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STILL AT IT.

Not only do the sensational mongers make the Pope die every week, but now they have pitched on Cardinal Sforza, whom they suppose will be his successor, and are subjecting him to all sorts of diseases (on paper). The association press telegrams of the 1st of October, says:—

“Cardinal Sforza, who it is said is to succeed the present Pope, is dangerously ill.”

IS IT THE END.

According to a late telegram the war is about to end, but according to common sense it will not.

The Times says the end of the campaign must be near, and it promises to present something like a drawn battle. Formally or informally the Powers will then no doubt attempt to avert the necessity of another campaign by diplomacy.

This would be comforting did history not inform us that Russia is rather partial to winter campaigns.

LAZY RUSSIAN GENERALS.

The chief Russian Generals and their staff do not keep well enough to the front to be thoroughly informed of what is actually going on at any particular moment. This is not the result of any desire to avoid danger, but proceeds simply from unwholesome and not being accustomed to move on horseback. There are too many easy carriages around the different headquarters. A stranger visiting the armies in Bulgaria would naturally conclude that there was an Emperor with each army corps.

If the above extract from the correspondent of the London Times is true, it cannot be difficult to account for so many disasters to the Russian army at Plevna.

BRITISH FLEET IN BESIKA BAY.

A correspondent of the Cork Herald, writing from Besika Bay on the 6th Inst., says the fleet there consists of twelve ships—namely the Alexandra, Achilles, Agincourt, Sultan, Raleigh, Pallas, Devastation, Hotspur, Rupert, Flamingo, Pelican, and Salamis. The Achilles has finished her punishment cruise. The drill was principally occupied by laying down mines and practising at torpedoes. The weather was warmer since this month set in, and everything around was parched up. It was common to see a large stretch of country on fire, the force having ignited from the heat.

It would seem from the above as if the gallant tars were not enjoying one “long holiday” in Besika Bay.

PLEVNA.

The following description of the now historical Plevna is from a correspondent of an English daily:—

Plevna contains a population of 17,000 souls with 19 mosques, two churches, 1,600 houses inhabited by Mussulmans, and 1,400 by Christians. It is traversed by a stream, the Tuvosiva, in which the Grivica falls. The place, however, possesses neither trade nor manufactures. The only remarkable edifice is the civil hospital established by Midhat Pasha; it is constructed on the model of the finest establishments of the kind, and the visitor is struck with the order and cleanliness which reigns in the wards. Archaeological souvenirs are rare in the town; there is, however, in the Church of St. Peter an altar of which the bases is formed of a fragment of a column with its capital of Roman origin.

PROPOSED MEETING OF IRISH MEMBERS.

Mr. Butt has sent the following letter to each of the Irish Home Rule members:—

“London, September 8, 1877. Dear Sir,—I believe it is the general wish of the members of the Home Rule party in Parliament that a meeting of their body should be held on a day as early as can conveniently be found; and, regarding such a meeting, under present circumstances, as essential both to our own position and to the interests of the Home Rule cause, I venture earnestly to request your presence at a meeting of the Parliamentary Home Rule party, to be held in Dublin, at Morrison's Hotel, on Tuesday, 9th of October, at the hour of eleven o'clock a.m. The favour of an answer, addressed to the office of the Home Rule League, 29, Lower Sackville Street, Dublin, will oblige your very faithful servant, ISAAC BUTT.”

HOME RULE ORGANIZATION.

We clip the following from the Nation:—The address of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain to the people of Ulster has already produced some fruit. A circular has been issued by the leading Nationalists of Derry and Belfast, announcing a conference for the purpose of organizing the Home Rule party throughout Ulster. It states that at that conference the assistance may be expected of several members of Parliament and of representative Irishmen from England, and that resolutions will be introduced dealing with the social condition of the people and with the present political situation in and out of Parliament. The language of the circular betokens a determination no longer to allow the North to lie under the reproach of being held up to the world as the seat of the English garrison party, and that that determination will be adhered to, that the names of the signatories are a sufficient guarantee.

SINGULAR.

