

### The Press and General Review

#### THE PERSECUTING SPIRIT OF POPERY MANIFESTED IN EDINBURGH

From the Scottish Guardian.

Rome and the Cowgate of Edinburgh—who would not at once say, that we are fully beaten for the step that leads from the sublime to the ridiculous? But bigotry, like mercy, can pair the strangest of bed-fellows; and thus, in a conclave of priests near the Capitol, and a fry of wild Irish, in the Cowgate, there goes on at one and the same instant, a process, by which a common aim is pursued with the same cruelty, recklessness, injustice, and defiance of every divine and human sanction: so that, while Dr Achilli pines in the Inquisition, the agent of the Irish Mission is pelted off the pavement. True, the means by which the war is carried on are somewhat different, so that, what in the one case is a formal act of legislation, in the other is an Irish row; and while the Inquisitors are polishing their speeches, and preparing their racks and pincers, their followers, in the dingy recesses of Auld Reekie pursue the work more summarily, by cudgel and brickbat. But these latter are merely the skirmishers of the main army, who are doing their best upon the wings and outskirts of the enemy, while the regulars are marching in battalions to close conflict. Their cause is the same, their violence the same, and however differently armed and disciplined, they are contending for a common victory. They are warring, they will tell us, for the glory of God, and that this is to be accomplished by the ruin of Protestantism, in whatever form of violence and destruction. No faith is to be observed with heretics—no, nor yet mercy either.

Such were our thoughts on considering the particulars of a case of outrage committed upon an agent of the Irish Mission in Edinburgh. He had quietly descended into the Cowgate to collect a few children belonging to a Sabbath School, for a New-year's day soiree, when his motions were espied by two men, who instantly raised the war-hoop of, "To hell with the Irish Mission." This signal was enough; the man was instantly beset, dragged about, and pummelled so unmercifully by the wild occupants of that district, that but for a rescue brought by a few generous Irishwomen, and the manly interposition of two English strangers, the violence of these zealots might have terminated in murder. The case was afterwards brought to trial; but such was the system of intimidation pursued with the witnesses, and such the unscrupulous character of their testimony, that no conviction could be effected. And this is not a solitary case. It is but one of a long series of outrages which have had this hated Edinburgh Mission for their object and their victim. Full time, therefore, it is that we should look to that quarter of our metropolis in which such a spirit predominates. When throne and altar were to be trodden in the mire, and all rule and order flung into the chaos of the first French Revolution, the chief actors of the deed were the pikemen of the Faubourg St Antoine—the unbreeched, unwashed, and unshaven, who had roosted like night-owls in the crevices of the darkest and foulest street of Paris, and of whose very existence, the sunshine-loving inhabitants, who were the first to be swept away before the onset, had hitherto been unconscious.

#### TEMPERANCE IN VERMONT.

The Vermont Chronicle overflows with the report of the State Temperance Convention held at Windsor on the 16th ult. The reported proceedings indicate the existence of a very lively interest in the meeting, both by the numbers present, and the action taken. Hon Charles Adams of Burlington, President of the Society, presided; and the delegates comprised many of the best citizens of the State. Temperance affairs have reached a kind of crisis in Vermont, which justifies all the zeal and activity that is felt; and it is highly encouraging to see it met so promptly and courageously as it is. The friends of the cause have a large majority in the State, and yet through inaction, they are in danger of losing the advantage of their excellent law, which leaves the question of licensing the sale of intoxicating drinks to the hazard of an annual election. In 1847, when the first election under the law took place, there was something like 10,000 majority against licensing at all; and the grog shops were shut up throughout the whole state. The success was so complete that Temperance men became careless, and at the election the next year, it was claimed that there was a small majority in favor of licenses; and the flood-gates were re-opened. The friends and patrons of the rum sellers made the most of their opportunity, and there was scarcely pretence of restriction to the licenses granted. The evil cured itself; and the next year a large majority was secured for No License.

