

As the seeds of vice and crime are sown in youth, and as the sapling is more easily made to yield than the stubborn gnarled tree, the pope deemed it better to begin with youth. A large square room, 100 palms long by 70 broad, was constructed, with sixty cells rising in three tiers on the two sides. At the extremity of the sides are four staircases to conduct to the upper tiers of cells. Before the second and third is a lodge, on which the windows of the cells open. There are windows also at the opposite ends of the cells to secure a free ventilation. Moreover, in the centre of the sides there is a window, so that a plentiful supply of light and air is furnished. Each cell is 12 palms long and 10 broad. At one end of this large room is erected an altar, opposite to which, at the other end, is another large window. This was the first prison constructed with cells. To Rome, then, and to the first Catholic bishop of the world, we owe this reform in our prisons.—Here there is not allowed that promiscuous intercourse between the two sexes, which had hitherto been customary; here the young are not schooled in vice and iniquity at the feet of the old; here the base do not corrupt the generous, here idleness do not generate fresh crimes by giving to the villain leisure to plan fresh outrages; here the ignorant are instructed, and the seeds of religion are sown in a soil hardened against any other culture; and the prisoner, who has been removed from society as unsound and plague-stricken, is restored to it sound and healthy. Scarcely thirty-two years elapsed before Clement XII. extended the same system to the house of correction for women of ill fame. When the idea was once conceived and brought forth by the master-mind of the popes, it was transported into other countries; but it lost by the emigration, for religious charity, which is the vital spark of the Catholic system, was extinguished by the chill of Protestantism.—This, however, is a subject to which we shall return.

Much has been said in this country about the power of the Popes, and restrictions and oaths have been enforced to lessen his supposed claims; but would to God that his influence was felt at least in our prisons. Our docks would not then be crowded with so many criminals, nor would our colonies be planted with the rotten slips and weeds which have been deemed unfit to vegetate in the mother country. But, preserving their hostility to the end, petty Protestant functionaries, and even ministers, endeavour to exclude the priest when he is going to reclaim the lost, to instruct the ignorant, and to reform the bad, from entering those dungeons of misery and wretchedness. But we must confess that there are honorable exceptions to such conduct; yet, were a free access allowed, how many parents would receive back erring children reclaimed, instead of seeing them shipped to a foreign country, or led to the scaffold. Would that the poor instead of the rich could visit Rome, and behold what Catholic charity does for those who are destitute and forsaken, for those whom loathsome disease have stricken, and for

those whom crime and vice have rendered the terror and execration of mankind. However often and sad may be the wanderings of her children, like a kind mother she never forsakes them. We would willingly dwell longer on this theme, but we have already been betrayed beyond our usual bounds.

SAGITTARIUS.

## AERIAL TRAVELLING.

Among the numerous improvements made in every species of travelling, by far the most important one, that of aerial travelling, seems to have made little, if any, within the last few years. Except the mere fact of an occasional balloon ascension, we scarce even find mention made of the subject, unless in France, where repeated trials have been made to navigate the air by a process entirely unknown in this country. We are among those who believe that the day is not far distant when aerial navigation will be perfected to that extent as to enable the transmission of news, &c. from one country to another, with a rapidity that would even astonish us in this age of steam travelling; but we do not believe it will be ever found available as a conveyance for passengers, freight, or any purposes of commerce. Eventually aerial navigation will be accomplished by electricity or galvanism; at least such is our opinion from what we have already seen. Will not some of our scientific men turn their attention to the following facts, which we believe, have never before been laid before the public, and for the truth of which we vouch.

In 1826, '8 and '9, the subject of aerial navigation had attracted the attention of several men in Europe, and many supposed that success would attend their efforts, and devoted years of toil and labour, and spent large fortunes in a vain endeavor to accomplish it, but failed. An Irishman residing in the vicinity of Mitchelstown, in the County of Cork, named M'Cann, (better known by his nickname Coul Kippoen) and who had been for some years in France, turned his attention to the subject a out was period, and actually succeeded in contemplating a species of balloon superior to any made before or since. The knowledge of the affair was confined to two or three persons only, who had an opportunity afforded them of testing its powers and they stated that so far as steering either with or against the wind, or in any direction the aeronaut pleased, this man had perfectly succeeded. But it required much before it could be brought forward as perfect; and before that was accomplished poor M'Cann lost the use of his reason and destroyed the whole machine.

