

The Bishops of London, Oxford, Rochester, and Down and Connor, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, have requested their clergy to use the appropriate prayer for fair weather.

In a recent number of the *Times* there appeared, in the form of an advertisement, an address to the Rev. F. D. Maurice, congratulating him on Mr. Cowper's "slight and tardy recognition of his eminent services, not only as one of the most learned theologians of the day, but more particularly as a wise and benevolent co-operator with the working classes of the community," &c. The address is signed by the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Labuan, Dean Trench, Dean Goodwin, Archdeacon Allen, Canon Stanley, Professors Thompson, Sedgwick, Jacobson, Kingsley, Dr. Temple, Lord Lyttleton, and Mr. Gladstone, and many others, clergy and laity.

IRELAND.—Such is the scarcity of candidates properly qualified for orders in Ireland, that some of the Bishops have been obliged to ordain gentlemen who have failed to pass the divinity examination in the University of Dublin. It is to be hoped that this very objectionable proceeding, which is perhaps necessary at the present moment, may not be turned into a precedent, as although it may be in some respects convenient, it will surely in the end injure the efficiency of the Irish clergy.

The Bishop of Derry has been placing himself in opposition to the Protestant inhabitants of that city. For the last 170 years the siege and deliverance of Derry have been commemorated on the 18th of December and the 12th of August, the former being the anniversary of the shutting of the gates, and the latter of the relief of the city. The usual mode of celebration included the hoisting of the city flag on the summit of the ancient cathedral, in which, during the entire siege, the inhabitants daily assembled to unite in prayer for succour. The custom has been invariably practised, but this year, the evening previous to the commemoration, the Bishop instructed the sexton of the cathedral, through the curate, that neither the hoisting of the flag on the church, nor the ringing of bells would be allowed by his Lordship. When the committee of the 'Prentice Boys heard of this decision, they waited on the Bishop, informing him that these customs had been observed from time immemorial, and had never been looked upon as expressions of party feeling. The Bishop stated in reply, that, the Dean being unfortunately absent, he was left the custodian of the cathedral, and, as a member of the House of Lords which had passed the "Emblems Act," he believed he could not consistently permit the hoisting of flags or ringing of bells. In reply it was urged that the measure had not yet become a law, and that it did not apply to the city flag, which had never been considered a party emblem. The Bishop, however, remained firm in his determination not to permit the ringing of the bells nor the hoisting of the flag. The 'Prentice Boys were not less determined to maintain at all hazards what they believed to be their rights; and on the morning of the 12th the crimson banner of the city floated as usual from the cathedral. The curate, accompanied by the sexton, proceeded to remove it; and as soon as this became known in the city, a large crowd collected, and a number of the 'Prentice Boys proceeded to the cathedral, took possession of the belfry, and rehoisted the flag over the east window. The two curates attempted to enter the belfry, but were prevented by those who had constituted themselves the bell-ringers for the day, and who, besides ringing the joy bells, tolled the bell for service at the usual time. The defeat of the Bishop has given great satisfaction to all the inhabitants of the city. The Party Emblems Bill has since become a law.—*Clerical Journal*.

A question of some importance to the clergy is about to be brought to issue in the Ecclesiastical Court of Armagh. The power of a Bishop over the pulpits of his diocese seems to be a matter concerning which there is considerable difference of opinion in Ireland; and the Bishop of Down has taken a step which is likely to bring up the whole subject for the decision of a competent tribunal. The Rev. S. G. Potter, M.A., Incumbent of Stratford-on-Slaney, in the diocese of Leighlin, is a clergyman of strong Protestant views, and holds the office of chaplain among the Orange men of Ireland. Mr. Potter had been called upon to preach a sermon before the Orangemen of the County of Down, in the cathedral of that diocese, on the 12th of July. The sermon was reported in the columns of the county newspaper, and the Bishop considered its tone and language, as so reported, calculated to stir up religious animosities between the Protestants and Roman Catholics of the diocese. Mr. Potter was then invited by the Rev. Dr. Miller, Vicar of Belfast, to preach a sermon on the 12th of August, in aid of a collection now being made for the purpose of paying off a debt due upon one of the newly erected churches in Belfast. On the Wednesday preceding the day fixed for the sermon the Bishop of Down wrote to the Vicar declaring his intention of inhibiting Mr. Potter from preaching in Belfast; and Dr. Miller in reply stated that his belief was, that the incumbent has the sole control of his pulpit, and that the Bishop would exercise authority not sanctioned by law did he try to limit the freedom of the incumbent in that respect; he intimated at the same time his determination to permit Mr. Potter to preach on the following Sunday, as he had been publicly advertised for the previous week. The formal inhibitions were consequently served on the part of the Bishop, and Mr. Potter preached two sermons to crowded congregations, both in the morning and evening. His Lordship is fortified by an opinion of Dr. Addams, of London, who states that his view of the law is that the Bishop has this power.

