

upon this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer the torments of the cross.

Who liveth. *Said in silence.*

After the collect there is a confused noise for a short space, and then the lighted candle is brought out from beneath the altar, and all rise and depart in silence. Pp. xix. xx.

The last foregoing passage is the most astounding thing we have seen for some time in this line. One more extract from

"THE FORM OF THE ADORATION OF THE CROSS."

Then all sing together the Antiphon. We adore thy cross, O Lord, and praise and glorify thy holy resurrection; for, lo! by this tree joy hath come throughout the whole world.

Psalm. God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.

And the Antiphon, We adore, is repeated immediately.

There is sung the V. O, faithful cross, with the hymn Sing, O tongue, after each verse of which the V. O faithful cross, or this, Sweet is the wood, is repeated as follows, &c.

The *British Critic*, the organ of the Oxford party, thus notices this work:—

We hail with peculiar pleasure the appearance of a little work called "Devotions commemorative of the most Adorable Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, translated from Catholic sources" (Burns, London), and we hope that the great success which, as we understand, it has met with, may encourage the compilers to extend their plan, and make accessible to the English churchman more of such devotional treasures. It is by such exhibitions of Catholic truth the English church will best retain her hold on the affections of those of her children who may be wavering in their allegiance, and it is thus also that many religious minds, who are as yet in greater or less degree in bondage to the popular religion, may feel the far deeper and truer gratification to their religious cravings, which the Catholic system supplies.—*London Paper.*

SWITZERLAND.

BRIEF OF HIS HOLINESS GREGORY XVI. TO THE SWISS BISHOPS.

VENERABLE BRETHREN—Health and apostolical benediction. Not least amongst those things, which in the weighty burden of our supreme apostleship, have long been to us cause of deep and anxious solicitude, are the decrees that have been made by certain governments of those countries, for the destruction of the monasteries, some of which have been abolished and the property belonging to them first confiscated to the state and then sold by public auction, or criminally appropriated to other uses. And this has the more grievously afflicted our heart, because in doing or rather in perpetrating those things some Catholics have taken a part without having any regard to the authority of the church and the rights of this holy see, and openly despising the penalties and censures which the apostolic constitutions and the Ecumenic Councils especially that of Trent (Sess. 22, c 11) inflict *ipso facto*, on those who do not fear such acts. It is unnecessary to explain in many words how deeply religion and temporal interest itself of states have suffered by these attempts; for there

is no one ignorant how much both the one and the other have been benefited everywhere, but more especially in Switzerland, by the monastic institutions, whether in promoting divine worship, or in undertaking the care of souls, or in forming youth to piety and the liberal arts, or, in fine, in constantly consoling the wretched by all kinds of assistance. Wherefore, as soon as we with great grief of mind learned those things, we did not hesitate to reclaim by our Nuncio, the envoy of the Holy Apostolic See, the safety of the convents and of the rights and property which they enjoyed, and which were besides guaranteed to them by public treaty.

In our grief, however, we have derived no little consolation from the conduct of several governments of the Cantons, which are animated by the best feelings towards the church and the monastic institutions; not only have they abstained with just horror, from all evil designs against the monasteries, but moreover they have combined all their efforts, and have not hesitated to resist openly the sale of the goods belonging to those communities. We do not, therefore, omit to pay a merited eulogium to their zeal, and we exhort them at the same time, by their hereditary fidelity and devotion to the church and to the Holy Apostolic See, that they would persevere most strenuously in their holy resolution, and that they would go on to protect so sacred a cause with even still more ardent zeal.

But the expostulations made in our name have not obtained the same success with the governments of other cantons, which, as it is stated, are determined to prosecute & consummate the destructive work which they have undertaken against the religious houses, their rights, and property.

Such has been the cause that has determined us, venerable brethren, to address you in this letter. For although, we are far from doubting, but, on the contrary, we are well aware that you yourselves have not been wanting in those circumstances to the duties of your mission; nevertheless, bearing in mind the obligations which, by the divine will, bind us to direct our brethren in the things that belong to God and the church, we have considered it our duty to make known to you in a more explicit manner our mind upon this important question. For which reason, again reproving and most strongly reprobating the aforesaid decrees issued by a lay power, for the abolition of certain monasteries in those places, with their religious communities belonging thereto, we recall to the minds of all that the alienations of all goods and rights whatever belonging to those convents, which have been made up to the present, or which may be made hereafter, without the concurrence of the Holy See, are, in the eyes of the church, and according to the canonical sanctions, null and void, and that they are to be esteemed as such we hereby proclaim. Wherefore it will be your duty to abstain from giving any aid or permission, and with that peculiar prudence by which you are distinguished carefully admonish those, who, in consequence of those alienations, may have illegitimately acquired, or may so acquire hereafter, any of the aforesaid property, that they cannot with a safe conscience

retain or accept the possession of it. But we still entertain the hope that the Catholics at least who have assisted in the completion and execution of the above named decrees, having weighed the matter more maturely, in the presence of God, will withdraw as quickly as possible from the way into which we should willingly believe that they have inconsiderately entered.