One great topic of the Convention was the reports of the practical effects of this system of no-licenses. The results, as detailed by intelligent men from every part of the State, are astonishing. We wish that every dubious friend of Temperance in this State, who fears the effect of a stringent law suppressing the traffic, could read these reports. They are decisive on the subject of the utility and benefit of a general prohibitory law. Judge Howe stated that in Rutland county the consumption of ardent spir-

its has diminished not less than twenty-five per cent. Mr Phelps of Waitfield reported that the sale in three towns since March, '48, equalled only about a gill to each inhabitant. In Burlington not a sixth part as much was sold as in the year that licenses were granted. In Windham county, the sales were reported to be not one-fifth of what they were under the license system in '48. It would seem that the ratio of decrease has kept pace with the energy with which the laws have been enforced. Prosecutions have acted like a charm, and show that there is at least one species of argument to which rum-sellers are open.

It was also a serious question whether the annual elections on this subject are beneficial. It was argued that proof enough had transpired of the utility of a prohibitory law, to make it permanent. It was accordingly resolved that if the next election (which takes place in March) shall show as decided a majority, for No License as the last election, a general movement shall be made to procure a permanent prohibitory statute, with appropriate penalties. Mr Adams was re-elected President, and a series of able and spirited resolutions were adopted, which bear the impress of deliberate determination and good courage. We hope New York will follow the example.—N. Y. Ev.

#### THE POST OFFICE AND THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

From the Montreal Witness.

If the newspaper press be valuable to the public it should be so considered in framing the laws which regulate the transmission of papers. We do not ask that newspapers should be carried free, because the public, in paying the cost of their transmission, would have to pay for bad as well as good, but we do say that a publisher should be informed when his papers are accumulating in any post-office, or are returned to the dead letter office. As the matter stands at present, we have actually sent five copies of the Witness to one office for half-a-year without having any means of knowing that they were all refused there from the beginning of that year; and some, we learn, have gone for a year to offices after they had been refused, but that refusal in no way made known to us. Now this is not only extremely annoying, but positively unjust, for the post-master in question may, in such a case, enjoy all the advantages of a subscriber without even paying postage, as he is credited with that when he returns the papers at the end of three or six months to the dead letter office. But when they are returned to that office do they go from thence to the publisher, even at the end of three or six months? Not at all. Unless they have been endorsed as from the office of publication, they will be all sold as waste paper, and the proceeds pocketed as a perquisite by some person connected with the office. It, therefore, results that the only means of ascertaining what papers are returned is to hunt round among the retailers in Montreal who buy waste paper from the post-office.

We do not blame the parties in charge of the post-office, either here or throughout the country for this state of things: generally speaking, we have found them, and especially the Deputy Postmaster General, remarkably attentive and obliging, but we most pointedly blame the system, which leaves a publisher in such an unjust and cruel position.

How very much better would it be, to copy the regulation, in this respect, of the United States post office, not for the purpose of fostering the press—it needs no fostering care on the part of legislators—but of rendering it simple justice.

That regulation will be best explained by the following copy of a notice received from an American post-office, in which the words printed in italics alone require to be written by the post-master, the rest being a printed form. Such a notice we believe it is the duty of every post-master to send to the publisher of any paper that may be lying dead in his office, and it is transmitted free.

"Post Office, Detroit, Mich.,  
January 18th, 1850.

To the Editor of Montreal Witness.

Sir:—Your Paper addressed to F—  
L—, is not taken from this office.

Yours, &c.,

A. S. WILLIAMS, P. M.

Reasons—Refused."

There is another point to which we would call attention, namely, the enormous expense of postage in remitting small subscriptions for a paper—an expense which often induces subscribers to delay remitting (in order to find others who will join them), to the great injury of the press. To obviate this difficulty, the United States, whilst postage was high there, authorised all Postmasters to enclose and frank remittances for newspapers and periodicals, provided the letter contain no matter extraneous to this business.

It is, perhaps, scarcely worth while asking this latter boon, as we shall surely soon have postage so low that it will not be felt as a burden on remittances; but some such regulation, as that first alluded to, we claim as a right from our legislature, now that it has the management of the post office, and trust the other papers of Canada will join us in the claim. At all events, many of them are, to our knowledge, interested in the matter to a very much greater extent than we are.

#### THE BIBLE IN SWITZERLAND.

From the N. Y. Evangelist.

