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THE PROGRESS OF THE SIEGE.

From the 25th October—the date of the cavalry action at Balaklava—until the 5th ult., nothing of much importance occurred. The besiegers kept slowly pushing on their works, though continually harassed by the enemy. The latter, on the 3rd and 4th November, received large reinforcements, and were still further animated, by the presence of two Arch-Dukes, sons of their Czar. Under these circumstances, Prince Menschikoff determined upon resuming the aggressive, and, by a bold and combined attack, to force the Allies from their position. For this purpose during the night of Saturday the 4th ult., he concentrated large masses of troops; supported by a powerful artillery on the extreme right of the British troops. But what follows will be better understood from the following description by the London *Globe* of the

POSITION OF THE ALLIES.

"The allied armies are encamped upon a plot of about four miles in length and six in breadth, but the ground is so high about the neighboring valleys that a large force on these heights could resist ten times its numbers. Towards Balaklava the ascent from the plain below is, generally speaking, very abrupt, so that from the sea to the Inkermann Valley—i.e., the valley by the side of which an important part of the harbor of Sebastopol runs—is easily defended. The French have raised a breast-work along the whole line, batteries are placed in well-selected positions, redoubts and redans command certain roads and passes, and where the smallest chance offered for a cavalry passage, due protection has been applied; so that as long as we have an army of the present strength, no enemy need be feared in this direction. The plateau on which we rest is not square, but bounded by three curves—one on the coast line; the second, or Balaklava line, from the sea to the point whence you look down into the Inkermann Valley; the third, running from that point towards the sea, parallel with the town, and dipping towards the coast, until it is at last at bont level with the highest part of the arsenal side of Sebastopol. Along this last line, upon spurs of hills running out towards the fortress, our batteries are placed, the French, or left attack, occupying the broad slip spoken of above as level with a part of the town. Of course between these spurs there are gorges, and these run down and meet the plain, which narrows as you draw from Inkermann seaward. The only assailable part of our position is that towards the fortress; but even that may be set down as perfectly secure, considering the force we always have at hand, provided ordinary watchfulness be exercised. We have on the right attack four batteries, named as follows:—Right Lancaster, Left Lancaster, Green Hill, and Four-gun Battery, mounting about 30 guns; and on the left the large Green-hill Battery, with 36 guns, our nearest gun being at least 1,200 yards from Sebastopol. In advance we have an approach which is within 600 yards of the enemy; but this is not intended to aid a battery so much as to form a cover for the storming parties whenever an attack shall be determined on. In the rear of these batteries, beginning from our extreme right, lie the 2nd, 1st, Light, 3rd, and 4th Divisions, ready at a moment's notice to repel any sortie, should the covering parties find themselves unable to hold their own. The great difficulty on the English side consists in the rocky nature of the ground, which quite prevents sapping close up to the walls, and terribly increases the labor for the poor men. Between us and the French there is a long and deep ravine, beyond which are the French batteries, finely placed on a level with the high ground of the town, and, as the soil is comparatively deep, the engineer has a better chance. General Bizot is one of the Vauban school, and is quietly but confidently approaching the walls. The batteries defending Sebastopol are five in front and two in the town, all mud works, and apparently well constructed. As to the number of guns, it is impossible to speak accurately. There are probably not less than 150 in position, and the injury received from the allies during the day is repaired from the arsenal during the night."

"It was against "the only assailable part" that the enemy directed his attack. Slowly and silently under cover of the darkness his columns approached the British pickets. But here we shall have resource to the *Times*' special correspondent for the details of **THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN**. On the morning of the 5th November, at Balaklava, Nov. 5th—It had rained almost incessantly the night before, and the early morning gave no promise of any cessation of the heavy showers, which had fallen, for the previous four-and-twenty hours. Towards dawn a heavy fog settled down on the heights, and on the valley of the Inkermann. The pickets and men on the outlying posts were thoroughly saturated,

and their arms were wet, despite their precautions, and it is scarcely to be wondered at, if there were some of them who were not quite as alert as sentries should be in face of an enemy; for it must be remembered that our small army is almost worn out by its incessant labors. The fog and vapors of drifting rain were so thick as morning broke that one could scarcely see two yards before him. During the night a sharp-eared sergeant on an outlying picket of the light division heard the sound of wheels in the valley below, as though they were approaching the position up the hill. He reported the circumstance to Major Bunbury, but it was supposed that the sound arose from ammunition carts or arabs going into Sebastopol by the Inkermann road. No one suspected for a moment that enormous masses of Russians were creeping up the rugged sides of the heights over the valley of Inkermann on the undefended flank of the 2nd division. There all was security and repose.—

Little did the slumbering troops in camp imagine that a subtle and indefatigable enemy were bringing into position an overwhelming artillery ready to play upon their tents at the first glimpse of daylight. It must be observed that Sir De Lacy Evans had long been aware of the insecurity of this portion of our position, and had repeatedly pointed it out to those whose duty it was to guard against the dangers which threatened us. Yet nothing was done. No effort was made to entrench the lines, to cast up a single shovel of earth, to cut down the brushwood, or to form an abatis. It was thought 'not to be necessary.' A heavy responsibility rests on those whose neglect enabled the enemy to attack us where we were least prepared for it, and whose indifference led them to despise precautions which taken in time might have saved us many valuable lives, and have trebled the loss of the enemy had they been bold enough to have assaulted us behind entrenchments.—We have nothing to rejoice over in the battle of Inkermann. We have defeated the enemy, indeed, but have not advanced a step nearer towards the citadel of Sebastopol. We have abashed, humiliated, and utterly routed an enemy strong in number, in fanaticism, and in dogged, resolute courage, and animated by the presence of a son of him whom they believe to be God's Vicegerent on earth; but we have suffered a fearful loss, and we are not in a position to part with one man. England must give us men. She must be prodigal of her sons, as she is of her money and of her ships, and as they have been of their lives in her service.

"It was little after five o'clock this morning when Brigadier General Codrington, in accordance with his usual habit, visited the outlying pickets of his own brigade of the light division. It was reported to him that 'all was well,' and the general retraced his steps through the brushwood towards his lines.—He had only proceeded a few paces when a sharp rattle of musketry was heard down the hill and on the left of the pickets of the light division. It was here that the pickets of the 2nd division were stationed. General Codrington at once turned his horse's head in the direction of the firing, and in a few moments galloped back to turn out his division. The Russians were advancing in force upon us!—Their grey great coats rendered them almost invisible even when close at hand. The pickets of the 2nd division had scarcely made out the advancing lines of infantry who were clambering up the steep sides of the hill through a drizzling shower of rain, ere they were forced to retreat by a close sharp volley of musketry, and were driven up towards the brow of the hill, contesting every step of it, and firing as long as they had a round of ammunition on the Russian advance. The pickets of the light division were assailed soon afterwards, and were also obliged to retreat and fall back on their main body.

"The men in our camp had just begun a struggle with the rain in endeavoring to light their fires for breakfast when the alarm was given that the Russians were advancing in force. Brigadier-General Pennefather, to whom the illness of Sir De Lacy Evans had given for the time the command of the 2nd division, at once got the troops under arms.—One brigade, under Brigadier General Adams, consisting of the 41st, 47th, and 49th Regiments, was pushed on to the brow of the hill to check the advance of the enemy by the road through the brushwood from the valley. The other brigade (Pennefather's own) consisting of the 30th, 55th, and 95th Regiments, were led to operate on their flank. They were at once met with a tremendous fire of shell and round shot from guns which the enemy had posted on the high grounds, in advance on our right, and it was soon found that the Russians had brought up at least forty pieces of heavy artillery to bear upon us. Meantime, the alarm had spread through the camp. Sir George Cathcart with the greatest promptitude turned out as many of his division as were not employed in the trenches, and led the portions of the

20th, 21st, 46th, 57th, 63rd, and 68th Regiments, which were available against the enemy, directing them to the left of the ground occupied by the columns of the 2nd division. It was intended that one brigade, under Brigadier General Torrens, should move in support of the brigade under Brigadier General Goldie; but it was soon found that the enemy were in such strength that the whole force of the division, which consisted of only 2,200 men, must be vigorously used to repel them. Sir G. Brown had rushed up to the front with his brave fellows of the light division—the remnants of the 7th Fusiliers, of the 19th Regiment, of the 23rd Regiment, of the 33rd Regiment, and the 77th and the 88th Regiments, under Brigadiers Codrington and Buller. As they began to move across the ground of the 2nd division, they were at once brought under fire by an unseen enemy. The gloomy character of the morning was unchanged. Showers of rain fell through the fogs, and turned the ground into a clammy soil, like a freshly-ploughed field and the Russians, who had, no doubt, taken the bearing of the ground ere they placed their guns, fired at random indeed, but with too much effect on our advancing columns.—While all the army was thus in motion the Duke of Cambridge was not behind hand in bringing up the Guards under Brigadier Bentinck—all of his division now left with him, as the Highlanders are under Sir Colin Campbell at Balaklava. These splendid troops with the greatest rapidity and ardor rushed to the front on the right of the 2nd division, and gained the summit of the hills towards which two columns of the Russians were struggling in the closest order of which the nature of the ground would admit. The 3rd division, under Sir R. England, was also got under arms as a reserve, and one portion of it, comprising the 50th, part of the 28th and of the 4th Regiments, were engaged with the enemy ere the fight was over.

"And now commenced the bloodiest struggle ever witnessed since war cursed the earth. It has been doubted by military historians if any enemy have ever stood a charge with the bayonet, but here the bayonet was often the only weapon employed in conflicts of the most obstinate and deadly character.—We have been prone to believe that no foe could ever withstand the British soldier wielding his favorite weapon, and that at Maida alone did the enemy ever cross bayonets with him; but at the battle of Inkermann not only did we charge in vain—not only were desperate encounters between masses of men maintained with the bayonet alone—but we were obliged to resist bayonet to bayonet the Russian infantry again and again, as they charged us with incredible fury and determination. The battle of Inkermann admits of no description. It was a series of dreadful deeds of daring, of sanguinary hand-to-hand fights, of despairing rallies, of desperate assaults—in glens and valleys, in brushwood glades and remote dell, hidden from all human eyes, and from which the conquerors, Russian or British, issued only to engage fresh foes, till our old supremacy, so rudely assailed, was triumphantly asserted, and the battalions of the Czar gave way before our steady courage and the chivalrous fire of France. No one, however placed, could have witnessed even a small portion of the doings of this eventful day—for the vapors, fog, and drizzling mist obscured the ground where the struggle took place to such an extent as to render it impossible to see what was going on at the distance of a few yards. Besides this, the irregular nature of the ground, the rapid fall of the hill towards Inkermann, where the deadliest fight took place, would have prevented one under the most favorable circumstances, seeing more than a very insignificant and detailed piece of the terrible work below.

"It was six o'clock when all the head-quarter camp was roused, by roll after roll of musketry on the right, and by the sharp report of field guns. Lord Raglan was informed that the enemy were advancing in force, and soon after seven o'clock, he rode towards the scene of action, followed by his staff, and accompanied by Sir John Burgoyne, Brigadier General Strangways, R. A., and several aides-de-camp. As they approached the volume of sound, the steady unceasing thunder of gun, and rifle, and musket, told that the engagement was at its height. The shell of the Russians, thrown with great precision, burst so thickly among the troops that the noise resembled continuous discharges of cannon, and the massive fragments inflicted death on every side. One of the first things the Russians did, when a break in the fog enabled them to see the camp of the second division, was to open fire on the tents with round shot and shells, and tent after tent was blown down, torn to pieces, or sent into the air, while the men engaged in camp duties and the unhappy horses tethered up in the lines were killed or mutilated. Colonel Gambier was at once ordered to get up two heavy guns (18 pounds) on the rising ground and to reply to fire,

which our light guns were utterly inadequate to meet. As he was engaged in this duty Colonel Gambier was severely wounded, and was obliged to retire. His place was taken by Lieut. Colonel Dickson, and the conduct of that officer in directing the fire of the two pieces, which had the most marked effect in deciding the fate of the day, was such as to elicit the admiration of the army, and as to deserve the thanks of every man engaged in that bloody fray. But long ere these guns had been brought up there had been a great slaughter of the enemy, and a heavy loss of our own men. Our generals could not see where to go. They could not tell where the enemy were—from what side they were coming, and where going to. In darkness, gloom, and rain they had to lead our lines through thick scrubby bushes and thorny brambles, which broke our ranks and irritated the men, while every pace was marked by a corpse or man wounded from an enemy whose position was only indicated by the rattle of musketry and the rush of ball and shell.

