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PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

THE TREASURER'S NEW TAXATION SCHEME.

The following is the substance of the resolutions to be submitted by Mr. Church for the production of increased revenue to meet the expenses of the approaching year:—

That a duty of 10 cents be paid to Her Majesty upon each \$100 or fraction thereof of the nominal value or amount of all contracts, notes or agreements for the sale or purchase of stock, and upon every conveyance or transfer of stock of any company or corporation, whether such transfer be made upon the books of such company or corporation or otherwise, except in such case as the duty has been paid upon the contract, not or agreement in which case the transfer shall be exempt from the payment of the aforesaid duty, if such contract note be produced and deposited with such company or corporation when such transfer be made. That a duty of 25 cents be paid to Her Majesty upon each \$100 or fraction thereof (over and above the sum of \$200) of the nominal value or amount of contracts, or agreements entered into for any purpose whatsoever, where the thing to be done or promised, or amount paid is of any appreciable value, and also a like duty upon all protests and tenders, where the value of the matter or thing to which such tender or protest relates exceeds \$200, except the following contracts and agreements, which are hereby declared exempt from duty under this resolution:—Bank notes, bills of exchange, promissory notes, (but not the protests thereof, if any such take place,) bills of lading, warehouse receipts, bonds given in relation to Customs and Excise, charter parties, receipts and releases, certified copies and extracts from the registers of civil status, policies of assurance and insurance receipts, wills, donations between parent and child, and of child and parent.

INDIA.

It is not pleasant to hear, when there is too much probability, that Great Britain will be engaged in a war with Russia before the spring opens, and when so many are calculating that she could draw a large body of white and native troops from India, that there is much discontent and disaffection in India itself: An exchange says:—

Quite recently a paragraph in the Pall Mall Gazette called attention to the extensive and illegitimate manufacture of fire arms in India, which has spread to such an extent as to attract the notice of the Government. There seems to be a revival of national feeling among the Bengalees, and there can be no doubt of the existence of wide spread discontent with British rule. The articles of the native press are sufficient proof of this, many of them being even violently seditious, pointing out that English policy is to stamp out their national life, regretting the action of a century ago which threw off the Mohammedan yoke and quietly handed over to British rule, and hinting at a recovery of the old state of affairs. Of course such utterances are quietly set aside by the authorities and as far as possible kept from the English public, but where there is so much smoke there must be some little fire, and the present time is not the most pleasant for making the discovery.—St. John's Freeman.

THE NIHILIST CONSPIRATORS.

There has just ended at St. Petersburg the trial of the Nihilist conspirators arrested a few months ago. The prisoners were as mixed a lot as ever were put in a dock together. They numbered 260, were of both sexes, and comprised aristocrats, soldiers, sailors, priests, tradesmen, peasants, Poles, Prussians, forgers, merchants, etc. Their plot seems to have dated back about four years. Its emissaries appeared about that time in several of the Russian cities, where they opened small shops, usually shoe shops to which resorted in large numbers such a variety of queer people that the attention of the ubiquitous Russian spy was soon attracted to them. It was soon evident that a gigantic Communist movement was on foot the ramifications of which it was somewhat difficult to trace out. A determined effort was made to smother the dangerous society, but the outcome of the effort was that the conspirators were scattered throughout the Empire, and hundreds of circles set going in place of dozens. The peasantry they irritated by pointing out how unjustly they had been treated at emancipation, when the bulk of the land was reserved to their former owners; and to the upper classes they harped on the discontent existing among the peasantry and insisted that the condition of the country was hopeless unless the entire social system could be subverted. The success they achieved was surprising. The prisoners brought to trial were but a selected lot, in choosing whom the police probably intended to prove the widespread nature of the plot. Twenty only of the prisoners were convicted, and they will doubtless have to taste the pleasure of Siberia, if present death be not meted out to them. The state of the army, as revealed by the trial, is astonishing. It is found to be permeated with Nihilism and Communism from staff officers downward. This throws some light on the reasons why the Emperor entered upon the war only half prepared, and why, having taken the initiatory step, it has been a matter of life and death for him to go on until substantial advantage was gained. It may also have a powerful influence on the terms of peace. A victorious army, like that of the Czar, must be kept in good humour, or it is as dangerous at home as in the field. If the army should demand to be led into Constantinople, and the Czar should not see fit to risk that undertaking, away goes all the lately acquired portion of His Imperial Majesty's popularity, and perhaps more with it.

