

beyond Mr. Froude's pages to demonstrate this. From that narrative it very clearly appears that the break-down of the Irish rebellion was mainly due to two causes:—to the collapse of the conspiracy in the North at a critical moment, upon the Northern Protestants discovering that the war was assuming a religious character in the South; and secondly, to the failure of the French to send their contingent in time. Mr. Froude admits that in the early part of June there was nothing to prevent Father John Murphy, the leader of the insurrectionary forces in Wexford, from marching by way of Arklow and the coast line to Bray, from which he could have threatened Dublin, where the masses could only be kept from rising by the presence of a considerable garrison. Camden, he tells us, was now, for the first time, really alarmed. The reports from the North were less favourable, and Walpole's defeat might decisively turn the scale.

“‘The salvation of Ireland,’ the Lord-Lieutenant wrote in a letter to the Duke of Portland, ‘on which Great Britain as an empire eventually depends, requires that this rebellion should be instantly suppressed. No event but instant extinction can prevent it from becoming general, as it is notorious that the whole country is organized. The Chancellor, the Speaker, all the friends of his Majesty's Government, whom I am in the habit of consulting, have this day given it as their solemn opinion, and have required me to state it as such, that the salvation of Ireland depends on immediate and very considerable succours. A few regiments will perhaps only be sent to slaughter or to loss. This opinion is perfectly well founded. General Lake agrees. I make this appeal to your Grace in the most solemn man-

ner.’ It was quite certain,” Mr. Froude adds, “that at this particular moment Father John could, if he had pleased, have reached Dublin with ease. He had 20,000 men with him at Ballymore. He would have doubled his numbers before he had arrived at Bray, and at Bray he would have been but a day's march from the city.” (Vol. III., pp. 404, 405.)

But at this crisis of the struggle the Northern Protestants took alarm, and the Northern contingent, which had been regarded by the Government as the most formidable element of the rebel army, never came to the front, and disappeared with a flash in the pan. At the same time the French failed to make their appearance, and only arrived when the movement had been already crushed. The Government had thus time to receive reinforcements, and having only to do with the Southern outbreak, had little difficulty in suppressing it. In spite, therefore, of all the barbarities practised in the abortive attempt at suppression—in spite of the pitch-cappings, floggings, and dragonnades throughout the country—it remains quite clear that the rebellion would, at all events for a time, have succeeded, if the Government had not been saved in the very crisis of its fate by causes for which it had to thank its good luck. The cruelties which disgraced its conduct were without appreciable effect on the issue of the struggle. Unhappily they were only too effective in exasperating the passions of the combatants, and in imprinting bitter memories which time has not yet effaced, and which this unhappy narrative will prolong.

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CURRENT LITERATURE.

“THE First Partition of Poland” is the title of the first paper in the current number of the *Fortnightly*. Herr Sybel states that all the evidence that can be obtained on this subject has now been laid before the public, even to the archives of St. Petersburg of the time of Catharine II. By way of preliminary to his examination of the motives for

the partition, the writer gives an interesting account of the territories forming the ancient Kingdom of Poland, the relative proportion of the nationalities and religions of the population, and finally, a view of the peculiar characteristics, good or bad, of the people and of their form of government. In 1762, Catherine II. became Czarina, and proceeded to