

Not unnaturally the reply of the premier has provoked much hostile criticism. Just how much it means Mr. Gladstone, of course, only knows; but what the Government of Protestant England have to do in any shape with "the adequate support of the dignity" and "independence" of the Pope of Rome, is hard to tell. Diplomatic relations cannot require any such action, for these have long ceased to exist. As "heretics," the Queen and people of England lie, to this day, under the awful sentence of excommunication, recently pronounced by his Holiness against the King of Italy (which, even at the risk of giving nervous readers the *nightmare*, we publish elsewhere). Protestant worship has been prohibited, even to British subjects, within the walls of Rome, notwithstanding that the largest religious liberty has been accorded to Roman Catholics in England. So that the only defence of which Mr. Gladstone's course seems capable, is that of political necessity. The desire to propitiate the Papal hierarchy in Ireland, has outweighed all other considerations, and compelled the humiliation to which he has submitted.

Thus "all the world wonders after the beast!"

Mr. Gladstone has done only what almost everybody else does in similar circumstances. Every young prince that visits Canada, and every new governor that is appointed, is made to pay special court to Roman Catholics and their institutions. Nunneries, churches, seminaries, hospitals and asylums, anything indeed that bears the cross or the monogram of the Romish faith, must be visited and belauded, while numberless other institutions, equally deserving of attention, except that they are under Protestant management, are passed by in neglect. Of course, the object of all this is to impress the minds of our rulers with the claims of these establishments upon their consideration, and to extract *a few thousands of dollars for each of them* from the public purse. And admirably does the plan succeed. A similar influence shields the Romish clergy in the violation of law when it pleases them. The enlisting of the Papal Zouaves in the Province of Quebec, for service against a friendly power, was winked at by the authorities, although clearly a violation of international obligations. Lotteries in like manner, though both illegal and indefensible, are permitted, on the principle, doubtless, that though bad in morals, they are good when they increase the revenues of the church. And, not unduly to multiply illustrations, rebellion and red-handed murder are condoned in Manitoba, because the miserable miscreants that committed them were