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NEW ENGLAND.

THE OLDEST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THAT STATE.

Last December the Catholics of Boston had the opportunity of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the first priest ordained in New England, and in a few months they will be able to celebrate what may be called the Golden Jubilee of the oldest parish church now in use in New England. On the 3rd of October, 1828, according to Father Fitton's records, the second Bishop of Boston, Bishop Fenwick blessed the foundation stone of the present St. Mary's Church, Richmond Street, Charlestown. Under the late zealous Vicar-General, Father Lyndon, it was greatly improved. The first pastor was the Rev. Patrick Byrne, then almost the only priest at the disposal of the Bishop, and the present one, Rev. William Byrne, proves a worthy successor to the line of zealous pastors intervening. It would be a pity if the jubilee of the venerable old church could not be celebrated by a parish clear of debt, and the parishioners have resolved by a special effort to pay it off.

TIPPERARY.

THE MUTINY OF THE TIPPERARY MILITIA.

The death is announced of General Hart, who some twenty years ago was in command of a detachment of troops which was called on to suppress a very extraordinary mutiny in the South of Ireland. The North Tipperary Militia, rebelled against their entire deprivation of the uniform annually supplied to them, disarmed their officers, and held possession of the barracks at Nenagh. Lieutenant-Colonel Hart marched from Templemore at the head of five or six hundred men of the battalion stationed at the depot, and after a brief hand-to-hand struggle in the streets of the capital of the North Riding quelled the insurrection. Many lives were lost, and the determination with which the militiamen fought was such that when their supply of bullets were exhausted they cut off the buttons from their tunics and fired them on the regulars. Penal servitude was the fate of some of the North tips, who maintained their dogged resistance to the last, but none of them were subjected to the last penalty of the law. The touching address of the late General Hart when the soldiers and mutineers were buried in the same graveyard may be remembered by many living in Nenagh.

MR. MCCARTHY-DOWNING

MR. MCCARTHY-DOWNING has presented to Parliament a very important petition with reference to the magistracy of the county Tyrone. From this document it seems that there are eleven Catholics in the county to nine of all other denominations. Ascendency is still, however, rampant there. The Catholics are rigidly excluded from all offices of emolument, and the Catholics of the county, constituting the majority of the entire population, have not a single representative of their own religion on the bench. The petition also shows that while Catholics of acknowledged position have been passed over, men devoid of substance have been elevated to the magistracy, the only ostensible reason for the promotion being that they were office-holders in the Orange society. Surely, not the veriest stickler for existing institutions will advocate the retention of such a system of bigoted exclusion. Reform is urgently needed.

AFRICA.

THE GORILLA AT HOME IN HIS NATIVE LAND.

Du Chailly gives the following account of the aspect of the gorilla in his native woods:—"Suddenly, as we were yet creeping along in a silence which made even a heavy breath seem loud and distinct, the woods were at once filled with a tremendous barking roar; then the underbrush swayed rapidly just ahead, and presently stood before us an immense gorilla. He had gone through the jungle on all-fours; but when he saw our party he erected himself and looked us boldly in the face. He stood about a dozen yards from us, and was a sight I think I never shall forget. Nearly six feet high (he proved four inches shorter), with immense body, huge chest, and great muscular arms, with fiercely-glaring, large, deep-gray eyes, and a hellish expression of face, which seemed to me some nightmare vision; thus stood before us the king of the African forest. He was not afraid of us; he stood there and beat his breasts with his large fists till it resounded like an immense bass drum (which is their mode of biddling defiance), meanwhile giving vent to a roar after roar." The gorilla is a fruit-eater, but as fierce as the most carnivorous animals. He is said to show an enraged enmity against men, probably because he had found them not only hos-