For this purpose, venerable brethren, we recommend you again in the Lord to employ all the efforts of your pastoral patience and charity, and with this object unwearily demand of heaven for you those abundant succors which alone can lead to the desired result; and in testimony of our paternal benevolence, we grant with affection our apostolic benediction to each of you, and to the flock committed to you.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's the 15th day of April, 1842, and the twelfth year of our pontificate.

GREGORY PP. XVI.

FRANCE.

Galiganni's Messenger of July 18th, gives the following particulars:—

The Archbishop of Paris went yesterday to Neuilly, as he did on Wednesday. The Bishop of Versailles, the newly appointed Archbishop of Avignon, and the newly appointed Bishop of Tuile, went there yesterday. It is the Chapter of St. Denis who officiate in the chapel of Neuilly. They are assisted by the clergy of St. Germain l'Auxerrois and St. Roch, there being always on duty four canons and three priests of each of the two parishes. The sacred service is thus organized: During the whole morning, until one o'clock, masses are celebrated. At that hour vespers commence, and are continued until night. After midnight, matins are chanted. The whole of the Royal Family, and the inmates of the chateau, attended mass yesterday. The king returned several times during the day to the chapel. Each time, after having knelt down and prayed, he drew aside the drapery which covers the body of his son, and after having contemplated him with a touching resignation, sprinkled the body with holy water.

Masses were celebrated yesterday in all the churches of Paris, for the repose of the soul of the Duke of Orleans.

The Queen was for three hours on her knees by the side of the mattress on which her dying son lay extended. At her first arrival she took a small medal from her bosom, where it had rested ever since the day she received her first communion, and placed it on the heart of her beloved child.

"The Duke of Orleans," says the *Univers*, "appears to have had a presentiment of an early death; for he said, two days before the disaster, to the Princess Clementine, who was speaking to him of the glorious chances of his future life— I shall die young, sister; I shall die shortly."

THE CHARLESTOWN CONVENT.—We rejoice to see that the State of Massachusetts is preparing to remove a foul blot from her escutcheon, by making remuneration for the destruction of the Ursuline

Convent at Charlestown. A report to that effect from a committee of the last Legislature, and which will no doubt be acted by the ensuing, is now before us, and we are tempted to copy the following paragraph. 'The owners of the property destroyed on Mount Benedict,' says the report, 'are not now before us, seeking a liquidation of their claims. They came before the Legislature of 1835, and after a report made in favor of granting them a sum of money, they were repulsed. Since that time they have wisely and properly abstained from preferring their petitions, waiting, as was due to their injured rights for a change in the views of the State upon the question involved in their case. They have left the blackened ruins of their halls, where piety, and learning, and charity, and useful labor dignified their peaceful lives, standing as they were left by the fires of the incendiary, when the torch could find no more to consume.—They have taken down no stone from off another, and the only agent that has been busy to remove from before us the monument of our neglect, has been the slow corroding tooth of time, which will remove it only after the lapse of ages. They have thus kept a continual claim before the people of Massachusetts, upon their generous justice. They have not spoken, they have not written; but the mournful dignity of their silence, made eloquent by this index of their wrongs, is more touching and more persuasive, than the most elaborate appeals.'—*N. Y. Courier.*

Thames Tunnel — The atmospheric railway apparatus is likely to be laid in the Thames Tunnel: it is proposed to apply it to the ascent and descent not only of passengers, but horses, carriages and goods, by means of the existing passenger shafts, so as to obviate the necessity of further openings. It is expected that the cost of the apparatus will not amount to one tenth of the sum necessary to form carriage approaches, as originally intended.

The half farthing, or eighth of a penny is a coinage as yet unknown in England—a farthing, or 5½ grains, the fourth of a penny, being the smallest coined, about the year 1270, under Edward I., of standard silver, and continued to be minted in this manner for near three hundred years. It being so small, and liable to be lost, grocers, vintners, alehousekeepers, and all sorts of tradesmen in the time of Queen Elizabeth, muddied their own farthings out of copper, lead, tin, latten, and even leather, which caused great confusion, but the Queen said she would never consent to a currency of copper money.—The first that were coined by government in copper was by the proclamation of James I., on the 16th of May, 1612, by patent, to Lord Harrington. During the reign of King Charles I., the Commonwealth, and Charles II., they were coined in copper, but in the time of James II., and William and Mary many were in tin, and were renewed again in 1717 by George I., and have continued in that metal up to the present day. From November 20, 1729, to December 23, 1753, it appears that nearly 800 tons of copper were coined during that period in halfpence and farthings, bringing to the crown a clear profit of £17,435, 17s. 6d. What it has been since must be considerable. In France, when the coinage is divided into decimal parts, it is smaller than the half sol or 100 to the franc (10d.).