

political assassinations in Parma. The noble marquise concluded by saying that it was always unpleasant to labor against the popular feeling, but his sole object in the observations he had made was to promote the peace and prosperity of Italy, and to communicate to their lordships facts which deserved to be published to the world.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

SYMPATHY WITH THE POPE.—The following address of sympathy has been forwarded to His Holiness by the Bishop and clergy of the diocese of Derry. The original is written in most classic Latin:—"Most Holy Father, humbly prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, and kissing them with all reverent affection, we, the Bishop Administrator, and clergy of the diocese of Derry, beg leave to express the sentiment of love, veneration, and devoted attachment which we entertain for your Holiness and the chair of Peter, and our grief for the pains and perils with which your Holiness is encompassed. We cannot, Most Holy Father, find words to tell with what sorrowful feeling we received the intelligence of the foul treason that has been committed against your Holiness—the rebellion of subjects against the best of sovereigns, and of children against the most loving of fathers. Be assured the grief that afflicts your paternal heart, afflicts, as it ought, ours also, and the hearts of the faithful people committed to our care; for, if the Head suffers, the members, of necessity, should suffer with it. We, therefore, raise our hands and voices to Heaven, and pray that the machinations of those abandoned men, and the designs of their abettors—no matter what place they fill, or to what order they belong—may be confounded and come to nought. And, indeed, may we not say that in a great measure their designs have come to nought already? But yesterday, as it were, they sought, by abuse, misrepresentation, and scurrility, to lower the character of the temporal Government of the Holy See, and, by lowering, to overturn or usurp it; to-day we behold the Catholic world standing, like an army in battle array, around the Apostolic Throne, and proclaiming their unshaken allegiance to Peter and to Peter's successor. Finally, that the Father of Mercies and God of all Comfort may comfort your Holiness in all your tribulation, may speedily rescue you from the snares of all your enemies, and long preserve you in life and health, is the prayer, which both in public and in private, we daily offer from the bottom of our hearts. Meanwhile, again prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, we implore for ourselves and the people committed to our care the Apostolic Benediction. Your Holiness' most obedient and most devoted servants and children."

REPLY OF THE POPE TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CASHEL.—The following is the reply of the Pope to the address of the Archbishop and clergy of the diocese of Cashel and Emlay:—"Venerable Brother, Health and Benediction.—We have received with the greatest pleasure your letter of the 6th of the Ides of last December, in which we find a most ample testimony of your faith, religion, piety, and obedience to us.—Most grateful to us also is the proof we have found in this your letter of the same most religious disposition to us and to this Holy See, which is deeply seated in the minds of the clergy and people of your diocese. It was impossible but that the serious tumult prevailing in Italy, the confusion into which things were thrown, and the rebellion of some provinces of our temporal State, should have caused you intense sorrow. All these things, in truth, went on and were perpetrated under the instigation and encouragement of those whom it ought to have most concerned to respect the law of nations, and to preserve untouched the patrimony of the Roman Church. From day to day it becomes more manifest what wicked schemes those men are devising against us, and the civil power of the Apostolic See, and very lately, in a lucubration of hypocrisy, they have lent all their efforts to deceive the simple, to diminish and weaken the common consent of men in recognizing the civil power of the Apostolic See. Continue, then, venerable brother, with the flock committed to your pastoral solicitude, with one accord to beseech the Almighty Lord that he may look with a propitious eye upon you and your common affliction, and that he may give to our weakness strength from above, whereby we may be enabled with a great and high mind to make head against this raging storm, to maintain the liberty of the Church and strenuously to defend the civil power of the Holy See. Let us unite in invoking the patronage of all the Blessed in heaven, especially of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, that the pest of heresy and schism, which men the most wicked are striving to introduce into the regions of Italy, may be driven from them, and that the pride of those who, making an ill use of their power and arms, offer violence to us and to the Sanctuary, may be broken to pieces. Meanwhile, with the most earnest prayers and desires, do we commend to God and to the Word of His grace, you, venerable brother, and all your clergy and people, most dear to us as to us, and we wish and pray for you the enjoyment of every blessing of body and mind. As a happy auspice of this manifold blessing, and a pledge of the love with which we embrace you in the Lord, we impart to you, venerable brother, and to your entire flock, with all the affection of our heart, our apostolic benediction.—Given at Rome, the 11th day of January, 1860, in the 14th year of our Pontificate.—PIUS PP IX."