We have recently had a demonstration of the world's hatred to the word of God at Geneva. The presence of thousands of refugees from all parts of Europe, has afforded great opportunity for the activity of the various religious Societies here. The agent of the Bible Society gave or sold as many as eighty Testaments to the Baden soldiers found here in the barracks. The Radicals, who are devout haters of the Free Church and all the Missionary Societies, went to the captain of these men, who by the way is a Jew; and warned him that the effect of reading the New Testament would be to make his men mean spirited and unfit for service. Upon this the captain took occasion to administer a sharp rebuke to his company in which he said many contemptible things against the New Testament, and taunted the men with the common slang phrases applied here to the Methodists—His speech was received with hisses; and immediately a quarrel broke out, which ended in scuffles and blows, and by the arrest of the lieutenant, who is still in prison. The few men who would gladly have received some instruction in the Scriptures, have since been so tormented by the ridicule of the Geneva radicals, that not one of them dares to show his Testament or go near the evangelists. In the Canton de Vaud, the persecution of the Bible agents by the authorities is open, and also in plain violation of the laws of the land. In Neuchâtel, also, the will of the authorities is the only law in religious matters. A clergyman is now under arrest there, for refusing to accept the appointment of chaplain in the army. He replied that as he was not salaried by the state, as he had formally withdrawn from the National Church, &c., he did not consider himself subject to the orders of the Government like the National pastors. The council of State would not admit the excuse: they said that every physician and every clergyman in the Canton is subject to the claims of the State for military service in his respective profession!—a totally new interpretation of the Constitution. So this liberal Government, as it calls itself, assumes the right to take any dissenting minister away from his people, or any physician from his practice, and send him to serve in the army! Affairs go badly in the Canton of Geneva also; the Radical Government has recently violated vested rights in a very gross manner, by seizing upon the charter of the savings' bank, of the Society for the Religious Education of Youth and several other foundations, on the ground that such corporations are aristocratic. The Government has taken the funds, and pronounced its intention to administer the affairs of these bodies after the most approved democratic fashion. This act is a severe blow to public morality, and an utter discouragement to any further foundations for benevolent purposes.

G. H. H.

#### THE NECESSITIES OF THE PROTESTANTS OF HUNGARY.

Translated in the Cu. Times by Dr. Merle D'Aubigne.

For months past, Hungary has rivetted the attention and the sympathy of Europe. With astonishment, it has beheld a people scarce heard of in recent times make head against the mighty armies of two powerful empires. The cry which she sent forth on her fall went to the heart even of those who condemned her, and the blood of some of her bravest defenders, shed on the scaffold, has every where awakened sad and generous emotion.

But the peculiar claims of Hungary upon the sympathies of evangelical Christians, are not sufficiently known. The Magyars comprise four millions of Protestants, and, but for unheeded persecutions, almost all Hungary would have been Protestant.

The sufferings of Protestantism in France—the history of all the cruel edicts applied for by priests, granted by the civil power, and put in force by the dragoons, through the different quarters of that kingdom, have long had an abiding place in the mind of evangelical Christians; but, if the history of Hungary were known, the persecutions which our brethren in the faith have endured in these distant countries, would perhaps exceed in interest those of the Huguenots under the Valois and Bourbons.

At his coronation, every king of Hungary was obliged to take an oath of fidelity to a Constitution which guaranteed the equality of religious confessions. But, alas! what is a Constitution to the partisans of the Papacy? In 1669 (under Leopold II.), at the instance of the Jesuits, the evangelical ministers were cited to Presburgh, they were shut up in the dungeons of Tyrnau. Some were forced to recant, others were banished, others still, after frightful tortures, were sent in chains to the galleys at Naples, many were tortured to death. From 1702 to 1783, the evangelical churches of Hungary, with few exceptions, were without pastors. Though some districts, under the Turkish Government, enjoyed religious liberty, whenever they again became subject to their former princes, that liberty was anew withdrawn.