"Sir George Cathcart, seeing his men disordered by the fire of a large column of Russian infantry which was outflanking them, while portions of the various regiments composing his division were maintaining an unequal struggle with the overwhelming force, rode down into the ravine in which they were engaged, to rally them. He perceived at the same time that the Russians had actually gained possession of a portion of the hill in rear of one flank of his division, but still his stout heart never failed him for a moment. He rode at their head encouraging them, and when a cry arose that the ammunition was failing, he said coolly, 'Have you not got your bayonets?' As he led on his men it was observed that another body of men had gained the top of the hill behind them on the right, but it was impossible to tell whether they were friends or foes. A deadly volley was poured into our scattered regiments. Sir George cheered them and led them back up the hill, but a flight of bullets passed where he rode, and he fell from his horse close to the Russian columns. The men had to fight their way through a host of enemies, and lost fearfully. They were surrounded and bayoneted on all sides, and won their desperate way up the hill with diminished ranks, and the loss of nearly 500 men. Sir George Cathcart's body was afterwards recovered with a bullet wound in the head and three bayonet wounds in the body. In this struggle, where the Russians fought with the greatest ferocity, and bayoneted the wounded as they fell, Colonel Swyny, of the 63rd, a most gallant officer, Lieutenant Dowling, 20th, Major Wynne, 68th, and other officers met their death; and Brigadier Goldie (of the 57th Regiment) received the wounds of which he has since died. The conflict on the right was equally uncertain and equally bloody. In the light division, the 88th got so far into the front that they were surrounded and put into utter confusion, when four companies of the 77th, under Major Stratton, charged the Russians, broke them, and relieved their comrades. The fight had not long commenced, ere it was evident that the Russians had received orders to fire at all mounted officers. Sir George Brown was struck by a shot, which went through his arm and struck his side. I saw, with regret, his pale and sternly composed face, as his body was borne by me on a litter, early in the day, his white hair flickering in the breeze, for I knew we had lost the services of a good soldier that day. Further to the right, a contest, the like of which, perhaps, never took place before, was going on between the Guards and dense columns of Russian infantry, of five times their number. The Guards had charged them, and driven them back when they perceived that the Russians had outflanked them. They were out of ammunition too. They were uncertain whether there were friends or foes in the rear. They had no support, no reserve, and they were fighting with the bayonet against an enemy who stoutly contested every inch of ground, when the corps of another Russian column, appeared on the right far in their rear. Then a fearful *mitraille* was poured into them, and volleys of rifle and musket. The Guards were broken; they lost twelve officers, who had fallen in the field; they had left one-half of their number on the ground, and they retired along the lower road of the valley. They were soon reinforced, however, and speedily avenged their loss. The French advanced about ten o'clock, and turned the flank of the enemy.

"The 2nd Division, in the centre of the line, were hardly pressed. The 41st regiment, in particular, were exposed to a terrible fire, and the 95th were in the middle of such disorganising volleys, that they only mustered 64 men when paraded at two o'clock. In fact, the whole of the division only numbered 300 men when assembled by Major Eman in rear of their camp, after the fight was over. The regiments did not take their colors into the battle, but the officers nevertheless were picked off wherever they went.

and it did not require the color staff to indicate their presence. I have heard that one regiment did take its colors into the field. There was a great desire evinced by some few of the men to "tail off" to the rear, under pretence of carry the wounded, although such pretence is strictly provided for by the articles of war. One officer was killed by a shot while running after some of his men to restrain them from getting away. I saw myself six and eight men at a time carrying off a litter with one man in it. Our ambulances were soon filled, and ere nine o'clock they were busily engaged in carrying loads of men, all covered with blood, and groaning, to the rear of the line.

About half-past nine o'clock, Lord Raglan and his staff were assembled on a knoll, in the vain hope of getting a glimpse of the battle which was raging below them. Here General Strangways was mortally wounded, and I am told he met his death in the following way:—A shell came right in among the staff; it exploded under Capt. Somerset's horse, ripping him open, a portion of the shell tore off the leather overalls of Capt. Somerset's trouser, it then struck down Capt. Gordon's horse and killed him at once, and then blew away General Strangways' leg, so that it hung by a shred of flesh and a bit of cloth from the skin. The poor old general never moved a muscle of his face. He said merely in a gentle voice, "will any one be kind enough to lift me off my horse?"

He was taken and laid on the ground, while his life-blood ebbed fast, and at last he was carried to the rear; but the gallant old man had not sufficient strength to undergo an operation, and ere two hours he had sunk to rest, leaving behind him a memory which will ever be held dear by every officer and man of the army.

The fight about the battery to which I have alluded in a former part of my letter was most sanguinary. It was found that there was no banquette to stand upon, and that the men inside could not fire upon the enemy. The Russians advanced mass after mass of infantry. As fast as one column was broken and repulsed, another took its place. For three long hours about 8500 British infantry contended against at least four times their number. No wonder that at times they were compelled to retire. But they came to the charge again. The admirable devotion of the officers, who knew they were special objects of attack can never be too highly praised. Nor can the courage and steadiness of the few men who were left to follow them in this sanguinary assault on the enemy be sufficiently admired.

At one time the Russians succeeded in getting up close to the guns of Captain Wedelhouse's and of Captain Turner's batteries in the gloom of the morning. Uncertain whether they were friends or foes, our artillerymen hesitated to fire. The Russians charged them suddenly, bore all resistance down before them, drove away or bayoneted the gunners, and succeeded in spiking some of the guns! Their columns gained the hill, and for a few instants the fate of the day trembled in the balance; but Adam's Brigade, Pennefather's Brigade, and the Light Division made another desperate charge; while Dickson's guns swept their columns, and the Guards, with undiminished valor and steadiness, though with a sadly decreased front, pushed on again to meet their bitter enemies. The rolling of musketry, the crash of steel, the pounding of the guns, were deafening, and the Russians as they charged up the heights yelled like demons. They advanced, halted, and advanced again, received and returned a close and deadly fire; but the Minie is the king of weapons: Inkermann proved it. The regiments of the 4th Division and the Marines, armed with the old and much-beloved Brown Bess, could do nothing with their thin line of fire against the massive multitudes of the Muscovite infantry, but the volleys of the Minie cleft them like the hand of the destroying Angel, and they fell like leaves in autumn before them. About ten o'clock a body of French infantry appeared on our right, a joyful sight to our struggling regiments. The Zouaves came on at the *pas de charge*. The French artillery had already begun to play with deadly effect on the right wing of the Russians. Three battalions of the Chasseurs d'Orléans [I believe they had No. 6 on their buttons] rushed by, the light of battle on their faces. They were accompanied by a battalion of Chasseurs Indigènes—the Arab sepoys of Algiers. Their trumpets sounded above the din of battle, and when we watched their eager advance right on the flank of the enemy, we knew the day was won. Assailed in front by our men, and broken in several places by the impetuosity of our charge, renewed again and again, attacked by the French infantry on the right, and by artillery all along the line, the Russians began to retire, and at twelve o'clock they were driven pell-mell down the hill, towards the valley, where pursuit would have been madness, as the roads were all covered by their artillery. They left mounds of dead behind them. Long ere they fled the Chasseurs d'Afrique charged them most brilliantly over the ground, difficult and broken as it was, and inflicted great loss on them, while the effect of this rapid attack, aided by the advance of our troops, secured our guns, which were only spiked with wood, and were soon rendered fit for service. Our own cavalry, the remnant of the Light Brigade, were moved into a position where it was hoped they might be of service, but they were too few to attempt anything, and whilst they were drawn up, they lost several horses and some men. One officer, Cornet Cleveland, was struck by a piece of shell in the side, and has since expired. There are now only two officers left, with the fragment of the 12th Lancers—Capt. Godfrey Morgan, and Cornet George Wombwell.

At 12 o'clock, the battle of Inkermann seemed to have been won; but the day which had cleared up for an hour previously so as to enable us to see the enemy and meet him, again became obscured. Rain and fog again set in, and as we could not pursue the Russians, who were retiring

under the shelter of their artillery, we had formed in front of our lines, and were holding the battle-field so stoutly contested, when the enemy, taking advantage of our quietude, again advanced, while their guns pushed forward and opened a tremendous fire upon us.

Gen. Canrobert, who never quitted Lord Raglan for much of the early part of the day, at once ordered the French to advance and outflank the enemy. In his effort he was most ably seconded by Gen. Bosquet, whose devotion was noble. Nearly all his mounted escort were down beside and behind him. Gen. Canrobert was slightly wounded. His immediate attendants suffered severely. The renewed assault was so admirably managed that the Russians sullenly retired, still protected by their crushing artillery.

The Russians, about 10, made a sortie on the French lines, and transversed two parallels before they could be resisted. They were driven back at last, with great loss, and as they retired they blew up some mines inside the Flagstaff Fort, evidently afraid that the French would enter pell-mell after them.

At 1 o'clock the Russians were again retreating. At 1.40 Dickson's two guns smashed up their artillery, and they limbered up, leaving five tumbrils and one gun-carriage on the field.

Nov. 6.—200 Russian prisoners were brought in last night to head-quarters camp. They were badly wounded many of them, and several died during the night. A council was held to-day at Lord Raglan's, where Gen. Canrobert, Gen. Bosquet, and Sir E. Lyons assisted for several hours.

At four o'clock Lord Raglan attended the funerals of Generals Sir George Cathcart, of Brigadier Goldie, and of General Strangways. They were buried with 11 other officers on Cathcart's Hill. At the same time 14 officers of the Guards were buried together near the windmill. The work of burying the dead and carrying the wounded to Balaklava occupied the day. The Russians are quiet. We hear they have lost 10,000 men and three generals.

Nov. 7.—A council of war was held to-day, at the close of which the Duke of Cambridge left for Balaklava, and went on board the *Caradoc*. His Royal highness is, it is said, going to Constantinople. It is said we wait here all the winter.

The 46th regiment have arrived here; also 1700 Turks from Volo, and 2800 French. The Russians fired on our burying parties. There was an alarm last night. The 4th Division were under arms all night, and a portion of the 2nd Division.

I have no time to add more. We must have men at once—and abundance of them.

PROSPECTS OF THE SIEGE.

By this time a tolerably correct idea must have been obtained respecting our operations in the Crimea and the position of the allied armies before Sebastopol. We are not simply engaged in the siege of a town on the ordinary terms of such an enterprise; we are confronting from an entrenched camp of our own, an entrenched camp of the Russians, resting on Sebastopol, and we are endeavoring, by the aid of our artillery, so to subdue the fire of the enemy as to render the assault of his works a practicable operation.

Whether, however, the forcing of the Russian lines and the defeat of their army to the south of the town, will also bring about the actual capture of the place, appears uncertain, for behind the fieldworks, now defended with such tenacity, lie streets, in which every house is said to have been converted into a castle, and on the other side of the harbor stand forts and batteries which may turn their fire upon the town as soon as it falls into our hands. Sebastopol, in short, resembles in some sort those vessels constructed with several compartments, each distinct and watertight in itself, so that on the occurrence of accident the sea may rush into one part of the ship and yet find no entrance to the others. The fortress occupies the two shores of an inlet running east and west. On the left, or northern shore, of this inlet, are batteries of extraordinary solidity and power for the protection of the harbor. On the opposite shore stands the town itself. This, however, is again divided by a second and smaller inlet running at right angles to the principal harbor, and separating the dockyards and arsenals on its eastern side from the ordinary town buildings on the western. The former of these divisions is at present menaced by the British, the latter by the French, but it is possible that one may be taken without the other, while the batteries to the north of the harbor are independent of both. It is difficult, therefore, to compute the results of a regular assault on the part of the allies, for, as the garrison outnumbers the besieging force, and the town is open, the Russians will not be in the position of men captured in their stronghold, but may defend one district of the place after another, or retire into the interior of the country, and afterwards re-appear before the walls as besiegers in their turn. In ordinary cases, when a town is taken, the garrison is taken too, and every fighting man in the place becomes a prisoner of war; but the Russians in Sebastopol are just as free to retreat from their position as the Russians on the Alma, and can exercise their own discretion about the continuation of the campaign.

The extraordinary character of the difficulties attending our present operations before Sebastopol is not likely to be fully appreciated without some insight into the nature of siege undertakings in general. In the present age it is received as a maxim by military engineers that the means of attack are superior to the means of defence, or, in other words, that if any fortified place however strong is attacked according to rule by a proper force of men and guns it must inevitably fall within a certain time, unless preserved by some rare and singular advantage. Now, as the allied armies were disembarked on the shores of the

Crimea in strength sufficient to conquer the enemy in a pitched battle, and as they have now, for some weeks been besieging Sebastopol with a most powerful force of artillery, directed by some of the best engineers in the world, it may be asked, what circumstances have retarded their success, or why the place was not sooner taken? To this inquiry we subjoin an explanatory reply.

When a siege is undertaken, the first operation is what is called the "investment" of the town—that is to say, the town is surrounded on all sides by posts of the besieging army, so that no ingress or egress is any longer practicable. This is not only the first step, but it is that on which all succeeding steps more or less depend; for the superiority of the attack to the defence arises from the fact that, whereas the means are unlimited in the former case, they are limited in the latter. When a town has been invested, and thus cut off from all communication with the adjacent country, its resources in men, munitions, and provisions become at once confined to the stocks then actually within its walls, while the besiegers, on the other hand, being presumptively masters of the country, can make exactly such dispositions as they think proper. If they cease to be masters of the country—that is to say, if a superior force of the enemy approaches from without, the siege must, in ordinary cases, be raised, and the town is relieved accordingly. Supposing, however, the necessary superiority to reside, at all events for the time, with the besiegers, they then select that point in the defences of the place which appears most favorable for their operations; and here the advantage of the attack over the defence becomes instantly apparent. Whatever may be the strength of the place in respect of artillery, it is obvious that only a certain number of guns can be brought to the defence of a certain portion of the ramparts, whereas the attacking force can concentrate upon this one point all the guns at their disposal. The defences of a town may mount 500 guns, but, if any particular front mounts only 50, and the besiegers can attack this front with twice the number, they have the superiority of fire at the only point where such superiority is required. It is on this condition of operations, joined to the necessary limitation of resources in a place entirely excluded from all external communications, that the ascendancy of the besiegers depends. Availing themselves of the protection derivable from trenches and covered ways, they gradually push their batteries so close to the place that a breach is made in its walls, and, as they are always presumed to exceed the garrison greatly in numerical strength, they rush in and carry the town by storm as soon as its defences have been beaten down. It is considered that a town containing a garrison of 15,000 men requires an army of 75,000 men to besiege it, and when, therefore, the smaller force has lost the artificial protection of its ramparts, the contest seldom remains doubtful.

If these observations are applied to the case of Sebastopol, it will at once appear that none of the assumed advantages of a besieging force are there to be found. Sebastopol is not invested. The peculiar position of the town, combined with the limited strength of the allied armies, rendered it impossible so to surround the place as to cut off its communications with the interior, and the north side is left completely open. The consequence is that there has been no limitation of resources on the part of the besieged; on the contrary, it is rather the besieging army which has stood in this predicament; for, whereas the allied forces have been gradually diminished by the casualties incidental to their operations, the garrison has received repeated accessions of strength from without. Provisions, too, and munitions of war may have been imported with equal facility, though so extraordinary, in this respect, were the resources of Sebastopol itself that few additions could have been required.

