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## WONDERING AFTER THE BEAST.

We alluded, not long since, to the acknowledged supremacy of Roman Catholic influence in the Cabinet at Ottawa, whenever any question comes before it, upon which Protestants and Roman Catholics are divided. The people of England have just been treated to a somewhat curious, and not very edifying, illustration of the same thing in that country. Alarmed for the safety of their church, and of their Sovereign Pontiff, Pio Nono, "a handful of obscure memorialists," recently addressed Mr. Gladstone, praying, and in effect demanding, that the British Government should take measures to secure to the Pope, "the continuance of such a temporal sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties, together with an adequate income." Had he not become accustomed to the endowment of Protestant Episcopacy, Popery, and Presbytery by turns, in answer to the clamours of greedy ecclesiastics, the Premier would probably have politely acknowledged the memorial, disclaimed jurisdiction, and consigned the document to honourable oblivion in the national archives. But from subsidizing Popery to subsidizing the Pope, is only a very short step, and the political exigencies of the case seeming to require it, Mr. Gladstone replied, that "Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice. Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of an actual necessity, they have, during the uncertainties of the last few months, taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff."