

THE SOUPERS SYSTEM. To the Editor of the Morning News...

It is now, ten years since this parish was... the agent above alluded to, has a power, practically considered, of life and death...

In 1850 he took up about 300 acres of bog land from the tenants under him, all holding from year to year. In these bogs were all his hopes...

In the year 1851 the agent built up four school houses, and brought into the parish a staff of Protestant teachers and bible readers...

The agent is Mr. Marcus Keane—his young brother Henry he made head manager among the tenants while the Bible Society at the same time appointed him head bible reader...

During the famine of 1848-9 the people of the township of Kibbaha actually supported their own paupers; they were then well off and happy...

Mr. Keane made a solemn promise he would give up supererogation, and send away the disturbers; this promise he made to the county of Clare.

I have just received a letter from a Protestant gentleman of high respectability, in which he says, "The statements made by you to me, I made on your authority; they were most solemnly contradicted..."

The principal statement is contained in this letter. On last Saturday, the 24th inst., one of those bible readers, commonly called Denny the Deceit, went into the Moore National School...

He is now building a school for them, of course in his own name, at Kibbaha. I think, and so do the poor tenants, that against such characters, an Agent should give encouragement and protection to a Catholic Priest among a Catholic people...

I have got seven schools in these parishes, in connexion with the National Board. In these, 1,400 children have learned to read their prayer books and catechism. This, the religious portion of their education, I mention here, as it is the most important...

By reference to the reports of the Inspectors, it will be seen that the secular teaching is at least as good as that given in the proselytizing schools. Yours, truly, M. MERRIS, P.P., Carrigrohilly.

THE SOUPERS' 'DINNER OF TRUTH.'—A small publication has come into our hands, purporting to give an account of the 'wonderful progress' of the soupers brigade in Ireland. It is published in England, and is called 'The Banner of Truth in Ireland'...

THE NEXT NAVAL WAR.—It is not yet six years since we saw a war which commenced with proud fleets of line-of-battle ships and in one of gunboats, mortarboats, and floating batteries, sheathed with iron.

the mother country for our existence in India, for our honor in China. Did the line-of-battle ship of the 50-gun frigate do any good service there? No! it was in our seamen in India, our small craft, and gunboats in China, that the navy of Great Britain again established its pre-eminence and supported its traditional fame.

THE DEFENSES OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—We are glad to learn, from late and sure authority, her Majesty's Government is not unmindful, nor forgetful, of the words of the Duke of Wellington, "Once get a good naval station at the Channel Islands, and you will be as free from French invasion as if you were in my own room."

STATE OF EUROPE.—Very careless or very stupid must that statesman be who can look without alarm on the present state and future prospects of the German Confederation. The crisis at which Germany has arrived reminds us only too forcibly, as regards her foreign relations, of the state of things in the early part of that gloomy year of her history, 1806.

THE REVENUE.—The accounts for the quarter ending March 31 show an increase of about five million pounds as compared with the corresponding quarter last year. Out of this sum £120,000 is derived from walt spirits, and about £3,500,000 are yielded by the income tax owing to the increased rate, and there are small increases under the heads of Stamps, Post Office, and miscellaneous items.

THE CONFESIONAL.—Mr. Bowyer intends to move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law of evidence regarding privileged communications in certain cases. A correspondent of the Union says that confession, if made to a minister in the Church of England, is privileged, and that if the same privilege is not extended to the Roman Catholic Church it ought to be, in these days of boasted toleration.

PROTESTANT COMMERCIAL PROSPERITY.—In spite of all the care of Parliament and all the labours of sensible and right-minded employers, the population of a Lancashire town cannot be contemplated without a certain misgiving. Watch them as they pour along the streets to dinner, observe their pale faces, their stoop, their thin hands and their somewhat unsteady gait, and it will glance across your mind that the first place in the commerce of the world may be too dearly purchased.—Times.

Dr. JOHN CUMMING, THE GREAT PROTESTANT PRAISEMAN.—We fully agree in the justice of the following criticism on the Revd. John Cumming. It is taken from the London Leader. It is time that the millennium dodge were used up—'Is there in this great realm a more common-place person than Dr. John Cumming? Is there a vainer or more presumptuous mortal? Here we have a book of travels by an American clergyman, which could very well have stood on its own legs, made its own bow, spoken its own speech; but it cannot be introduced to us, it seems, without the bombast and the balderdash of the archplattitudinarian who wears the world with discourses at second hand on the millennium.