It is next to be remarked that the Russians at Sebastopol are by no means in the position of a garrison inferior in numbers to the attacking force, but relying upon the protection of artificial defences, against which the besiegers advance. They are encamped to the south of the town in very strong intrenchments, which are armed, as Lord Raglan's despatch observes, "with an apparently unlimited number of heavy guns, amply provided with gunners and ammunition." They have raised batteries against our batteries, and earthworks against our earthworks; they return shot for shot, and so far were we from establishing an advantage in this respect, that on the second day of the cannonade their fire was superior to our own. Their front of defence, instead of representing a confined space, exposed to all the concentrated fire of the attack, is actually, as Lord Raglan describes it, "more extended" than our own, and they, the besieged force, are thus in the possession of the advantages ordinarily enjoyed by the besiegers.

In point of fact, there would really be little exaggeration in saying that one of the armies in the Crimea is as effectually "besieged" as the other. Both have their communications open, the Russians by land and the allies by sea; both have their strong positions, the Russians before Sebastopol, the allies on the heights of Balaklava; and, as far as operations have hitherto proceeded, it would be hard to say which party seemed to be the assailants and which the defenders. We are battering the works of the Russians, but they are also battering ours, and, whereas we have not yet regularly assaulted their lines, they have attacked ours in such force as to occasion most sanguinary conflicts. The enterprise, in short, is not a siege, but a campaign. We have effected a lodgment on Russian territory, and we are encountering the armies which the Russians bring successively against us. One army, representing the garrison of Sebastopol, is encamped under its walls behind earthworks like our own, and is stronger than we are in artillery. Another is posted on our flank on rear, and has made at least one attempt on our position.

Fortunately, although we want many of the advantages of besiegers, we are not without some of the advantages of the opposite kind, for such is the strength of our position in this angle of the Russian territory that we are enabled to repulse the attacks of an enemy numerically superior to ourselves. So far, therefore, although the actual siege of Sebastopol may have advanced but slowly, the events of the campaign are favorable to us. As besiegers we have been retarded in our progress by the non-investment of the town, by the intrenchments thrown up before its walls, by the constant reinforcements received by the garrison, and by the presence of a strong relieving army in the field. But we have maintained our footing on Russian ground, we have beaten the Russians thoroughly whenever they have attacked us, we have already half ruined the fleet and arsenals which gave Sebastopol its importance, and we have fairly established our superiority in all respects but that of numbers. What remains, therefore, but to approximate, as we can do, to an equality with our antagonist in this respect also, and to despatch those reinforcements which our victorious, though overtasked army, requires? This done, the advantages as well as the honors of the campaign will belong, we may confidently hope, to the Allied Powers.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

THE MILITIA.—The City of Limerick Militia is fast filling up, and the requisite number of 300 will before long be enrolled. Arrangements appear to be at length in course of being carried out for enrolling and embodying the Kilkenny Militia. The contingent which Down furnishes to the 30,000 men of which the Irish militia will consist is 1,472, and this force is divided into two regiments—the Royal North Down Rifles (800 strong), of which the Marquis of Londonderry, lieutenant of the county, is colonel, and the Royal South Down Regiment, 672 strong, of which the Marquis of Downshire is colonel. The Marquis of Londonderry has already nominated Major Montgomery, late of the 45th Regiment, as lieutenant-colonel, and Captain Stewart, late of the Essex Rifles, as adjutant of the Royal North Down Rifles, and has referred to Lord Downshire, as colonel of the South Down Regiment, the selection of the officers of that regiment. It is the intention of the Government to direct the immediate enrolment of the two militia regiments of the county of Mayo; accordingly the adjutancies of the regiments have been filled by the Earl of Arran, the noble Lord having appointed Captain Bouchier, late of the 12th Foot, to the South Mayo, and Captain Butler, to the North Mayo. The noble Lord has also appointed Captain John Palmer to the lieutenant-colonelcy of the South Mayo, and Mr. Thomas H. Bourke, M.D., to the surgeoncy of the same regiment.

The depot of the 17th Regiment, which was under orders for the north of Ireland, is to remain for the present in Kilkenny, where recruiting for the regiment is said to be extremely brisk. It is supposed that the 56th Regiment, now on passage home, will be stationed in Dublin on their arrival, instead of Kilkenny, as originally intended.

After the sailing of the 90th, under Lieut.-Col. Eld, from Dublin, there remains only two regiments of infantry in Ireland, viz., 72nd at Limerick, and 1st Battalion, 91st at Cork. The 90th embark 1,000 strong in the Europe transport, from Dublin for the East.

A correspondent assures us that the 90th Regiment, which sailed from Kingstown last Sunday, were brought to embark with great difficulty; that a mutiny was apprehended, and that several privates were actually carried to the transport ship in custody. It is very surprising, indeed, that they should show any hesitation in sharing the "glorious triumphs of our arms in the East," of which one may read daily in the newspapers. "Dilly, dally, come and be killed."

Captain Donovan, of the grenadier company of the 33rd regiment, who signalized himself in the battle of the Alma, had captured one of the enemy's guns, and brought it with him as a trophy for his regiment, is a native of this county.—*Wexford Independent*.

A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press, detailing the heroic daring of a private of the 33rd, named Maguire. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Balaklava by three Russians and effected his escape, having overpowered his captors. Daniel Maguire was a native of Kilgefin, in this county, and was an inmate of the Roscommon workhouse, sometime back, from whence he enlisted, with a detachment of the 33rd regiment, when stationed in this town. The inmate of the workhouse is now the hero of Balaklava!—*Roscommon Messenger*.

Little interest, apart from mere curiosity, as Ireland, cares to manifest in the causes, progress, and results of the present war, she is, now, experiencing in full its material benefits, in enhancing the prices of her staple articles of production. And, probably on that account, so long as it lasts, the war will be popular with the Irish farmers, pretty much for the same reason that it is so with the same class in England—because it puts money in their purse. More than that, and rightly, because it repairs the injuries inflicted by a legislative measure which, however just and politic in the abstract, inflicted a deadly wound on the interests which had for thirty years enjoyed, or what used to be thought reasonable grounds, the benefits of the protective system. And, though the advent of famine in Ireland were the pretext for that sudden alteration in the law, none paid so bitter a penalty as the people whose welfare, indeed, whose very existence, the author of the measure professed to have most at heart. Irish agriculture was ruined, at the moment when it required every encouragement to sustain its fainting energies. The landlords were ruined, too, though not half so extensively as they deserved, and as would have been beneficial to the country. But now all is changed. The sufferings of the past seem like an uneasy dream. New ease and animation pervade the country, and it only wants now political honesty and union to be as formidable to its foes as ever it was. The Irish farmer exists within a harvest and prices for it which cannot be matched in the days of Bonaparte, so fondly remembered, still by many a fireside, have not been known in this unhappy isle. Double crops and double prices are, far from uncommon.—*Nation*.

We are at a loss to know, says the *Galway Mercury*, why England should hope that, now in her season of distress, Irish Catholics should feel inclined to enter her service. How has she treated Irish Catholics at the seat of war? She saw them die in defence of her honor, in support of her glory and empire, but she left them in their dying moments without a priest to console them, without a priest to whisper a word of hope to their departing spirits! Aye, and England, Bible-reading land Christian England, would have continued so to leave them in the awful moment of death, without any spiritual aid—without the consolations afforded them by their church, had not gallant France shamed her to grant even a few chaplains to the army; but to her navy England still refuses a Catholic chaplain! And having treated Catholics thus, she yet pretences to call upon them to aid her in th' hour of danger!

REBELLION OF THE POLICE IN KERRY.—The meeting of magistrates held in the grand jury-room on Friday not having been open to the press, we can only state that the general opinion was that the police force in this county should be reduced to its status before the famine.—*Tralee Chronicle*.

A long requisition, including the names of 30 Catholic clergymen, appears in the *Telegraph*, *Nation*, and *Freeman's Journal*, convening a meeting of the county of Tipperary, for the purpose of advancing and sustaining the principles of tenant-right, as enunciated by the Tenant-League and the several Tenant Right Conferences of 1852, 1853, and 1854. This meeting which is similar to that held in Callan, is to be held in Thurles on Sunday, the 26th Nov.

MR. W. S. O'BRIEN.—The *Limerick Chronicle* says—“The friends of W. S. O'Brien have it in contemplation to solicit the powerful interest of the Emperor of the French, at one time himself a political exile, on behalf of that unfortunate gentleman, who is yet an exile from his own country, and it is believed that the influence of the Emperor will be exercised with our gracious Sovereign, so as to remove all conditions from the royal pardon, which may be done with great safety and propriety, as the hon. gentleman has finally bid adieu to political agitation for the remainder of his life.”

MR. EDWARD DOWLING.—Mr. Edward Dowling, the victim of Sadlerism in Carlow, was liberated on Monday, after an imprisonment of two years and four months.

The *Freeman's Journal* publishes a long correspondence between the Rev. James Faulkner, Catholic Chaplain to the House of Industry, and the Poor Law Commissioners for Ireland, from which it appears that a Protestant Patient, named Whitehead, whose relatives are Catholics, having been received into the Church, at his own desire, while he was in the Whiteworth Chronic Hospital, a Protestant clergyman, well known in Dublin for controversial asperity, but who is wholly unconnected with the hospital in question, visited it, and uttered many threats upon the subject of the attendance of the Sisters of Charity in the hospital, declaring that he would denounce the hospitals in the public papers. This circumstance led to the establishment of two rules, by one of which no person except the clergyman of his own religion is allowed to visit any patient for the purpose of giving religious advice and consolation; by the other, no patient wishing to send for a clergyman of any other religious community except that in which he was registered, at his admission, is permitted to do so until he has obtained the permission of the governor.

There are unfortunately to be found in Ireland, as in other Catholic countries, persons who appear to be unconscious that there is something greater than nationality, far more important than tenant-right—of deeper interest than the politics of the day, or the names of parties by which Ireland should be governed. And yet the fact is so, though they will neither see nor admit it, that what is beyond all other things of transcendent importance is the preservation of the Catholic Church in Ireland, the sustenance of religion, the spread of piety, the maintenance of the faith, as it was preached by St. Patrick, and as it has continued down to this day amongst us. The vitality of Ireland as a nation would soon disappear, if that which has hitherto preserved it—the Catholic Church—were impaired. And sad would be the change for the Irish, if they obtained all the temporal blessings, physical comforts, and animal enjoyments this world could bestow upon them, and yet found themselves in the condition of schismatics or heretics—without faith, without piety, without the sacraments—without priests to administer them, and without bishops to ordain priests. Better any sufferings, any evils, than that these, the worst of all sufferings and calamities, should fall upon the Irish nation.—*Weekly Telegraph*.

We have reason to believe that the Catholic journals of Ireland are at length opening their eyes to the condition to which party strife has reduced their country. The scandal given at Callan leaves no room for misconception. The League agitators seek to attract attention, and, at any cost, to awaken public interest for their own advantage. The evidences of good will which the English Government has for some time manifested towards the Church, not affording them an opportunity of making the Ministry the objects of their attacks, and local questions not offering sufficient interest to inflame public feeling, they have thought proper to excite a conflict against the prelacy. The Tenant-Leaguers seeing their ranks grow thin, cast about for new elements of vitality by setting themselves up as a power protective of the political rights of the clergy—rights which they accuse the bishops of having infringed. We can comprehend all the importance which Ireland would attach to such a question, if seriously undertaken by the parties interested, if the clergy really did appeal to Rome against certain decisions of the bishops, relative to the part permitted them to take in the public manifestations of political parties. But no such event has come to pass. Thanks be to God, no conflict has arisen between the clergy and their prelates. The most perfect harmony reigns between the chief pastors and the clergy of the second-order, who labor under their direction with so much zeal and devotion! The entire matter has merely come to this, that a political party, which sees itself on the eve of losing its influence, seeks to repossess it by raising a question calculated to excite the country! We insist on this as the true state of things, because it is of importance that no one should deceive himself upon the question which the Tenant-Leaguers would wish to raise before the country. The affair once understood, the efforts of the agitators will be vain, and they will find themselves checkmated by the awkwardness with which they have sought to bring about this antagonism, by the terms, even in which they have broached the question. “Translated from the *Universo*, Nov. 10.”

THE “PROTESTANT OPERATIVES.”—A meeting of “The Protestants of Dublin” was held on Wednesday, the 29th November, in the Rotundo, for the purpose of adopting an address to her Majesty on the present state of the war. The room was not half filled by an audience composed principally of females and boys. On the platform were several clergymen and laymen, members of the Protestant Association. The chair was taken by the Rev. Edward Newenham. The meeting having been addressed by the chairman, the Rev. Dr. Drew came forward to propose the first resolution. He spoke of the great Protestant bishop, the Apostle Paul, “the feather wits” of Lord Massereene and Ferrard—of his visit to Tuam, &c.; but during the course of his observations never once alluded to the object for which the meeting was called. In his usual meek and charitable spirit, he congratulated “that great assembly” upon the fact, that two million of the Irish Papists had been disposed of by the famine, and three other millions driven over the Atlantic, to be settled by the gallant Know-Nothings. At the conclusion of his speech the reverend speaker was saluted with several rounds of Kentish fire, and by the waving of a solitary yellow cotton pocket handkerchief, which an enthusiastic youth in the body of the hall had tied to a stick, and amused himself with by waving it round his head, to the evident annoyance of those by whom he was surrounded. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Rev. Dr. Gregg (who attacked the government for affording spiritual consolation to the Catholic soldiers in the East), by Mr. John Vance, M.P., Mr. Maxwell, D.L.; Rev. Mr. Burnside, Mr. M. Synott, Mr. G. W. Maunsell, T.C., &c. At the conclusion of the meeting, a collection in aid of the Patriotic Fund was made.—*Dublin Freeman*.

