

AN ATHEIST'S TESTIMONY.

Proudhon, the Socialist, on the Everlasting Catholic Church.

The French socialist and atheist, Proudhon, whose antagonism to the Catholic Church cannot easily be exaggerated, has nevertheless no hope of her destruction. Here are some significant passages from a work written in reference to the present Italian revolution:

"The threats that they will enter into schism, or embrace Protestantism, made by certain parties in order to frighten the Papacy, are only extravagant dreams, which indicate mental disturbance. As to schism, if it were seriously desired—that is, if its motives were a real religious sentiment, the Christian idea—it would simply effect another triumph for the Papacy, by manifesting the solidity of the rock on which it rests. As to Protestantism, that is dead.

"What profit the attacks of our day against the Papacy? Nothing. The adversaries of this institution are forced to confess that Catholicism ever remains the sole refuge of morality, the sole illuminator of consciences.

When I assert that whenever Deism and Doctrinaireism strike a blow at the Holy See they simply infuse new strength into the Church, I do not reason like a partisan of the Papacy, but like a free thinker. In this matter we must consider facts above all else. Now, facts show that religion has struck its roots far down in the minds of men; and whenever, by some influence or other, religion loses its force therein, superstition and mystic sects of every kind take its place. . . . Things being in this condition, every attack upon Catholicism bears the character of persecution; and were to me succeed in dispossessing the Papacy, we should by no means destroy it, but would rather add to its triumphs by each one of our onslaughts. These facts are unpleasant, nay, irritating, to our rationalism; but they are uncontrollable, and are not to be attenuated.

In 1798 we tried to abolish Catholicism with the guillotine, but never did the Church flourish than under the Consulate. Thirty years before Voltaire had sought to render the Church 'infamous'; but he and his school were soon designated as libertines, and Catholicism held aloft the standard of morality thenceforth defiant of all attacks."

A WONDERFUL CAREER.

Switzerland's President Formerly a Woodchopper in Ohio.

From Middletown, O., a despatch was sent on the 27th December last, which reads as follows:

"John A. Gratwold is a farmer residing in Wayne township, a few miles west of this city. A number of years ago, before the war, a stranger in destitute circumstances applied at his father's home in the same neighborhood for food and lodging, offering to do anything in return for assistance. He gave his name as Frey, and said he had been exiled from Germany for a political offence. He was taken in the family and spent the following winter chopping wood in adjacent forests with John Gratwold. Early in 1860, after having spent two years with the Gratwolds, he went to Illinois, where he engaged as a farm hand. In 1861 he enlisted in an Illinois regiment and served against the South. His military career was quite brilliant, and he was promoted to be Major of Volunteers. He was captured at Gettysburg and confined in Libby Prison, where, after a few months, he was condemned to death as a retaliation for the sentence which the Federals had pronounced upon Capt. Gordon, a Confederate prisoner. Capt. W. Y. Stewart, another Confederate officer, was held as a hostage for the threatened execution of Frey, and neither sentence was ever carried out. Frey was paroled at Aikens Landing, Va., in January, 1865. He was broken down and seemed on the very verge of death. He resolved to return to his native land to die. He recovered, however, in the bracing air of Berne, and in a few years became prominent in politics. In 1882, it will be remembered, he was sent to this country as Switzerland's representative. He resigned in 1887 and returned again to the land of his birth. His success in the political arena then became a matter of universal comment. He was Secretary of War, and held other offices, and at the last election was chosen as President of the little Republic.

For many years the Gratwolds, in

whose heart he had always held a place, lost sight of their old employe. He had never forgotten them, however, and Monday J. A. Gratwold received a letter from M. Frey, President-elect of Switzerland, recalling early scenes and telling of the success that has crowned his now declining years. The recipient was surprised, but investigation proved the truth of the writer's claim that the former woodchopper of Butler county is now President of the Swiss Republic."

GEN. WOLFE'S ADDRESS.

Issued On His Arrival in the St. Lawrence, 1759.

The following is a copy of the address issued by General Wolfe on his arrival in the River St. Lawrence, 1759.

The placard published by Gen. James Wolfe, commander-in-chief of the troops of His Britannic Majesty, on his arrival in the River St. Lawrence, 1759.

The King, fully exasperated against France, has set on foot a considerable armament by land and sea, to bring down the haughtiness of that crown. His aim is to destroy the most considerable settlements of the French in North America; it is not against the industrious peasants, their wives and children, nor against the ministers of religion, that he designs to make war. He laments the misfortunes to which this quarrel exposes them, and promises them his protection, offers to maintain them in their possessions, and permits them to follow the worship of their religion, provided that they do not take any part in the difference between the two crowns, directly or indirectly. The Canadians cannot be ignorant of their situation. The English are masters of the river, and blocking up the passage to all succours from Europe. They have besides a powerful army on the continent under the command of General Amherst. The resolution the Canadians ought to take is by no means doubtful; the utmost exertion of their valour will be entirely useless and will only serve to deprive them of the advantages that they might enjoy by their neutrality. The cruelties of the French against the subjects of Great Britain in America would excuse the most severe reprisals; but Englishmen are too generous to follow barbarous examples. They offer to the Canadians the sweets of peace, amidst the horrors of war. It is left to them to determine their fate by their conduct. If their presumption, and a wrong-placed, as well as fruitless courage, should make them take the most dangerous part, they only will be blamed, when they shall groan under the weight of that misery to which they expose themselves.

General Wolfe flatters himself that the whole world will do him justice, if the inhabitants of Canada force him, by their refusal, to have recourse to violent methods. He concludes by laying before them the strength and power of England, which generously stretches out her hand to them: a hand ready to assist them on all occasions, and even at a time when France, by its weakness, is incapable of assisting them, and abandons them in the most critical moment.

GENERAL WOLFE'S COMMISSION.

James Wolfe, Gent, Lt. Lieut. in Col. Edw. Wolfe's Marines—31 Nov., 1741.

Ensign—12 Foot, Duroues, 27th March, 1742.

Lieutenant—12 Foot, Duroues, 14th July, 1743.

Captain—4 Foot, Barrell's, 23rd June, 1744.

Major—23 Foot, Johnson's, 5th February, 1745.

Major—20 Foot, Lord George Sackville, Lord Bury, 5th January, 1748-9.

Lieutenant-Colonel—20 Foot, Lord

Walter Kavanagh, 117 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.

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Bury, Honeywood, Kingsley, 20th March, 1749-50.

Colonel, Brevet—21st October, 1757.
Brigadier General in America—23rd January, 1758.

Captain—67 Foot, 21st April, 1758.
Major General—1759.

Killed at Quebec, 13th September, 1759, after a glorious victory.

Born Jan. 11, 1723, at Westerham, Kent, England, son of Lieut. General Edward Wolfe, "The Conqueror of Canada," "in defiance of numberless unforeseen difficulties, from the nature of the situation, from the superiority of numbers, the strength of the place, and his bad state of health."

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