

ious to the Protestant party, by reason of their Catholic objects and aims, but unfortunately and undeservedly had concentrated upon themselves the hostility of many who should have been found among their most ardent supporters.

The Jesuits became the point of attack from the coalition, having for its main and guiding object not alone the destruction of that order, but the overthrow of the Catholic interest and influence altogether.

The population of Switzerland is somewhat more than two millions, and of these about twelve parts out of twenty are Protestants, and the others Catholics. There are twelve and a half anti-Jesuit cantons which comprise about the entire Protestant population and a large portion of the Catholic. This is a most lamentable fact, but it only proves how well the faction has selected the immediate point of attack in the accomplishment of their main object. They have taken advantage of the political disaffection of a class of the Catholic population to the objects of that attack.

In the Catholic canton of Lucerne, one of the confederacy of twenty-two, it was resolved by a large majority in the Grand Council to place the superintendence of education within its borders in the hands of seven members of the order of Jesus who were to arrive, by invitation, among them for that purpose. The resolution was subsequently submitted to the communes severally, of which the canton is composed, and they unanimously confirmed the action of the Council. In this satisfactory manner was manifested the will of Lucerne in the regulation of its own internal affairs, a right guaranteed to the separate governments of the several cantons. But they were not suffered to enjoy that right without molestation. They were threatened, and their constitutional powers as a member of the Swiss confederation violated. Violence, not remonstrance, was resorted to, the public peace broken, and the independent rights of the canton of Lucerne trampled under foot.

The violent scenes which accompanied and followed the outrage are known to all. The question finally came before the Swiss General Diet, and is as yet in a situation of doubt and uncertainty.

The following article from a Paris paper indicates that in all probability the Swiss have already plunged into the horrors of a civil war.

[From the Journal des Debats, April 3.]

#### INVASION OF LUCERNE BY 4000 FREE CORPS AND REFUGEES.

At a late hour we received intelligence that on the 1st inst. the free corps of Argau, reinforced by volunteers from the radical cantons, and the refugees from Lucerne, amounting together to 4000

men, had entered the canton of Lucerne. They had advanced beyond Surzes, a small town five leagues from Lucerne, and probably had gained possession of the city itself, which had only 2000 men to defend it.

At Bale, all the men from 18 to 25 years of age had entered the Burgher Guard, for the maintenance of order and the protection of the city; but at Berne, the proclamation against the free corps, instead of arresting the movement, had only excited the people the more. The agitation began to extend to all parts of the canton. At Nidau two cannon had been seized. In the canton of Solcure the same effervescence prevailed.

A letter of the 30th ult. from Argau says:—The government of Lucerne, instead of endeavouring to conciliate parties in its canton has redoubled its prosecutions. Fresh warrants of arrest are daily issued, and consequently we have daily arriving in this canton hundreds of fugitives, almost all armed.

Two days ago the number of these fugitives amounted to nearly 2000, of whom 1500 at least are armed, and a great many have uniforms. The news they bring can only increase the irritation of the neighbouring cantons, which are overburdened already with emigrants.

The different governments have taken all the measures dictated by the conclusion of the Diet; but they already find themselves inundated, and the Council of State of Argau would have been overthrown had it ventured upon energetic measures—for these could have ended in nothing, since the soldiery would have refused to act.

In this state of things it convoked the Grand Council, which has this day sent to the Vorort a request that the diet may be immediately convoked. This convocation, it is feared, will come too late. As soon as the news of the government having put impediments in the way of the projects of the Lucerne refugees was spread abroad, free corps were at once formed at every point, and set out on the march. Even the more distant cantons have taken part in the movement.

To day nearly 50 men have arrived from Schaffhausen, in post or private carriages; there are some also from St Gall, the Grisons, and Glaris; others are coming from Zurich and Berne; Bale Country is coming en masse: and in Argau and Solcure there is not a village that does not send out at least ten fighting men.

This evening all the free corps will be united at Zofingue and its environs. They will, no doubt commence their operations in the night, and to-morrow morning, or at least at mid-day, will in probability be at the gates of Lucerne. It is not expected that they will meet with any resistance unless indeed, the smaller cantons should come forward.