THE POPE AND HIS IRISH FRIENDS.—A banquet was given on Tuesday evening at Kilrush to the Col. Vandeleur, one of the members for the county of Clare. In times not very remote the gallant colonel was regarded the leader of the Conservative party in that quarter; but a great change has since taken place, and, in his speech to his constituents on the night mentioned, he made a clear and candid confession of past errors, and declared himself a Liberal of the first class. He was a Protectionist; he now sees the benefits conferred on agriculture in Ireland by a repeal of the Corn Laws. Religious equality should be further carried out by throwing open the Irish Chancellorship to Catholics; while, as to the great question of the temporal power of the Pope, he was at one with the Irish Bishops and Dr. Cullen:—"My feelings (he said) are, and always have been, that it would be a grievous thing to disturb the temporalities of the Pope (he said). I look upon the Popedom as a Sovereign Power of most ancient—in fact the most ancient standing in the world. It has now withstood the assaults of time and the political revolutions of the world with its plots and conspiracies for upwards of 1,100 years, and therefore it is that I unhesitatingly assert that the Pope ought to be as much protected, and his kingdom ought to be insured to him with as firm guarantees for his undisturbed possession of it, as those which are accorded to any other state in Europe. (Cheers.)—Aye, and that, too, in despite of Garibaldi, the firebrand disturber of the public peace of Europe (great and enthusiastic cheering.) In despite I will repeat of Garibaldi and his abettors and myrmidons, who have introduced fire and sword into Central Italy.—(Cheers.) It was stated that the peace of Villafranca was patched up to stop universal revolution, which was about to take place, but it was no such thing, because they sent Garibaldi into those very States to raise revolution. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, if one assertion was true, the other was false. (Hear, hear.) Then, again, the Pope was offered the presidency of the Italian Confederacy, but if he accepted that position he would become the slave of France. (Hear, hear.)"

SPURGEON AND THE CHURCH'S MINISTERS.—These popular entertainers are now in Dublin, and the Lord Lieutenant has honored both parties by his presence. At Mr. Spurgeon's entertainment (at half-a-crown a head) two Protestant deans occupied seats on the platform.

The Dundalk Democrat says:—"We trust that at length Ireland is going to awaken to a sense of her duty to her spiritual Monarch, whose very capital is menaced by Lord Palmerston, who would not join France in guaranteeing that capital to his Holiness! If the Catholic Bishops name any one Sunday, or say St. Patrick's Day, for a simultaneous collection for the Pope throughout Ireland, we have no doubt at all that 30 or 40 thousand pounds will be contributed in aid of the Sovereign Pontiff. This would have a grand effect throughout Europe, and animate the friends of justice, order and religion to imitate so glorious an example. It should also be taken into consideration if it would not be serviceable to hold an aggregate meeting of the Irish Catholics, and provided it could be legally done, to send our four Archbishops as a deputation to Louis Napoleon for the purpose of calling on him to perform his pledges to Pius Ninth. We are sure such a deputation, representing as it would, the Catholic millions of this country, would produce a powerful effect on the French Emperor. But above all, let the people be appealed to, to sustain his Holiness, by contributing £50,000 for the purpose of enabling him to defend the possessions of the Holy See."

FIRM CATHOLIC EDUCATION.—Judging from Mr. Cardwell's categorical reply to Lord Fermoy, Government intends continuing to give its firm support to the principle of mixed education, notwithstanding the objection raised against it in the admirable Pastoral of the Irish Hierarchy. We are amongst those who deeply regret this decision on the part of her Majesty's Ministers, inasmuch as it is not only in direct opposition to the conscientious objections of the Catholic Prelates and their most experienced clergy, but equally at variance with the views and wishes expressed at the numerous and influential meetings of the laity held throughout the country during the parliamentary recess. The question, moreover, assumes the greater gravity as it forms another serious point of dissidence between the present Administration and the Catholic priesthood and people of this country.—*Dublin Telegraph*.