MR. MITCHELL HENRY AND HIS TENANTRY.

The following letter appeared in the Freeman of yesterday:—

KYLEMORE CASTLE, GALWAY, 5th January. Sir,—I have read with amazement the telegram from the Rev. Walter Conway, which appeared in your issue of yesterday. Of the meeting itself I will say nothing, but the following words demand my immediate attention:—"Principal grounds of want of confidence—ill treatment of tenants." I now challenge my accuser to state the particulars of any single case in which I have ill treated a tenant, or have conferred anything but benefits upon them: and I assert that, so far from "thinking the population," as the Rev. Father Rhatigan appears to have said, since I purchased this estate not a hearthstone or a roof-tile has been removed, and that I have added twenty families to the tenantry. Father Conway is a young man who has been for a short time curate of a parish many miles from this; and Father Rhatigan has been a curate at Clifden for, I believe, a fortnight or three weeks. So far as I know, they have no personal knowledge of this locality at all; and for myself, during the fourteen years I have lived here I have never had a disagreeable word with a single tenant, or heard anything but exclamations of gratitude and blessing.—I am, sir, your faithful servant, MITCHELL HENRY.

Several letters from priests living on and around the Kylemore estate are also written to say that there is not the slightest foundation for a single charge that was advanced against Mr. Henry at the Clifden meeting.

CARDINAL MANNING AND FATHER CURCI.

A correspondent of the London Register at Rome says:—

A letter in which the name of the Cardinal is coupled with that of the ex Jesuit Father, appeared in the Unite Catholique recently. It is written by the well-known Catholic writer Baron De Haullville, who recently replied to the work of M. De Lavallay. The letter bears date 15th November and is as follows:—"You Liberals would wish to find in Cardinal Manning an approver of the crock'd conceits of the Abbe Curci, and I see that the journals of Rome are occupied with it. In the September number of the Revue Generale is given a complete resume of the latest work upon the Roman Question by the illustrious Archbishop of Westminster. It is one of the most vigorous and concise works that I know of on this subject.—I am yours most heartily devoted, B. De Haullville." The Liberals must surely have read the Cardinal's book backwards when they could find any resemblance between his and Father Curci's wild theories, which one may say, parodying Dante, were, "displeasing to the Church and to her enemies." The vehicle of the Cardinal's theories is, of course, "The Independence of the Holy See," and the Unite well remarks that the Archbishop of Westminster, "far from proposing any species of conciliation whatever, declares all impossible, affirming and proving that Christian society cannot be in its normal state without the Temporal Power, which means the independence of the Church. This power is not only a human convenience, an adjustment of affairs more or less ingenious, to render the Church independent, and to avoid present conflicts; but it is a fact desired of God, inherent in the regular order of Christian society, and which cannot be violated without opposing the manifest intentions of Providence." And the journal sums up how Pius IX. and the Church are situated in Rome in a picture very different from Father Curci's utopian visions. "All ecclesiastical property confiscated; the enjoyment of his palace left to the Pope; the Religious Orders suppressed; 50,000 religious despoiled; civil instead of sacramental matrimony introduced; theology suppressed; instruction paganized; the clerics obliged by the military levy; freedom for blasphemy; and churches invaded." It is a true anti-Christian rebellion, says the Cardinal.

