

but the natural and obvious sequel of such a beginning. If Adam might have kept himself from sin in his first state, much more shall we expect immaculate perfection in Mary.

Such is her prerogative of sinless perfection, and it is, as her maternity, for the sake of Emmanuel; hence she answered the Angel's salutation *Gratia plena*, with the humble acknowledgment *Ecce ancilla Domini*, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." And like to this is her third prerogative, which follows both from her maternity and purity, and which I will mention as completing the enumeration of her glories, I mean her intercessory power. For, if "God heareth not sinners, but if a man be a worshipper of Him, and do His will, him He heareth;" if "the continual prayer of a just man availeth much;" if faithful Abraham was required to pray for Abimelech, "for he was a prophet;" if patient Job was to "pray for his friends," for he had "spoken right things before God;" if meek Moses, by lifting up his hands, turned the battle in favor of Israel against Amalec; why should we wonder at hearing that Mary, the only spotless child of Adam's seed, has a transcendent influence with the God of grace? And if the Gentiles at Jerusalem sought Philip, because he was an Apostle, when they desired access to Jesus, and Philip spoke to Andrew, as still more closely in our Lord's confidence, and then both came to Him, is it strange that the Mother should have power with the Son, distinct in kind from that of the purest Angel and the most triumphant Saint? If we have faith to admit the Incarnation itself, we must admit it in its fulness; why then should we start at the gracious appointments which arise out of it, or is necessary to it, or are included in it? If the Creator comes on earth in the form of a servant and a creature, why may not His Mother on the other hand rise to be the Queen of heaven, and be clothed with the sun, and have the moon under her feet?

I am not proving these doctrines to you, my brethren; the evidence of them lies in the declaration of the Church. The Church is the oracle of religious truth, and dispenses what the Apostles committed to her in every time and place. We must take her word, then, without proof, because she is sent to us from God to teach us how to please Him; and that we do so is the test whether we be really Catholics or no. I am not proving then what you already receive, but I am showing you the beauty and the harmony, as seen in one instance, of the Church's teaching; which are so well adapted, as they are divinely intended, to recommend it to the enquirer and to engage it to her children. One word more, and I have done: I have shown you how full of meaning are the truths themselves which she teaches concerning the Most Blessed Virgin, and now consider how full of meanings also has been her dispensation of them.

You will find then, in this respect, as in Mary's prerogatives themselves, the same careful reference to the glory of Him who gave them to her. You know, when first He went out to preach, she kept apart from Him; she interfered not with His work; and even when He was gone up on high, yet she, a woman, went not out to preach or teach, she seated not herself in the Apostolic chair, she took no part in the Priest's office; she did but humbly seek her Son in their daily Mass, who, though her ministers in heaven, were her superiors in the Church on earth. Nor, when she and they had left this lower scene, and she was a Queen upon her Son's right hand, not even then did she call on the faithful people to publish her name to the ends of the world or to hold her up to the world's gaze, but she remained waiting for the time, when her own glory should be necessary for His. He indeed had been from the first proclaimed by Holy Church, and enthroned in His temple, for He was God; ill had it besemed the living Oracle of Truth to have withholden from the faithful the object of their adoration; but it was otherwise with Mary. It became her as a creature, a mother, and a woman, to stand aside and make way for the Creator, to minister to her Son, and to win her way into the world's homage by sweet and gracious persuasion. So when His Name was dishonored, she forthwith was filled with zeal; when Emmanuel was denied, the Mother of God came forward; the Mother threw her arms around her Son, and let herself be honored in order to secure His Throne. And then, when she had accomplished as much as this, she had done with strife; she fought not for herself. No fierce controversy, no persecuted confessions, no heresiarth, no anathema, marks the history of her manifestation; as she had increased day by day in grace and merit, while the world knew not of it, so has she raised herself aloft silently, and has grown into the Church by a tranquil influence and a natural process. It was as some fair tree, stretching forth her fruitful branches and her fragrant leaves, and overshadowing the territory of the Saints. And thus the Antiphon speaks of her; "Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel, and strike thy roots in My elect." Again, "And so in Sion was I established, and in the holy city I likewise rested, and in Jerusalem was my power. And I took root in an honorable people, and in the fulness of the Saints was I detained. I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon, and as a cypress in mount Sion; I have stretched out My branches as the terebinth, and My branches are of honor and grace." Thus was she reared without hands, and gained a modest victory, and exerts a gentle sway, which she has not claimed. When dispute arose about her among her children, she hushed it; when objections were urged against her, she waved her claims and waited; till now, in this very day, should God so will, she will win at length her most radiant crown, and, without opposing voice, and amid the jubilation of the whole Church, she will be acknowledged as immaculate in her conception.