tile to himself, but successful in securing the fruits which the gorilla loves, for he shows a similar hatred to the elephant, which also seeks these fruits. We are told that when the gorilla "sees the elephant busy with his trunk among the twigs, he instantly regards this as an infraction of the laws of property, and, dropping silently down to the bough, he suddenly brings his club smartly down on the sensitive finger of the Elephant's proboscis, and drives off the alarmed animal, trumpeting shrilly with rage and pain." His enmity to man is more terribly manifested. "The young athletic negroes in their ivory-haunts," says Gosse, "well know the prowess of the gorilla. He does not, like the lion, sullenly retreat on seeing them, but swings himself rapidly down to the lower branches, courting the conflict, and clutches the nearest of his enemies. The hideous aspect of his visage (his green eyes flashing with rage) is heightened by the thick and prominent brows being drawn spasmodically up and down, with the hair erect, causing a horrible and fendish scowl. Weapons are torn from their possessor's grasp, gun-barrels bent and crushed in by the powerful hands and vice-like teeth of the enraged brute. More horrid still, however, is the sudden and unexpected fate which is often inflicted

by him. Two negroes will be walking through one of the woodland paths, unsuspecting of evil, when in an instant one misses his companion, or turns to see him drawn up in the air with a convulsed, choking cry, and in a few minutes dropped to the ground, a strangled corpse. The terrified survivor gazes up, and meets the grin and glare of the fiendish giant, who, watching his opportunity, had suddenly put down his immense hand, caught the wretch by the neck with resistless power, and dropped him only when he ceased to struggle."—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

RITUALISM.

The *John Bull* is informed that over one hundred members of the congregation of St. Bartholomew's, Brighton have joined the Roman Catholic Church during the past two weeks. An open retreat is announced to be held at St. Bartholomew's next week, from Monday to Thursday, to "strengthen wavering who are persistently tempted to leave the Church of England by Messrs Greene and Fletcher, the two curates who recently succeeded from St. Bartholomew's to the Church of Rome." There will be three celebrations of the Holy Communion every day, and addresses, prayers or meditations every hour.

MANITOBA.

On the 15th inst., eight cars full of French Canadian emigrants from New England started for Manitoba, where they settle on Government land. Sixty members of families took cars from Nasibus, N. H., the remainder coming from Worcester, Lowell, Boston, Fall River and Providence. The scene at Concord depot was quite exciting on their departure. It is expected that the party will number 600 when it reaches Montreal. The party go out under the auspices of the Canadian Government, which gives to each head of a family 160 acres of land.

RUSSIA.

WAR FEELING—PROPOSAL TO FIT OUT PRIVATEERS.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Republique Francaise* supplies a letter full of most interesting and important details concerning the state of public opinion in Russia. The most salient parts deserve to be read with serious attention:—

"A war between England and Russia has become so probable that nothing else is spoken of here. It must be confessed that if confidence be a pledge of success, that force is conspicuous enough in Russia. The powerlessness of England has passed into a kind of dogma here, and the Russian feel all the more at ease to deal with the British Government, as they no longer seem to fear the susceptibilities of Austria. During the past month all the Russian papers have been publishing articles destined to show the military and even naval ability of Great

Britain. They dwell on the numerical weakness of the English army and its organic defects; they consider the English privateer beneath criticism, and describe the English officer as a gentleman rather than a soldier. As for the English navy, they say it is not half so terrible as it appears to be. The Russian press has also opened a regular campaign against British India. It began on the morrow of the signing of the San Stefano treaty. Before then the yearning for India only cropped up occasionally in what might be termed academic discussion; some cautious publicists advocated a formidable expedition to the Ganges, while others, more timid, contended that it would be better to stop at home and plant cabbage than follow in the track of Alexander of Macedonia. But now the public are fed daily with articles on the Asiatic alliances of Russia, and everybody has something to say as to the best means of restoring the classic land of the tiger to its legitimate owner, the Russian bear. China, Persia, and Afghanistan are to form a holy alliance with Russia and help in banishing out the British lion. The San Stefano treaty allots to Persia the contested town of Lhotour; Russian agents are visiting the Emir of Khokand; and we are led to understand that M. de Giers, first Secretary to Prince Gortschakoff, and manager of the Asiatic department of Foreign Office, is struggling energetically against influences stronger than his own to obtain the restoration of Koukdja and its territory, confiscated by Russia some time ago, to China. The measures recently taken by the