Father Grogan throws a bible, smirched with obscenity, through the window of a railroad train and immediately the Protestant Press of the continent is ringing with the terrible deed. We seek not to excuse the act for the simple reason that no excuse is needed. What we complain of is that every day, every single day, there appear in the American and Canadian papers, items in which Protestant clergymen figure as the heroes, sometimes of seduction, sometimes swindling, and often suicide, and after chronicling the simple fact for the most part in an item in nonpareil type, there the matter rests. We too make it a point not to gloat over those misfortunes. We are always sorry when we hear of a clergyman being in trouble, but we give one item this week just to show that they are always ready at hand if we desired to publish them. It is taken from a United States telegram, dated Sept. 29:—

Rev. Fleming Jackson, aged 50, threw his wife out of a window yesterday and fired a revolver at Henry Edmondson, who tried to save the woman. One of the bullets struck the woman as she lay on the sidewalk after being thrown from the window. Jackson was arrested. He has two other wives in Virginia.

IRELAND AND THE INDIAN FAMINE

The movement for the relief of the sufferers in India, is taking deep root in Ireland, so often famine stricken herself. Referring to the subject, the Ulster Examiner says:—

“Cardinal Cullen has issued a circular to his clergy requesting them to make arrangements for a chapel-door collection on Sunday week in aid of the Indian Famine Fund. He alludes to the generous aid already sent by England and Ireland to the relief of the sufferers, but believes that the subscriptions have not yet had so wide an extent as could be desired. It is with a view of getting subscriptions from the poorer members of his flock, whose shillings and pence have already done so much for charitable purposes, that he has suggested the subscription. He reminds the people of the fact that during the Irish famine the people of Madras forwarded a magnificent contribution, and hopes this will not be forgotten on the occasion of the subscription. The Cardinal refers to a letter of Dr. Fennelly, of Madras, who speaks in reference to the great distress which prevails in India. It is not out of place to mention that Dublin has already subscribed over £4,000 to the fund.

REPUDIATION.

The Dublin Irishman of the 15th September in reference to the situation says:—

Mr. O'Donnell made no delay, after the appearance of Mr. Butt's exposition of his views, to write to the Times to say publicly and emphatically that neither he nor his colleagues recognize the accuracy of Mr. Butt's latest description of the policy of “Independent Opposition.” From the tone of Mr. O'Donnell's brief letter, which is undoubtedly contemptuous, one can clearly perceive that the estrangement between the Home Rule leader and his sturdy followers is daily increasing.

Nothing but a conference of representative Irishmen can possibly effect a reconciliation and unity of action. Even that perhaps may fail to find a course of action upon which all will agree. Both Mr. Parnell and Mr. Butt concur in desiring that the council of the League should take steps to call a convention of national deputies. They have written to head quarters in Sackville street, and a preliminary meeting was held on last (Friday) to consider the necessity of appealing to the country for its opinion on the political situation.

VICTOR EMMANUEL.

The Roman correspondent of one of the New York papers says:—

PRODIGALITY OF VICTOR EMMANUEL.—Victor Emmanuel, whose annual income from the public treasury is about \$3,500,000, or nearly double what Victoria of England is paid, flings his money about in a prodigal manner, as if he had the exhaustless purse of Fortunatus in his pocket. His family have an additional \$500,000 a year among them. They live within their incomes, but his Majesty is considerably and continuously in debt, and every now and then his Minister of Finance has to execute the difficult and delicate duty of obtaining a large money vote, a Parliamentary “benevolence,” to pay off the most pressing demands of the royal tradesmen. The King is rather popular than not with his Roman subjects. Accustomed as they have been in the Papal time to gentle manners and delicate ways, they scarcely understand the King, whose chief delight is in the sports of field and forest (at this moment and for weeks past he has been in his native Piedmont, hunting and shooting game and wild beasts of prey), and they smile, sometimes contemptuously, at his rustic dress and address, which certainly have nothing princely in them.

THE FRENCH WORKMAN.

A Correspondent from France to an English paper writes:—

The French laborer probably gets more for his wages than any other. His food is cheaper and more nourishing. His boudin is the liquid essence of beef, a penny per bowl. His bread at the restaurant is thrown in without any charge, and is the best bread in the world. His hot coffee and milk are peddled about the streets in the morning

at a sou a cup. It is coffee not slops. His half bottle of claret is thrown in at a meal costing 12 cents. For a few cents he may enjoy an evening's amusement at one of the many minor theaters, with his coffee thrown in. Sixpence pays for a nicely cushioned seat at the theater. No gallery gods, no peanuts, no pipe smoke, drunkenness, yelling or howling. The Jardin des Plantes, the vast galleries and museums of the Louvre, Hotel Cluny, palace of the Luxembourg and Versailles are free to him to enter. Arts and science hold out to him their choicest treasures at small cost or no cost at all. French economy and frugality do not mean that constant retrenchment and self-denial which deprives life of everything which makes it worth living for. Economy in France, more than any other country, means a utilization of what America throws away, but it does not mean a pinching process of reducing life to a barren existence of work and bread and water.

