The two dioceses of Boston and Springfield, into which the State is divided, include some 376,000 Catholics, which makes them greatly outstrip in point of numbers any of the Protestant sects, and nearly equal the two largest of them combined.—*Catholic Review.*

A Good Boy.—Colfax just now appears to be devoting himself and his smile, principally to religious gatherings. One day we hear of him addressing a Sunday school in Chicago. A week afterward he turns up in another Sunday school hundreds of miles away, and straightway proceeds to lecture the children before him upon the importance of truth and honesty, presenting himself as a lovely example of those cardinal virtues. And now we are told in a Washington organ that the late Vice-President dropping in the hall occupied by the ministers of the Northwest Indiana Conference at its recent session, was recognized by Bishop Simpson, its presiding officer, and introduced to the Conference, whereupon Schuyler responded with a few mildly pious remarks. After this Bishop Simpson addressed the distinguished visitor saying: "We all hope that your future may be more brilliant than your past." To this charitable wish the Conference responded "Amen."—*New-Jersey Herald.*

When it was telegraphed all over the country that the Catholic clergy of New York city were making an attempt to "break down the public schools" by taking away the Catholic children, hundreds of fierce editorials were penned in condemnation of their proceedings. They were described as bigoted, superstitious, enemies of republicanism, foes of enlightenment—all because they would not be deprived in any really free country! Now it is the easiest thing in the world to expose the absurd fallacies which underlie this method of discussing the education question. Neither the clergy nor any other body of men within the Catholic Church, of whose existence we are aware, want to destroy the public schools, or in any way wish to prevent those who admire such institutions from maintaining them as long as they please for their own use and benefit. But those public schools do not suit us Catholics. We know with absolute certainty that the training received in them is injurious to the faith of our children; we believe that their influence is highly detrimental to the morals of the pupils; so that the clergy, acting in our behalf, using the money which we most cheerfully give them for the purpose, establish Catholic schools in which alone we can have any confidence. There is nothing aggressive in this; there is nothing in it either unfair or unfriendly toward any religious denomination. We cannot conscientiously approve of an educational system, no matter how perfect in its details, which is not based upon religion; but we cherish no hostility toward those who differ from us in opinion.—*Catholic Union.*

A TERRIBLE ENO.—A New York paper recently contained an account of the conviction of a Canadian named Henry E. Davies, and several English confederates, at St. Petersburg, where they had broken into St. Isaac's church, and into the museum of the imperial winter palace, stealing from there a large quantity of precious stones. Davies, formerly a resident of New York, employed by a firm dealing in fire-proof safes, was sentenced to penal servitude for life in the gold mines of the Ural, and arrived at Digory Station. The governor of the penal colony told Davies that misconduct on his part would be vigorously punished with the nozi (the terrible whip with which Russian convicts are lashed). Davies, during the first week, worked quietly in the mine. However, it became apparent to the keepers that an independent spirit began to prevail among the members of this gang, and one day, during the half hour allowed for dinner, all of them suddenly sprang to their feet and broke their chains, which had been previously filed through, and attacked their four keepers, Davies being their leader. The keepers were taken unawares, and were overpowered. In a few minutes they had been beaten and stoned to death, and nine of the convicts armed themselves with their sabres. The mine was the most distant from Digory, where half a company of infantry had been stationed. The victorious convicts resolved to steal cautiously to the next mine and there raise a revolt. They succeeded there likewise, the keepers being overpowered and killed, being set upon by convicts in front and rear. There were seventy convicts in this mine, and it took some time before they were freed. Davies had now at his command upwards of one hundred men, twelve of whom were armed with revolvers. This desperate gang now rushed out of the mine towards the barracks, hoping to surprise the governor and the soldiers. The mining convicts came near the first fence of the barracks before the soldiers noticed them. While they were sending if they were seen by the sentinel, who immediately fired off his gun. All the soldiers and the governor rushed out of the building, and the governor ordered the soldiers to fire at the convicts. But Davies had expected this, and he ordered the men to lie down. Thus the first volley proved entirely harmless. The governor then advanced and a desperate hand to hand struggle ensued. Both sides fought like tigers, and the ground was strewn with wounded men. Finally only some forty of the convicts were left on their feet, notwithstanding Davies' frantic appeals to fight on they took to their heels, and Davies, who had fired off all the barrels of his revolver, was compelled to follow them. The fugitives took refuge in a second mine where they were soon shut up as in a trap. The governor shouted to the convicts to surrender, promising to spare their lives in that event. About thirty of them yielded and left the mine. Davies doggedly refused to surrender. On the following day all the other convicts surrendered like-wise, and Davies was left alone. He was already faint with hunger and thirst, but his defiant spirit did not give way. The governor evidently intended that he should perish in the mine. He did not send any of his men into it until the evening of the third day. They found Davies dead. His face was terribly distorted; having had nothing to drink for eighty hours, his sufferings must have been frightful. The convicts received each fifty lashes. Nineteen of them were killed in the first struggle. The soldiers lost seven men.

WORTH THINKING OVER.—There are in life, in human life and in the life of nations, certain coincidences which, if they are fortuitous, would make a man inclined to think that there is more in fortune than he has ever been willing to admit. Among such let our readers ponder on the following, which have been collated by the gallant General du Temple. They must needs be very suggestive to all, but to the Catholic mind of course they will be perfectly intelligible:—

1. On the very day (not the eve nor the morrow, but the day itself) that the French troops left Rome France experienced her first defeat, that of Wissembourg.

2. France lost in that catastrophe men precisely equal in number to those who, by the order of her government, abandoned on that day the Vicar of Christ.

3. The day that the last French soldier quitted Italy was that also upon which France lost her last real battle, that of Reichenau.

4. The 4th September, 1870, was the day upon which the dynasty of Napoleon perished; but it was likewise the tenth anniversary of that black accursed day when Napoleon, plotting with the infamous traitor Cavour, resolved on the downfall of the temporal power.

5. The very morning that the Italians appeared before Rome the Prussians appeared before Paris, and the two cities were completely invested by their enemies on the same day.

We are not given to the observation of signs more than others, but such coincidences as the above, so straight, so fatal and so "pat" (to use Hamlet's word) compel us to exclaim with King Lear:—

This shows you are above your justicers. At all events it seems worth thinking over.