But how has Dr. Cumming edited his work? He has not corrected the proof-sheets, for there is a pleasant variety of typographical blunders. Neither has he corrected or elucidated anything. What, then, has he done? He has contributed an introduction remarkable for silliness; and with glaring impertinence he has thrust before us those millenarian dogmas which are his stock-in-trade. Dr. Cumming never forgets the shop. The utterances of Daniel the Prophet, misinterpreted by one who is little of a prophet—and the Revelation of St. John the Divine misinterpreted by John the Uddivine, are the said John the Uddivine's estate. Who would ever have heard of Dr. Cumming, if Dr. Cumming had not discovered that predictions about the millennium excited the hopes and alarmed the fears of so many? As respects the millennium, those are welcome to believe in it who choose; but most certainly if we were millenarians, and were convinced that in half a dozen years Christ was to appear on earth, and the Devil was to be chained, we should deem it our duty to act very differently from our fellow beings; we should prepare ourselves for the advent of the Messiah, and the dethronement of Satan, by prayer, by penitence, by solitude, by absolute abstinence from the cares and concerns of the world.

But Dr. Cumming is the preacher to a fashionable audience; he is always glad to show his self-satisfied face with lords on the platform; and we never heard that in bargaining with his publisher about his trumpery tomes, he renounced all remuneration gave up every claim to the copyright, for the sufficient reason that the millennium is coming. We revere every man's faith who gives proof of his sincerity; and the more faithless the age—for own it is faithless enough—the more faith should be by the faithful revered. But what proof of sincerity has Dr. Cumming given? Not even that of studying, of knowledge, of knowing the subject well of which he professes to treat. As there are few more barren thinkers, few worse writers than Dr. Cumming, so there are few more ignorant scholars or incompetent theologians. Sundry Americans have borrowed from the Germans; he borrows from the Americans, and a curious aspect the whole thing wears, when it comes before the British public. The plagiarist is half a quack. We wish we could believe that Dr. Cumming's quackery were limited to his notorious plagiarisms. But when Dr. Cumming frightens the old women in the country with his books—so twaddly in style, so big with folly—yet looks perfectly undisturbed in the prospect of the tribulations which he prophesies, and if not greedy of praise, we ask him whether he should be quite so hard on Pio Nono, and on papal impostors and impostures generally? At all events, in the present instance we could have dispensed with Dr. Cumming's millenarian, advertising cards and placards; and we think that Dr. Cross could have dispensed with them too. For one reader whom Dr. Cumming's name will attract, there are ten whom it will repel.

