

FRANCE.

The *Opinion Nationale* announces ostentatiously that a demonstration 'in honour of the freedom of conscience, and as such entitled to the respect of all honest men,' was held at St. Maude, close to Paris, on Good Friday. The 'demonstration' in question was a banquet, called '*banquet de la libre pensee*,' at which nothing but flesh meat was eaten, by way of rebuke to those who, rightly or wrongly, think it no harm to submit to a slight privation on the day (to use the language of Maecaelus) 'on which the religion of mercy was founded.' The *Opinion Nationale* anticipates great results from this peculiar mode of showing opposition, and predicts that next year there will be ten banquets; and that those who partake of the cold roast veal, which like the banquets of 1848, seems to be the standing dish on these occasions, will be counted by thousands. It may be so, but it does not appear that the private banquets on Good Friday last year, which made some noise in Parisian society, have had any appreciable effect on the religious observances usual at this season. For twenty years the churches of Paris have never been so crowded as during the past week.

THE ROAD TO RUIN.—The Government, under pretext of economy, has laid hands on almost all the beneficent works founded by previous Governments. The *Unita Cattolica* has given the funeral list of these functions or, rather, murdered charities, which—reckoning only from the year 1864—a amount to no less than five millions. Yet, in spite of all this economy, made to the serious detriment of the poor, in spite of so many vexations and so many loans, we have now got the measles, the forced currency, and, later, we shall have the bankruptcy and ruin. We have now before us the report of the Giun'a upon the Ministerial project of law of the 14th December last, for carrying over to the State balance the produce for 1868 of the liquidation of Church property. At every line of this report we read the fatal word *disavanzo*—deficit. The *Opinione* of the 15th of March sorrowfully admits that the ecclesiastical assets have not proved that

Brown Mock Turtle Soup—Procure a fine sheep's head, wash it well, and lay it in salt and water for an hour, then wash it in fresh water, and put it on a boil in three quarts of cold water. Skim it well, and as soon as it is clear cover it close, and let it simmer till the meat is quite tender; then take it up, and strain the broth; take all the meat off the bones, cut the best part in square bits, and put them into the broth with the tongue, skinned and cut in slices. Have ready a pint of rich gravy, made while the head was simmering; a beef kidney split and soaked may be used for this, or a pound of juicy beef cut in thin, small pieces. Put a quarter of a pound of butter into a stew pan, put in the kidney, beef with a sliced onion, a few sprigs of lemon thyme and parsley, three blades of mace, half a dozen cloves, and a little salt and cayenne pepper. Cover the pan close, and set it on a slow fire without any water, till the gravy is drawn out of the meat; turn about as it begins to brown, and take care that it

By
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 Montreal, 15th February 1869 2m29

Montréal, 13th Jan., 1869.
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