## General Intelligence.

### EUROPE.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The weather continued comparatively fine throughout England and Ireland. Harvest prospects were promising, and exercised a buoyant influence on funds.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY, AUGUST 28.—The Imperial Parliament was prorogued this day by Royal Commission. The ceremony presented a striking contrast to the opening or proroguing of Parliament by the Sovereign in person when all is splendour and magnificence. At half past one o'clock the Lord Chancellor, in his peer's robes, took his seat on the woolsack, the only members of their Lordship's House present being the Bishop of Bangor and Lord Eversley, the late Speaker of the House of Commons. Soon after the hour of assembling the Bishop of Bangor read prayers, after which the new Bishop of Rochester, introduced by the Bishop of London and Bangor, appeared at the table, and took the oath and his seat. The Lords Commissioners, in their robes, then entered the house in the following order, and took their seats on either side of the Lord Chancellor, viz: the Duke of Somerset, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Viscount Sydney, and Lord Montagu. The Royal Commission for the prorogation of Parliament was then read by the clerk at the table, after which the Lord Chancellor directed Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, to inform the members of the House of Commons that their attendance was required in the House of Peers to hear the Royal Speech read. The Black Rod departed to the Lower House, and soon after appeared with the Speaker, attired in his gold robe, and accompanied by a number of members at the bar of their lordship's house. Lord Palmerston, as Premier and leader of the House of Commons, stood immediately on the right of the Speaker, on the left was Sir O. Wood, Secretary of State for India; behind were Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Walpole, and several others. The Lord Chancellor then announced to the members of the Commons house that her Majesty, not thinking fit to be present in person on the occasion, had directed her Royal Commission to issue to give her consent to the several public and private bills. The noble and learned lord then directed that the clerk should read the Commission; and the Royal assent, in due form, was given to several bills. The Royal Speech, proroguing Parliament, was then read by the Lord Chancellor.

The Great Eastern steam-ship arrived at Milford Haven on Sunday evening, after a prosperous voyage, and dropped her anchor opposite the royal dockyards at about seven o'clock, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of thousands of persons who had assembled on the shore of this magnificent piece of water, and about in vessels of every class, from the 120-gun ship of her Majesty's navy down to the cock boat. It was a beautiful sight, and was enhanced by the luceness of the weather, doubly welcome after so long a season of wet.

Prince Napoleon, who has just returned from a flying visit to Switzerland is shortly coming to England in his yacht the *Cassard*. It is said that the object of his journey is to study agriculture, and that he will visit several large farms *incognito*.

The Queen goes to Germany on the 24th of September.

INDIA.—By the arrival of the overland mail we receive advices from Calcutta to July 19, Madras July 26. The Arms Bill has been passed for a period of five years in spite of a determined opposition at almost every stage. The Income Tax Bill and License Bill were slowly approaching completion through much debate and many difficulties. The Indigo commission had returned from Kishnugger, and their report will be given in about the end of this month. A great meeting, and a highly complimentary one, in honour of Sir James Outram, who left by this mail, had been held at Calcutta.

FRANCE.—The emperor, the empress, the prince imperial and suite, are on their tour through Lyons, Dijon, to Chambéry, Nice, and thence onward to Corsica and Algeria. In every place they have been received with the most enthusiastic applause. Addresses, fetes, dinners, speeches, balls, and loyalty have followed in their train, and made that portion of the Empire a universal holiday. Napoleon is reported to have assured Farini of his sincere desire to see Italy independent; and, when Victor Emmanuel shall be master of Sicily and Naples, he will be strong enough to contend alone against Austria; but, should Austria prove victorious in a conflict, France would not allow her to abuse her victory. It is reported that the Empress will not accompany the Emperor to Algeria.

AUSTRIA.—General Benedek arrived in Vienna on Monday. The object of his journey is to request the emperor to relieve him of his functions in Hungary, where his position has become unbearable, on account of the continually-increasing agitation in the country. General Benedek is said to consider the wishes of his countrymen as legitimate, and to refuse to carry out any coercive measures against the national tendencies of the Hungarians.

ITALY.—By orders from Turin, no volunteers are in future to be allowed to embark from Genoa for Sicily. It has been rumoured for some time past, that Mazzini was preparing an expedition against the Roman States, and the *Espero* of Turin of the 26th now confirms the rumour, adding that, by order of the Government, the corps of volunteers which had been assembled for the purpose at Castlepucci, a place five miles from Florence, have been dissolved.

ROME.—A political manifestation took place at Civita Vecchia on the occasion of the obsequies of Alibrandi, chief of the Revolutionary Committee. Several arrests were made. Monsignor Merode has refused to permit the departure of the volunteers under Cathelineau, and the latter has left Rome. The Papal Government has sent reinforcements to the garrison of Benevento. These reinforcements crossed the Neapolitan territory without arms, according to existing treaties. They were insulted, driven out of Benevento, and were finally obliged to return. The Governor of Benevento had taken increased military measures of precaution at the fortress. General Lamortiere has sent a military column to watch the Tuscan frontier.

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