

## ON THE POWER OF METROPOLITANS

From the Colonial Church Chronicle.

We conceive nothing to be plainer than that metropolitical jurisdiction is placed by Canon Law under this most material restraint;—that, relatively to the inferior clergy and to the laity of the subordinate Sees, it is a strictly mediate jurisdiction. That is to say, the office of the Metropolitan bears immediately on his suffragans alone; but, except it be to supply their defects or rectify their errors, he has ordinarily no dealings whatever either with their clergy or with their flocks. And the distinction here involved is vital. There is no more settled maxim of ecclesiastical order than that the same Diocese cannot have two bishops at the same time. This is abundantly proved by the uniform testimony of ancient councils, and the usages of the universal Church. The institution of Metropolitans does not, and canonically cannot, contravene that fundamental maxim. But on the other hand it is equally clear that every Bishop is himself as much under the restraints of Canon Law, the decrees of general councils, declarations of conformity, oaths of obedience to superiors, and the constitutions of the particular province to which his See belongs, as the humblest of his priests or deacons. Bishops, as such, are not law-makers. But, in their capacity as ordinaries, they are set to interpret, to administer, and to enforce the law. And if they themselves defect from judgment and justice, and set an evil example of negligence, disobedience, or self-will, they are canonically liable to be corrected, or even punished after a process of inquiry; or, if their proceedings have been thought to involve injustice to those under them, by appeal from the aggrieved party. The Metropolitan is the high functionary to whom this grave duty of admonition and correction belongs; and, apart from the responsibilities which belong to him as the head of the provincial Synod, to that and the strictly cognate duties his office, as we believe, confines him. Whether a visitation after the Indian and Australian model is one of those cognate duties, we are by no means sure. We do not say that a subordinate See may not invite the like. We do not dispute that a visitation conducted in the kindly spirit everywhere displayed towards the Bishop of Sydney, and reciprocated by him, is likely to do good. But so would a visit of the representative Bishop of Canada or South Africa have done good, in the way of provoking zeal, and awakening an intense perception of the oneness of the Church, though it were only as an idea and for the moment. And besides we are not to suppose that, when Bishop Barker started from his home, he was prophetically or otherwise assured that he would encounter no irregularities, or that his Charge was composed before he had personally visited the very Churches to whom it was addressed. How would the particular form of visitation adopted by him have been accepted, if the Metropolitan, instead of finding everything to his mind, had found something to censure or "set in order?"

Without venturing to speak more positively concerning the past, we may at least express the hope that in Canada, South Africa; and New Zealand, the Metropolitan will, if possible, inaugurate his jurisdiction over his suffragans by convening them to meet him in Synod, and there take solemn and brotherly counsel with him as to the mode in which he and his successors are to exercise that jurisdiction. In limiting the question to the mode of jurisdiction, we speak advisedly. We do not propose that the provincial Synod, which only the Metropolitan can canonically convene, should be invited to declare whether there shall be a Metropolitan or not; or to choose for the Metropolitan, whether he shall be reduced to a merely titular rank, or shall wield a *bona fide* authority. The canons and constitutions of the Catholic Church, extending over the first fourteen centuries, have anticipated these questions, and effectually settled them. Nor are the Letters Patent worth less for the Metropolitan than for his suffragans. But it does seem most desirable that such precautions be taken, as that the chief Bishop, even when he acts alone, may have the comfort of knowing, provided always he act lawfully, that he truly represents the province, and that the allegiance of the suffragans may not be chilled or fretted by vague apprehensions of an amount of petty meddling which might at any time seriously weaken their own authority, and endanger the peace and good discipline of their Dioceses. And to this end, the very delicate subject of Metropolitans, as it seems to us, should be among the first points adjusted. Clearly, the Metropolitan possesses the right of inquiring into all matters which it is his duty to set straight if they are wrong. Thus, the limitation imposed by the Council of Trent, that Metropolitans never visit the Dioceses of their comprovincials *nisi causa cognita et probata in Concilio Provinciali*, may be a shade too stringent to be useful. But it brings out the spirit of the Canon Law, which we believe to be so faithfully rendered, in reference to the particular point before us, by the *dictum* of Pope Gregory, as by any sentence that could be framed, saving only the doctrine of his own supremacy: "Si qua culpa in Episcopis invenitur, nescio quis Sedi Apostolice Episcopus subiectus non sit: in vero culpa non exigit, omnes secundum rationem humilitatis a sales sunt." But such a maxim hardly leaves room for a Metropolitan to summon another Bishop's clergy before him, and to charge them from the suffragan's own throne.

A SHEET OF PAPER FOUR MILES LONG.—A sheet of tissue paper has been exhibiting at Colyton, Devonshire; it measures in length four miles, and is in breadth six feet three inches; the weight of it is but 196 pounds; it was manufactured in twelve hours.