Such art thou, Holy Mother, in the creed and the worship of the Church, the defence of many truths,

the grace and smiling light of every devotion. In thee, O Mary, is fulfilled, as we can bear it, an original purpose of the Most High. He once had meant to come on earth in heavenly glory, but we sinned; and then He could not safely visit us, except with shrouded radiance and a bedimmed majesty, for He was God. So He came Himself in weakness, not in power; and He sent thee, a creature, in His stead, with a creature's comeliness and lustre suited to our state. And now thy very face and form, sweet Mother, speak to us of the Eternal; not like earthly beauty, dangerous to look upon, but like the morning star, which is thy emblem, bright and musical, breathing purity, telling of heaven, and infusing peace. O harbinger of day! O hope of the pilgrim! lead us as thou hast led; in the dark night, across the bleak wilderness, guide us on to Jesus, guide us home.

Maria, mater gratia,
Dulcis parens clementia,
Tu nos ab hoste protege
Et mortis hora suscipe.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

It is now a fortnight since the French Legislative Assembly has met, but the serious business of the session has not yet commenced. During the week the majority have rejected a motion for inquiring into the treatment of the political prisoners, and another for removal of Abd-el-Kader of Alexandria, in accordance with the conditions of his surrender. A motion brought forward by Gen. Grammont for the transfer of the seat of Government from revolutionary Paris, was opposed by the ministers and rejected by a majority of 243 votes. A proposition of M. Creton for repealing the law exiling the two branches of the house of Bourbon, is to be discussed on Saturday.

There has been a short but important debate in the Standing Committee appointed to examine the bill relative to the extraordinary credit of 8,460,000*fr.* required for the levy of 40,000 recruits. We have now the opinion of almost every considerable man in the knot of statesmen to whom the common deference of the President and Legislature commits, at critical moments, the guidance of France; and it is morally certain that the grounds upon which MM. Berryer, Mole, and Barrot declare their readiness to sanction the recent levy of conscripts will be instantly occupied by the Government as the basis of their policy. It was declared on all hands, that the multiplication of the army was to be considered in the light of a measure which should be interpreted according as the chapter of accidents should furnish it with a glass. At present it was to be defended because it facilitated the preservation of peace—because, according to a remark of Count Mole, "it gave France the power to resist any irregular impulse which should be an infraction of neutrality." To what end the military strength of the country should ultimately be exerted was hinted obscurely and with great caution. It seems to have been the immediate object of all to inculcate on the Cabinet the absolute necessity of present inaction. But the speeches cannot be read without betraying the determination of the speakers that the balance of power of Germany shall be eventually depressed neither in favor of Austria nor in favor of Prussia. "The traditional interests of France," said M. de Remusat, "demand that great influences in Germany be poised against each other—that of the two Powers which are disputing for the preponderance, neither should absorb nor annul its rival. A war would have the effect of establishing, or re-establishing, by a battle, the absolute unity which the French nation should always fear."

M. Odillon Barrot declared it to be the policy and interest of France to prevent Germany from being united! He wanted to see German powers between France and Russia; but they should be dis-united and *multiple*. In other words, France wanted tools and dependents in certain German powers; not a united Germany, which would be strong and independent.

PRUSSIA.

THE KING'S SPEECH.—On the 21st instant the King of Prussia opened the Session of the Chambers in the White Hall of the Palace. His speech is the great topic of the week on the Continent, and the chief points are thus commented on in a leading article of the *Times*:—

The speech contains no expressions on which we can rest any firm assurances of the maintenance of peace. It does, indeed, indefinitely postpone the scheme of the Prussian Union, "on new grounds, until after a decision has been come to on the future organisation of the German Bund," and in this respect it suggests a rational rule of conduct. But, on the other hand, we are told that "the peace with Denmark is concluded and ratified, but that it has not been possible as yet to carry it, in all its points, into effect." Why not, except that Prussia has been laboring underhand to defeat and annul the engagements she herself had signed? We are told that in Hesse "disputes of the most irreconcilable character have taken place, and that an attempt to interfere from one side only threatened to violate the rights—of Prussia!" But, in the loose and turgid language of this address, the word "rights" is used throughout in the same perverted sense, without any definite meaning. Thus, after the declaration that "Prussia stands more strongly armed than at any former period of time," we are explicitly told that "she requires an organisation of collective Germany, consistent with her own present position in Germany and in Europe, and commensurate with the sum of the rights which God has placed in her hands." It is manifest that as she takes her own conception of "her present position in Germany and in Europe," as the sole

standard of those "rights"—rejecting all allusion to the existing treaties of Europe, and to the other powers of Europe, who are not so much as named in the speech—there is no demand and no aggression which may not be made upon such a basis, provided the King of Prussia thinks himself strong enough to enforce it. When the King pronounced the words, "In a very short time we shall be more strongly armed than we ever were at any time," the statement was received with thunders of applause. The cheers were repeated when the King claimed for Prussia "that position in Germany and Europe to which she was entitled."

