

THE JESUITS OF NAPLES.

A Letter upon the recent Expulsion of the Jesuits from Naples, addressed to Signor G. Lacaita by the Rev. William Perceval Ward, F. A., of Oriel College, Oxford.

"I will only add, that during the last three years I have constantly verified my first observations. I have in that time travelled five times the whole length of Europe, both through France and through Germany, I have mixed freely with men of all ranks, creeds and countries, and (setting aside Protestants, who partly from ignorance, partly from religious prejudice, are altogether incompetent witnesses) I have found that the good, with very few exceptions, all love the Jesuits, the bad, without any exception, are their bitter enemies. This to me, independently of what I have seen of them myself, is a very strong argument in their favour: for surely, if we believe the Scriptures, the love of the good and hatred of the wicked ever have been, and ever will be, one great mark of God's most faithful servants. I have been speaking of the laity, but another and a stronger argument in their favour, though of the same kind, may be drawn from the opinion which the other Priests of their Church entertain of them. I have found invariably that the earnest, hard-working, pious Roman Catholic Priest most cordially loves and respects the Jesuits; it is so in Rome, it is so in France, it is so in Belgium, it is so in England. Of German Priests I cannot speak from any personal knowledge; but it is so here at Naples in a most marked manner; the most eminent, the most excellent, the most zealous, the most learned, the most pious of your Secular Clergy love and respect the Jesuits, and deplore their loss. It is so at Rome: who could have spoken more highly of a religious Order than the Pope himself has of the Company of Jesus, both of its past history and its present labours? If a Priest or Monk revile the Jesuits, as I hear some do, let his own life and actions be examined into, before any weight be attached to his words. Is he himself a laborious and zealous worker in Christ's vineyard? Is he a strict observer of the rule of his Order? I have no doubt myself of what the result of this inquiry would be. I do not, however, necessarily include the Dominicans* in this proposed scrutiny; they are the ancient and hereditary enemies of the Jesuits, and I put them aside as I have previously put the Protestants, as prejudiced, and therefore incompetent, witnesses; though I cannot hold their prejudices to be as conscientious or as excusable as those of the Protestants: nor can I help thinking that, if they themselves observed the rule of their own Order a little more faithfully than they do, their hatred of the Jesuits would be much modified. Good men love good men, the odium theologicum is bitter; but ever it is sweetened by that affection which those who love God must have for one another."

"But they are gone the men of high thoughts and humble toil; of lofty intellect and patient labour: the men of noble courage and gentle love; the men whose very mien and bearing, in your public streets, was a rebuke to those swarms of idle Priests and slothful Monks which now invest them, and who are indeed a canker in your country's heart, and a scandal to your Church."

"They are gone the faithful Religious, who had they but neglected the rule of their Order, as others have, might have lived on a soft and easy life, undisturbed by the enemy of mankind; for thus would they not have interfered with his reign in the world."

"They are gone: the faithful Priests, who had they less really taken up their Cross daily, or followed Christ less strictly, would not have so deeply shared with Him the world's despite, and scorn and hate."

"They are gone: the patient and loving instructors of youth: who, had they taught the Church's ancient creeds with less fidelity and less power, might have remained honoured and caressed; but they were destroying at their very roots the noxious weeds of infidelity and wickedness; therefore has the enemy of mankind stirred up the bad, and blinded even many of the good, to clamour for their destruction."

"They are gone: the Champions of Christendom; the foremost of the church's soldiery against the powers of darkness; whose real fault in the eyes of their bitter enemies; I say not of all their conscientious, though, as I think, mistaken opponents; far from it; but whose real fault in the eyes of those bitter enemies was a burning zeal for that religion which they detest."

"But they are gone: the noble bearers of the standard of the Cross through ages of self-indulgent habits, of relaxed morals, and of wavering faith."

"The brightest light that shone in this poor country, when nearly all else around was dark, is quenched, perhaps for aye, a light that would have burned brighter and brighter still, illuminating and making more glorious this page of your country's history; and ever going on before, the guide to higher knowledge, and through higher knowledge to a purer faith."

"They are gone: the last of your Clergy that you ought to have sent from you; the only Priests you have, who could have raised your people to the level of your new and exalted institutions: the only men who could have taught the youth of Naples and of Italy their new privileges and their new duties."

"They are gone: the men who alone could and who gladly would have done all this for you, and more. But they are gone, and they cannot now be recalled. There is in Europe an element, God only knows what it is, and to what it tends, which forbids this. I for one think, that for the sake of peace they ought to bend to the storm; if Christendom refuse them let them turn to the heathen; there are among them souls to be won to Christ, and crowns of glory to be won for themselves."