TENANT RIGHT.—It appears from the London Correspondent of the *Cork Examiner*, written by Mr. Maguire, M.P., that there is a prospect of a measure of tenant right being passed by Government in the present session of Parliament. Mr. Maguire states that he has been assured that the bill is actually prepared, and that it will contain provisions for compensation for substantial improvements.

It will be learnt with deep interest by our readers that the dignity of Lord Prior of Ireland, of the Sacred Order of St. John of Jerusalem or of Malta, has just been revived in the person of an illustrious Irishman, Field Marshal Prince Nugent, Knight of the Golden Fleece, &c. This dignity was conferred upon his Highness by the Count Colloredo, Lieutenant of the Grand Mastership of the Sacred Council of the Order of St. John, now residing at Rome.—The Field-Marshal has taken the solemn vows of a Professed Knight of the Order. This event is of peculiar interest now, when so much zeal is felt in Ireland for the defence of the Holy See. A veteran of such distinguished bravery forms a fitting chieftain for an order whose traditional duty it has been to guard the Papedom against external enemies, and Irishmen cannot but feel proud that a countryman of theirs has been esteemed worthy of the honor.—*Cork Examiner*.

It is stated that John Porteous, Esq., senior member of the firm of Porteous, Paul & Co., Manchester, merchants, intends contesting the borough of Dundalk on the first opportunity. Mr. Porteous is a director in the Dundalk Steam Packet Company.—*Newry Herald*.

TIPPERARY ARMY.—The paragraph in the last number of the *United Service Gazette*, stating that a foul murder had been committed at Portmouth by some men of this regiment, is a gross slander, and does not rest on a shadow of foundation. The regiment is not even quartered at Portmouth. Its headquarters are now at Haslar, and nearly 600 men who were on detachment at the Isle of Wight, have moved into the adjoining forts. Their conduct while on detachment was admirable, and they were accompanied to the steamers on their departure by the thanks and good wishes of the inhabitants. It is also worthy of note, that on marching in, not a single man was under the influence of liquor, or absent that night at tattoo. The regulated number, 936, has been long since exceeded, and the regiment has recruited large numbers as supernumeraries. Tipperary has done its duty well and loyally, and may be well proud of a corps not exceeded in appearance and conduct by any other in Europe.—*Clonmel Chronicle*.

The Tipperary estates of Mr. Prendergast have been sold in the Landed Estates Court, for about £20,000. The rates of purchase were generally high.

INCREASE OF PAUPERISM.—The poverty of the working classes is increasing in the Ardee union.—Twelve months ago the number in the workhouse was 264; at present there are 305 in the establishment. This being Lord Carlisle's test of the condition of the country, we beg to call his Excellency's attention to the state of the Ardee poor law union; that he may make use of it in his next speech.—*Dundalk Democrat*.

LORD DERBY AND HIS DOON TENANTRY.—Our authority for the assertion that Lord Derby has withdrawn or has resolved not to act upon (which is virtually the same in effect) his notice to quit upon the tenants of Doon, consequent on the murder of Mr. O'Rowe, is a gentleman of high position and unquestionable character—a political opponent too, of the noble Premier, and one who could have no motive in deceiving us or the public. In reference to the statement in question, a most respectable Catholic clergyman has since informed us that the intelligence is substantially correct, and that we might have added to it that Lord Derby has granted fourteen acres of land, rent free, with a house thereon to the parish priest of the parish in which the principal portion of his property about Tipperary is situated, and that the land is to revert to each parish priest in succession.—*Limerick Reporter*.