LES DEUX NAPOLÉONIENNES.—The complications in Central Italy and the threatened violation of the rights of Switzerland, have, to a great extent, diverted our attention from events of scarcely less interest in a quarter nearer home. At present the danger is undeveloped. The cloud is no bigger than a man's hand; and in these days, when the statesmanship of English diplomatists, seems to be wanting in its first requisite, foresight, it is quite possible that the peril may be overlooked, and that a few months hence we may be called upon to take sides in a fresh quarrel and to choose between the claims of our hereditary allies and the policy of Napoleon. They greatly mistake the objects of our powerful ally who believe that the cession of Savoy and Nice will restore peace to Europe. From North to South and from East to West of Europe there is at this moment a system of intrigue being carried out, which aims at one sole end—the ascendancy of France. Hitherto the projects of the French Emperor have been only too successfully accomplished. He has put in practice the tortuous policy embodied in the old legend, "Divide et impera" and trite though it is, appreciable as it is to the most ordinary understanding, he has contrived to blind every Power in Europe to his persistent application of its principles. He has humiliated Russia, and made a friend of her. He has crushed Austria, and inspired her with a fiercer resentment against her traditional allies than her victorious enemy. There are two Powers which he has yet to humble before he can fully realize his ambitious dream. These are Prussia and England, and with Prussia the whole of Northern Germany. At this very moment, we believe we are correct in stating that negotiations are on foot in relation to that old sore—the Schleswig-Holstein question—which demand the serious attention of our government, and on which, not improbably, may hinge the good understanding and the cordial union of England and Germany. It is no secret that since the last resolution of the Frankfurt Diet with reference to the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg, the relations of Denmark and the German Confederation have gone from bad to worse. The Diet, in demanding from Denmark the redress of various violations of the constitution of the Duchies, has at the same time declared that it will if the necessity shall arise, support the claims of the population of the Duchies by military interference. It is not impossible, then, that a body of federal troops may in the course of the year occupy those territories under the plea of providing for the interests of a people who are members of the German Confederation. The Danish plenipotentiary has, in the name of the government, protested against the step. But appearances justify the conclusion that the resolution will be carried into effect, as it is not likely that Denmark will make further concessions. Public opinion in Germany approves of the attitude which the Diet has taken, and warmly expresses its approval of the action of central government. Under these circumstances we learn that Denmark, as a second-rate Power, finding her means inadequate to a successful resistance against a German coalition, has been anxiously directing her looks for assistance to one of the great powers, she has been successful. France has given a favorable answer to the Cabinet of Copenhagen, and negotiations have commenced and are actively going on, with a view to the conclusion of an offensive and defensive treaty between the respective governments. The advantages that the geographical position of Denmark would afford to the Emperor Napoleon in the event of a war with Germany, are to obvious to have been overlooked by so astute a monarch as Louis Napoleon; and there is little doubt that he has fully calculated the immense assistance which the Danish navy might render, as an auxiliary, in blockading the harbours and destroying the maritime establishments and the shipping of Northern Germany. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the advances of the Cabinet of Copenhagen have been favorably responded to at Paris, and that negotiations have been entered into for the formation of an alliance between the two governments, which may find an early opportunity of mutually and efficiently supporting each other. We have good reason for stating the reappraisal on this subject has made great progress, and that the alliance for offensive and defensive purposes will soon be an established fact. The understanding between Denmark and France in the conjuncture would in itself be a matter for the earnest consideration of the English Ministry; but its importance is considerably enhanced, if it be true as we believe it to be, that French diplomatists are busy engaged at Stockholm in order to draw Sweden and Norway into similar engagements. There exists at this moment a treaty

with France and Sweden in which England participated, and which was concluded during the Russian war, the object of that treaty, was very different from the one now contemplated; the present aim of French diplomacy being the securing of the support and co-operation of the Scandinavian kingdom in the carrying out of that policy of predominance which the Emperor Napoleon is now endeavoring to establish throughout Europe. We trust the eyes of the government will be opened to what is going on. The formation of a league of the naval Powers of the Continent against this country was a favorite project of the uncle. It may be an "idea" of the nephew. It cannot be denied that it looks feasible, and that the embers of the Schleswig-Holstein question may yet be kindled into a European conflagration. The complication in its present form is most opportune for the interference of France; and the slightest imprudence on the part of Denmark or Germany may bring about a state of things in which we should be called upon to look on at the destruction of an ally or to throw our whole strength into the scale against aggression. If our information be correct, the train is skillfully laid; but the bold action of English statesmen may yet prevent the explosion of the mine.—London Herald.

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UNITED STATES. A correspondent desires to know if there is any truth in the report that the Rev. Henry W. Beecher intends getting up a petition to the Legislature of Massachusetts, asking indemnity for the destruction of the Charlestown Convent by a mob of anti-Catholic bigots and fanatics, who were incited thereto by the speeches of his father. The correspondent expresses his surprise that a man who professes to be such a lover of liberty, should have allowed this matter to have remained so long in abeyance, and expresses the opinion, or we should say, throws out the suggestion, that it would be well for the Rev. gentleman to begin by having all his own congregation sign their names to the document. We (Ultra-political Review) are unable to answer the question, as we are not in Mr. Beecher's confidence, but intend to send him a copy of this week's Record, that he may have an opportunity of giving our correspondent all the information that he requires.