"They are gone but wherever they go, God's blessing will go with them; the blessing of the poor who were fed daily at their gates; the blessing of the prisoners whom they daily visited, the blessings of youth, whom their instructions have enlightened in this world, and guided to happiness in the next. The blessings of all that multitude, who had learnt from them the Word of life and been fed by them with the Bread of life; the blessings indeed, in some measure at least, of all the good and wise of this great city. And what if some curse? Was not David cursed? Did not the very abjects make mouths at him and ceased not? Was not One infinitely greater than David, whose name they bear, was not he cursed? Did not he forewarn all his true followers, that they should be "hated of all men for his Name's sake?" And did not the great Founder of their Order, the warrior Saint, did not he pray with his dying breath, that they might be so hated of the world to the end of time? What then if some do curse? Whether they do it ignorantly, or whether they do it wickedly, the same prayer will rise for them, wherever may be in this wide world those holy and revered Priests, whom they had persecuted; it was their Master's, it was their first martyred brothers', and it is theirs. "Lord lay not this sin to their charge."

"I have done. What I have said for the truth, God prosper. What I may unwittingly have said beside the truth. God make as though it had not been said."

"With much esteem and regard, I am, my dear Signor Lacaita, yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM PERCEVAL WARD.

"To the Signor Lacaita."

* There is no ground for this at present: they have everywhere as a body behaved very hospitably and generously towards the Jesuits in their present persecution."

CHINA.—ARREST OF TWO CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

A correspondent has kindly furnished us with the following information, taken from the *Friend of China* of March 11th, 1848 —

"We have been obliged by the Chinese authorities with the following narrative of the seizure of three Catholic Missionaries, and their journey to Canton, occupying the long period of two months. Two of these ecclesiastics are Italian Bishops, the third a Spanish Priest. One of them has resided for twenty years in the interior, peacefully and zealously following the sacred duty to which he has devoted his energies, the other two have been in the country for several years."

"We also refer to a letter addressed to the foreign community of Canton, who cheerfully tendered their services to the victims of a jealous Government."

"The Right Rev. Joseph Rizzolati, Bishop of Aradia, and Vicar-Apostolic of Hoo-quam, was arrested in the city of On-chang-foo, capital of Hoo-quam, on the 30th November, 1847, together with six Chinese students, after having exercised the Apostolic ministry in that province for a period of twenty years

"The Right Rev. Joseph Novello, Bishop of

Patera, and coadjutor to the above named Bishop. This Bishop, together with the Rev. Michael Navarro, Missionary-Apostolic, and eight Chinese students, were arrested at Hoo-Kow, on the 5th December, 1847, and conducted before the tribunal of On-chang-foo. After a long examination they were ordered a sumptuous repast by the Chief Justice or Mandarin then presiding, after which they were ordered to be confined in a Chinese temple, but, at their earnest solicitation, they were placed with the Right Rev. Bishop Rizzolati. They remained in this situation guarded by a mandarin and soldiers until the 9th of January, 1848, when they were ordered to the European settlements. The mandarin treated them with every attention, and during the time was convinced of the truth of Christianity, and ultimately converted. On the above date they were forwarded towards Canton, accompanied by two mandarins and a guard, one of whom remained in the same boat with the Bishops. During the voyage they were treated with respect and veneration, and arrived at Canton on the 3rd of March, when they were placed in the Chinese barracks near the factories. Subsequently, many of the Parisee residents called upon them, and afterwards the principal European residents came to their assistance. It is impossible to express the kindness and politeness of those gentlemen towards them. Finally, the American Consul, the Rev. P. Parker, M. D., and M. Fisher, Esq., obtained their liberty from the Chinese authorities on the 7th of March, at the same time offering any further assistance they might require. In the evening of that day they embarked for Hong-Kong, where they arrived on the 8th, and are now residing at the Roman Catholic College."

"Roman Catholic Mission House, Hong-Kong, 9th March, 1848

"Gentlemen—It is with no small degree of satisfaction that we take the earliest opportunity, after our arrival in Hong-Kong, of testifying to you in a public manner our sincere gratitude for the kind and welcome reception manifested by you towards us on the occasion of our appearing in Canton after our perilous mission into the interior, having been imprisoned at On-chang-foo, the capital of Hoo-quam, for a period of three months, and finally forwarded to the European settlements, after a long and fatiguing journey."

"It is gratifying for us to observe that our labours (although partially impeded in this instance) are appreciated by an enlightened community; and that the sufferings we have undergone for some time past in the promotion of Christianity in China have been commiserated in a truly benevolent manner."

"To the English, American, and Dutch Consuls, the Rev. P. Parker, and M. Fisher, Esq., and the gentry and merchants generally, residing in Canton, we tender our heartfelt thanks for their solicitous attention to our unfortunate necessities. It is impossible that such can ever be erased from our memories, or that we shall fail to communicate such to the world at large."

"Wishing yourselves and families every blessing, we beg to subscribe ourselves, your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) Bishop G. RIZZOLATI, Vicar-Apostolic of Hoo-quam.