## General Intelligence.

(Continued from page A)

**GREAT BRITAIN.—THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.**—There has been a "turning" in the "long lane." A decided change from the unfavourable weather which has prevailed for so protracted a period, took place on the 25th ult.; and although the earlier half of the past week was characterised daily by alternations from sunshine to rain, and vice versa, still on the whole there has been a marked and gradual improvement. As regards the crops, the recent change in the weather has already put to flight numerous gloomy forebodings, and we hear on all sides of large tracts of corn being under the sickle, and in many cases harvested and housed in excellent condition. The utmost activity prevails, and farmers are everywhere setting to work in downright earnest to gather in the harvest. In fact, assuming that we have not only a few weeks of fairly warm and dry weather, there would seem to be no reason why our southern crops should not be garnered in an extremely satisfactory condition.

**FRANCE.**—It was said in Paris on Wednesday evening, that among the desperate measures resorted to by the King of Naples, in extremis, he has sent an aide-de-camp to Savoy, with an autograph letter to the Emperor Napoleon. The *Moniteur de la Cote d'Or* states that M. Corse, the post-master of Clermont-Ferrand, who was charged with organising the relays of horses for the Emperor's journey in Savoy, had sent off 900 horses to the different points where they will be required for the Imperial service.

**ITALY.**—The unpopularity of France in Switzerland, in consequence of the confiscation of Savoy, is so great that the authorities have much difficulty in preventing the populace from insulting Frenchmen whenever they see them. The other day the Mayor of Gex, accompanied by a deputation, went through Geneva, as being the nearest way to meet the Emperor at Thonon. The party carried with them a flag which, although folded and covered with oil-cloth, was recognised and hooded, and some of the mob made an attempt to get possession of it.

**PRUSSIA.**—The Prince Regent of Prussia and all the royal princes have been invited by the Emperor of Russia to a grand hunting party at Warsaw. The Prince Regent will probably proceed there in the middle of the present month, after the conclusion of the manoeuvres of the Prussian troops. This visit may be officially considered as made in return for the last visit of the Emperor Alexander to Breslau.

**ROME.**—It is asserted that General de Nune, the commander of the French army at Rome, has announced to his officers that the orders of the Emperor were to defend the provinces of Rome, Civita, Vechia, Comarce, and Viterbo.

**SARDINIA.**—Extensive military movements are taking place in Turin. It is said that the troops are to be concentrated on the frontiers. The Count of Syracuse has arrived, and taken up his residence in the royal palace. The *Gazzetta di Torino* announces that Signor Enriani will leave on the 31st for Florence. According to advices from Naples, Garibaldi was marching upon Salerno.

**NAPLES, SEPT. 1.**—As yet the king has not accepted nor refused the resignation of his ministers. Naples is tranquil. The royal troops are concentrated near Naples, placards having been posted up bearing the words "Long live Victor Emmanuel," several soldiers tore them down. The Lazzaroni became irritated, and a conflict with the soldiers ensued. The *Gazzetta di Marino* says:—A dispatch, received from Naples this morning, states that the King of Naples had presided at a council of ministers, at which resistance was resolved upon. A letter from Naples of the 30th ult. says:—The pictures, the furniture of the palace, and the baggage of the King, have this afternoon been embarked on board of a Spanish vessel. General Briganti is said to have been guilty of the most shameful treason, he massed his soldiers together in such a way that they were surrounded, but they, in indignation, are stated to have shot him. The King of Naples is understood to persist in his resolution to resist Garibaldi as long as he can, and he is busied in preparations to make the best defence in his power; but he has promised the commanders of the National Guard that the City of Naples shall not be exposed to the dangers of a conflict. His troops are now, according to a telegram transmitted from Genoa, concentrated in the neighbourhood of the capital. Affrays between royalist soldiers and annexationist partisans appear to indicate that at least some of the troops preserve an attachment to the king; but the results of the actions in Sicily and Calabria sufficiently show that, even if Francis II's regiments should not be mutinous, they are too pusillanimous and inefficient to offer any serious resistance to the Sicilian Dictator. It could scarcely be denied that Francis II's persistence in resisting Garibaldi has somewhat disconcerted the Sardinian Cabinet, which is said to have reckoned that the Count of Syracuse's letter would have produced a greater effect on the mind of his nephew, and the disposition of the Neapolitan army. At all events, although some Sardinian troops are certainly on board vessels lying in the bay of Naples, the *immaterial journal of Turin* now speaks very vaguely about the project of despatching General Lamarmora with 30,000 men to Naples. There seems to be no doubt, however, that considerable bodies of Piedmontese troops are assembling on the frontiers of the Papal States.

**DAMASCUS, AUGUST 20.**—This morning 167 persons implicated in the late massacres, and on whom sentence had been passed, were publicly executed. Fifty-seven of the condemned were hanged in the most populous parts of the city, and 100 of the local police were shot in the square Djenk Meidin. The executions have struck terror into the inhabitants of the city, which remains tranquil. To-morrow, those condemned to hard labour and detention will be sent under strong escort to Beyrout, where they will be immediately embarked for Constantinople. Among the hanged, were brothers, sons, and parents of the highest men of the country. No attention was paid to their rank or dignity. To-morrow all the principal parties compromised will be arrested, tried, and punished. The trial of the Governor, Ahmed Agha, and other officers, is proceeding before a council of war. The sentences will be enforced immediately after they are pro-