The Rev. gentleman's rejoicings over the depopulation of Ireland, are not sympathised with at the present moment, at least, on the other side of the Channel. It is felt that it would be “mighty covenant” to have some of these same Irish Papists to fill up the ranks in the Crimea. Speaking of the little progress that is made in Ireland by the recruiting sergeant, the *Nation* says:—“We do not well know how the Irish Militia will be formed; unless by summarily drafting the Constabulary into them; for at the present rate of emigration in some Counties there would hardly be enough of men at the proper age left even for the operation of the ballot. Indeed, recruiting goes on very, very slowly throughout the Empire.—While the waste is 5,000 a week, and the incoming 6,000 a week, the recruiting sergeant is barely able to whip up 1,000 a week (so says the *Times* again) in all the British dominions, for paulo post future waste. It is a very perplexing question of Supply and Demand, indeed; and it is to be regretted that so many able-bodied men were starved and banished out of Ireland within the last seven or eight years. They would have made very capital food for powder!”

A MAN KILLED BY A BULL.—A respectable farmer, Bernard Conlan, of Cullies, within a mile of Cavan, was preparing to bring his bull into the fair when the animal attacked him, knocked him down, beat him, and injured him so that he died in the county infirmary on Monday. Conlan, we are told, held the bull by the horn, all the time, and this alone prevented his immediate destruction. Though upwards of 60 years of age, he was a man of great strength, as what he did proves clearly enough.

Two daughters of a farmer, in the neighborhood of Kilrush, have died through eating a root which resembled a carrot, which their father had procured to administer to some sheep which were diseased. An inquest has been held on the bodies, and a verdict of “accidental death by poison” returned. A third daughter is ill, and scarcely expected to recover.—*Clare Journal*.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE QUEEN'S THANKS.—Nothing can be more graceful or better imagined than the terms of the despatch communicated in the Queen's name to the army.—The patience of the soldiers after landing—their fortitude in the midst of pestilence—the arduousness of the march—the bloody struggle—the brilliant victory—the offices of kindness rendered by the sailors of the fleet to the dying and the dead—the proud sorrow of friends and relatives at home, are all fully and aptly commemorated. Policy would, of course, dictate the fullest acknowledgement of the services of our allies, but there is something warmer and more generous than mere fact in the assurances that ‘Her Majesty feels additional pleasure in thus recognising the noble daring of her soldiers, and sympathising in their victory, when she reflects that that courage has been evinced, and those triumphs won side by side with the troops of a nation whose valor the British army has, in former times admired and respected in hostile combat, but which it has now, for the first time tested in the generous rivalry of an intimate brotherhood in arms.’ The voice of England will echo the hope that ‘the blood of the two nations so profusely shed on the banks of the Alma, may constitute an alliance which shall endure for the benefit of future generations, when the remembrance of this battle-field is hallowed by gratitude for the consequences as well as the glories of victory.

Arrangements have been made by the Chaplain-General, the Rev. G. R. Gleig, with the Secretary of War, for a staff of Chaplains of the following strength for the troops in the East:—12 Chaplains of the Church of England, 8 Catholic, and 3 Presbyterian Chaplains.

RECRUITING.—The number of recruits to her Majesty's land forces since the increase of the bounty has considerably augmented, and 100 is about the average daily attested in the London district alone.

The Secretary-at-War has addressed a circular to the Colonels of Militia informing them that the rapid augmentation of the regular army, being at this juncture of vast importance, it has become necessary to call upon all embodied as well as disembodied Militia corps to supply as many volunteers as possible to the Guards, the Lines, and the Royal Marines, that it is intended to limit the demand thus made on the Militia to 25 per cent on their strength. The bounty is to be raised from £6 to £7.

Two members of parliament were killed at the battle of Inkermann on the 5th—Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Pakenham, of the Grenadier Guards, member for Antrim, and Lieutenant-Colonel James Hunter Blair, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, M.P. for Ayr.

GOLD DIGGING IN CHESHIRE.—It is said that gold dust has been found in Cheshire, within two miles of Birkenhead, and in quantities sufficiently large to warrant “a digging.”—*Chester Courant*.

Great excitement has been caused in Glasgow by the alarming extent to which the Sunday observance question has been carried by a knot of clerical agitators who insists upon no opinions but their own, being allowed on that day or subject. It was a strong measure in close every place of refreshment in the city save the Temperance shops, but on Sunday week, every cab and omnibus was withdrawn from the streets, and a gentleman whose wife was taken ill in church could get no conveyance unless he produced medical certificate to the cab owner. This in a city having 400,000 inhabitants is intolerable, and warns us what we may expect if fanaticism ever gets the upper hand in England.—*Cor. of Commercial Advertiser*.

THE MEDICINE AS BEFORE.—On Sunday afternoon says the *Glasgow Daily Mail*, the police in Glasgow discovered an apothecary selling whiskey, slightly medicated, to customers, shut out from the public house by Forbes Mackenzie's Act. The liquid was poured out of a medicine glass, and the phials or other vessels brought by the purchasers were carefully labelled “Cholera mixture; dose—half a wine-glassful three times a day.”

CHURCH “AS BY LAW” ESTABLISHED.—We read in the *Preston Guardian*, that—“On Monday last Police-constable Breckland, Sergeant Walmsley, and Police-constable Dunderdale visited several houses and shops in Preston belonging to members of the Society of Friends, and made seizure at each for the payment of Easter offerings, oblations and obventions, due by the owners to the Rev. J. O. Parr, vicar of Preston. The sums originally charged in payment of the due varied from 6d. to 8d., but with costs in addition amounted to 15s. to cover which sum goods were seized as follows:—From W. Clemesha, Avenham-road, two hams; from Isaac Fearon, Bank-parade, a sugarloaf and a ham; from Michael Satterthwaite, Bank-parade, two hams; from Joseph Jesper, Bank-parade, a copper kettle and a warming-pan; from David Wilcockson, Friargate, a canister of tea: from R. Benson, jun., Bushell-place, three brass pans; and from M. Graham, Friargate, two sugarloaves.

“What is, and is to be the Church of England?” is the title of a recent pamphlet, and a question that is being asked by many earnest persons. The monstrous contradictions of the present system, for pointing out which the late Bishop Stanley, (of Norwich,) incurred so much displeasure from the Tractarians, are now acknowledged by every one; and it seems to be extensively felt that such heterogeneous elements cannot much longer co-exist together. Even the authorised formularies, as Dr. Stanley observed, contradict themselves; and it is, therefore, impossible to subscribe to them all in their “literal and grammatical sense,” and without resorting to “unnatural” evasions. On the whole, the authorities seem less and less disposed to tolerate the Tractarians, though a tacit toleration now seems all that they expect or desire. Oracle after oracle fails them, or is removed by death; and Dr. Wilberforce is now the only Bishop (or even Dr. Philpotts now shrinking from the contest, on account of his age), who ventures to defend them, even feebly and ambiguously. The recent parliamentary reprint of the proposed alterations in the Prayer-book is a curious and instructive document.—I see that in some cases, it was allowed to repeat the rite of confirmation; so that the old lady of Lincolnshire, who submitted to it each time the Bishop came round, finding that it “did her good,” was not altogether without authority.

THE “EUCHARIST,” AND THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—An application, which strikingly illustrates the constitution and working of the Established religion, was made on Monday by Sir Frederick Thesiger, on behalf of Archdeacon Denison. It was for a prohibition addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to prevent his proceeding against the Archdeacon in a case of erroneous doctrine. The Archdeacon, it seems, having preached two sermons, in which he is said to have maintained the doctrine of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, Mr. Ditcher, a neighboring clergyman, complained to the Archbishop, and the Archbishop wrote to advise the late Bishop of Bath and Wells to send the question to the Court of Arches, where this point of doctrine would be decided by that respectable gentleman, Sir John Dobson; but the Bishop preferred to call upon the Archdeacon for private explanations, and, having received these, decided that there was no need of further proceedings, and contented himself with admonishing the Archdeacon. The late Bishop died in May, 1853. During the vacancy of the See, his powers were vested in the Archbishop, but he then took no steps. Upon the appointment of the present Bishop he again moved him to proceed, and on his declining, proceeded to institute the process which the Court of Queen's Bench is now called upon to stay. His power to do this arises from a provision in the late Act of Parliament, under which alone any Protestant clergyman can be proceeded against. It occurred to somebody, when that Act was in progress, that a Bishop had a direct interest in depriving a clergyman of his benefice in those cases in which the patronage is in himself; and for the protection of the clergyman it was provided that in that case the Bishop should have no power, except that of sending the case to the Court of Arches, all his other powers being exercised by the Archbishop. Of this clause, intended for the protection of the clergyman accused, the Archbishop now avails himself to proceed against the Archdeacon, against the will of his two successive diocesans. The whole proceeding is interesting, as showing the purely parliamentary character of Anglican Church authority.

It is all a question, not of Canons and Councils, nor of Holy Scripture or Primitive Fathers, but solely of 3 and 4 Victoria, chapter lxxvi., and 13 Elizabeth, chapter xii. And Archdeacon Denison—a High Churchman, reared over all other High Churchmen, as the most recent buildings on the site of Nineveh are above the most deeply buried remains of the palaces of Assyrian kings which lie beneath—Archdeacon Denison when proceeded against for false doctrine by the (so-called) Archbishop of Canterbury, can think of nothing better than to move Lord Campbell for a prohibition. In conclusion, Lord Campbell, after consulting the other judges, reserved his judgment signifying his dislike of the discussion of doctrinal questions in that Court, but promising to grant the prohibition if he thought, on consideration, that there was reasonable ground for it. So the matter rests, and now his Grace the Most Reverend John Bird Sumner, Primate of All England, and Metropolitan, is humbly waiting to know whether Lord Campbell will or will not allow him to proceed against Archdeacon Denison for false doctrine on the subject of the Holy Eucharist!—*Catholic Standard*.

UNITED STATES.

THE MOST WONDERFUL FACT OF THE DAY.—The Legislature of the State of Vermont were recently voting in a Brigadier General for the Militia in that State. The well-known Bloomer Lucy Slope, was one of the candidates for the appointment, and seven men were actually found among the State Legislators who recorded their votes in her favor!—*Sunbury Journal*.

PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—Some very amusing letters from Utah have been recently written by new saints, and published in the Chicago papers. One lately-acquired brother is in raptures with the institution of polygamy. He has three wives; the latest, he says, which he “took three months ago, is from near Hamburg, Germany. She is larger than either Sarah Ann, or Elizabeth, (the name of my second wife), and, I say it without invidiousness or impropriety, is decidedly handsome. Her person is of good size, very round, full chest, bright flaxen hair, and soft blue eye. She enters into the duties of her new situation with wonderful alacrity, and is very happy, as are also Sarah Ann and Elizabeth. You may be surprised at this, but you will be still more so when I assure you that all of my present wives are anxious that I should get another—one who is fitted by education, and physically adapted, to take charge of the business of the dairy. With such an arrangement of my household, every department of a well-organised establishment, on a patriarchal scale, would have a head to it, and be governed in order. I have no inclination to comply on my own account, as I am well satisfied with those I now have; but if I should do so, it will be entirely out of regard for them. My daughter Louisa is engaged to be married to a man from Pennsylvania, who has already a wife and three children.”

MESMERISM AND ITS DOINGS.—Captain Carpenter, of the Fifth Ward Police, makes the following statement:—George Farland, of No. 125 Forty-first street, and Dr. Hofzman, of No. 70 Suffolk street, Professors of the science of Mesmerism, called at the house of Mrs. Miller, Church street, yesterday afternoon, to make some experiment in their line of business. A girl named Amanda, who boarded with Mrs. M., and had been put to sleep by this operation of Farland's and as easily awakened; on this occasion, however, Farland had put her to sleep, and then requested his friend, Dr. Hofzman, to add his magnetic influence, which he did by passing his left hand up and down her face and blowing his breath in her ears. This occurred about 4 o'clock P.M. After conversing, they found her in a slumber, and in a short time they proceeded to awaken her by their usual method, but lo and behold! their power had left them. They discontinued their efforts for two hours or more, but all was in vain. Becoming alarmed, Farland hastened to procure the assistance of Dr. Hollock, a more professional doctor in the art. Meanwhile Mrs. Miller sent for Dr. Eager, a regular physician. Information was received at the Station-House of the curious affair, and forthwith went to the house, accompanied by Lieut. Martin, and also sent for Alderman Hoffmire to witness the grand finale and to arrest the professors in case the girl failed to awake. Dr. Hollock attended the girl for some three hours, but with little success, and the sufferer had frequent convulsions. Finally Dr. Eager administered some medicine to the poor girl, and in a short time she was conscious, much to the joy of Farland and Dr. Hoffmire, whom I had sent to the Police Station by the advice of the Alderman. Subsequently the individuals were released from custody by Alderman Hoffmire, on the assurance of Dr. Eager that she was sufficiently recovered to be out of danger. The girl continued her mesmeric slumber from 4 o'clock P.M. to 12 o'clock at midnight.

MELANCHOLY INSANITY.—We are informed that A. B. Wyncoop, once a prominent citizen of Waukegan, and the pioneer editor in that young city, is now an inmate of an insane asylum in California. He had become a believer in “Spiritualism,” so called, and the spirits had invited him to knock down every person whom he heard doubting the truth of the spiritual theory. He attempted to obey the command so often and persistently that no resource was left but to lock him up in a mad-house, where he now is, a hopeless lunatic.—*Chicago Tribune*.