WOLLSALE ELECTIONS.—IRISH ELECTORS.—The following remarks on the subject of threatened evictions appear in the *Limerick Reporter* and *Tipperary Vindicator* of Tuesday:—"We have hitherto abstained from referring to the threatened evictions in the county of Limerick of the tenants who independently exercised their rights as electors at the last election, expecting that with the lapse of time the passions that dictated such proceedings would cool down. We find ourselves, however, deceived in our hopes that reason would conquer party feeling and landlord hostility, and we, therefore, feel it our duty to call the attention of the independent electors of the county of Limerick and of Ireland to the state of things now existing amongst us. It is time to dispense the ignorance and to shake off the apathy that prevail on the subject lest they may become the means of permanently debasing and enslaving the electors. Unless the acts of some landlords in the county of Limerick be checked by the force of public opinion, freedom of election in Irish counties will become a mockery, and the franchise the greatest affliction with which Ireland could be cursed. From several parishes in the county complaints of notices to quit, notices to raise the rent, and notices for payment of the rent before the usual time, have been sent to us, to which we shall call public attention at a future day, should they be persevered in. All these proceedings are taken by landlord supporters of Lord Derby. It is true that Lord Derby served notice to quit on his Doon tenantry; but we have been informed that he has resolved that those notices shall remain inoperative—in other words that they are withdrawn. If they have not been withdrawn, as is asserted in some quarters, we are certain that public opinion will compel them to be so."

PROSECUTION OF THE "WATERFORD CITIZEN."—The fate which at all times has befallen the man who attempted practically to do anything for Ireland or her people, seems possibly to be in store for us. On Wednesday last, we were served with the writ in the case of Knox, agent of Lord Templemore. The venue is laid in Wicklow, and the damages are laid at one thousand pounds. Well, we have done our duty, and we have told the truth; and conscious of the rectitude of our motives, we now throw ourselves upon the people whom we sought to save. Mr. Boyd solicitor to Mr. Knox, has displayed no inconsiderable tact; he delayed till the last moment the service of the writ, allowing us but twelve days to plead, and has laid the venue in a locality of all others the most inconvenient. All is fair in war, perhaps; but we have a right to demand a fair trial—and a fair trial we cannot have in Wicklow. Why does Mr. Knox leave Wexford, the county in which the property is situated? Why does he overlook Waterford the place where the assumed "libel" was committed? Our why not accept battle in Kilkenny, where the forces of both parties may be, without ruinous expense, arrayed? We demand a trial in either of these three places, but we protest against and shall resist the attempt to drag us to Wicklow, as being one calculated, and we believe intended, to defeat the ends of justice.

In no event will we shrink from this contest; if we succeed, as we believe we shall, we will have given a death-blow to landlord oppression; if we fail we trust we shall not be found unworthy of the penalty which the utterance of God's truth in Ireland ever entails. So may God defend the right.

J. P. Note Bene.—We earnestly request that all parties in possession of facts bearing upon the case, or who may be in a position to sustain our allegations with reference to Mr. Knox, will communicate without delay, either personally or by letter, with us, or with our Solicitor, Pierce Kelly, Esq., 2 Little George's-street, Waterford. To the parties who have already made us offers of pecuniary support, we offer our thanks. We have acted from no personal feeling towards Mr. Knox, but from a sense of public duty.—We feel, therefore, that we are entitled to the support of every man who professes to be a friend of the Irish tenant, and shall gratefully accept it.—*Waterford Citizen*.

EXCITEMENT IN WEXFORD.—The news that Mr. Knox, agent of Lord Templemore, had instituted an action for libel against P. J. Smyth, Esq., has caused an intense excitement amongst the tenantry on the Dunbrody estate. The apprehension prevails that if Mr. Knox succeed in this prosecution, the estate will become one vast Scotch plantation. Mr. Smyth visited Arthurstown, Ballybrack, and Ramsgrange on Saturday last, and on Sunday, immediately after last Mass, a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Chapelyard at Ramsgrange. There were fully 4,000 persons present, men, women, and children, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting was addressed by Father Oddy, of Fethard, P. J. Smyth and others. Resolutions to defend the action were adopted by acclamation.—*Examiner*.

