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ILLNESS OF THE POPE.

It appears that there is some reason to believe that the Pope is not well. Rumour has however been so busy with the health of the Holy Father that we may accept all that is now said about it as at least, doubtful.

The last telegram received tells us that the Pope is in a critical condition, and a special telegram from Rome to London, as late as the 20th ultimo, says that the :-

"Unda Catholicus admittit que the Pope has kept his bed for two days, and does not deny that he has had more than one attack of senile epilepsy."

ST. BRIDGET'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY.

We notice that the Annual Concert of St. Bridget's Temperance Society takes place on next Tuesday evening in the Mechanics' Institute, Montreal. All friends of the Temperance movement should make it a special duty to attend.

MR. O'CONNOR POWER, M.P.

Mr. Power, the popular M.P., for County Mayo, has arrived in Montreal. We understand too that an effort will be made to induce him to lecture here before he leaves. It is needless for us to write of Mr. Power. His best recommendation is his public career, and we trust another opportunity will be afforded the people of Montreal of hearing that inspired eloquence, under the influence of which, so many of the opponents of our Cause have sought refuge in retreat.

CHANGE OF NAME.

Alderman MacSwiney the late Lord Mayor of Dublin is not a popular man in Ireland, yet he is a man of strong Irish sympathies. He has too done some good work in his way, and we cannot but congratulate him upon a motion he recently brought before the Dublin Corporation, which was to the effect :-

"That the two streets in the city hitherto known as 'Cut-throat Lane' and 'Murdering Lane' should bear for the future the much more appropriate titles of 'Roundhead Row' and 'Cromwell Lane.' We have also says a contemporary to compliment the corporation on its great good sense in unanimously agreeing to Alderman MacSwiney's proposition. There is nothing more certain in history than that (so far as Ireland is in question) the Roundheads were cut-throats and Cromwell a wholesale murderer."

THE "OLD CAUSE" AT HOME.

The National Cause looks encouraging. Sligo and Waterford will go for Home Rule. By the next mail we expect to hear of the return of Captain King Harman and Mr. Esmonde. Meanwhile the Nation says of the Sligo election :-

"It was attended by no less than three bishops, by some thirty of the Catholic clergy of the district, by a considerable number of lay electors, including several magistrates, and, of course, by some non-electors: the programme, which was decided the candidate to be chosen should subscribe, was made to embrace Home Rule, Denominational Education, Tenant Right, and Amnesty, and was adopted unanimously; and then Captain King Harman having made this programme his own, with equal unanimity, selected to fight the battle for Ireland."

Writing of the Waterford election the Irishman says that the chances are all for Mr. Esmonde, and that the bag man from London—Lehmann, will be go by the board. We hope so. Those English carpet-baggers should be scoured out of the Irish Parliamentary party, like so many vermin.

A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE.

There is a mistake somewhere about the Waterford election. Our latest exchange—our excellent contemporary the United Irishman tells us that :-

"Mr. Delahunty has given practical proof of his patriotism by retiring from his candidature for Waterford, thus leaving only one national candidate in the field."

Our latest telegrams, however, tell another story. They say that :-

"Delahunty, Home Ruler has been elected for the British Parliament, from Waterford, by 1,200 majority over the Liberal candidate."

There is a mistake somewhere, but of one thing we feel assured, the Home Ruler has won, and victory once more smiles upon the banner of the Irish National Cause.

SWISS RADICALS VS. MONTREAL EVANGELISTS.

The Evangelists of Montreal, must look to their honours, or else their friends over in Switzerland will outdo them in investive. In our leading columns we give the sayings of our Montreal ravers, and now we give a few expressions from a Radical Swiss print—the *Gottardo* :-

"The priests and Conservatives of Ticino are only worthy of execration. They bear on their foreheads the stain of infamy, and on their heads the crown of the assassin. They are tyrants who, in the name of God and of the law, would crush and debase humanity; scoundrels, monsters, who love the darkness; apostles of ignorance and imposture; partisans of the torture and the fagot; murderers of souls and bodies. The party which to-day calls itself, by anti-phrasal, Liberal-Conservative, has upon its conscience all the barbarities of the Middle Ages. It is the party of the Turks, of the civil war, of assassination! Phantoms of the past, sanguinary ministers of darkness, geni of evil, corrupters of the people, prototypes of Cain, &c!"