We proceed to lay before our readers a description of it, as seen by us and explained by the inventor. The balloon was composed of the usual materials, but made in the shape of a bird of immense size and furnished with wings. Close to the balloon (and not suspended as the cars attached to the balloons generally are) was a car in which was placed the light machinery with which he worked its course, and which consisted of galvanic or electric rods and other apparatus to us

unknown, connecting with other passing into the head and wings formed in his balloon. The balloon was filled with gas as at present; the wings were filled separately. The balloon was then cast loose, and on attaining a certain height the machinery was put in motion, by which a forward power was given the balloon, at the same time that the wings were (electricity or galvanism) and pursued any course the aeronaut pleased as though it were some mighty bird. The entire of his machinery did not weigh thirty pounds; and M'Cann stated that his balloon was capable of carrying thirty pounds additional with himself. The gentlemen present on the occasion of a trial being made of it pronounced it as their firm conviction that it would succeed. As before stated, however, M'Cann lost his reason and his invention was through it lost to the world. We hope, however, that some one will take his plan into consideration and test its feasibility. The balloon with its apparatus was shown us about a week after the trial was made, and one of the gentlemen who witnessed the trial made of it, confirmed the statement given us by M'Cann himself.

From the Kingston Chronicle.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Sept. 12, 1842.

Abraham Turgeon, Esq., member for the County of Belle Chase, D. Papineau, Esq., the member for Ottawa, took the oaths and their seats.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a statement of the affairs of the "Champlain and St. Lawrence Rail Road."

A number of petitions were laid upon the table of the House.

Hon. J. Neilson presented the petition of the Ministers, Elders and Members of St. Andrew's Church at Quebec.

Mr. Durand presented the petition of certain inhabitants of Willmot.

Mr. Small presented the petition of Franklin White and others.

Mr. Boutiller presented the petition of the Municipal Council of the District of St. Hyacinthe.

Messrs. Forbes, Yule, Boswell, Roblin and Moore, presented their petitions.

## REJECTED PETITIONS.

Several petitions were rejected by the Speaker on account of informality.—Capt. Steele's petition of the Municipal Council of the Home District; the petition of the township of Brock, relating to the separation of the county of Simcoe; Mr Price's petition of the Municipal Council of the Home District, relating to taxation.

Certain petitions relating to Macadamized Roads. A petition presented by Mr. Enrand relating to the reserved lands of West Woolwich and Nichol; and the petition of the Municipal Council of the District of Wellington; Mr. Hopkins's petition of the Municipal Council of the Gore District.

The speaker rejected these petitions on the grounds of informality. Those that came from corporate bodies, he said, should have the seal of office attached; some of the petitions were not signed, and others had not the signature upon the same sheet with the petition.

## DEBATE ON MACARTHY'S PETITION.

This was a petition praying for the amendment of the District Council Act. The speaker pronounced it informal, and objected to it on the ground of the language of the petition being disrespectful to the House; passages were read to the effect that they were compelled to act whether it suited them or not without any reward, they were driven like an ox to the slaughter, &c.

Mr. Aylmer hoped his petition would be received. He contended that the people had a right to address the House upon this subject, and to complain of the grievances to which they are subjected. They received nothing for their pains and inconvenience, and if Honorable members were entitled to indemnity for their attendance here, why should they not receive indemnification. The language he did not consider the most appropriate, and the image of the ox going to the slaughter had too much of the butcher about it; but he should be sorry to see the petition so disposed of. The right of petition he held to be a sacred thing, and not to be lightly treated, and went on to denounce the proceedings as too formal and captious, when called to order by the Speaker. He contended for the right of petitioners to use what language they pleased; it was a sacred right and no petition ought to be so disposed of. When he looked to the language in which petitions were often sent to the British Legislature, it was frequently more offensive than this, but that was no ground for their being rejected there, and we ought to follow their example so far. He objected to the course taken with these petitions, hoped they would be received, and would vote for their being laid on the table of the House.

Sir Allan McNab thought it would be well to receive the petitions, and allow them to remain on the table for a few days, until they could have an opportunity of ascertaining the laws of the House upon the point.

Mr. Price moved and Mr. Baldwin seconded, that the petitions be now received.

Mr. Price said that if it were the pleasure of the House, that the objectionable words should be removed.

Mr. Hincks expressed himself satisfied from the signatures he saw attached to it, that the petitioners did not mean any disrespect to this House in the language of the petition. He knew some of the names attached to it, and was certain they would be incapable of intentional disrespect. Besides, many of the petitions presented to the Governor General were worded in coarser language, and attended to without that being made a ground of objection; and on these grounds he hoped the objection would be withdrawn.

Dr. Dunlop believed that he was one of the youngest members of that House, with the exception of his hon. friend Mr. Neilson; he agreed with some of his hon. friends that the petition coming from these clod-hopping constituents, "order!" was framed more in ignorance than disrespect. The very amendments prayed for in that petition were identically the ones he in-