CATHOLIC PEERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Of the entire peerage of England, Ireland, and Scotland, only one tenth hold titles created before the accession of Henry VIII., while the proportion of Catholic peers of the same antiquity is twice as great. The first three peers on the roll of Catholic nobles are the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, and in rank the first subject after the Royal Family; the Marquis of Bute, one of whose titles is four hundred years old, and who represents the Royal House of Stuart, and the Marquis of Ripon, K. G., in whose person five peerages are united. In the present reign five Catholics have been created peers of the realm—Lord Howard of Glossop, Lord Acton, Lord O'Hagan, Lord Emly, and Lord Gerard. In the list of "peers" we find the name of the Countess of Newburgh (Princess Guinevere) in Italy. The heir to the title of Lord Petre, is the Hon. and Rev. Wm. J. Petre, his son and Catholic priest. The heir of Sir Thomas Vincent, a Catholic baronet, is also a priest, while the heir of Sir B. Urey, another Catholic baronet, is his half brother, an Anglican clergyman.

Ten Catholics have been made baronets since the accession of Queen Victoria, of whom survive Sir John Corrigan, Sir John Ennis and Sir C. H. Temple. The other Catholic Baronets created by Her Majesty are dead, but they have left issue, including Sir C. O'Loghlen, Sir Henry Barron, Sir James Power, Sir Patrick O'Brien, Sir Maurice O'Connell. The list of Catholic baronets, includes Sir Henry Doughty, Tichborne, a young gentleman of whom, though only ten years old, the world has, through circumstances entirely beyond his control heard a great deal.

SITTING BULL.

ARRIVAL OF MAJOR WALSH AT HELENA, MONTANA.

HE DENIES THE SIOUX HAVE EVER RE-CROSSED THE BOUNDARY.

THE INDIANS PEACEFUL AND TIRED.

Gen. Sherman does not credit the reports concerning Sitting Bull's invasion, and thinks if Gen. Miles is in danger he is able to defend himself. Major Walsh, of the North-West mounted police, Commandant of Fort Walsh, Canada, near which Sitting Bull and other hostile Indians are now located, arrived at Helena on the 29th Jan., eight days out from Fort Walsh. When Walsh left Sitting Bull, Little Knife, and fifty-five lodges were at the east end of the police post, Cypress Mountains, where they intended to remain during the winter. The night before leaving Walsh received a message from Sitting Bull saying he heard the Americans were coming to fight him and his people, that they were tired of blood and would move nearer the police post. He desired the Major to speak to the White Mother for him. Spotted Eagle sent him a message at the same time, saying he was awaiting the arrival of 16 lodges of his people, who were coming from the Spotted Tail agency, that if they would obey the requirements of Walsh they could remain with him, and if not they must go by, and he too would move to Cypress Mountains. It is not improbable these latter are reported to General Miles. Major Walsh says at no time since his arrival has Sitting Bull's camp crossed the line to American soil. He has received daily messages from him since the Terry Commission returned. Their movement across the line without his knowledge would be impossible, and he would promptly advise Gen. Gibbon in that event. The Sioux camp is now scattered. Spotted Eagle, with 100 lodges, is at Plato Butte, and the others are scattered along the White Mud river and in the Wood Mountains, where buffalo are plenty. His condition is irreconcilable with warlike intentions. Col. McLeod, commander of the Mounted Police, is here, and corroborates the above.

WHAT BISMARCK WANTS.

The New York Sun says:—"What Bismarck wants is Holland. He means, by absorption of the Low Countries, to double the commerce of Germany, to treble its seafaring population, to supplement Hamburg and Bremen with the great ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, to make the re-annexed and aggrandized German empire what Holland once was single handed, a redoubtable rival of England on the sea. This is likely to be the edifying sequel of the pretended crusade to which Gladstone and so many sentimentalists on both sides of the Atlantic have been wishing Godspeed.