J. E. Delmege, Mount Graigue, Croom, has been appointed to the commission of the peace for the county Limerick.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.—The *Times* treated the report of the suppression of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a daring defiance to the Church on the Emperor's part. The *Cork Examiner* says:—"We do not look at the interference with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the light of a daring defiance. On the contrary, we regard it as an indication of alarm, of apprehension of the same 'ultramontane priesthood' which we are told he despises and defies. The Catholic party in France is much more powerful than we here suppose. That people who once gave an infamous example to the world have long since come back to the safe path; and in few Catholic countries has religion a stronger hold upon the mass of the community than it has in France. Now there cannot be any religious association more respected, and therefore more influential, than the Society of St. Vincent; and a despot, as Napoleon is, is not without reason when he dreads the influence which connection with this association may have upon the public servants whom he desires to hold in hand as his creatures and instruments.—The influence is a good and holy one, not such as is most pleasing to an absolute ruler; for, while it fills the heart with tenderness and compassion for the poor and the sufferings of humanity, it also inspires the mind with a reverence for justice, and a horror of treachery and deceit. A true member of such an association cannot tolerate, much less admire, hypocrisy and fraud, or love a tortuous and dishonest policy; and when a royal game of this character is played by the master, it is natural enough that he should be unwilling to see his servants taught in a different school. It is not because the Society of St. Vincent is socially or religiously mischievous in France, which it is not and can never be, but because it tends to make better Catholics of those who belong to it and practise its rules; and because those who are really devoted to their Church, and desire to see her extend her benign influence wider and wider over the earth, cherish the idea of the complete and perfect independence of him who is its Head—and because the belief of the member of this society clashes with the present policy of the Emperor."

WAR ONCE MORE.—The political situation of Europe has not improved within the past ten days. It would be difficult to imagine it in a worse condition. There seems but little prospect of the Congress meeting. The great and the small powers are divided, both as to the principles which should govern their conduct, and the line of action which they should adopt. The enemies of the temporal dominion of the Pope are making every effort to carry out their views to a successful issue; and they have every reason to congratulate themselves on the result which has, hitherto, attended their unscrupulous exertions. It has been openly proclaimed, that the Vicar of Christ holds possession of the States of the Church, merely on the sufferance of the Revolutionists. The territory which has been guaranteed to him by the voice of Christendom for the last eleven hundred years, as necessary for the honor of Him, whose earthly representative he is, for the dignity of his rank, for the free and uncontrolled exercise of his sacred functions, may be at any moment taken away by a popular insurrection, or a foreign invasion, at the bidding of the secret societies, or the sacrilegious covetousness of irreligious neighbors. The dominions of an independent Sovereign Prince may be seized upon by a band of lawless men; and he must stand by, quietly looking on, not daring to invite the assistance of a friendly power. The Pope—who is not only responsible for the good government of his people, but will have to answer for their souls—must not only submit to such treatment, but he must be satisfied with it, he must be content that his subjects be transferred over to rulers whom they have not sought, and whose policy is studiously framed in opposition to the teaching and practice of the Church, in defiance of her most hallowed institutions. And he must declare that he does all this for the peace of Italy, for the good of his poor people, for the interests of that religion which is being insulted and trampled upon! What a mockery! Yet these principles are being thrust into the international code, they are proclaimed from the highest places, they have (so far as the most arbitrary exercise of power can do) the monopoly of the public ear; they are proposed for acceptance to the Pope, and he is told that they will be carried into effect despite his opposition. We hear it often said, that we live in an age of marvels, that the nineteenth century sees things accomplished of which our fathers would not have dreamed.—But amidst all its wonders, we question if any exerts in audacity and wickedness these proceedings.—*Nation*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The following statistics from the London *Times* will show the progress of Catholicity in England, since 1850, when that country was restored to the position of a Christian and Catholic nation:—