SCARCITY OF PROTESTANT PARSONS.

Protestant Parsons are scarce in Germany. The London *Universer* informs us that at the time of the tercentenary celebration of the "Reformation" :-

"In 1817 an association was formed for furnishing poor parishes with churches and ministers. By this means a number of places on the Rhine, whose populations are mostly Catholic, saw Protestant churches rise up in the midst of them, with about as large congregations as there used to be in Connaught in the palmy days of the Upas-tree. All these churches are poorly endowed, for most of the money of the 'Gustav-Adolf-Verein'—as the Association is called—has been spent on bricks and mortar; and now there is no possibility of finding any incumbents. The *Rheinzeitung* reports that in the Coblenz district alone several of these churches have stood empty for a long time owing to the deficiency of the parsonal staff. It is very different among the Catholics of Germany. In Bavaria, there were 674 students in the Catholic seminaries and 'alumnates' in 1868, and 834 in 1876; being an increase of near 24 per cent., which shows that after all Catholic theology attracts more young men than Lutheranism."

THE "ALABAMA CLAIMS."

After all the ascertained claims arising out of the damages done by the "Alabama" do not exceed one million sterling. This amount has been paid, and two millions sterling still remain as a surplus. The question is what is to be done with this two millions? A contemporary says :-

"That General Grant, who, as a man of the world, and a smart Yankee to boot, thinks the best thing for his government to do with it is to keep it. A very strong feeling, quoth the correspondent, is apparent throughout the country that Congress, having provided for all the direct claimants, has no right to go about hunting up other claimants for this money, but that it ought to be paid into the Treasury."

The British tax-payer has been deluded again. The Yankees have the best of the "award," by the comfortable sum of two millions sterling.

AMERICA AND IRELAND.

The reception by Congress of the congratulatory address from Ireland to America, has given general satisfaction in Ireland. All our Irish exchanges rejoice at the discomfiture which the reception of the address must give General Grant. The *Irishman* says :-

"The American Congress, faithful to the great traditions of its fathers, has unanimously agreed to receive and answer the Address of the Irish Nation congratulating the Republic on the occurrence of the Centennial Year of American Freedom."

"But what is a Nation? Does speaking the same language make separate peoples one nation? Then the inhabitants of the United States form part of the English nation! Does subjection to the same sceptre do it? Then, in the East, the Sikhs, Sepoys, and Bengaleses constitute the English Nation in those latitudes! An English Peer correctly described, in the English House of Lords, the Irish people as 'aliens in language, in race, and in religion'—and this is a sufficient definition of a distinct Nation. We have borne its penalties; we have a right to its privileges."

"What is the significance of that which has occurred in America? Ireland has drawn England before the bar of the New World; Ireland has compelled England to plead before a Nation she once tyrannised, against a Nation she still oppresses, and again, by the verdict of the free Congress of the United States, IRELAND HAS CONQUERED!"

CATHOLICISM IN NEW ENGLAND.

In the Country of Cheverous, Fenwick and Bishop Fitzpatrick, we cannot wonder that Catholicism is advancing. Wherever our people gain a foothold, we may be sure that the Catholic Church will flourish. We clip the following encouraging paragraph from a contemporary :-

"The New England people are justly noted for their industry, enterprise, economy and frugality.