THE SLAVE-TRADE IN NEW YORK.—It has been said that the Slave-trade was still carried on from New York, but as the charge has been of a vague and general character, it has attracted little attention. We are beginning to get light on the matter. There is now lying in the Tombs in this City a man who has been tried and found guilty of being engaged in the slave-trade. This is said to be the first conviction ever obtained under the law by which it was made piracy. The testimony in the case was ample. And though the protests against his condemnation, on the ground that he is foreigner, and not amenable to the laws of the United States, he does not deny the fact of his share in the business. He speaks of it freely, and relates with unconcealed exultation the particulars of his wild and desperate career.

“New York,” says Capt. Smith, “is the chief port in the world for the slave-trade.” He repeated two or three times, “It is the greatest place in the universe for it.” Neither in Cuba nor in the Brazils is it carried on so extensively. Ships that convey slaves to the West Indies and South America are fitted out from the United States. Now and then one sails from Philadelphia; more from Baltimore; but most of all from New York. This is our head-quarters. My vessel was the brig *Julia Moulton*. I got her in Boston and brought her here, and sailed from this port direct to the coast of Africa.” “But do you mean to say that this business is going on now?” “Yes, all the while. Not so many vessels have been sent out this year—perhaps not over twenty. But last year there were probably thirty-five.”

A CLINCHER.—The *Buffalo Advertiser*, in commenting upon the frequency of fires, and their possible causes, in his section of the Empire State, quietly remarks:—“There is one piece of information that it may not be inappropriate to make public at this time. It may save from the State Prison many who have been in contemplation to raise the wind in these hard times by burning their unsaleable property. This desperate expedient will not much longer be resorted to, if the fact is generally made known, that a large portion of the insurance companies of the country will become insolvent before spring, if fires continue to be as frequent and disastrous, in proportion to the season, as they have been for six months past. It would be a little awkward for the enterprising shop-keeper who should undertake to extricate himself from his little embankments by burning up his store, if he should fail to obtain his insurance money, and get convicted of arson besides.”

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

REMITTANCES

ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND & WALES.
SIGHT DRAFTS from One Pound upwards, negotiable at any Town in the United Kingdom, are granted on the Union Bank of London, London, Dublin, The Bank of Ireland, Edinburgh, The National Bank of Scotland, Montreal, December 14, 1854.
By HENRY CHAPMAN & CO.,
Sacramento Street.

THE TRUE WITNESS CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DEC. 22, 1854.

THE SESSION.

The autumnal session of our Provincial Parliament was brought to a close on Monday last, both Houses having adjourned until the 23rd of February next. A great deal of work of one kind or another has been hurried through; and before rising, the Legislature laid before His Excellency, for the Royal Assent, a number of Bills—prominent amongst which we find the "Clergy Reserve's Secularisation Bill," and another for the abolition of the Seignorial Tenure. The history of this last measure is not a little curious.

The Bill for doing away with the Feudal System in Canada was introduced to the Lower House by Mr. Drummond; and after some warm debates, was carried by large majorities from both sections of the Province, upon the understanding that, if members for Lower Canada would vote for the Secularisation of the Reserves, the Upper Canada members would give their assistance to the Lower Canadians in the matter of the Seignorial Tenure Bill, and in the interest of the *censitaires*. The Clergy Reserves Bill was carried, and together with the Bill for the abolition of feudal rights and duties in Lower Canada, was taken up to the Legislative Council—where the Seignorial interest is strong, and where, from the first, it was expected that, whatever the fate of the Clergy Reserves Bill, the other measure would meet with a strong opposition.—Once in the Upper House, the fate of Mr. Drummond's Bill was soon decided; and whilst the measure for secularising the Reserves met with no resistance, the Seignorial Tenure Bill was summarily disposed of; and under the pretence of amendments, an entirely new Bill, differing in principle as well as in detail from that sent up from the Legislative Assembly, was quickly passed, and again sent to the Lower House for its acceptance. It was at first expected that the latter would stand up for its privileges, and avail itself of the plea that all Money Bills must originate with the representatives of the people; would reject the Bill as amended, or rather, as essentially altered, by the other branch of the Legislature. A little show of resistance was indeed made; but after a few ineffectual attempts to assert their dignity and independence, the Commons of Canada were fain to accept the Bill as sent down to them from the Legislative Council, thus confessing their own incompetence, and acknowledging the superior tact and legislative capacity of an assembly which it has been customary to treat as a House of Incapables. In this whole transaction it is hard to say whether the Ministry, or their supporters in the Legislative Assembly, cut the more pitiable figure.

With regard to the Ministry, it is now clear, that—as was suspected from the first moment of their taking office—they are but puppets in the hands of Mr. Hincks—bound to do his pleasure, and holding their situations only upon sufferance. The position of the Lower Canadian members is not much more enviable, as, from the circumstances above narrated, it is plain enough that they have been most egregiously taken in, and humbugged; Barnum himself could not have managed the business more cleverly. These good, innocent, unsuspecting creatures, ever babbling about the "double majority," fancied that, by voting for the abolition of ecclesiastical endowments in Upper Canada, and by solemnly ratifying the "Voluntary Principle" in religion, they would be able to secure a settlement of the Seignorial question upon their own terms. The event has belied their expectations; and after—in fulfilment of their part of the disgraceful compact—doing all the dirty work required of them by their democratic colleagues from Upper Canada, they have at last found themselves forced to accept a Seignorial Tenure Bill essentially differing from that for the sake of carrying which, they foolishly consented to deal a fatal blow to all ecclesiastical endowments and religious institutions in Canada, and by their votes to affirm the principle which, as Catholics, they knew to be false, and condemned by the religion which they profess—viz., "that it is desirable to remove all semblance even of connection between Church and State." Alas! poor creatures; they have been defrauded even of the pitiful wages for which they had hired themselves to do evil.

Upon the secularisation Bill itself, dangerous as it is in its provisions, and ruinous in the principle that it affirms, it is useless now to make any remarks. The iniquity is now consummated; and they, by whose tergiversation, by whose dereliction of principle, the fatal measure has been accomplished, must make up their minds to the inevitable consequences. The Hon. M. Morin, it is said, burst into tears, when the third reading of the Bill was announced; and well he might, considering the active part he has taken in forcing this obnoxious and most dangerous measure upon the country. Well might he weep—tears of burning shame—if not of tardy repentance—that he a Catholic, and hitherto universally esteemed by his coreligionists and fellow-countrymen, should have been the tool in the hands of Protestant democracy for the destruction of the religious establishments of

his native land—and their mouth-piece for enunciating the anti-Catholic principle that it is desirable to sever all connection betwixt Church and State. Yes, well might M. Morin weep; and though neither the time nor place were well chosen for indulging in such a display of lachrymose sentimentalism, we can easily conceive how a well meaning, and, in spite of his weakness, an accomplished amiable and sensitive gentleman should have been provoked to tears as the consequences of his fatal compliance with the clamors of a blatant demagogism presented themselves to his imagination.

It is of no use, however, regretting the past. Not even M. Morin's tears—sincere though we admit them to have been—can wash away the evil he has inflicted. It is now part and parcel of our political system that "it is desirable to remove all semblance of connection between Church and State." Such, at least, is the theory of our political system, though, thank God, and the prudence of M. Morin's ancestors, it will still take some time, and will require many and most sweeping revolutions, ere our practice be brought into harmony with the theory. As it is, there is scarcely one of our social or political institutions, which does not give the lie to that clause of M. Morin's Bill, which asserts the desirability of removing the last semblance of connection between Church and State. Hitherto our Legislation has proceeded upon the principle that it was desirable, both for the sake of Church and State, that the two powers should work together in harmonious co-operation. Now, however, at the bidding of M. Morin, this joint action is to cease; what will be the result if the new principle be logically and consistently carried out to its last consequences? for this is the only test by which it can be ascertained whether a principle be true, or a lie.

If, indeed, it be desirable that all connection between Church and State should be removed, then must it be desirable that the State should abstain from all interference with the payment of tithes in Lower Canada, and should refrain from legislating upon Sunday and other Holyday observances—then must it be desirable that all Acts of the Legislature giving a legal existence to Ecclesiastical Corporations should be repealed—then must it be desirable that all grants to ecclesiastical or quasi ecclesiastical institutions, or for any religious purpose whatsoever, should be rescinded—then must it be desirable that all State payments to ministers of religion for religious services, be done away with, and that the office of Chaplains to the Legislature, to the jails, and penitentiaries be abolished—then must it be desirable to free the sexual intercourse of our citizens from the restraints imposed by the Church, and hitherto recognised by the State—then must it be desirable to declare marriage a mere civil contract, and therefore, like all other mere civil contracts, dissolvable by the mutual consent of the parties contracting—then must it be desirable to abolish every act by which the State recognises the being of a God, or the obligations of Christianity—then, too, must it be desirable that in our Courts of Justice, the absurd farce—absurd indeed, if it be desirable to abolish all semblance of connection between Church and State, between things secular, and things spiritual—of calling upon God by the invocation of His most Holy Name, be put an end to. The taking of an oath is essentially a religious act. To swear upon the New Testament, or upon the Crucifix, is essentially an act of Christian worship, as implying a belief in the contents of the New Testament, and in the Sacrifice of the Cross. But of itself, the State has no right to enforce the performance of any act of religion, or distinctively Christian worship. Of itself the State has no religious jurisdiction; and if it be desirable to abolish all connection between Church and State, between religion and politics, why in the name of all that is absurd and inconsistent—why retain in our Courts of Law the semblance even of such a connection? Is the Court of Queen's Bench a Holy Tribunal? Or is a Police Magistrate *Pontifex Maximus?*

So long then—as tithes are enforced by law—as the observance of Sunday is made a legal obligation—as Ecclesiastical Corporations continue to exist in virtue of an Act of the Legislature—as any assistance is given by the State to any ecclesiastical bodies, or for any religious purpose whatsoever—as public monies are paid to clergymen for their services as Chaplains to our prisons and penitentiaries—as marriage is recognised as a Christian institution, and the right of divorce is disallowed—so long as in our Courts of Law, the performance of any act of Christian worship is rendered obligatory—so long will the practical working of our social and political system give the lie to the theory laid down by the Morin-McNab Ministry—"that it is desirable to remove all semblance even of connection between Church and State." Long may it be ere our practice be brought into accordance with the theory.

Having, in Her Majesty's name, given the Royal assent to the measures laid before him, Lord Elgin has, we suppose, terminated his official connection with Canada. In anticipation of his approaching departure, both branches of the Legislature agreed in an address to His Excellency, in which they expressed their regret at the loss the country was about to sustain in being deprived of his services. To this address His Excellency replied as follows:—

"Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

"The expression of your approbation and regard at such a moment is in the highest degree grateful to me. I am conscious that I brought to the discharge of the functions of Governor General of Canada few qualities except an earnest desire to do my duty to my sovereign and the people of the Province, and a just appreciation of the magnitude and importance of the trust confided to me.

"If any success has attended my endeavors, it is mainly due to the fact, that I have been enabled

throughout, to co-operate cordially with other branches of the Provincial Parliament and with the public men enjoying their confidence. The testimony which you bear in this address to the improvement which has taken place in the happiness and prosperity of the Province is of the greatest value.

"I pray God that Canada may advance with an accelerated speed in all the walks of progress, material and moral, during the years that are to come; and that this magnificent Province may continue to furnish an example of the noble purposes to which powers of self-government may be turned by an enlightened and high-minded people."

It will be seen with some surprise that, in the third paragraph of his reply to the address from the Legislature, His Excellency makes a direct, and pointed allusion to religion—with which neither he, in his official capacity, nor the Legislature, have any concern; and actually goes so far as to declare "that he prays God" for Canada. This surely must have been an oversight on the part of His Excellency; surely he must have forgotten the contents of the document to which, in his Sovereign's name, and in his official capacity, he had just affixed his signature in token of assent—that it was desirable to sever all connection between Church and State. Under these circumstances, we cannot conceive what God has to do with Canada, or Canada with God. Canada having repudiated all connection with the Church, or God's Kingdom upon earth, it is a mockery of His Holy Name to employ it in connection with the affairs of Canada. The Legislature has formally disclaimed all connection with "the other party."

Besides, such an employment of the Name of God in a State document is an impertinent interference on the part of the State with theology, a department which belongs exclusively to the Church—with which it is desirable that the State should have no semblance even of connection. The Governor of Canada has no right to speak to the Canadian Legislature about God, as by so doing he asserts some very important dogmas of religion, of the truth or falsity of which the State is incompetent *per se* to take cognizance, and which may very likely offend, or clash with, the religious opinions of many Protestant members of the body whom he addresses. In the first place, the Governor's reply asserts the being of a personal God—a dogma which certainly Atheists and Pantheists will not accept. But in a State which has no connection with the Christian Church, the conscience of an Atheist or a Pantheist is as much entitled to respect as the conscience of a Christian or a Jew. In the second place, by avowing his intention to "pray God," the Governor asserts, by implication at least, that God is the moral governor of the universe, that He controls and directs the affairs of the State, and that He may be propitiated by prayer. Now, all these are essentially questions of theology, with which, neither the Legislative Council, nor the House of Assembly, has any right to meddle, and the truth or falsity of which can only be ascertained through the Church, with which the State has broken off all connection. In every point of view, then, the allusions on the part of His Excellency, to the being of a God, and His superintendence over the affairs of the Canadian State, are highly objectionable, because ridiculously inconsistent, and directly at variance with the great principle which our Ministry have laid down. We trust that, whilst the Statute Book asserts the desirability of severing all connection between Church and State, the mockery of appealing to God, and all semblance of allusion to His acid attributes, may be carefully avoided for the future. It sounds indeed very like blasphemy to appeal to One with Whose Kingdom upon earth it is desirable to have no farther connection. The Address of the Legislature is in this respect unobjectionable; in it there is no allusion to such a Person as God. We approve of this, for we always respect consistency.

ANGLICAN BROILS.

