

the last twelve months. What might have been a good bargain two years ago, and under his revered predecessor, is a very bad bargain now, when the times are more favourable, and the minds, even of enemies and neutrals, are more disposed to justice.

Here, then, is a common ground, on which all can agree. No one thought that these condemned Colleges were the best that could be framed, but only that they were the best that could be obtained. The case is now altered: and without surrendering a single opinion, or falling into a single inconsistency, the ecclesiastics most disposed to assent to the Government measure may—or rather must—feel that a time has arrived to struggle for better things, and to throw all their strength and energy into the establishment of new Colleges, or a new University, thoroughly and rootedly Catholic, and in which not a brick even, not a nail, not a chip of wood or stone shall speak of any Faith but that once delivered to the Saints.

This is indeed a common ground on which all divisions of opinion may be merged. The question no longer is what terms shall be accepted from the Government—with what securities shall we be content—but how shall we all strive together to accomplish an object which the most glorious Pontiff of modern times has marked out for us, which does not admit of degrees, which no Government can disturb, and in the arrangements and management of which no serious differences can arise among Catholic prelates.

Once more we most heartily thank God that the question is put upon a footing, from which such happy results may be augured.—*Tablet*.

A FEW MORE WORDS UPON SWITZERLAND.

PARIS, October 26, 1847.

The last fortnight has been a singular confirmation of my letter upon the Catholic interests in Geneva. Though a war of religion is imminent between the different cantons in Switzerland, yet the conduct of our bretheren in Calvin's town evidently shows that the Radicals of the Protestant cantons will find it no easy task to march off the Catholics against the Sonderbund. The good people of Geneva lately sent off a message to the Diet, under the form of a petition, telling them that they will have nothing to do with such an impious war; whilst at a review of the militia in Geneva, the Catholics cry out in the very face of the Radicals, 'Long live the Jesuits.' By the Radical papers of the town we are told that this cry was the effect of wine upon a few heated brains; but can the same be said of the petition? And though the Diet has paid no attention to the former, yet the Radical Government of Geneva is perfectly aware that it is power-

less against the ill-will of its Catholic subjects. It is likewise highly probable that this bold step taken by the latter will have its effect upon the Catholics of the other half-Protestant cantons. In that part of the Jura which relates to Berne there is a most strong opposition against the war; the Grisons declare that they will neither give a man nor a farthing for the federal army, though they have consented to vote with the majority; and the three other cantons, or half-cantons, remain upon the footing of the strictest neutrality; in Argovia, the Catholics are ready to join the Sonderbund whenever an opportunity shall offer! And it is in this state of things that the clubs hurry on to war; it is with a half-disaffected army, with no confidence in the majority of their population, that they have obliged the Diet to decide upon a bloody contest, against one of the most warlike and compact bodies in the world—the Catholic primitive cantons of Switzerland. When one brings all this together, one is disposed to think Ochsenbien & Co somewhat infatuated.

And yet after all, they are, not so mad as we imagine. If the die be cast, it is probably, because they could not act otherwise. They have contracted secret engagements with the men of their opinions in Paris, and the latter it is said, push them onward, on pain of being dishonoured in the sight of revolutionary Europe. The latter party have indeed, founded its greatest hopes upon the success of the Swiss Radicals, because the central position of the Helvetic Republic would enable them to spread from thence their execrable principles over France, Italy and Germany. In the meantime, however, the inhabitants of the Catholic cantons are preparing a warm reception for their unnatural fellow-countrymen. From a letter which was written from Berne on the 22d of October, I see that the Friburghians have interrupted the road of Schwartzberg, by mining rocks which now block up the passage. On the 19th inst., three select battalions, and the next day, three others of the reserve, arrived at Lucerne, and had been all sent by the allies. In the cantons of Uri, Unterwalden, and Schwytz, the same activity is displayed, and all those who are called forth to form the contingent are ready to attend the summons. In Valais, three battalions are merely waiting for orders to march. Friburg is not to be behind hand. It would appear also that the inhabitants of Valais disguise themselves in order to ascend the Furca on the limits of Uri and Berne, and from thence pass on to Lucerne and Friburg, where they form excellent recruits for the Catholic army.

In the meantime, the government of Lucerne seems to forget no part of its duty; the Monks and Nuns belonging to some limitroph monasteries have been advised to leave their actual abodes as exposing them to too much danger.