Evangelical Christians were excluded from offices of public trust, and, when they ventured to complain of this, were subjected to heavy fines or to corporal punishments. Did it happen that a Romish procession passed a Protes-

tant temple, and could get admission, the priest muttered some prayers, and by this process took possession of it in the name of the Church. Such a procession took place, on one occasion, at Vindisla. The Protestants, knowing that their adversaries might look with envy on their church, surrounded it with barriers forming on all sides a solid entrenchment, and themselves mounted guard inside. Suddenly the sound of chanting was heard: the great Popish procession drew near, the more zealous of the devotees attempted to throw down the barriers, a conflict ensued, and unfortunately the Papist fell dead. Immediately after, that neighborhood was subjected to military occupation, numerous arrests were made, and the venerable pastor M. Fabry, was, notwithstanding his innocence, himself put in letters in the prison of the Comtat. His unhappy wife rushed to Vienna, and threw herself, in an agony of grief at the feet of Maria Theresa. That process, however—unfortunately perverted by the Jesuits, though so mild and enlightened—repulsed her from her feet, saying, "Begone, Lutheran courtesan!"

Joseph II., by the edict of toleration, restored to the Protestants of Hungary their pastors and churches; but the oppression under which they had groaned for seventy years, rendered this benefit almost illusory. More than three thousand pastors were wanted at once. All that could be found were employed, and hence men were placed over new churches who were not worthy of the office. In process of time, a theological college, of a character to be deplored, was founded at Vienna. The Rationalism, worldliness, and immorality of the majority of the pastors, did more injury to the evangelical Churches of Hungary than persecution itself. The schoolmasters were still worse than the ministers. If a peasant had a son who was good for nothing, he devoted him to one of these offices.

In this state of things, a pious pastor of Hungary, actuated by that faith which worketh by love, besought of God to send a remedy for the misery of his people. He thought the first thing to be done was to obtain for the Protestants of Hungary the Word of God. The Holy Scriptures were so rare that when the father of a family died, it happened sometimes that the brothers, who had easily agreed about the partition of the worldly goods, contended eagerly for the Bible, and even appealed to the courts, which generally decreed that the sacred volume should circulate through the family, remaining three months in each house. The Magyar pastor at first obtained copies of the Scriptures from London, but the second parcel was seized at Vienna. "We want no packets from foreign societies," said the Minister of the Emperor to our brother "Well," replied he, "one mode of arranging the matter would be to print Bibles and Testaments in Hungary itself." The Minister consented to this. A printing-press was established for the purpose; and since that time (about ten years ago), 200,000 copies of the Scriptures, in six different languages, have been printed under the superintendence of our friend, and have been distributed among the different Magyar populations.

At the same time, the wants of the children and of the schools appealed as powerfully to the feelings of our friend. He resolved to do something towards remedying the deplorable condition of primary instruction, and he established an institution for schoolmasters. The buildings which it was necessary to erect required funds beyond his resources. Twice he thought himself on the point of seeing his scheme utterly fail. But one day, the proprietor of the place, noticing his grief, took up a pen and gave him an order to take from his forest all the wood required for the buildings. Another day, our brother having gone to Silesia to collect contributions, was presented to the King of Prussia, who was there, and that Christian and generous monarch, after inquiring how much he still required to complete the undertaking, gave him the amount.

The institution being established, pious and enlightened masters drawn chiefly from Prussia and Saxony, devoted to their work, and abstaining from all political matters, dispensed there useful and Christian instruction. A report of the state of the establishment, by Dr. Hagenbach and the Rev M. le Grand, appeared in the thirtieth circular of the Protestant Ecclesiastical Society of Bale.

One Christian enterprise led to another.—Hungarians, of a wealthy class, having visited the Magyar pastor's institution for schoolmasters, felt a strong desire that their children should receive such a solid and evangelical training. Space failed but they set to work anew, and soon about fifty young people were receiving, in a separate building a training very superior to that afforded by the colleges of Hungary. The pastor earnestly sought to do something towards training young Christian ministers capable of benefiting the Protestant Churches of their country, and already some of the young men brought forward by him are seeking, by the grace of God, to devote themselves to the ministry of the Word.

But it is the present state of the Magyar institutions which we are anxious to make known. The calamities which have fallen upon Hungary have smitten it also. More than once in the course of the year 1849, its pious directors have thought their work on the verge of destruction, but the Lord has come to their aid.