Many troubles seem to be in store for our Anglican friends. Their best men are fast abandoning the leaky old establishment, and those who remain can do nothing but quarrel over the wreck. Bishops are rising up against Bishops, Archdeacons against Archbishops, and the Court of Queen's Bench is full of their squabbles. Strange as it must appear to a Catholic, it is the fact, as will be seen by a reference to an article on our 3rd page from the London *Catholic Standard*, that the controversy, as to the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist and the nature of the Sacrament of Holy Communion has been virtually transferred to the Court of Queen's Bench for the decision of Her Majesty's Judges. As thus:

It must be remembered that, some time ago, Archdeacon Denison published a work on the Eucharist, in which he almost put forth the Catholic doctrine of the Real Presence, and consequently of a real sacrifice, and a real sacrificing priesthood. The enunciation of these Romish views created much alarm amongst the Low Churchmen; and Dr. Sumner, Her Majesty's Archbishop of Canterbury, was applied to to check the Popish tendencies of the Archdeacon. The former entrusted the case to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Mr. Denison's immediate superior, who thought that the demands of Low-Churchism would be fully met by a reprimand administered to the Romaniising author. The reprimand was administered, the case was allowed to drop, and the Bishop departed this life full of years, and of such graces as usually fall to the lot of Bishops by Act of Parliament.

His death was the signal for another attack upon the Archdeacon, and again Dr. Sumner lent his assistance to crush his adversary. At the instance of the Archbishop of Canterbury fresh proceedings have been instituted against Dr. Denison, who, instead of meekly submitting to his fate, protests against being obliged to answer a second time to an accusation

previously adjudicated upon, retorts upon the Archbishop, the charge of being a heretic and a sinner of heresy—and to the horror of Anglicans, appeals to the Court of Queen's Bench for protection, craving of that august tribunal to compel the Archbishop to desist from his persecutions. There the matter rests for the present, though it cannot rest there long. Whatever the decision of the judges, the result will be most ruinous to Anglicanism, and will no doubt have the effect of starting many an anxious enquirer after truth, on the journey which ends at Roine. The "Gorbau" controversy was productive of the happiest results, in opening men's eyes to the essentially Erastian character of the Establishment; and without being too sanguine, we may anticipate still more important consequences, and more numerous conversions from the action of the Court of Queen's Bench, than those which flowed from the denial of the old Catholic doctrine of "Baptismal Regeneration," by a committee of the Privy Council. Amen.

Next the Bishop of Oxford, brother of the Archdeacon, who was received the other day into the Catholic Church, appears as one who troubles the peace of the Parliamentary Israel. In a "Charge" by him lately delivered, he has fearfully shocked the feelings of his Protestant fellow-citizens, by re-asserting, though of course in a very slippery and *via media*-ish sort of a manner, the doctrine of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, as the doctrine of the Church of England "as by law established;" and at the same time by condemning the Calvinistic and Zwinglian doctrine of an imaginary or fictitious presence only, as infidel and heretical. The bishop calls the Eucharist "a great mystery" in which there is "a supernatural presence of Christ with his people, and in which He does convey a real partaking of His body and Blood." What the bishop of Oxford, who is likewise called "Slippery Sam," means by "conveying," a "partaking," is not quite clear: but it is pretty evident that he would, if he dared, go as far as his brother and Dr. Denison in asserting a Real Presence in the Lord's Supper.

The religious mind, or rather the Protestant mind, of England is deeply excited at such teachings from the lips of a Protestant Bishop; and it is said that efforts will be made to bring the offender to justice. The chief difficulty seems to consist in the impossibility of discovering any tribunal before which to try the case. The Court of Queen's Bench is hardly felt to be competent: the decision of the Privy Council in the Baptismal question pleased nobody, and it will not again be appealed to. It seems therefore probable that the whole matter will be laid before Parliament, and that a Committee of the House of Commons will be nominated to hear and determine the great Eucharistic controversy which now distracts the Parliament-Church. Should it so turn out the decision will not long be doubtful. There is no very "High-Church" party in the House; and it is well known that the Free Traders, and the Manchester party to a man, are strongly opposed to a "Real Presence" and to everything that savors of Sacramental Grace, or Sacerdotalism.

Nor are our friends in Canada without their troubles. Here, as in England, there exists a party within the Establishment bent upon reforming it anew, and purging out all the old Popish leaven. The *Echo* is the organ of this section of the Anglican Church; and the nature of the Reforms which it desires to see adopted may be conceived from the following extract from the *Echo*, which appeared over the signature of an "English Churchman."

The writer having recommended an entire alteration of the Book of Common Prayer, proposes to continue his reform by cutting off the Creeds, and other rags of Popery, still clinging to the Establishment. He would do away with, he says:—

"The Absolution Prayer, the Creed of St. Athanasius and the Nicene Creed; the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Baptism to be only considered as ceremonies. The idea of an Apostolical Succession to be entirely exploded, so much so, that the ministers of other Christian churches be requested to preach in the pulpits of the Established Church when any extraordinary occasions require a novelty. That the words 'Holy Catholic Church,' whenever it occurs in the said Prayer Book, be expunged, and 'Holy Protestant Church' substituted. That All Saints' Day be blotted out of the calendar, as well as the service for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Christmas Day; and the only services allowed, besides Sunday, to be on the 5th of November and the 12th of July. That William the Third be canonized, and called hereafter—St. William of glorious memory, being the first and the only Protestant saint. That all altars, east-painted windows and crosses be entirely annihilated; but if an east window be really wanted, a painted representation of King William III crossing the Boyne be allowed, being a fit and proper Protestant emblem. That all societies be permitted to bury their dead in the churchyard after their own peculiar plan. That a committee of four laymen be appointed to examine the sermon to be preached the following Sunday; and the clergymen be commanded to hand in their sermons early in the week to be approved of; and to further the importance of lay agency, the Synod to be composed of laymen only, who shall determine and decree what doctrines ought to be taught."

What kind of a church would be left after the above reforms should have been carried out, we cannot say. We need only remark upon the singular naivete and good taste displayed by the writer, in his acknowledgment, that Dutch William—the hero of Glencoe—"is the first, and only Protestant Saint." We do not feel called upon to contest the writer's dictum; but we do think that he is unjust towards the memories of others, as faithful, and as staunch Protestants as the Dutcheinan. Was there not St. Titus Oates?—a St. Bellioed?—a St. Dangerfield?—Were not these men Protestants, and martyrs for the Protestant faith? Were they not faithful even to the cart's tail, and did they not seal their testimony with their backs' blood? Why then should they be refused a place in the Martyrology of Protestantism?

The Echo's partiality to William of Orange has blinded his eyes to the claims of other Protestants; fully as worthy of the veneration of the Protestant world! And here we may be pardoned for expressing our regret, that a complete collection of the Acts of Protestant Saints and Martyrs has never yet been published. In interest, such a work would rival even the Newgate Calendar.

RIGHT OF THE BIBLE IN OUR COMMON SCHOOLS:

By the Rev. Mr. Cheever. With an Introduction to the Canadian Edition.

Though primarily written with reference to the Common School system of the United States, this work is evidently intended to apply to our educational system in Canada; and as such it has been favorably noticed by a considerable portion of the Canadian Protestant press, as an unanswerable argument in support of the compulsory reading of the Bible in all our common schools. Catholics will, we think, find in it, on the contrary, irrefragable proofs, of the necessity of maintaining the separate, or denominational, system, and therefore of the absurdity of the principle laid down by our Legislature, "that it is desirable to remove all semblance of connection between Church and State."

The author begins by assuming as a fundamental principle, what no Catholic will deny—that education without religious instruction, is not only useless, but positively prejudicial. Then he asserts that the Bible is the basis of all religious instruction, without which such instruction would be impossible; lastly, from these premises, he concludes to the duty of rendering the reading of the Bible obligatory upon all, upon pain of exclusion from the advantages of the Common Schools, for the support of which, however, all are to be obliged to contribute. In this, according to the Protestant theory of "religious liberty" and "freedom of conscience," there is no hardship. The State has the right to enforce the use of "Colburn's Sequel of Arithmetic," in the Common Schools; therefore, it has the right to enforce the reading of the Bible.

"Suppose that the New Testament is used as a class-book in the schools, and a certain number of children refuse to read that, and persist in the refusal. Is it any less wrong, any less a breach of order and discipline, to refuse to read the lesson in the New Testament than it would be to refuse to get the lesson in Colburn's Sequel? And if the Superintendent of the School decides, that, unless the children will obey the rules of the school they cannot be received into it, is it any more injustice in this case than it would be in the case of "Colburn's Sequel?"—p. 45.

"The appointment of a reading lesson from the Sacred Scriptures, with a rule that the whole class, or the whole school, as the case may be, shall take part in it, is no more an instance of religious compulsion, than the appointment of a reading lesson from the "Task," or from the "Paradise Lost." If the children were compelled to give their assent to it, or signify their belief of any religious truth in it, then indeed it would be compulsion."—p. 47.

It seems almost unnecessary to point out the sophistry in the above argument. The best way of exposing it, is, to put the same argument into the mouth of a Catholic, arguing for the compulsory reading of a "Catholic Catechism" or some other book, by Romanists believed to contain the "Word of God."

—that is the revelation of God's will to man. The Catholic might argue—as the State has the right to make the reading of "Colburn's Sequel" obligatory in schools for which Catholics and Protestants are taxed indiscriminately—so also it has the same right to make the reading of a "Romish Catechism" obligatory in the same schools; and to exclude therefrom all Protestant children whose parents would not allow them comply with the rule. And—borrowing a hint from Mr. Cheever's logic—he might add—that in this there would be no injustice, "no more an instance of religious compulsion, than the appointment of a reading lesson from the "Paradise Lost." If the children were compelled to give their assent to it, or signify their belief of any religious truth in it, then indeed it would be compulsion." We fancy the Protestant would answer—"Either the child would be required to give his assent to, and to believe in the religious truths contained in the said Catechism—or he would not. According to the first hypothesis, by your own showing, there would be religious compulsion—according to the second, the child would be at liberty to refuse his assent, and to signify his disbelief in, the said truths; but where then would be the use of compelling him to learn lessons from a book which he would be at liberty to disbelieve, and which he might treat as containing a system of cunningly devised fables! Why should you Catholics be so anxious thus to expose books which you profess to esteem sacred, to doubt and derision?" Thus would the Protestant expose the fallacy in the mouth of a Catholic.

This, too, is all the answer that Mr. Cheever need expect from the Catholic. Either he intends that the Catholic child shall be required to believe the book, from which he is to be compelled to read, to be the Word of God, or that he shall not be so required, and, therefore, shall be at liberty to disbelieve it. In the first case, we should have "religious compulsion" in its worst form; in the second, we should merely be exposing the Bible to contempt.—Mr. Cheever's whole argument for the use of the Bible in our Common Schools is based upon the assumption, that it is the "Word of God;" and unless it be read with the belief, that it is the "Word of God," no religious benefits, but serious evils may be expected to ensue from its perusal. For to compel children to read the book without demanding of them their "assent to it," as the "Word of God," or to signify their belief of any religious truth in it, would be the certain means of bringing the book so read into disrepute; for it would mean, either, that the book was not the "Word of God," or that, be-

ing the "Word of God," its readers were free to disbelieve any or all of the religious truths therein contained. Mr. Cheever's system may suit Protestants; it is well calculated to rear up hypocrites and infidels; but it will never be submitted to by Catholics and Christians.

But the Protestant pleads his conscientious scruples—"I believe"—he says, in the person of Mr. Cheever—"that education without the book, which I call the 'Word of God,' is infidel, and I can not allow my children to receive such an infidel education.—The State therefore cannot exclude the Bible from schools for which it compels me to pay?"

"If I am a Christian, and pay my tax for the support of Government, I am entitled equally with my Romish fellow-citizens to all the benefits of Government. To deprive me of one of these benefits, upon the ground of my religion, is an outrage upon my conscience, and upon the principles of religious liberty, without which there cannot be perfect civil liberty. But you do deprive me, when you refuse the Bible and all religious instruction, and thus compel me to educate my children against my conscience, or else exclude them from the schools, because of my religious scruples. My scruples, in favor of the Bible, are at least as sacred, and as worthy to be regarded, as the scruples of any other man against the Bible.—The Government cannot any more rightfully deprive me of the benefit of an education, because I happen to have a conscience in favor of the Bible, than it can another man, who has a conscience against the Bible"—p. 52.

Therefore, concludes the Protestant, "it is unjust to tax me for schools in which the Bible is not used—because I happen to have a conscience in favor of the Bible—and because it is the duty of Government to respect my conscientious convictions." We will not contest the validity of this reasoning, for we have often employed it for ourselves. As Catholics, we have as strong conscientious scruples against a Non-Catholic system of education, as have our Protestant fellow-citizens against a Non-Biblical system; and as tax-payers and citizens, we claim to have our conscientious scruples respected by the State, simply because we entertain such scruples. Whether they be well or ill founded, is a question utterly beyond the jurisdiction of any secular tribunal. Now, putting the argument of Mr. Cheever into the mouth of a Catholic, and substituting the word, "Protestant" for "Romish"—and of "Catholic Catechism" for "Bible"—what should be the conclusion? Let us see:

"If I am a Christian, and pay my tax for the support of Government, I am entitled equally with my Protestant fellow-citizens to all the benefits of Government. To deprive me of one of these benefits, upon the ground of my religion, is an outrage upon my conscience, and upon the principles of religious liberty, without which there cannot be perfect civil liberty. But you do deprive me when you refuse the Catechism and all Catholic instruction, and thus compel me to educate my children against my conscience, or else exclude them from the schools because of my religious scruples. My scruples in favor of the Catholic Catechism are at least as sacred, and as worthy to be regarded, as the scruples of any other man against the Catholic Catechism."