The Irish naturally enough, being an irrepressible race, acquired a great many of the qualities that have made that people so successful, and thus have in time kept pace with them in the race of life. We have it on the authority of Dr. Allen, of Lowell, an unwilling witness in affairs of this kind—that mostly all the old New England or puritanical blood is fast dying out. The doctor regrets to be compelled to make such a distasteful admission to least to people of his way of thinking, and raises a loud howl that the "Irish are increasing rapidly in numbers and that the number of Irish births far surpass that of Americans by a large percentage." This is the truth and can't be gaisaid. The New Catholic Cathedral erected in the Athens, of America, is a gem of architectural beauty, and a lasting monument to the religious faith, spirit and enterprise of the Irish, not only in Massachusetts, but all over the entire New England States."

THE STARRY GALILEO.

Some time ago the Ex-Governor of Maryland—Mr. Lowe—defended the Catholic Church against the well exploded assertion about the "Starry Galileo." It is amusing to read of the "opposition" that the Pope showed to the researches of Galileo—when every reader of history knows that it was the Pope and the Cardinals who encouraged the astronomer in his efforts. We notice however that one of the organs of the Reformed Episcopalians—the *Appeal of Chicago*—writes thus impartially of the doings of those times :-

"Galileo's condemnation was the work of the science of his day; his enemies were his fellow astronomers, who sought untiringly to overthrow him. All the protection and support he ever received was directly or indirectly from ecclesiastics. The Roman Inquisition repeatedly refused to prosecute him, though urged to do so, and when at length his scientific enemies, who were all members of the Ptolemaic system, forced the Inquisition to try him, the Holy Office contented itself with permitting him to maintain that Copernicanism was 'scientifically likely in the highest degree, but not to teach that it was absolutely proven. Under this decree the Inquisition virtually stood between him and his hostile scientific brethren for seventeen years."

THE DEAD LION.

Slander "whose edge is sharper than the sword, whose tongue outvenoms all the worms of the Nile," is at work over the grave of Antonelli. An article taken from the "*Liberta*," a foul and godless organ of the "Liberals" of Rome, has been going the rounds of the press, as if it was already true as holy-writ. Writing on this subject our contemporary the *Western Watchman* says :-

"It is well known that the Cardinal left a great deal of money to his relatives. It has been so easy to confiscate church property and church revenues for the past ten years, why cannot something be done to distribute the cardinal's scudi among the 'people'? What is the liberty for which Garibaldi fought worth if the 'people' cannot rifle the pockets of a dead cardinal? It seems that there are some things that cannot be done even in Rome. A last effort is to be made. A genuine daughter of the people, a countess of many courtships, is called into the plot. She produces one of her fatherless daughters and requests the Roman Courts to compel the dead Cardinal to adopt her. A long story is trumped up to fix paternity upon the late prime minister, but the brothers Antonelli are in nowise averse to a thorough ventilation in the courts. The Cardinal was not a priest, may not have been more than a tonsured layman, but there is nothing in his past history that would give coloring to the story of this 'liberal' countess. The Roman press are not disposed to hope for much from this late move."

"MURDEROUS SYMPATHIES IN IRELAND."

Judge Lawson—an Irish judge—said some time ago that "there was more crime in one English county than there was in the whole of Ireland." The other day too, we see that an Irish county is more free from crime than any county in the United Kingdom. Again all the world knows that our people at home are the most virtuous in Europe. Macaulay, Thackeray, Dickens, Bright, Gladstone, and others have borne impartial testimony to our freedom from crime. But what is all that. the *Montreal Witness* knows far better than any of the authorities we have quoted. Hear it and be merry at its ignorance :-

"Some time ago we gave an account of an agrarian murder at Mitchelstown, in Cork County, some of the incidents in connection with which showed how general the sympathy with the murderer was amongst the peasantry. The murderer was convicted, and has since been hung. This did not end the matter, however, for the 'patriotic' party in the south of Ireland adopted as articles of faith the ideas that Crowe, the murderer, had suffered 'martyrdom,' and that Mr. Bridge, the agent of the estate, had been guilty of great iniquity."