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YANKEE PHILOSOPHY.—The following is no bad illustration of the way the world goes:—"At a social gathering of the church members, among other things, each member was relating his causes of joy and sorrow, when Mr. — said: "In my family of children, I have much cause for joy, and also much to distress me. There is my son George, a good, reverent, and dutiful boy; but there is my son Bill, he is an audacious scamp. He left his poor grey-headed father many a day ago; and he has been a long time since I have heard of him; and when I last heard of him, he was way up the Galesburg river, a raftin' saw logs, playin' seer-up, and a horse-racin'; but, thank the Lord, he is making money by the trip. Ain't he, sister?" "Yes, he is, and no mistake."

exactly liberal, has liberal tendencies. But Prussia is more than counterbalanced in the deliberations of the Bund by Austria, and isolated as she is from the rest of Germany, she may perhaps find that she has little choice between repeating the campaign of 1806, with a strong probability of the same calamitous result, or listening to the propositions which there is too much reason to suppose that France is ready to make her, with a view of obtaining by the pen that which she is otherwise tempted to conquer by the sword. What if France be disposed to offer to Prussia, in exchange for her Rheinisch Provinces, Saxony, Hanover, Brunswick, and Mecklenburg,—territories which could offer little or no resistance to such an amalgamation? Might not Prussia think it better to surrender for an equivalent so fully adequate that which she will hardly retain after the most desperate and costly efforts? The Third Napoleon has found a better means of executing his will than the First. He views long campaigns and bloody battles as the resources of bunglers in the art of kingship. He has his choice among the Sovereigns of Europe, all competing with each other for the honor of being his instrument in the development of any policy he may choose to adopt, or the appropriation of any territory he may choose to seize. If we turn to the people of Germany, we find that their Sovereigns have little or no reason to count on their loyalty. The people have not forgotten the promises which were made and broken to their fathers in 1813, and made and broken to themselves in 1848, and they do but await a fitting opportunity to rid themselves of an odious domination.—The Tyrolese and the Croats are wearied of their allegiance to a Power which can neither appreciate their services nor reward their devotion; while Hungary, Bohemia, the Southern Tyrol, and Venetia, threaten Austria with all the horrors which the rebellion of a justly-provoked people can bring with it. Let Germany, then, look to herself; empires and provinces are won in these days by other means than by those of brute force. We have seen what can be effected by universal suffrage, by municipal demonstrations, or even, when these means fail, by nameless, unappreciated, unrecognized deputations.—Prussia may be offered a tempting equivalent, and the Rhine, after all,—is it not a national boundary? See what Sacrifices Piedmont has made in surrendering Savoy, and ask whether every considerable German Sovereign may not receive an equivalent as ample as that against which she has been content to truck the loyalty and devotion of 800 years. It never yet was known that one success blunted the appetite of the gaudier for another, and when we see what has been done we may partly conclude what it is we are next to expect. Under these circumstances, we should be glad to hear what are the intentions of Germany. Is she determined to wait till the last moment? Is she to go on confiscating the liberties and trampling on the rights of mankind till the very stones of her cities rise up to protest against her cruel and callous injustice? Now, if ever, Germany needs that her Princes should be united among themselves, and her people should be confirmed in their loyalty. Unhappy is that nation to which danger cannot teach union, and infatuated are those Princes to whom a bitter experience, just about to repeat itself, cannot teach the most ordinary precepts of equity and moderation.—Times.

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ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY the dedication of the new church of St. Francis, San Francisco, took place. Fanny Fern is after the clergyman now. A new importation—the Rev. Mr. Guinness—displeases her. She describes him thus:—"Having nothing to say, he could not say it; so, he resorted to rolling of the eyes, clapping of the hands, and long passages to introduce the flattest platitudes. Our night laugh were it not so terrible to see Christianity so invested and profaned. The very tones of his voice are false. I measured him before he had done mouthing the first hymn. He impressed me as an egotistical lumbag."