Though we have substituted "Catechism" for "Bible," it is evident that the title of any other book, believed by Catholics to contain the "Word of God" to man, would have done just as well. Now, to what conclusion must we come from the above argument? Why—this—That, if it be good in the mouth of a Protestant, it is equally so in the mouth of the Catholic; and that if the Protestant has the right to demand to have his book used in schools for which he is taxed—because of his religious scruples;—so also—and because of his religious scruples—the Catholic has the same right, to insist upon the use of his book in schools for which he is taxed. How then shall these rights be treated? Shall they be respected in one case, and ignored in the other? or shall they be respected in both? The Protestant adopts the former, the Catholic, the latter, hypothesis. Whilst the Protestant would tax Catholics for schools in which the reading of a book, for which they have no respect, is enforced; and would refuse to them the permission to adopt their own mode of conveying religious instruction in the said schools—the Romanist recognising the rights of conscience for Protestants as well as Catholics—and disclaiming all pretensions of forcing his religious system upon others—demands that the religious scruples of all be equally respected by the State; which, if it continues to tax its subjects for school purposes, must give to all, schools of which all can make use, without doing violence to their religious scruples.—Thus Mr. Cheever's argument goes to show—not that the reading of the Protestant Bible should be rendered compulsory to any—but that, the equal rights of both Catholics and Protestants, require the establishment of separate schools. His attempt to show the absurdity of the Catholic argument against being compelled to accept, or to pay for a system of religious instruction for their children, of which they conscientiously disapprove, we will notice in our next.

The Crusader announces the fact that Garazzi, being completely "used up" in England, is about once more to honor the Continent of America with his presence. We trust if he comes, Catholics will take no notice of him; remembering that fellows like Achilli, Garazzi, and the half-crazed Orr with his trumpet, would, if unheeded, soon be deserted by all intelligent and respectable Protestants. When the Rev. Mr. Orr the other day started for Europe, his brother ministers tried to get up a demonstration in his honor. About 32 persons, the very dregs of so-

society attended, and even they seemed to be ashamed of the occasion which had called them together. So will it be with Garazzi; if Catholics will but treat him as much to their credit, they have treated the Rev. Mr. Orr who, when he visited Montreal, was scarcely acknowledged by any of his Protestant brethren in the ministry, of any denomination, and who—so at least we have been informed—could not obtain the use, even of the Methodist chapel in St. James Street, or of the Zion chapel where Garazzi gave his lectures—so low had the "Angel Gabriel?" fallen in the public estimation of his brother Protestants. And why was this? Simply because the Catholics of Canada showed their determination to treat the reverend gentleman's abuse with calm indifference—and because Protestants felt that no political capital was to be made out of him. They were ashamed of him; and we have heard it positively asserted that, here in Montreal—the very Methodist, and Congregationalist ministers gave their brother, the Rev. J. Orr the cold shoulder, declined associating with him, and refused to admit him into their pulpits. Such at least is the rumor, though we do not vouch for its truth.

THE QUEBEC COAL MINE.

The good people of Quebec have been much excited within a few days, by the pretended discovery of a seam of coal in the midst of the city; but, like the thousand and one stories of a similar kind which have amused the public within the last two or three years, it proves to be a mistake. The geological character of the rocks at Quebec, which belong to the Lower Silurian period, is such as to preclude any probability of finding workable seams of coal; but there occurs in joints and cracks of some of the sandstones, a black shining and inflammable material, which is a variety of bitumen, and has often been mistaken for coal. Small veins and masses of this are frequently met with in quarrying the rocks of that vicinity, and it was the discovery of such a deposit that gave rise to the late rumor.

But it would appear from the specimens which we have seen, that some one has mixed with the fragments of bitumen, lumps of genuine bituminous coal, and has represented both substances to be products of the Quebec rocks. The bitumen is, however, readily distinguished by its great brittleness. It may be crushed between the fingers, and flies to powder when placed upon the fire, burning at the same time with flame; while the coal differs in no respect from the ordinary bituminous varieties, and evidently comes from mines a long way from Quebec. In his Annual Report for 1852-53, the Provincial Geologist, who is acknowledged to be the first living authority as to the geology of coal, has given a description of this bitumen, as found in the vicinity of Quebec, and concludes by saying that—

"It holds no analogy whatever in the mode of its occurrence to mineral coal, for which some persons have been disposed to mistake it"—p. 35.

The Montreal Witness finds fault with the plan which we recommended to be adopted towards tract peddlars, obtruding themselves and their wares into the houses of Catholics, against the will of the owners. We said that, in such a case, the proprietor would be perfectly justified in kicking the intruder off his premises, provided he should refuse to take himself off when requested to do so. To this opinion we still adhere; and we would ask of the Montreal Witness how he would behave under similar circumstances—and if a stranger were to endeavor to force himself into his house with the intention of corrupting the faith of the members of his family? Would not our evangelical cotemporary bid the intruder begone—and, failing compliance with this reasonable request, would he not have resource to force? As to the "Protestant peddlars," of whom our cotemporary speaks so tenderly, the French Canadians are well aware what manner of men they have to deal with, what are the objects of their mission, and what the character of their employers. The Catholic habitants well know that the said "peddlars" have no warrant for asking impudent questions, and look upon them with well merited suspicion. They know these "peddlars" are the agents of the F. C. M. Society, and from the composition of that Society, they well know what to expect from the agents.

We are happy to learn that, in spite of bad advice, and Protestant intolerance, the Catholics of Alexandria have at last succeeded in carrying out the recommendations of their indefatigable pastor. "You will be happy to hear," says our correspondent, "that we have got our separate school; and also that we have got four of the Brothers of St. Joseph from St. Lawrence, near Montreal. They have already opened their school, and with every prospect of success. The people are well pleased with them, and have shown them every possible kindness since their arrival. It is intended to form a regular community of the Brothers here."

Our informant adds that one salutary effect of these measures has been the withdrawal of almost every Catholic child from the demoralizing influences of the Common School. More power, say we, to the Catholics of Alexandria.

The Transcript cautions the public against receiving five dollar bills on the "Merchants' Bank," Burlington, Vermont, as there are many counterfeits in circulation. Fortunately they are so badly executed that it is not difficult to detect the imposition.

The Upper Canada papers are full of accounts of shipwrecks and disasters on the lakes, in consequence of the late heavy gales.

Halifax papers mention that a boat has been picked up, supposed to be the life-boat of the unfortunate Arctic.

The following Resolutions were passed at a meeting of the St. Patrick's Society of St. John Chrysostome, which was held on the 16th inst.—Michael O'Sullivan, Esq., President of the Society, in the Chair; Mr. H. McGill acting as Secretary.

Whereupon it was moved by Timothy Gorman, Esq., J. P.; seconded by Martin Dunn, Esq.

Resolved.—"That this Society fully concur in the object of the Address, delivered before the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association of Montreal, by their President, Bernard Devlin, Esq., a copy of which we have just heard read; and the Secretary is hereby authorized to communicate the same to the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association of Montreal."

Moved by Mr. Edward McGill; seconded by Mr. Archibald McCallum:

Resolved—"That it is the duty of every Irishman, and the sons of Irishmen, in this Parish to enrol their names on our books, and become members of this Society forthwith."—Communicated.

We are glad to learn that the organisation suggested in the Address of the Young Men's St. Patrick's Association, is well received. We have no doubt but that it will be successfully carried out; and that the result will prove of lasting advantage.

Letters have been received from His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal announcing his safe arrival at Rome on the 14th ult.

We see by the Western Tablet that D'Arcy McGee, Esq., has been lecturing at Chicago with great success.

It is rumored that the French and British Governments have protested against the Annexation, by the United States, of the Sandwich Islands, as repugnant to existing treaties.

FRENCH AND GERMAN LANGUAGES.—We understand that Mr. H. G. A. Haacke, for some time so favorably known to the citizens of Montreal as a teacher, is about to commence his winter classes for the study of these languages. We learn from several of his pupils that Mr. Haacke's qualifications as an instructor are of a high order; and that he adds to this, a thorough command of the English language—so that we can recommend him to our readers. Mr. Haacke will also undertake the translation of correspondence, &c., in any of the above languages; he may be found at 418, Lagauchetière, corner of St. Hermine Street.

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

Edwardsburgh, P. Kirby, 6s 3d; Smith's Corner, D. Roche, 5s; Champlain, Rev. D. Marcoux, £2 10s; Buckingham, Rev. Mr. Brady, £1 5s; N. Lancaster, K. McLaughlin, 10s; Cobourg, F. Assinkack, 12s 6d; St. Raphael's, D. P. McDonald, 5s; Capt. D. B. McDonnell, 6s 3d; Elginbury, A. Welstead, 15s; Nicolet, Rev. C. Harper, £1 5s; Ormstown, P. Finn, 12s 6d; St. Gregoire, Rev. J. Harper, £1 5s; Chelsea, P. Bennett, 6s 3d.

Per Rev. J. McNulty, Toronto—Self, 12s 6d; Rev. J. Walsh, 12s 6d; Orillia, P. Kenny, 12s 6d; P. O'Regan, 12s 6d.

Per A. Stuart McDonald, Cornwall—Rev. Mr. Cannon, 15s; Athol, G. McDowell, 12s 6d.

Per P. Smith, Kingston—Self, 12s 6d; M. Dorsey, 12s 6d.

Per J. Doyle, Aylmer—£6 15s.

Per H. McGill, St. Remi—Norton Creek, P. Maher, 6s 3d.

Per T. Donegan, Danville—Self, 2s 6d; S. Cody, 12s 6d.

Per M. Heaphy, Kempville—O. Murphy, 5s.

Per F. X. Bastien—Catmet Island, G. Cahill, £1 5s.

Died.

In this city, on the 15th instant, aged 60 years, Mr. Michael Tobin, a native of Nenagh, County Tipperary, Ireland. He filled the position of Foreman in Mr. Brennan's Chandlery, for the last 12 years, with the utmost satisfaction to all concerned.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

GIVEN BY THE INCOMPARABLE BLIND VIOLINCELLO PLAYER,

PAUL LETONDAL,

And the superior Pianist,

C. F. D'ALBERT,

ASSISTED BY A CANADIAN PRIMA DONA, AND AN ITALIAN TENOR.

THE CONCERT will take place on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, in the magnificent BONSECOURS' CONCERT ROOM. Doors open at half-past SEVEN, the Concert to commence at EIGHT o'clock.

Admission, 2s 6d. Tickets can be had of Messrs. H. Prince, I. P. Boivin, D. & J. Sadler, Sebold Brothers, and at the door.

The programme of the Soiree will be given in a future notice.

Dec. 20.

MONTRÉAL MODEL SCHOOL,
71, ST. JOSEPH STREET.

WANTED, an ASSISTANT TEACHER, in this School. He must be a man of good moral character, and an excellent Arithmetician.

Apply to

WILLIAM DORAN, Principal,
And Member of the Catholic Board of Examiners.
Dec. 23, 1854.

WANTED,

A TEACHER for a Catholic School, at Perth, to whom a salary of about £100 will be given. He will require to be competent to Teach all the branches of the English Language, History, Geography, Mathematics, Book-Keeping, Natural Philosophy; Latin and Greek; and to produce satisfactory Testimonials of good moral character, and efficiency in Teaching.

Application to be made, on or before the 10th of JANUARY next, to the Very Rev. J. H. McDonagh, Perth, C.W.

Perth, 9th Dec. 1854.

I, the undersigned, hereby give notice, that I will not pay any debts which James Finn, senior, or his wife, Mary Dooley, nor John Finn—their son—may contract after this date.

PATRICK FINN.

Ormskirk, Nov. 15th, 1854.

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—Lord Palmerston is to visit Paris, and is expected to meet the Emperor at St. Cloud, and to remain there until the 12th ult.

SIXTH OF LORD PALMERSTON TO PARIS.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—“It was expected that Lord Palmerston's visit to Paris at this moment would give rise to an infinity of conjectures as to its real object. His Lordship paid a visit yesterday to the Emperor at St. Cloud, but returned in the evening to his quarters at the British embassy. He again, I believe, visited the Emperor today. Thus it would appear that, as yet, at all events, he has not become the constant guest of the Emperor. There are, of course, many who would be glad to know something of what passes at these long interviews, and in default of such knowledge (for no one believes that the visit is one of mere courtesy) conjectures are hazarded. Some say that the object is to discuss the terms of a subsidy, and others that a grand financial operation, in which England and France should mutually guarantee a loan on an extraordinary large scale, is on the tapas. There are, not a few, however, who doubt that such can be the object of such a visit, seeing that either of these questions might be left to the ordinary diplomatic agency of both countries; but that something still more important is to be discussed. Indeed, it is said Lord Palmerston has come over to become acquainted with the Emperor's real thoughts and intentions on the present state of affairs, complicated as they are, and to come to an understanding as to the line of conduct which the English and French governments are to adopt in the event of any still more serious emergency arising—that emergency being nothing more nor less than a continental war. It seems, indeed, a moral impossibility to avoid a more decided misunderstanding with Prussia. The selection of Lord Palmerston for such an object is not extraordinary, his lordship having at the period of the *coup d'état*, manifested much tolerance to Louis Napoleon. Such at all events are the rumors which prevail.”

FRANCE REINFORCEMENTS.—We believe we may confidently state that it has been arranged that 50,000 men are to be immediately sent out from France to the Crimea, and that England is to bear half of the expense.

It is to supply the men for this expedition that the camp at Satory has been broken up.

A number of floating batteries are in progress of construction at Brest. About 20,000 kilogrammes of iron plates, intended for those batteries, have already arrived there, and more are expected shortly.