This is headed "Murderous Sympathies in Ireland." Well it will take some time to educate our enemies with a knowledge of us as we are and until then we can only wish them more light and less bigotry.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The chances of peace although by no means certain, yet improve. Turkey has shown more life and vitality than the world was prepared for, and the result of all the negotiations so far prove that Turkish statesmen are equal to the occasion. The latest telegrams say that :-

"The Porte intends to appoint five Christian Governors of Provinces."

"A Constantinople despatch says that the Porte has informed Serbia and Montenegro that hostilities will recommence early in March if the terms of peace are not previously arranged."

"A Vienna telegram states that England, as well as Russia, has advised Prince Milan to conclude peace if possible on proper terms. A Paris correspondent of the *Telegraph* announces positively that Prince Gortschakoff has resolved to retire, and his resignation is merely a question of a few days."

"It is stated the Russian army of the South is about to be withdrawn, only 8,000 men will remain as a corps of observation."

"The Ministry will oppose the convocation of Skuptschina, because they fear they will be called to strict account for their administration."

"It is reported a special envoy will be despatched immediately to St. Petersburg to obtain a definite statement of Russia's desires, and to ascertain positively what support, if any, can be relied on if the Turkish proposals are finally rejected."

"It is reported that in consequence of the refusal of France to send instructions for the proposed *gen d'armee* to Turkey, the Porte has now made overtures to Austria."

A PRETTY STORY SPOILED.

A sensational rumour has been going the rounds of the press about the "apostasy" of a "German Catholic congregation" in Rome, State of New York. It is a pity to spoil the pretty story, but truth will have it so. The following brief account is taken from the *New York Freeman's Journal*, and it treats the subject with as much gravity as it deserves :-

"There is, as there has been for many years, a congregation of German Catholics in Rome, N. Y. About six years ago there was occasion for building a new church for their convenience. The then pastor, with the approval of the Bishop, and the good will of the faithful of his congregation, selected a proper and convenient site for the new building. A handful of quarrelsome, ignorant, Germans—full of lager beer but lean and empty in faith, had some other scheme, that was a pet of their two or three leaders—for reasons that may be supposed without the trouble of mentioning."

"They were impudent enough to threaten resistance, if the majority, with their priest and Bishop did not give way to their dictation—forgetting how small a difference it would make to any except themselves whether a handful of ignorant Germans, in Oneida County, already more infidel than Catholic, would go to heaven or to hell. They went ahead, and—here came the rub—invested some money in another building. They called some loose preacher, a Universalist we think, to preside at its inauguration. It never, for one hour, had the recognition of any Catholic authority. And, in Rome, this handful of captious and quarrelsome Germans, among Catholics and non-Catholics, excites as little attention as would half a dozen empty beer kegs piled up in front of a lager beer saloon!"

BISMARCKISM.

Germany is again falling behind in the race of nations. A short time ago the German Commissioner at the Philadelphia Exhibition admitted that the Germans were "behind all other people for work," and that "none" of their "products" were "equal to similar foreign products." The five milliards have not made them happy. The Church is persecuted and the people are flying from the fatherland. An American Contemporary assures that :-

"During the past decade the German immigration has increased in a steady proportion, fast overtaking the Irish, and destined to exceed it. The report of the Commissioners of Emigration for the year 1876, just laid before the Legislature, shows that the proportions during that period were as follows: From Germany, 21,035; from Ireland, 13,314; from England, 8,447; from Scotland, 2,240. The aggregate, from all countries was 71,265—counting only aliens who had never before landed in the United States. The actual total of arrivals from abroad was 113,970, but of these 12,714 were citizens or persons who had before visited this country, leaving the fresh immigration at the figure of 71,265. It appears, therefore, that nearly one-third of the whole immigration in 1876 was German. The flight of the Germans from fatherland is a good omen for Bismarckism."

With all this Socialism advances, and the opponents to Imperialism grow stronger day by day. There are now about twenty Socialists in Parliament. These gentry believe in a "Free People's State," Socialism, Persecution, Depression of trade, Discontent, Bismarckism; it is no wonder that emigration follows.

"THE WASHINGTON OF CHILI."