BISHOP LAVAL.

We take the subjoined in regard to the remains of this illustrious prelate from the Quebec Budget:—

The workmen in excavating the cellar of the Basilica, immediately under the sanctuary, discovered the coffin of Monseigneur de Laval, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Quebec, and in fact the first Bishop in British North America. At the time he was in power, the country was under French Rule. The wooden coffin was encased in lead, and on the outside of it was, in plain, clear letters, the following in Latin:—

HIC JACET

D. D. FRANCISCUS DE LAVAL PRIMUS QUEBECENSIS EPISCOPUS. OBIT DIE 6A MAII, ANNO SALUTIS MILESIMO SEPTINGENTESIMO OCTAVO. NATIVIS SUN. OCTOGESIMO SINO SEXTO, CONSECRATIONIS QUINQUAGESIMO SINO. REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

Here is the English translation of the above:—“Here reposes D D Francois de Laval, first Bishop of Quebec, died the 6th day of May, in the year of our Salvation, 1708, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, and the fiftieth of his consecration. Rest in peace.

A portion of the top was bent in. Just at the time of this discovery, word was sent to His Grace the Archbishop, who repaired to the scene, in company with several of his clergy, both from the city and country, and ordered the removal of the lid, when the remains were placed in a box. They were at once sealed and removed to the vault of the Seminary Chapel.

THE INDIAN FAMINE

The subjoined extract from the correspondent of an English paper in India, furnishes a terrible picture of misery:—

“Things here are far worse than people in England have any idea of, far worse even than I had thought, and I know something of what was going on before I came out. Many villages in Bellary have been entirely depopulated. The famine begun with the utter failure of the crops. The people pulled the thatch of their houses to feed their cattle. That was soon gone. Then the cattle died. The sticks of the roofs were soon sold, and for a mere song, and the proceeds eaten in a day or two. By this time, long after it ought to have been done, works had been set on foot, and the able bodied went off to them en masse, a regular case of *semper parat*, leaving behind them the old, and the feeble, and the children who have all died; so that in many of the smaller once flourishing villages in Kurnool and Bellary there is now left alive neither man, woman, nor child, nor beast—nothing but roofless houses, and the skeletons along the road sides, which the jackals and vultures, have picked clean. A more fearful calamity has never decended on any people, probably, for the last century. The deaths are known to amount already to more than half a million, and the rains of June and July have been so scanty that it must be at least six months before the crops they are now sowing can come to maturity, and help to mitigate the suffering which prevails. But the statement that more than half a million of deaths have already occurred by no means conveys the full extent of the calamity that has befallen the country. For, in the first place, the returns are known to be most imperfect.

IRISH OPINION.

Says the Dublin Irishman of September 15th:—

There is a difference of opinion amongst Irish journalists as to the wisdom and prudence of Obstruction. The Freeman, being wise in its generation, essays a safe course between the rock and the whirlpool. But it thinks Mr. Butt's letter shows more of the advocate's ingenuity than of the statesman's power. The pleader's zeal, says the Freeman, caused Mr. Butt to push his arguments farther than the facts warrant him. Still, the Home Rule organ declares that it is not in favour of Obstruction. Then, it asks, how often has Mr. Butt proved that, for Ireland, the British Constitution is a hollow mockery, and transparent sham. How often has he appealed in vain to the English Parliament to give Ireland that which she enjoys in name alone—the protection of the British Constitution? In conclusion the Freeman asks “how can Mr. Butt expect the Irish people to share with him his reverence for the British Constitution?” We could expect no favourable criticism from the Express, and no one need be surprised that it seizes upon a weak point in Mr. Butt's armour—a point which touches Tories in a sensitive part. The Castle mouthpiece reminds the member for Limerick of his declared intention to dispute the estimates for the Queen's Colleges if his University Bill is not passed next year. The Express argues that opposition to the estimates is as unconstitutional as Mr. Parnell's Obstruction, the only difference being the members of Limerick and Meath being one of degree. The most remarkable comments have appeared in the

Saunders, just where they were least expected. Replying to Mr. Butt's forewarning that Parliament will put down obstruction, the Saunders says Obstruction cannot be put down if a considerable number of Irish members join it. It adds—“We think the only direction in which energy activity, &c, can be applied is in Obstruction. In any other direction they are wasted. We see this so clearly that we refuse to discuss the question any longer.”