"From the new edition of the *Catholic Directory* for 1860, it appears that the Roman Catholic churches, chapels and stations where mass is now said amount to 767 in England and Wales, and those in Scotland to 183, giving a total of 950 places of Romish worship in Great Britain. The same authority in 1850 (the year of the Papal aggression) stated the total, 10 years ago, at 680, so that the increase has been nearly 50 per cent. During the same period the Roman Catholic clergy, secular and regular, in England and Wales, have increased from 783 to 1,077, and those in Scotland from 110 to 154; in other words, the increase for Great Britain has been from 998 to 1,230, or rather more than 25 per cent. The growth of convents for women and of religious houses for men has been even more marked; the *Directory* for 1850 giving a total of only 11 of the latter and 51 of the former, against 37 and 123 respectively in 1860. Hence it appears that Monasticism has increased during the last 10 years in the ratio of from 62 to 150, or nearly at the rate of 300 per cent. At present there are in Great Britain 12 colleges, all mainly intended for the education of the Roman Catholic priesthood, for it is well known that the lay education of them is made wholly subservient to that of the 'church students,' and is consequently at a very low ebb as far as secular and classical learning is concerned. The colleges are as follows:—St. Edmund's, near Ware, Hertfordshire; the Benedictine College of St. Gregory, Downside, near Bath, Somerset; Stonyhurst College, Lancashire (conducted by the Jesuits); St. Mary's, Oscot, Staffordshire; St. Cuthbert's, Ushaw, near Durham; St. Lawrence's, Ampfield, Yorkshire (conducted by the Benedictines); St. Edward's, Lancaster; Mount St. Mary's, Derbyshire; College of the Immaculate Conception, Ratcliffe, Leicestershire; St. Bruno's, Finsbury, (conducted by the Jesuits); St. Mary's College, Glasgow; and St. Mary's, Blairs, Kincardineshire. Besides the above, there are noviciates or places for training novices, belonging to several of the Roman Catholic churches which are attached to the religious houses above-mentioned.—The largest and most important convents for the education of the female portion of the upper classes among the Roman Catholics are those at New Hall, near Chelmsford, at Taunton, at Roehampton, East Bergholt, Suffolk, (lately removed from Winchester) Hammersmith, Princesborough, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Clapham, and York. The Sisters of Mercy we may remark, whose work lies mainly among the humbler classes, have no less than three houses in London, two in Birmingham, and others at Bristol, Nottingham, Liverpool, Preston, Sunderland, Clifford, and Wolverhampton."

Lord John Russell will bring forward the Reform Bill on February 20. Lord John Manners will bring in a Bill to enable the Judges to shut the public out of the Divorce Court. Mr. Spooner will bring the Maynooth Grant before the House on "Tuesday week." Mr. MacMahon has brought in a Bill to secure an appeal in criminal cases. Sir John Trelawney has brought his Church Rates Bill in again, and the Government will bring in a Bill to regulate Roman Catholic Charities."

The *Morning Post*, the official organ of Lord Palmerston, proclaims, "There exists—we rejoice to be able at length to proclaim the fact—a virtual alliance between the Governments of France and England to recognise and protect the newly-acquired independence of Northern and Central Italy." It is stated that the Emperor of Austria has been asked by England if he intended to resist this violation of the Treaty of Zurich by an appeal to arms, and that the answer was that Austria had not the power to resist, except by protest.

A singular statement has been going the round of the papers for some time past, to the effect that the Government have instructed Colonel Cadogan to proceed to the headquarters of the army of the revolutionary party at Bologna in the capacity of British Military Commissioner. As this appointment involves our recognition of the abnormal position of affairs in the territory of the Pope, and of the Government set on foot by his rebel subjects, it would be a step involving the most serious consequences—noting less than an official expression of approbation of the series of lawless acts by which the Pope has been deprived of a portion of his territories.—Lord John Russell's avowed detestation of the Papal Government has prepared us for a great deal; but we cannot suppose that he would venture on so bold a step as this. What would the Governor General of India have said if Jung Bahadur had sent a Military Commissioner to the camp of Nana Sahib?—*Union*.

The manufacture of twelve-pounder guns at Woolwich has been increased from 30 the week to 45. Arrangements are in progress for making a number of twenty-five pounders, which will be commenced immediately, as the requisite instruments are prepared.

Rev. T. L. Harris, according to the Manchester (*Evening*) *Guardian*, has renounced spiritualism in London, and declares it to be wholly the work of the devil.

Another Alicia Race case has sprung up at Leeds. A poor, but honest, Catholic has been dragged before the Police Court on the charge of kidnapping his grand-daughter. His deceased son had left a will, making the old man guardian of the grandchild's faith. The widow, a Protestant and a pauper, becomes a tool in the hands of a proselytising curate, and a violent effort is made to get the girl out of the hands of the Catholic grandparents, who are proved to have provided well for her education. The attempt, for the present, has failed, but ulterior proceedings are threatened by the curate, and we know there is a public always ready to supply the sinews of war for these nefarious enterprises. The simple genuine letter of the poor grandparents, which will be seen elsewhere, makes an appeal which we cannot suppose likely to be lost upon another public. Not for the sake of a party triumph, but for the safety of two Catholic souls, we hope the proselytisers will be promptly encountered on their own ground, should they really carry the matter to the higher courts.—*Weekly Register*.