"What will Englishmen say to the ultimate fruit of a quadruple alliance, whose existence is now an open secret, which is beginning with the cynical partition of the Ottoman Dominions, which contemplates the abandonment of the Roman Church to the hands of its nearest enemy, and which is very probable to culminate in the forcible extinction of a peaceful Protestant State. Whatever they may say or do, it will behoove them to show more vigor and promptitude than they have lately evinced, if they would not see the German Chancellor seize the Low Countries as swiftly and decisively as the French Republic seized them less than a century ago."

Many refuse to believe that the restoration of the Temporal Power of the Pope is in any way necessary to, or consequent upon, the escape of England from the dilemma in which the success of the Palmerstonian policy has placed her.—St. John's Freeman.

THE EFFECTS OF WAR.

Those who talk lightly of going to war do not always stop to enquire what the effects of a war must be even for Great Britain, which has the advantage of isolation guarded by a powerful fleet. The London World says:—

"If war is the doom of England, its honors will go to the aristocracy, its misery will descend upon the masses, and its gains will find their way to the pockets of the Jews. Hundreds of London tradesmen would discover that it meant speedy and irreparable ruin. The working classes, whether in town or country, would discover that its influences would make them exiles to their native land. Enormously increased taxation, and prices fixed at prohibitory points would go hand in hand. There would be misery, starvation and emigration, on a scale as yet undreamed of. There might be worse than this. The "penny lost" at eight pence might produce riots and disturbances even among the peaceable and order-loving English masses. Our whole social and political system would be subjected to a strain of such unprecedented severity that its capacity to bear can only be conjectured. The farmers would at first be gainers, for the value of wheat and grain of all kinds will speedily rise. But the gulf which used to separate town and country interests is now almost completely filled up, and the divorce which once existed between commerce and agriculture has been annihilated. With the exception of a short-lived pecuniary gain according to the farmers, it is impossible to mention any class, save holders of certain foreign scrip, who could derive any advantage. The country laborer, like the city artisan, would be confronted by starvation. Prices would rise and wages would fall. We should be assailed on each side by sinister rumours of urban disaffection and agrarian rising. The seas would swarm with Alabamas, and the effect of these and of the immigration movements that would take place from this country would be to turn the tide of pros-

perity back to America. It was not so much the Alabama business which lost the United States its carrying trade on the high seas as the unwisdom of United States legislators in fixing a virtually prohibitive tariff for iron—not seeing that out of this material the carrying ships of the future would be made. There are signs that American statesmen have recognized their mistake; and the recognition of such a mistake, coming at a time when England was a belligerent, would be to give the United States commercial pre-eminence among the nations of the world. Lastly, there are the consequences which war might have upon the political party that declared it. A Conservative Administration might enjoy for a short while the fierce glory of a "spiced policy"; but when that period passed away—when the master-minds of Conservatism have disappeared—who shall say that the condition of the Conservative party might not be that of the mingled stupor and delirium which is the sequel of the drunkard's debauch?

MAJOR O'GORMAN.

Major O'Gorman, M.P. for Waterford, was for many years an officer in the English Army, he became Adjutant of a Militia regiment, married a wealthy manufacturer's daughter, left the service and entered, with much earnestness, into the Home Rule cause. At a meeting held at Waterford the other day, the Major used strong language. Here is some of it:—

I rather think you forget that three hundred years ago the Catholics of Ireland were persecuted with a determination only known in Poland, and, despite the persecutions we were subjected to—despite the determined efforts of the accused English to destroy Catholicity in Ireland—what is the proved fact? Why, that ninety-two per cent. of the population of Ireland are Catholics, and this great country, please God—and it will do a great country—will show a still greater proportion in favor of the old Catholic faith. At the census of 1861 the Catholic population was seventy-eight per cent, and in the succeeding four years it increased five per cent., and, with the help of God, it will go on increasing until the whole population is Catholic.

INDIA.

PROBABLE TROUBLES AHEAD.