navy of England and her colonies comprise about 28,015 sailing vessels and 3,900 steamers, with a total tonnage of 7,588,000 tons; that of Russia comprises 3,136 sailing ships and 249 steamers; in all 605, 328 tons. The adversary of England may therefore, hope for numerous and magnificent captures, whereas the adversary of Russia would have little to expect. The number of Russian-ships employed in long voyages is very restricted, and if the navigation of the whole of the Russian merchant fleet were interrupted, the essential damage to the country would not be great. Suppose, on the contrary, rapid cruisers, no matter of what nationality aimed in conformity with the prescriptions of international law, as the *Nova Zemla* says—"i.e.," provided by the Russian Government with letters of marque for a certain length of time, subject to military discipline, and entitled to the right of capture only after the decision of special tribunals—these new 'Atalantas' would soon become the terror of the British flag, and England would be wounded in the source of her national prosperity. The Gilos, which was formerly opposed to the organization of private cruisers, has rallied to the only liberal interpretation of the engagement signed by Russia in 1856. It is probable that M. Martius himself will ultimately take a higher view of the question. A good deal is being already said about orders made to the Russian Government by American shipowners. It is true that certain American firms have sent agents to St. Petersburg to explore the ground; but so far, it is said, these offers have only

don't mean to say that they never leave these infernal regions?" "Never; they work every day all the year round . . . except on two days—Easter Sunday and the day of the Emperor's birthday."

POPE LEO XIII.

His Holiness has issued an important Encyclical, wherein the following reference is made to the spiritual and civil power:—

"The hopes of Italy and the world rest on the beneficent influences of the Holy See, and on the intimate reunion of all the faithful with the Roman Pontiff. It therefore stands to reason that we should with all diligence do all in our power to observe intact the dignity of the Roman Catholic Church in order, before all things, to guard the rights and liberties of the Holy See. We shall never cease to insist that our authority be respected, that our ministry and our power be left fully free and independent, and that the position be restored to us in which divine wisdom long ago placed us. It is no vain desire of domination which moves us to demand the re-establishment of our civil power. We demand it, because our duties and our solemn oaths exact it, and because it is not only necessary to consecrate the liberty of the spiritual power, but also because it is evident that when it is a question of the temporal domain of the Apostolic See it involves the well-being and safety of the whole human family."

His Holiness also distinctly indorses the attitude and acts of his illustrious predecessor in relation to the spoliation of the Church by the Italian Government, and speaks throughout as the great Pius the Ninth would have done in like circumstances. The tone of the Encyclical is quiet and dignified, but at the same time as strong and firm as steel.

RELIGION IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

A soldier has the choice of five different kinds of religion; but while he is permitted to choose for himself, he must choose one or another. No man is permitted to absent himself from divine service on the ground that he professes no religion at all, or that he professes a religion for which no provision is made in the regulations. He may be Hinduist, a Darwinist, a Pantheist or a Polytheist, if he likes, in principle, but he must be a Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist or Baptist in practice. There is no evasion whatever. Attempts are sometimes made to evade it, however.

A recruit, when asked to indicate his theological preference by the sergeant of the company replied:

"I haint got no religion, an' I don't want none."

"You must attend a church of some kind—one of those I have named to you," said the sergeant.

"—my—eyes if I do," said he.

The sergeant whirled his man before the officer of the company.

"What is your religion?" asked the officer after the matter was explained to him.

"I haint got none; I am a hindidel, Your Worship."

"A what?"

"A hindidel—a free thinker."

"O, I see. Very well. We usually send persons of your faith to the Roman Catholic Church. You want a course of theological discipline. The Catholics usually go to church early in the morning, and they are usually kept an hour longer than the others. That's the church for you, my man, depend upon it. At the same time permit me to say you are free to think as much as you like. Sergeant, put him down a Roman Catholic."

Instead of evading the regulation by an open confession of infidelity, he found himself obliged to go to church earlier on Sundays, and remain a considerable time longer than if he had made a choice when given the chance.—*Boston Bulletin.*

THE STRENGTH OF AUSTRIA.

From Mr. Carl Bremer's article in *The Golden Rule* we take the following on Austrian military strength:

Considering the imminent danger with which the virtual downfall of the Ottoman Empire threatens the House of Hapsburg, the recent actions of Austria seem not unlike those of a man who, seeing his neighbor's house on fire and his own threatened by the flames, instead of securing his valuables and important papers, seizes upon mere trifles.