Debarred from honourable preferment in their own country, Irishmen have sought and won distinction in every land in which their lot was cast. As Spain had its O'Donnell,

Austria its Nugent, and as Franco has its MacMahon, so had South America its Irish Washington—General O'Higgins. A few months since the Republic of Chili celebrated the centennial anniversary of the birth of O'Higgins :-

"The honour," says a contemporary, "was well merited. General O'Higgins took a distinguished part in the naval and military operations which led to the final triumph of the patriots at Chacabuco in 1817. Invested by the grateful republic with the reigns of government, he studied only the welfare of the people, nobly declaring that 'if the Chilians would not be happy of their own good will, they must be made happy by force!'"

"On the 22nd of July, 1822, he assembled the deputies of the nation at Santiago, and thus addressed them :- 'Follow patriots my command is at an end, I found your country enslaved. I have given you freedom and victory. But the nation is still weak; be it yours to instruct, to elevate, to enrich it, for what real prosperity can a state have without education and laws?' He was unanimously re-elected president of the republic."

"It is true that much of the good this great man had done was afterwards abrogated by the rebellion of General Freyre, but he was ever the same patriot with the love of Chili at his heart. When he thought it for the good of the republic he resigned his power without a murmur, and forgot his personal wrongs and unjust imprisonment by a faction, in his love for Chili. Alivo, he was adored by the people; it is, therefore, no wonder that his memory is revered by a grateful nation."

PROSPECTS FOR EMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES.

The following list is not likely to encourage immigration. It is compiled by Mr. Blair, President of the New York Workingmen's Assembly, and it gives a disastrous picture of the state of trade in the "Empire City" of New York :-

Table with 4 columns: Trades, Out of work, Trades, Out of work. Lists various occupations and their corresponding number of unemployed workers.

Total 45,375. From this account it appears that, in New York City alone, there are over forty-five thousand persons out of work. The severe winter will tell hardly upon this unfortunate multitude.

"EMANCIPATION" IN IRELAND.

The following extracts from the Dublin *Freeman's Journal* show that Catholic Emancipation is little better than a myth. Protestantism swamps everything. What that old land of ours has suffered for, Faith and Fatherland :-

"Carlow is, with one exception, the smallest county in Ireland. The total population is 61,680, of which number there are, roughly speaking, 6,000 Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, and 'others.' The remaining 45,680 are Catholics. And yet the two County M.P.'s are Protestants. The M.P. for the town is indeed a Catholic. The Lieutenant of the county is a Protestant. There are seven Deputy Lieutenants, all of the ruling faith. The High Sheriff is a Protestant. There are just 50 magistrates, and 5 of them are Catholics. One has but to look at the names and see how family influence has prevailed—five families have produced 13 magistrates. The Resident Magistrate is a Protestant. Two of the five Catholic magistrates are non-residents; so that in fact the 45,600 Catholics in Carlow have three men of their own faith admitted to the administration of justice, while 6,000 Protestants have 46 sympathisers. The Clerk of the Crown, the Clerk of the Peace, and the deputy for both, Sessions Crown Solicitor, the Solicitor to the Grand Jury, the County Treasurer, the Secretary to the Grand Jury, the Under-Secretary, the County Surveyor, his two Assistants, the Sub-Sheriff, the Sheriff's returning Officer, the County Inspector of Constabulary, three out of four of the Sub-Inspectors, four out of six Stamp Distributors—all profess the religion of the glorified minority. Carlow Gaol is under the Governance of a Board of Superintendence. No Catholic has a place on it. The Governor, the Local Inspector the Surgeon, the Deputy-Governor, the Matron, even the Turnkeys to a man, belong to the faith that pays. There are seven Petty Sessions Districts in the County—every Petty Sessions Clerk is a Protestant. The County Infirmary officials are Protestants—every one. The County Magistrates having no control over the Asylum, a Superintendent, a Visiting Physician, and a Matron of the proscribed faith have got in—the Apothecary and Storekeeper are Protestants."