

views and been guilty of strange practices ; but not often has it been found in alliance with the Porte. Meanwhile there are signs that Italy is preparing a surprise for the Curia on the death of Pius IX. It has been urged, and upon sound historical grounds, that during the first thousand years of the Church's existence the Italians elected the Bishop of Rome, clergy and laity participating. The College of Cardinals is a comparatively modern institution, and has no basis of Scripture, history, or tradition on which to rest. The Italians desire to get back their ancient rights, and it is even said that the present Government, which is Radical, will insist upon regaining them. There is, however, a serious obstacle in the way, which must be taken into account. Since the Popes were elected by the Church at large, the claim of a universal episcopate has been asserted for the see of Rome ; how may that be reconciled with an election by the members, cleric or lay, of a local Church ? The Vatican Council declared the supremacy of the Pope over all bishops and pastors—indeed they were obliged to do so when they proclaimed him infallible. Nevertheless, the Roman Catholic Church is distinctively Italian. The Council was packed with Bishops *in partibus*, Generals of the Orders, Abbots, and others who had no claim to admission there. Should the Pope die to-morrow, the College will take care to select the most inflexible Ultramontane they can find. The Roman Catholic nations have lost their veto at Papal elections, as they have been deprived of their representatives at General Councils. The old system has been inverted, and nothing remains but a grinding absolutism, which deifies the Pope, subordinates the Episcopal body, and leaves the priests, as some recompense, entirely in their power. The appointment of an Italian Cardinal to oversee a Canadian University is a fitting pendant to the system. The *Minerve* calls it an honour “accorded to but few European Universities”—an honour, we should fancy, for which few of them have any desire. It means complete subjection to the most bigoted section of the Church, and a reaction against the liberal principles enunciated of late by the Archbishop of Quebec and Mgr. Fabre ; it means the introduction of the Syllabus, with all the accompanying monstrosities ; it means, in short, a conflict between

the narrow notions of the Vatican and liberty of conscience, freedom of inquiry, and enlightened progress. If it be an honour to have our youth enrolled under the banner of intolerance and fanaticism, Ultramontanes are welcome to all the glory it will bring them. We only care that our elections shall be free from clerical intimidation, the basis of national culture broadened, and something resembling complete freedom firmly established throughout the Dominion. Canadians live under British sway, not under the Vatican, and therefore they have a right to protest against the importation of the Roman element into the intellectual culture of Canadians.

The visit of Lord Dufferin to the Pacific Province has not been so agreeable, in some respects, as we anticipated. The British Columbians are in a moody humour at present, and refuse to be gratified even by guests who are so courteous and affable. That there has been considerable bungling in dealing with them, must certainly be admitted ; yet that is no sufficient cause for unreasonable demands, still less for churlish behaviour to those who have made a toilsome journey especially to please them. The ideas of our western fellow-subjects must be extremely crude if they suppose that the Governor-General has any control over the policy of his advisers. To address the Crown is one thing ; to attempt to exert pressure upon the representative of the Crown is another. A petition to the Queen would be handed to her advisers, and a petition to the Governor must be passed over to the Ottawa Privy Council. So delicate, indeed, is his position, with a double responsibility here and at home, that to approach him at all with a bill of grievances is indecorous in the highest degree. If the telegram may be relied upon, Lord Dufferin was desired to do battle with his own advisers—the advisers not selected by himself, but placed there by the voice of a large majority of the Legislature. To interfere, therefore, in the Pacific Railway controversy would have been a constitutional *faux pas*, and the people who thrust their petition of right into his Lordship's face at Victoria ought to have known better. An absurd telegram from San Francisco made matters worse, since it startled the feeblér minds which are always hungering for a grievance, and fur-