A Times Calcutta correspondent, giving a detailed account of the ceremony of unveiling the statue of the Queen, the gift of the Maharajah of Burdwan, says the conduct of Scindia during his recent visit has again, as at Delhi last year, occasioned considerable comment. One very significant fact deserves notice. The Maharajah has come and gone without having paid the ordinary ceremonial visit to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. Such a grave and unusual discourtesy committed to a representative of the British Government in his own province has a special and intentional significance, which it would not be wise altogether to ignore. Scindia is intoxicated with military pride and warlike aspirations. Although prohibited from maintaining a standing army of more than a definite number, he has for years evaded this by enlisting men for short periods, and is rapidly converting his whole strength into trained soldiers. When it is remembered that there is only one power against which this force can be now used it seems shortsighted policy to permit this to continue.—Times.

HOW PROTESTANTISM IS SUCCEEDING IN ROME.

The Free Italian Church on the Piazza Ponte S. Angelo (which is rarely open) was, however, lighted up a few evenings ago; and an Englishman might be seen preaching in English, with an Italian interpreting. In front of the pulpit was a table, with bread and wine on it, for the purpose of celebrating an English Dissenting communion. Every evening the Piazza is filled with the soldiers from the neighboring barracks, who stand about talking and smoking in a very innocent manner until the retreat at seven p.m. calls them in. The parody of Divine worship going on seemed to afford them much amusement, for they kept passing in and out through the little building, dignified by the name of a church, and wondering what it all meant. Apparently the Catholic religion has little to fear from the very feeble attacks of the Protestant sects. The Waldensian sects advertise a "Christmas tree" as one of the attractions of their chapel.—Correspondent of Tablet.

THE PAST HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

The last surviving prelate of the ancient Hierarchy of Scotland was James Beaton, Arch-bishop of Glasgow, who was consecrated to that Metropolitan See at Rome in August, 1562; was in exile from July, 1560, and, though restored to the temporalities of his See by King James VI., in February, 1598, never returned to his native land, but died in April, 1603, at Aaris, where he was buried. For some time afterward the authority of the English "arch-priest" extended over Scotland, though it was submitted to with reluctance by the Scottish clergy; and when the Vicar-Apostolic of England was nominated in 1633, Scotland was still continued under English jurisdiction. But in consequence of repeated memorials to the Holy See, Pope Gregory XV., in the above year, directed the Vicar-Apostolic to cease from exercising jurisdiction in Scotland, and in 1629 Pope Urban VIII granted faculties to Father William Ogilvie, a "Prefect" of the mission. He died about 1631, after which Bishop Magennis, of Down, and Connor, in Ireland, was placed over the mission; and in 1634 the Propaganda decreed the restoration of the ancient Bishopric of the Isles; but this was never carried out. In

November, 1635 Father Cornelius Ward arrived as 'Prefect,' and on his retirement from the Scottish Mission in 1640, he was succeeded by Father Patrick Hogarty. After five years' imprisonment, he was forced to return to Ireland in August, 1648. Five years later—namely, in 1653—the Scottish clergy were incorporated into a missionary body by decree of the Propaganda, and regularly placed under the superintendence of Prefects Apostolic, being finally withdrawn from the former jurisdiction of English superiors by order of Pope Innocent X. Scotland, after this, was placed under Vicars-Apostolic, whose rule lasted from 1694 to 1727, when that country was divided by the decree of Propaganda into the Highland and Lowland districts. This arrangement lasted until 1817 (just a century), when the existing arrangement of three districts, the Eastern, Western and Northern, was adopted.

A NEW EXAMPLE OF PRUSSIAN RULE.