AUSTRIA.

It appears from the German papers that Prince Schwartzberg and his colleagues are resolved to persevere at all risks, and that they treat the complaints of the monied world with an indifference which borders upon levity. The all but hopeless state of the Austrian finances seem an additional reason for them either to gain all or to lose all, and since they have not either the power or the patience to reclaim their fortunes by ordinary means and in the course of time, they appear to be resolved to stake the little which remains on one bold cast, and if the vacillation of the King of Prussia should fail them, to rely on the chances of a war in which they have many allies, if not sympathisers. This being the fact, the Austrian armaments are carried on with an alarming energy and to a surprising extent. Almost all the trains on the Northern Railway have lately been stopped to the public, and the line is now almost monopolised by the War-office. The purchase of horses for the Cavalry is carried on with great spirit: 40,000 horses have lately been bought by the War-office, but 20,000 more are wanted, and the stock being exhausted, it appears that further supplies are expected from Russia. The importation of horses from Russia has an important drawback—they must be paid for in coin instead of in notes. The War-office has lowered the ordnance size of recruits from 5 feet to 4 feet 11 inches, and by means of this measure a further supply of recruits will be obtained.

A terrible panic prevailed on the Vienna Exchange on the 22nd. Gold rose to 39, and silver to 32 per cent. premium. The panic was caused by the non-arrival of certain messages from Berlin, and also by a paragraph in the *Lloyd* newspaper of that day. The Bohemian army musters now from 200,000 to 300,000 men.

Prince Taxis, the commander of the federal troops, has informed the Prussian commander, that he (Prince Taxis) will be compelled to advance. The reply of the Prussian general has been, that the troops under his command would not fall back under any circumstances.

The military oath has been altered in the Austrian army. That part of the former oath which related to the Constitution has been struck out.

THE INTERVENTION IN HESSE.

The greatest mystery is observed as to the movements of the Austrian force in Fulda, and the newspapers are forbidden to publish anything concerning them until they have been examined by the authorities. "There is one fact, however," writes the correspondent of the *Times*, "which cannot be concealed—this, that it will be extremely difficult for the Federalists to remain much longer in that part of Hesse. They have literally eaten it out of house and home. The price of forage is excessive, and all provisions have risen in about the same proportion; as an instance of this I need only say that oats, which last week cost 4*g.* florins per 200 lbs., now cost 9 florins. Under such circumstances I conclude that the Austro-Bavarian army must either advance or retreat, for no other reason than that they cannot exist where they are. I am told that the villages in front are equally bare of provisions." The officers of both armies are as yet on friendly terms, and while away the tedium of country quarters together. Slight references to their probable future intercourse cannot be entirely avoided, and the following scrap of conversation is recorded. A Bavarian officer, in taking leave of a party of Prussians, said, "By Christmas we shall be in the opera at Berlin." "I am sorry to undeceive you," replied the Prussian, "but we send all our prisoners to Spandan."

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS AT ALEPPO.

A terrible outbreak of Mahomedan fury against the Christians at Aleppo took place last month. It is narrated in the following painful letter from an eye witness and sufferer to a gentleman in London:—

(Translation from the Arabic.)

"Aleppo, October 26.

"Sir—I must inform you of the great misfortune that has befallen the Christians of this city. On the 17th of this month, at about 10 o'clock at night, the Mahomedans attacked the houses of the Christians, gutted them, and burned everything that came in their way. On the next day they assembled in great force at the Christian quarter of the town known to you under the appellation of the 'Saleeby'; they broke the gates and burned three Greek and two Catholic Churches, and also the Sorian Church (the latter are a sect of Eastern Protestants—and the Convent of the orthodox Greeks; and sacrilegiously despoiled everything in them of great and of small value. They broke down the doors of the greater part of the Christian houses, and forced their entrance into them, took whatever property they could find, and what they could not carry off they wantonly destroyed, such as mirrors, china, furniture, &c. The unfortunate Christians fled for refuge into the cellars, cisterns, and other places of concealment. Their infuriated enemies wounded those they met with, killed 10 persons, and I add with horror, that they polluted about 200 women and girls. My house, among the rest, was ransacked, everything

was destroyed that could not be carried off. They robbed also my factory of gold and silver lace, and took everything they found in it, consisting of silver, of gold, of silk, and of lace; they broke the looms and carried off our horses—in short, they left nothing moveable, not even the barley and straw for our animals. Added to this, we have to deplore the loss of the clothes and jewels of wives and children, and we all remain with only the clothes on our back. I was shot through my hand, and had my middle finger broken, and received a sabre cut in my shoulder, from which I am still suffering great pain. Thanks to your brother, we are under shelter, for he sent the same day a party to conduct us to his house, and we are now with him, but we know not what is to become of us. May God have compassion on us! We thank God that the houses of the Europeans were not molested.