Austria has not ordinarily allowed a wise patriotism to hold the helm of state; but her attempts to take the lead where it is essential for her existence either to remain as quiet as possible, or to unflinchingly throw her fortunes upon the outset with either Turkey or Russia—instead of alternately saluting to both—indicate more than her usual fatuity. So much has recently been said about Austria's strength, that the facts concerning it are worthy of attention. The Austrian field-army has been roughly estimated at 800,000. The total of her present military force when mobilized for war, will amount to:—

| INFANTRY. | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 11,848 officers, | 432,055 men. |
| 2,221 " | 56,693 " |
| 2,136 " | 83,471 " |
| 1,800 guns. | |

But mark, of these troops 570,000 are Landwehr! The heterogeneous composition of the empire neutralizes all efforts at unity of purposes or actions. The Austrian army is subjected to a crushing discipline, which in a measure stamps out race interests, but it also and yet more effectually eradicates the spirit of national and individual independence without which an army is rendered almost worthless by the first serious defeat. And this danger would be greatly augmented in an issue between Austria, Hungary and Russia. As Herr Fanderlik, the leader of the Slavs, said to the house, Nov. 1876: "The Austrian Slavs will never fight against Russia" and he spoke for 12,000,000 Slavs!



THEOBALD WOLFE TONE.

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Viceroy of India with regard to the native press are only an answer to these demonstrations. Another campaign has been opened against the prejudices based on the Declaration of Paris concerning the abolition of privateering. The question of privateering was already the order of the day in 1876. A writer, whom the *Journal de St. Petersbourg* recently as a high authority, Prof. Martens contended at the epoch, in the *Messagerie de Cronstadt* that Russia need not deliver letters of marque in the event of a maritime war, he believed the cruisers of the State would do more harm to the enemy than privateers, and that there was the Paris Declaration. But this took place at a time when threats were not reasonable, and the opinion of M. Martens is quoted to-day merely to put the public on their guard against erroneous interpretations of the declaration. By that international convention privateering was abolished, and Russia was among the signatories; but it is argued, it would be going too far to conclude from this fact that the Russian Government could not without breaking its word set cruisers equipped by private persons on to the merchant navy of England. All that is necessary is to come to an understanding as to the meaning of the said document, which ignorance or passion may misinterpret. It is thought that Russian diplomacy would be fully equal to the task. In reality, we are told, it is merely a question of words. "L'abolition de la course" may mean all sorts of things. Besides, one might as well talk of abolishing war as abolishing privateering. The interest of Russia, in the matter, however, is so manifest that all the declaration in the world would not affect her. The merchant

as a habitation for the "exiles." On the right and left are holes, as in the Catacombs, in which the "exiles" sleep. The ground and walls are formed of earth, and there are neither doors nor windows. In each alcove a heap of rotten straw forms the bed. There is no table or chair to be seen. "In a corner is an image of the Blessed Virgin (I) After having traversed this room, this most doleful dormitory, and passed through a passage somewhat wider than the first, where a few lamps in niches give a glimmer of light, we reached an immense hall lit by large torches of pitch stuck in the walls. A few open ings lead to no one knows where! A hole in the roof lets in a small streak of daylight, which, mingling with the smoky light of the torches, gives a murky light of an unearthly appearance. Water running everywhere, mud sticking to everything and in the midst of this mass of humidity a black grimy, hideous-looking people, with wan, sallow complexion, hrid brows, sore eyes, swollen and bloodshot, eyelashes darkened by sorrow and smoke, disordered hair on end, unkempt beards, chests bare and marked with black and blue stripes, the result of frequent blows, idiotic stares, and gasping mouths perpetually contracted by painful convulsions. Here was an infernal concert of strokes with the hammer or the whip, screams, cries, yells, suppressed sobs.

The intense smoke of the place was stifling, and I was glad enough to get out and breathe the fresh air of heaven. "What pleasure these poor wretches must feel when they get into the open air," I exclaimed to my guide. "They never have a change," he replied. "What," I exclaimed, "you