EDUCATION.

Our Protestant lecturing and editorial friends are continually crying out about Catholic education and its narrowness, its unfairness, its bigotry, and in fact in all the adjectives with which the English language so copiously abounds. We take the following from an impartial contemporary:—

The Austrian Empire has a population of about 36,000,000, four-fifths of whom are Catholics. The rest consists of Calvinists, Lutherans and Jews. The system of Education is gratuitously open to all, from the village school to the university. It was not compulsory in 1870, but the laws required a certificate of school attendance and educational proficiency, to be given on leaving school, which was necessary before learning a trade, being employed as a workman, or in the service of the State in any capacity, or to be married. Since then, direct compulsory laws have been enacted. The Catholics have the entire control of the schools for their own children, as have the Calvinists, Lutherans and Jews of theirs; the government treating all alike with perfect impartiality. When children of different creeds attend the same school those not numerous enough to have a school of their own are dismissed one hour before the others, morning and evening, so that the majority may receive religious instructions, but when the number of non-Catholics is large enough to form a school of their own the minister of that persuasion, whatever it may be, is charged with the care of that school. Catholics, Calvinists, Lutherans, and Jews, have their respective teachers, but they can have no teacher who has not obtained a certificate of qualification from the normal school at which he studied. The teachers are paid by the State, provided with residences near the school-house, and are allowed superannuation pensions, which, if they should have served ten years, are extended to their widows, and orphans under fourteen.”

MR. W. B. COURT.

Mr. Court has displeased some of his late friends in the faith, as the following extract from the Gazette will show:—

THE CHINIQUEY ACCUSATIONS AGAIN—ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

To the Editor of the Gazette. Sir,—The following choice specimen of Christian charity has just been received by me. It was enclosed in an envelope directed:—

MR. WILLIAM B. COURT, SGT. (?) Ex-Superintendent (?) of St. John's Sabbath School.

The extract taken from the “Presbyterian and Evangelical (?) Protestant Union,” of September 20th, was further wrapped in a piece of brown paper, on which the word “Judas” (why wasn't there a death-head, and cross-bones and a coffin?) was written.

This “Evangelical” champion of Father Chiniquy—this friend—thus discourses of your humble servant.

“Liberator of Father Chiniquy and others! A miserable knave in Montreal, named Court, has published a pamphlet basely attacking and vilifying Mr. Chiniquy, Principal MacVicar, D.D., Rev. Professor Campbell, the Canning Street French Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian French Mission, and even the Presbyterian General Assembly. At the same time the creature attempts to defend M. LeMetayer, who had pretended to be a convert and guilty of scandalous conduct. Had proved himself a hypocritical infidel. The devil has always some tool to do his work.”

Surely such utterances are only equalled by such extreme organs of Ultramontanism as the True Witness. I have the honor to remain, Mr. Editor, Yours truly, W. B. COURT.

The TRUE WITNESS is infinitely obliged to Mr. Court, and sincerely hopes he will yet become a subscriber to it and a believer in what he unkindly calls Ultramontanism, as a refuge against the sanctimonious knaves he denounces with so much vigor.

OBSTRUCTION.

The Tipperary Advocate thinks the fact of sixty or eighty obstructionists being expelled from the House of Commons would be of advantage:—

The honorable member for Limerick says that either Parliament must put down obstruction, or obstruction must put down Parliament, and then asks what does any man believe will really occur? No doubt six hundred members of Parliament can be driven to it, so change the rule of the House as to muzzle the representatives of this country, but Mr. O'Donnell furnished the reply to this argument when he stated in his speech at the Liverpool demonstration the other day that if the whole sixty or eighty Home Rule members were expelled, they could return home and hold their meeting on the steps of the old house in College Green, and pass resolutions which would resound with thunder-like effect over every part of the globe in which an Irishman resides. Yes, and it would be far more manly to take this step and expose the conduct of England naked before the world, than endeavor, by sly submission and timid question, to coax from the London Parliament those just and necessary measures of legislation for which we have too long begged in vain.