Mr. William Coningham, M.P. for Brighton, denounces us Catholics as "a noisy set," because we do not look on in silence while the Vicar of Christ is plundered by crowned conspirators, who, while robbing the Church in the name of "liberty," have suppressed the utterance of free opinion in their own States. But it is not quite discreet in the hon. gentleman to disparage "noise" as an element of success in public affairs. A correspondent asks, "To what is it owing that the son of an Irish parson, with such capacity for Parliamentary life as is proved by the effect he produces whenever he rises in the House—that of sending everybody out of it—to what is it that this son owes his seat for such a place as Brighton, but that very talent which he so dislikes in others?" Mr. Coningham calls the Papacy a "nightmare," what is the Irish Church Establishment? What is that Establishment nearer home, which produces such edifying Christians as that worthy constituent of Mr. Coningham's, who has been indulging himself with no less than five wives at a time, three of the number being sisters?—*Weekly Register*.

ADVANTAGES OF CELIBACY.—The advantages of a poor clergyman being unmarried are overwhelming. Burdened with cares, ill with anxiety, insecure of his position, and destitute of money, the wife can do nothing to aid him in parochial work. And the poor can no longer look to their pastor as a friend in distress. He is more ready to beg from them than they are from him. He has no time or opportunity to im-

prove his mind. He cannot afford books or papers. Perhaps he has to eke out a maintenance by some slight non-parochial work. He takes a pupil or two and then there soon comes an end of zeal in the ministry. He grumbles like a parish doctor if an invalid sends for him, and almost persuades himself that his parishioners are doing him an injury if they claim that he should discharge his duty.—Tastes differ, and to an incumbent with £150 year, a wife may seem better than health, leisure, ministerial usefulness, and the welfare of the poor; but there can be no question that, as far as his parishioners go, it would be greatly better if he declined the lady, lived in decent poverty, wore his own trousers, took in the *Times*, and had a five-pound note on hand when misfortune came on his flock. Either we must get a set of clergy who will only marry when marriage is compatible with clerical efficiency, or the (Protestant) Church of England will dwindle into feebleness.—*Saturday Review*.

OUR FRIEND OVER THE WATER.—The chestnut of the Italian question is hot and hissing in the fire.—The imperial countenance is overcast with a cloud of anxiety as to the future destiny of the human race. Suddenly you find yourself stroked in the most affectionately and endearing manner. The French press is ordered to restrain its abuse. Mr. Cobden has an interview with Majesty. The increase of the French navy is explained to be only a "transformation."—The flat-bottomed boats are only to carry coal. The transports are really for Cochinchina this time. The surplus of the loan shall go to public buildings. And above all, there shall be a Free-trade budget and a commercial treaty. You feel supremely satisfied and happy, when in goes your paw, and in a moment the chestnut is in the imperial cheek, while you are left embroiled with all the Roman Catholic Powers of Europe, and with a rebellion in Ireland, patronised by France, upon your hands. If this is not the result of what has been going on between England and the French Emperor, it is not for want of dexterity in cajoling on the one side, or of willingness to be cajoled on the other. If anybody breaks the law of nations, let us fight in its defence. Let us at least do what we have hitherto been pleas'd to call fighting—get together a number of rustics, put musket collars round their necks, pay them sixpence a day, and send them to fight for us. And if the French Emperor is ready to stand by us in this quarrel, let us stand by him, and not only or particularly by him, but equally by all who close to uphold the right. The only difficulty in taking him as an ally in the cause of national independence is that one of the grossest violators of the independence of nations is the master of the army which occupies Rome. But we object to being taxed and harassed, and having our friends and relations shot and shovelled into trenches, for the love or fear of Louis Bonaparte, or for the present colour of that beautifully iridescent object, the Napoleonic idea.