"The cause of all this was the jealousy entertained by the Mahomedans against the Christians, who are exempt from the conscription which has lately been exacted from the city by our Lord the Sultan. (Christians are not accepted in the Turkish army.) As the Pasha of the city perceived that the soldiers he had with him were insufficient to suppress the rioters, he retired with the primates of the town to a fortification outside the walls. Now he has returned to the town, but it is under the subjection of the people of the place. The Christians are still dispersed and in concealment. None of them opposed any violent resistance to the Mahomedans.

"I have to-day caused a petition to be written (I cannot myself use my hand) addressed to your gracious Sovereign and to your generous and sympathising fellow-countrymen, imploring relief in our distressed condition. Pray translate our humble petition into English, and let it be known how fearfully our Christian community have been suddenly deprived of their property, their families terrified and shamefully treated, and their churches destroyed. God grant that our sufferings may excite the pity of those who dwell and worship in safety! Already we are in debt for your kindness. Answer our petition and pardon the trouble.

"HANNA HOURL.

"W. Burkhardt Baker, Esq., London."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

TENANT LEAGUE—LIMERICK ELECTION.—The friends of the tenant right question are looking forward with great anxiety to the result of the impending Limerick election. A dozen of honest and independent men of the stamp of the favored candidate of the Council of the League would do more to forward the cause of the tenant classes than a whole cargo of our fine-spun aristocrats, with all their pretended sympathy for the poor. At this time of the day the tenantry of Ireland have some experience of the humanity and the justice of this latter class. We sincerely trust that success will reward the efforts of the depopulation from the Tenant League Council, and that they will have the satisfaction of procuring Mr. Ryan's election, and thus striking the first practical constitutional blow in favor of this vital question.—*Tram Herald.*

The Limerick election is an event of incalculable importance—the new Franchise Act has not yet come into operation—the county, too, has not been formally organized, while the tenant right candidate has only lately appeared in the field; so that if the Tenant League, in spite of all these disadvantages, can secure a victory, its moral effect upon the fate of the whole question will be inappreciable. It will, in fact, bear nearly the same relation to the tenant right movement as the celebrated Clare election did to the emancipation question in the year 1828; for if Limerick can be carried, with its old exhausted constituency, there is no other county in Ireland of which the League needs to despair. Defeat will, under all the circumstances, be no real discouragement to the Tenant League, while success will be the realisation of a tremendous power for future action. We felt at first disappointed at this interruption to our regular proceedings; but the Council are unquestionably right in the course which they have adopted, and the country at large will, we doubt not, unanimously confirm their judgment.—*Banner of Ulster.*

THE MAYORALTY.—A requisition has been in course of signature among the newly-elected members of the Town Council, inviting Alderman Guinness to permit himself to be put in nomination for the office of Lord Mayor for the ensuing year.—*Freeman.*

THE NEW TOWN COUNCIL.—The several gentlemen elected to serve the office of Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dublin attended on Wednesday at the City Assembly-house, at two o'clock, to make and subscribe the declaration required by the Municipal Act. The Lord Mayor presided, and each of the newly-elected members was introduced to his lordship by the Town Clerk. They then made the necessary declaration, and shortly afterwards separated.

NEW DUBLIN CORPORATION.—In the late Corporation there were 46 Roman Catholics, all of whom were Repealers, and but 14 Protestants, all Conservatives. In the new Corporation there are 31 Protestants, 23 of whom are Conservatives, and 8 Whigs; and only 29 Roman Catholics, 23 of whom are Repealers, and 6 Whigs! 23 members of the late Corporation were re-elected, 8 Conservative, and 15 Repealers. There are four barristers, eleven solicitors, four brewers, two distillers, and the remainder are merchants and traders. At the first election, in the year 1841, of the late Corporation, there were 19 Protestants and 41 Roman Catholics elected members of the Town Council.—*Saunders.*

CITY GRAND JURY.—The Grand Jury met, on Saturday, Sir Robert Hartly, Bart., foreman, in the chair.—The petition to the Queen against the abolition of the office of Viceroy, and that to the House of Commons against the withdrawal of the grants to hospitals, were read and signed by the jury, and it was resolved—"That the petition to her Majesty be transmitted by the foreman to Sir George Grey, Secretary of State, and the petition to the House of Commons be entrusted for presentation to the senior member, Edward Grogan, Esq., and that the other city members, and also the county and University members, be requested to support its prayer." Thanks having been voted to the foreman, the Grand Jury separated.