END OF THE BEGINNING.

It is very evident that the campaign in Bulgaria is drawing to a close for the present, though why a winter campaign may not be begun in a month or so hence is not so clear. The Russians are making merely spasmodic efforts but to all intents and purposes the campaign is closed. The following telegram almost explains the situation:—

A despatch from Becharast says the Russians have recaptured Pograd on the left bank of the Lom.

A despatch from Gorney Student says that the Czarowitch advocated the withdrawal of troops for the winter over the Danube leaving a garrison only at Sietova and Nicopolis.

TIPPERARY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

As a specimen of the speeches generally made at agricultural shows, and fair, dinners in Ireland. We select the following from the Dublin Freeman. It was delivered by Mr. Smith, the chairman, after he had proposed the toast of the Army and navy, and is very suggestive:—

The Chairman next proposed the toast of “The Army and Navy.” In the course of his remarks he expressed his regret that the lower classes exhibited such reluctance to enlist in the army. It was the duty of every class to work for the interest of their country. The army now comprised a most respectable class of men. Many men might now find a career in the army who might find it otherwise difficult. It was a great pity, he said, that the lower classes seemed to have set their faces persistently against enlistment in the army. In conclusion, he coupled the toast with the name of Colonel Purofoy.

Mr. Smith Barry uses the word “lower classes” very often in a short speech and seems very anxious to get them into the army. Why there should be a taste for enlistment in a country where the use of arms is strictly tabooed, is what the worthy chairman did not explain.

THE MEMBER FOR DUNGARVIN ON THE MANIFESTO OF MR. BUTT.

Mr. O'Donnell writes to the Times as follows:—

Temple, Sept. 7th. Sir,—I would be permitted by your courtesy to say most emphatically that I do not recognize, nor as far as I am aware do my colleagues recognize, the accuracy of Mr. Butt's latest description of the policy of the Irish independent opposition. If Mr. Butt had restrained his pen until he had met his countrymen in fair and painstaking conference, he might, indeed, give less satisfaction in anti Irish circles, but he would probably have avoided the long series of misapprehensions contained in his letter “to a clergyman.” I do not desire to dilate upon the method of expression which the leader of the Home Rule party chooses to adopt towards Irish representatives, who would be his most energetic supporters.—I have the honor, sir, to remain your obedient servant, F. HUGH O'DONNELL.

EXTREMES MEET.

A Roman paper furnished the subjoined:—

COUNT CAVOUR AND ST. FRANCIS OF SALES.—SAVOY, and Count Camillo di Cavour was connected with the saint through his grandmother, Filippina di Sales. The Unita Cattolica, of Turin publishes a letter written by that lady on the 5th of February, 1810, from Turin to the Abate B... at Donnevillle. The following is a translation of the letter:—“Signor Abate.—My daughter-in-law presented us eight days ago with a boy. The child and mother are doing well. He was baptized on the Feast day of St. Francis of Sales, in a chapel dedicated to that Saint by the Archbishop of Turin, and I hope that, being placed under the protection of my sainted uncle, he will endeavour all his life to walk after his example, and thus cause a solid and lasting devotion to grow in the family. (Signed.) FILIPPINA CAVOUR, nata di Sales.”

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Those who assail the Prince of Wales are soundly taken to task by the editor of Truth in a long and earnest article, in the course of which the habits of the Heir Apparent are referred to as follows:—“He is fond of field sports and rides well to hounds, whilst he shares with the humblest of his future subjects that fondness for racing which is one of our national characteristics. He is equally at home on the ocean as in the hunting-field, and at the covert side, and he is a bold and successful yachtsman. When in London he is, like his ancestor George III., a great patron of theatres, and so singularly is he in unison with theatre-goers that managers are ever anxious to know his real opinion of a new play, for what pleases him is almost certain to please the public. In Norfolk, where he has purchased an estate, he leads the life of a country gentleman, talks learnedly with his neighbours about crops, has strong opinions respecting the merits of different breeds of sheep and cattle, and is never so happy as when he has carried off a prize at an agricultural meeting. There he mixes, almost as a private gentleman, with squires and farmers, and as his popularity in the country where he resides, and where he is so well known, is unbounded, amongst high and low, it is only reasonable to suppose that it is merited, for the savor of princes are those who come in habitual contact with them.”