BOWIE-KNIVES, OR RIFLES.—A few days ago in the U. S. House of Representatives, some excitement was caused by Mr. Lovejoy, a republican member, making a thoroughly anti-slavery speech, denouncing the enormities of the peculiar institution. For some moments a free fight was expected; but matters cooled down. During the morning, two members, Messrs. Pryor of Virginia, and Potter of Wisconsin, political opponents, exchanged some words. The latter in looking over the notes of the reporter for the official paper, inserted some words which he (Potter) alleges that he used. It appears that Pryor told Lovejoy to go back to his seat, the orator, in the heat of debate, having advanced into the middle of the hall, and that Potter had said—"You are doing the same thing!" To the insertion of these words in the report Pryor objected, and erased them, and Potter declared he would stand to them. A challenge from the Virginia was the result. A dispatch from Washington of the 13th says:—"The following is believed to be a correct statement of the Pryor and Potter affair up to noon to-day. Immediately after the occurrence in the House, Mr. Pryor despatched, through Mr. Hindman, of Arkansas, a note to Mr. Potter, asking him to leave the District to receive a written communication. Mr. Potter replied that as Mr. Pryor's note contemplated avoiding the anti-duelling penalties in the District, and that as his (Potter's) qualification was contained in the constitution of Wisconsin, he could not leave the District. On this Mr. Chisman, a substitute for Mr. Hindman, who was obliged to leave for Arkansas, handed Mr. Potter a peremptory challenge from Mr. Pryor, dating his note Virginia. Colonel Lander, who had been designated by Mr. Potter as his friend, handed, after a lapse of twelve hours, a note to Mr. Chisman, accepting the challenge, naming common bowie-knives as the weapons, and to fight in open air with two friends, each armed with Col's pistols. Mr. Chisman protests against this form of weapon as absurd, barbarous and vulgar, and offers to construe the code in the most liberal way, provided other arms are suggested. Mr. Potter authorized Mr. Lander to decline any other terms, and Mr. Lander offers to substitute himself for Mr. Potter without consulting Mr. Pryor, which proposition the first is vulgar and inadmissible, and that while appreciating Mr. Lander's zeal for his friend, they have no cause of quarrel with him, and consequently no demand to make on him. Mr. Pryor is still in Virginia and has not yet heard of the action of his second in the matter. The latter is believed to have acted after consultation with Messrs. Miles, Keit, Mason and Hammond. Mr. Potter came into the House at half past one, and was greeted by a number of his friends with whom he retired to a cloak room. Another report states that Pryor's friend offered to fight either with buckshot, with bowie-knives, in a room, or with rifles at one hundred paces.

YANKEE PHILOSOPHY.—The following is no bad illustration of the way the world goes:—"At a social gathering of the church members, among other things, each member was relating his causes of joy and sorrow, when Mr. — said: "In my family of children, I have much cause for joy, and also much to distress me. There is my son George, a good, reverent, and dutiful boy; but there is my son Bill, he is an audacious scamp. He left his poor grey-headed father many a day ago; and he has been a long time since I have heard of him; and when I last heard of him, he was way up the Galesburg river, a raftin' saw logs, playin' seer-up, and a horse-racin'; but, thank the Lord, he is making money by the trip. Ain't he, sister?" "Yes, he is, and no mistake."

THE SOUPERS SYSTEM. To the Editor of the Morning News...

It is now, ten years since this parish was... the agent above alluded to, has a power, practically considered, of life and death...

In 1850 he took up about 300 acres of bog land from the tenants under him, all holding from year to year. In these bogs were all his hopes...

In the year 1851 the agent built up four school houses, and brought into the parish a staff of Protestant teachers and bible readers...

The agent is Mr. Marcus Keane—his young brother Henry he made head manager among the tenants while the Bible Society at the same time appointed him head bible reader...

During the famine of 1848-9 the people of the township of Kibbaha actually supported their own paupers; they were then well off and happy...

Mr. Keane made a solemn promise he would give up supererogation, and send away the disturbers; this promise he made to the county of Clare.

I have just received a letter from a Protestant gentleman of high respectability, in which he says, "The statements made by you to me, I made on your authority; they were most solemnly contradicted..."

The principal statement is contained in this letter. On last Saturday, the 24th inst., one of those bible readers, commonly called Denny the Deceit, went into the Moore National School...

He is now building a school for them, of course in his own name, at Kibbaha. I think, and so do the poor tenants, that against such characters, an Agent should give encouragement and protection to a Catholic Priest among a Catholic people...

I have got seven schools in these parishes, in connexion with the National Board. In these, 1,400 children have learned to read their prayer books and catechism. This, the religious portion of their education, I mention here, as it is the most important...

By reference to the reports of the Inspectors, it will be seen that the secular teaching is at least as good as that given in the proselytizing schools. Yours, truly, M. MERRIS, P.P., Carrigrohilly.

THE SOUPERS' 'DINNER OF TRUTH.'—A small publication has come into our hands, purporting to give an account of the 'wonderful progress' of the soupers brigade in Ireland. It is published in England, and is called 'The Banner of Truth in Ireland'...

THE NEXT NAVAL WAR.—It is not yet six years since we saw a war which commenced with proud fleets of line-of-battle ships and in one of gunboats, mortarboats, and floating batteries, sheathed with iron.