Bishop G. NOVELLA, Coadj.

MICHAEL NAVARRO, Miss'y. Apostolic.

"To the English, American, and Dutch Consuls, the Rev. P. Parker, and M. Fisher, Esq., and the Merchants resident at Canton.

"P. S.—The Very Rev. Antonio Feliciani, Procurator of the Propaganda Fide, begs leave to thank most earnestly the gentlemen referred to in this letter for their zealous and kind attention to his brethren on the occasion of their arrival at Canton.

(Signed) ANTONIO FELICIANA, Prefect Apostolic of the Roman Catholics in Hong-Kong."

LONDON.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.—THE POPE.—On Monday the annual dinner of these charities took place at the Freemasons' Tavern. The Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman presided on the occasion.—Amongst the company present were the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, the Rev. Messrs. Heptonstall, O'Neal, M'Deal, Rigg, G. Rolfe, T. Ewart, Hearnep, Searle, Wheble, Sir Robert Throckmorton, Hon. Charles Langdale, Hon. Stafford Jenkinson, Messrs. Harrison, Campbell, Smith

Taggart, H. Barnwall, G. Blount, Forrestall, T. Walker, J. Walker, Virtue, Barelli, Reardon, &c. &c. After the cloth had been removed, the usual loyal toasts were given by the Right Rev. Chairman, in his own peculiarly felicitous manner. These were followed by "The Health of His Holiness, Pope Pius IX." a toast, as the Right Rev. Chairman observed, that awakened feelings of holiest love and veneration in every truly Catholic bosom, but which, perhaps, possessed a deeper interest from the situation in which the beloved Father of so many millions of spiritual children was placed at the present moment as to his temporal possessions. There was, he observed, amidst the extraordinary revolutions with which Europe was convulsed, one spot of earth, insignificant perhaps in the eyes of politicians, but towards which every Catholic heart was looking with anxious interest, in the hope of hearing that the Holy Father was once more restored to that place in the hearts of his people from which he ought never to have been ejected. The conduct of his ungrateful subjects, who were indebted to him for so many favours, was calling down on them the execration of every good man, whatever might be his creed or country. But it was consoling to know that in the esteem of the whole world the Pope occupies a higher position now than in the palmiest hours of his reign; when grateful thousands were surrounding his palace with repeated *vivas*. It was painful to the Catholic to be met at every turn with the unjust insinuation that the Pope, in what he did for the liberty of his people, was actuated solely by views of temporal advantage and worldly ambition. His conduct now gives contradiction to these insinuations. He has proved himself ready to sacrifice the proudest views of aggrandizement, his throne, and even his life, rather than the dictates of his conscience and his duty as the Vicar of Christ's kingdom on earth. He stands grandly forth as the Sovereign Pontiff of the Church of Christ, calmly and resolutely determined to be true, at every cost, to his duties as the Spiritual Father of the Faithful. It is indeed consoling to know, as I have had opportunities the most recent—even within a week—to know that, amidst all the ingratitude of his subjects—amidst all the threats of imprisonment, despotism, and even death—he remains the same calm and undisturbed Ruler of the Spiritual World as ever. I have it from the highest authority, that at the present moment—as when his palace was surrounded by the grateful hearts of millions—he is as resigned and happy, as calm and dignified as ever: that he administers and attends to all the wants of the Church with as great quietude and serenity, as though all were peace and tranquillity around him. We should, therefore, not feel downcast at his distressing situation, but rather feel glad that Heaven has permitted him to pass through these afflictions—that he might furnish such an example of disinterested greatness and goodness to the eyes of an unbelieving and selfish world. The toast was received with great enthusiasm. Mr. CAMPBELL SMITH, who had recently returned from Rome, spoke briefly to the toast, and said he was convinced that the feelings of the majority of the Roman people were with the Pope; that they loved and venerated that excellent man as much as ever; that a few designing, violent, and unprincipled men, were alone opposed to him and that, ere long, we should hear, he trusted, of their base designs being frustrated, and of His Holiness being restored to that position which he occupied so lately in the hearts of his people."

CONFIRMATION IN CAMPBLETON, SCOTLAND.—On Sunday, the 4th inst., the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation was administered by the Right Rev. Dr. Murdoch, Bishop of Castabala and Vicar-Apostolic of the Western District of Scotland, to 105 of the Catholics of Campbleton. The confirmed had all lately approached to their Paschal Communion, the most of them for the first time; and amongst the number were many converts, received within the last few months into the Catholic Church by their respected Pastor the Rev. Mr. Condon.

DEATH OF THE HON. EDWARD PETRE.—It is with deep regret that we announce the death of the Hon. Edward Petre, who departed this life on Thursday evening. May he rest in peace. Amen.—*Tubet.*

MITCHELL FUND.—The patriots of Carrick-on-Suir have subscribed one hundred pounds to the Mitchell fund.