The French despotism is a young and vigorous power of evil in the world, active, energetic, and propagating, and backed by the entire strength of a great nation which finds a military constitution the most conducive to its cherished designs against the peace and honour of the world. That Louis Napoleon's two lines of intrigue—the revolutionary line and the reactionary line—should have become entangled with each other, that he should be getting embroiled with the priests whom he hypocritically served and who as hypocritically served him, is a welcome proof that a moral power, and not the "star" of a family of sharpers, still rules the affairs of men. Will the French Emperor never be able to establish a character? Even in his last letter to the Pope he gives assurances of his sincerity and veracity sufficient to satisfy any reasonable mind. He positively asserts that he made peace after Solferino lest the further progress of the revolutionary movement in Italy should endanger the dominions of the Pope. How long is it since he has positively asserted that his reason for making peace was the hostility of the neutral Powers, and held up England and Prussia to the hatred of the French nation for having crossed what it imagined to be its victorious career? The professions which the letter contains of personal attachment to the Holy See and the Catholic religion are, as we all know, equally veracious. Louis Napoleon has used religion and the Church as his uncle used them—for his own purposes—having himself, notoriously, no Church or creed whatever, except that worship of his destiny which is, in fact, delicious vanity worshipping itself.

The avowed object of the French Emperor in all that he is now doing is to avoid the observance of the article in the treaty of Villafranca providing for the restoration of the expelled Grand Dukes—an article detestable enough, but which he accepted as an escape from a desperate position and most solemnly bound himself to observe. "Hitherto I have been somewhat perfidious; but now if you will only believe my word, and help me to commit one or two more acts of perfidy which my circumstances make very convenient, you shall find me an honest man for ever." Let a man say this in private life, and sense and honour alike will give him a prompt reply. But in diplomacy two and two are five and twenty acts of treachery make a man of honour.—*Saturday Review*.

There is a sarcastic phrase current amongst the humbler classes of the Irish, as applied to a man who is rapidly going to the bad; they say, "he is improving backwards." Now, we sadly fear that this is the peculiar process of "improvement" to which Sardinian revolutionists and English philanthropes and sympathisers desire to subject the people of Italy.—One race of people in Europe has been treated to that process already, and with terrific effect—under our own constitutional government, too we mean, of course, the peasantry of Ireland. The course has been famine, oppression, extermination, forced emigration; and the happy result has been misery and discontent unequalled. May Heaven help the poor people of Italy, if that be the end which anti-Catholic Revolution is preparing for them; and we fear it is. Our readers will remember certain pictures of the appearance of the portion of Italy he had then travelled through, and of the remarkably prosperous and cheerful condition of the rural population, given in one or two letters some time ago, in these pages, by our own correspondent. He had previously made himself well acquainted with the condition of Ireland; and he was startled and surprised at the smiling comfort and contentment, the "peace and plenty" of these Italian rustics, under their "tyrants," as contrasted with the misery and oppression of the peasantry of Ireland, under our own boasted British rule. Now, our correspondent's picture of Italian prosperity was no exaggeration. The bitter enemies of the Italian governments have already confessed that, under their rule, the peasantry have been amongst the most thriving and happy in the world. Here, in one patent instance, the case of Tuscany, is the evidence of a London Protestant daily paper:—"The whole valley, up to the grey and brown-capped mountain ranges, is one vast habitation. Hill and plain are so densely studded with dwellings that for a score of miles gazing white struggles with vivid green. This broad, sunny valley was too alluring a spot to be monopolised by a few lords of the soil. Everywhere round the nobleman's villa, close on his terraced parterre, along his cypress avenue, room must be made for the laborer's lodge and the gardener's cottage. In this earthly paradise are many mansions—rooms is to be grudged to no son of Tuscany." Now, is not evidence like this, proving the prosperity, nay, the proud independence of the Tuscan peasantry, an overwhelming argument against Mazzinian insurrection and Sardinian intrigue? To these peasants, so comfortable and so happy, what change can Revolution bring, but a change for the worse? God help those Italian peasants; when Sardinian "Constitutional" rule has, with taxes, and "clearances" brought them down to the level of Irish peasant misery, they will find too late what a bad bargain has been made for them.—*Weekly Register*.