Professor Jansen, one of the most distinguished historians of the day, is to be removed from the Gymnasium of Frankfort-on-the-main, simply because he is a Catholic priest. Even the Liberals rebel against this arbitrary Government measure, and a Protestant member of the Town Council asked the Burgomaster in the last sitting whether the municipal authorities would tolerate this act of injustice, by which an irreparable loss would be inflicted on the inhabitants of the town. In place of Dr. Jansen, the Government intends appointing an apostate priest, Dr. Sauerland, who, in spite of his apostasy, was maintained by the Alsation Government as teacher of the Catholic religion at the Imperial Lyceum of Metz. By the gradual introduction of Protestants and infidels as teachers of the Catholic religion in Government schools, Dr. Falk hopes to apply effectual levers for upsetting the Catholic faith in Germany, and there is little doubt that he would succeed in his treacherous policy if Catholic parents were not alive to the danger, and did not, as they now begin to do, take the religious instruction of their children into their own hands.—Catholic Times.

PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH IN GERMANY.

Nowhere is the persecution of the church more sorely felt in Prussia than it is in the archdiocese of Posen and Gnesen. We have lately given some figures showing what havoc the persecution has made in the ranks of the priesthood in other dioceses. Now, in the archdiocese in question, the number of the clergy in 1873 was 818; it was but 618 in 1877, being the fall-off of 200 in four years or 50 in one year. Of these 200 there are 85 dead, 92 living in exile or "inhibited," and of the remainder 23 some have resigned and a few, a very few indeed, have prostrated, that is to say, have practically seceded from the Church by accepting the patronage of the persecuting State. In the venerable Cardinal-Archbishop of Gnesen, Mgr. Count Ledochowski, lying in exile, the Government have appointed a commissioner to take care of the property of the Church. Hitherto this man has levied as much as £10,000 in fines on the clergy because they refuse to correspond with him. This is in taking care of the Church somewhat after the fashion a rapacious wolf would take care of the sheep-herd.

A NEW BISHOP FOR SCOTLAND.

Whatever form the new ecclesiastical arrangements for Scotland may ultimately assume, it is certain some addition will be made to the episcopate north of the Tweed, and we believe one of the new bishops is already selected, namely, the Rev. Richard Gell MacMullen, at present missionary rector of St. Mary's, Cadogan Terrace, Chelsea, and one of the canons of the cathedral chapter of the Archbishop of Westminster. The bishop-elect, who is a native of Kent, and was born about the year 1810, was elected in 1828 to a scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he took his bachelor's degree in Michaelmas term, 1832, obtaining a second class in classical honors. In due course he succeeded to a fellowship, and was appointed Latin reader and dean of his college. He professed himself a convert to the Catholic faith about the same time with Dr. Newman, and, having been re-ordained in the Church of his adoption, became successively attached to the mission in Webb street, Southwark, and the Bavarian chapel in Warwick street, Golden Square. For the last fifteen years or thereabouts he has been attached to the mission at Chelsea, as stated above.

FAMINE IN WALES.

While there are strikes and rumors of strikes it may not be uninteresting to note the condition of things now existing in Wales. The coal and iron districts are in the deepest distress. The Cardiff Workhouse is full, and the Boardroom and offices are being fitted up for inmates. Of five hundred collieries in two counties but twenty are at work. Private individuals have opened their kitchens and give food to the poor daily. The men at work are only employed thirteen days out of the month. The mere necessities of life are wanting, and all the indications of a famine are probably present. Raw cabbage leaves are being eaten, and potato peelings and mash intended for pigs have been devoured with zest. Some inquiries have been instituted, and it has been found that scores of women and children have had no food for two or three days. A gentleman who had been examining these homes of poverty said, "There is great poverty among the people, but they will not come out and make it known." At Newport, owing to the depression of trade, great destitution exists among the men working at the docks, and as there is no immediate prospect of improvement many of the younger men are preparing to emigrate to Australia, where work is said to be brisk. Seventeen families left for Australia on Thursday. While all this is going on, there is no movement to aid the poor wretches. Our charities are too busy aiding Russians and Turks.—Dublin Evening Telegraph.