Letters have been received from M. de Lagondie and M. de Dampierre, taken prisoners by the Russians in the Crimea; the former on the eve of the battle of the Alma; and the latter during the operations of the siege of Sebastopol. Both speak highly of the attention shown them. After being extremely well treated during their detention in Sebastopol, they were conveyed, by order of the Emperor, to St. Petersburg. There, by His Majesty's directions, they were shown all that is curious in the capital, and were taken to the theatre. They were then supplied with surprises and with provision of all kinds and were removed to Jaroslaw, which is to serve as a dépôt for the French prisoners.

RESOURCES OF THE HOSTILE ARMIES.—The *Constitutionnel* has a useful article on the means of supporting the allied armies, and on the chances of Russian reinforcements:—“Provisions are abundant, and should the wind become contrary for our hundred and fifty sailing vessels, we have one hundred steamers always ready to supply the 12,000 men assembled in that narrow space. The sea even in winter is a more easy and certain resource for our supplies than the land conveyance for Prince Menschikoff. What is there, we again ask, so alarming in this state of things? Are we to consider all as lost because the German journals and the lying despatches of the private telegraph incessantly speak of reinforcements of 50,000 and 60,000 Russians reaching the Crimea? Certainly not; and the reason is, because the German journals are either the dupes or the accomplices of Russian policy. Reinforcements have certainly arrived, but they are far from being considerable. There is an absolute reason, which cannot be contradicted, which shows this. The nature of the country from Odessa to Simferopol (150 leagues) prevents more than from 800 to 1,000 men marching together, and bivouacking on the same spot. They would be in want of water; wells are scarce, and would be insufficient to supply a greater number of men. Calculate, therefore, all the delays and the 26 days' march of the first detachment which left Odessa, and it will be seen that Prince Menschikoff could not receive more than 1,000 men per day at the most, which from the day of the landing of the allies to the present time would only make 27,000 men, allowing every circumstance to be in favor of the enemy. General Gortschakov, besides, cannot spare too many of his troops, and the state of the steppes will soon be such as to prevent their passage. The season, in fact, becomes our most useful auxiliary. While the mountains of the Tauric chain check the rains, and the dry winds which come from the north of Russia, while we are established on southern slopes, under a climate so serene that the Russian aristocracy select it for building handsome country houses, where they seek an asylum against the cold of the north, the rains have deluged the roads by which the Russian columns have to march, and the steppe is transformed into a lake of mud. The date of the last accounts which reached St. Petersburg from the Crimea proves this fact; even rapid Feldjager himself took 48 hours longer to perform the distance from Sebastopol to Koursk. Can it, therefore, be supposed that provisions, ammunition, and bodies of troops can make more rapid progress? Thus, therefore, we see that either a want of water

does not allow an army to advance except by detachments, or the rain plunges it in the mud, and pursues its march with difficulty, depilated by fever, and arrives with the half of its original effective strength.”

The Archbishop of Paris is about to proceed to Rome, where he has been summoned by an autograph letter from the Pope.

From the *Univers*, our readers are aware of the deep impression caused throughout the whole of England by the recent conversion of Mr. R. Wilberforce. The illustrious neophyte received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, at the hands of His Excellency Monsignor the Archbishop of Nicæa, Apostolic Nuncio in France. There were present at this ceremony, which took place in the chapel of the Annunciation in Paris, the Rev. Père de Ravignau, and four new converts, fellow-countrymen of Mr. Wilberforce. It is needless to say what religious emotion prevailed among all present.

Galignani's *Messenger* describes an impressive spectacle in the Cathedral of Meaux:

“By the orders of the Bishop of Meaux, the leaden coffin, recently discovered, containing the mortal remains of Bossuet, was opened on the 14th instant. The head was found covered with four folds of linen, which was cut away with a pair of scissors, and the features were then seen. They were much less changed than might have been expected, considering that the body has been buried a century and a half. The head was leaning a little to the right, like to that of a person asleep, and the left part of the face was in particular exceedingly well preserved, and at once reminded the lookers-on of Rigaud's portrait of the deceased. The mouth was open, the eyes shut, the nose somewhat fallen in, the hair white, and the moustaches and imperial visible. The skull had been sewed across so as to allow the brain to be taken away, in order to let aromatic substances be placed in its stead. An artist, who was present, took a sketch of the face as it appeared when the coffin was opened. When it was known that the features of the deceased could be seen, a great number of persons hastened to the cathedral. Several ecclesiastics also arrived from Paris, and amongst them the curé of St. Roch and the curé of St. Louis d'Antin. In the night of the 14th a glass was fixed over the face, so as to preserve it from the contact of the external air, and the next day, at ten in the morning, a funeral service was performed, at which the bishop officiated. Pontifical ornaments covered the coffin, a crozier was placed close to it, and Bossuet once more appeared as bishop in his own cathedral. All the functionaries of the town were present on the occasion as well as a large number of other persons. After the mass had finished, the crowd walked round, in order to see the features of the deceased. The coffin was replaced in the evening in the vault.”

ITALY.

ROME.—The communications of the Holy See respecting the definition of the Immaculate Conception have been addressed, I am informed, to 350 prelates throughout Catholic Christendom; and of this number all, save a very small minority, have been unanimous in their counsels; all (I believe without one exception) accordant in their sentiments.—*Correspondent of Telegraph.*

THE UNIVERS has the following:

“Our letters from Rome are of the 4th Nov.—The regiment of Dragoons which has been in garrison there from the commencement of the occupation, and took part in the siege of 1849, has received orders to hold itself in readiness to return to France. As there is no talk of its being replaced, its departure is considered as a step towards a complete evacuation of the Papal States. We have already stated that the only battalion of Foot Chasseurs which had been attached to the army of Italy had also returned to France. That army is now only composed of two regiments of the line, two regiments of light infantry, four batteries of artillery, a company of engineers, with a detachment of the waggon-train, workmen, &c. The total effective strength may be reckoned at 10,000 men. If, as has generally been stated, these departures of troops are an indication of an approaching evacuation, we shall before long hear of a similar movement in the Austrian army which occupies the Romagna and the Marches, for the evacuation can only take place by common accord of the two great Catholic Powers. Public opinion endeavors to calculate the nature of this measure. In the present state of affairs, there is nothing to fear. It is true that if, by an impossibility, the arms of the Western Powers should experience a check, that check would probably be the signal for a revolutionary movement in Piedmont and in Lombardy, and that the audacity of the Mazzinians might be raised throughout all Italy; but that eventuality appears to be so improbable that it does not merit being taken into account.”

Mazzini is busily occupied in fomenting another *comune*. He assures the disaffected party who were formerly his adherents that the decisive moment for action has come at last, and recommends them to raise a new loan on the principal he propounded a few years ago. Young Italy responds with scant sympathy to his overtures; however—and some of the most intelligent and influential members of the party have imitated Garibaldi's example by repudiating him altogether. “Nevertheless,” writes a correspondent who seems to have studied the character of the ex-Triumvir, “M. Mazzini does not consider himself as beaten, and it is feared that we shall soon hear of some other outbreak similar to those of the 6th of February, 1853, at Milan, and the 22nd of July, 1854, at Parma.” —*Nation.*

SPAIN.

A telegraphic despatch of the 14th from Madrid states that there was a rumor that Marshal Espartero was about to retire from the Ministry.

The Jesuits are again threatened with expulsion from their ancient home and patrimony. Loyola, in Biscay, the Balearic Isles are spoken of as their probable retreat. Truly the prayer of their exalted Founder, St. Ignatius, constantly receives accomplishment in his devoted children's persecution for the sake of Jesus.

GERMAN POWERS.

Three days ago the Emperor of Austria sent an autograph letter to the Emperor Napoleon, the sense of which is said to be, that “If the Eastern question was not settled by the spring, Austria would no longer remain a passive spectator.” —*Cor. of Times.*

The *Official Gazette* in Wurtemberg published, at the commencement of this month, some account of the plans now ripe in that country for emigration to Palestine. A “Society for the bringing together of God's people in Jerusalem” has constituted itself, and among other proceedings has prepared a petition to the Bund at Frankfort, the purport of which is as follows:—That the Assembly of the German Confederation will be pleased, through the agency of the two great Powers of Germany, to induce the Sultan to permit the “Society for the bringing together of God's people in Jerusalem” to found communities in the Holy Land, under the following conditions:—1. Self-government in all civil and religious matters, that they may be able to be arranged entirely according to God's word. 2. Security for person and property against the arbitraments of Turkish officials, and against uncontrolled and oppressive taxes. 3. Exemption from Turkish military service. 4. Guarantee of the same rights to every one who shall subsequently become a member of this society, whether he may have previously been Christian, Jew, or Mahomedan, Turk or foreigner. 5. The assignment of the Holy Land to these communities, in order that they may settle there conformably to the object and purpose which they have stated above.

THE BALTIc.

The *Indépendance Belge* publishes the following letter from Hamburg, of the 17th ult.:—“Despatches from England for Admiral Napier reached Kiel on Wednesday evening. From what has transpired among the officers relative to their contents, it appears that the English ministry, considering the presence of a large portion of the fleet still necessary in the Baltic, has resolved not to recall it immediately, but to maintain it at Kiel until December 4th, when Admiral Napier is to receive fresh orders, acquainting him with the number of ships which are to return to England and those which are to winter at Kiel.”

RUSSIA.

The *Indépendance Belge* publishes the following letter, dated Hamburg, 12th ult.:—“The military measures adopted of late by the Russian Government in Poland evidently prove that it wishes to be prepared should political complications render that country the theatre of war. All the fortresses have been placed in a formidable state of defence, and supplied with provisions for 18 months, and three divisions of the army are now installed in the three camps; the military engineers have been engaged in constructing since the first fortnight of September.”

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS.—A despatch from St. Petersburg states that, to replace the artillerymen picked off at Sebastopol by the French tirailleurs and the riflemen of the allies, the Russian Minister of Marine has taken artillery soldiers from the Baltic fleet, and sent them to the south. A special and rapid service of waggons has been provided for their conveyance. It is also said that a new recruitment, for the service of the fleet at Cronstadt, has taken place in the beginning of this month, and that a number of recruits for the navy have already arrived at that fortress. The Minister of Marine had also ordered 500,000 lbs. of salt butter, and the same quantity of hogs' lard, for the use of the Baltic fleet next spring. He has likewise given directions to prepare, during the winter, an immense quantity of timber and planks, which are to be delivered at St. Petersburg, Cronstadt, and the ports of the Baltic and the Gulfs, exposed to be attacked next spring by the fleets of England and France. News from Vienna says that 15,000 men had been sent from Kischenoff and Odessa. Prince Paskiewitsch has ordered another corps of 20,000 men to the Crimea.

BRITISH INDIA.—England again trembles—and well she may—for the possession of those magnificent territories she has so long misgoverned in the far East. Not wholly absorbed by a struggle which has already done so much to exhaust the military power of his opponents, the Czar has been steadily pursuing his career of conquest in Central Asia, and his last achievement has been the capture of Kokan, a country of the Usbeg Tartars, only 500 miles distant from British India. It is scarcely a year since the Russian Government realized the ambition of centuries by establishing their dominion in Khiva, and they have occupied the interval in subjugating the more powerful territories of Bokhara and Kokan. It would scarcely take another twelve months, we presume, to traverse the 500 miles which separate them from Peshawar, the most northern district of British India; and then, a collision between the two Powers would be inevitable. In fact, the elements of a collision seem to be already at hand—for we are told that the Shauzads of Kokan has arrived at Peshawar to ask the assistance of the British Government against the Russians, who “have forced the King of Bokhara to acknowledge their superiority, and have taken a city belonging to the Khan of Kokan, on the refusal of that chief to have anything to do with them.” —*Nation.*

WAR IN THE EAST.

Omar Pasha has received orders from Constantinople to advance to the Pruth.

PARIS, THURSDAY.—The *Moniteur*, under the

date of Classy, November 10th, says it is expected here that the Turks will commence hostilities on the Pruth very soon; and will be joined by Suleiman Pasha, who commanded the Turkish troops in the Crimea; has been degraded by the Sultan, but nevertheless has been reinstated in his command. The Rev. Mr. Wheble, Catholic Chaplain to the British army, has died from dysentery in the Crimea.

The Rev. D. Sheahan, the friend and companion of the deceased, writes as follows:

—Camp near Sebastopol, Nov. 6, 1854.

“In my last letter I stated that Mr. Wheble was in a very precarious state of health, and that his absence from duty had become inevitable. It is my painful office now to add that his illness has terminated fatally. He died in Balaklava Harbour last Friday, and was buried on Saturday. The Rev. Mr. Bigshawe, a few friends, and myself, followed him to the grave. We purpose erecting a memorial of him in the cemetery where his remains lie..... Poor dear Wheble's death has made me very very sad. If you knew how much every one of his own loved him—how much, even every Protestant clergyman included, of his division respected him, and the good he accomplished, you would realize the loss religion has experienced, as you can already tell how great a blow his death would prove to those who entertained him all the feelings of affectionate friendship:—‘*Sed fiat voluntas Dei.*’ May his soul have eternal rest! How I missed him yesterday. The fight was more bloody than that of the Alma. It fell chiefly on the Second Division, that to which our late dear friend was attached. If the truth were told, it would have gone hard with us had not the French reinforced our troops in the nick of time. The Russians were beaten back, and the Allies maintained their position; but it was a dearly purchased victory, as accounts will show.”

The following communication appear in the *Times*: You say we are to have a winter campaign in the Crimea, I have travelled in an open sleigh in winter in the north of Russia, and broke my brandy with a hammer for breakfast, and, *experto crede*, nothing but fur can effectually resist such cold.

You will be told that the cold is not so severe in the Crimea, as in the north. This is half true, and therefore the more likely to deceive. The mercury is not so often hard in the bulb of the thermometer as I have seen it in the north, but there are violent winds in the Crimea which never occur in the north, and 10 degrees of frost with wind are more intolerable than 30 degrees without it.

RUSSIAN FORCES IN AND ABOUT SEBASTOPOL.—The *Morning Chronicle* publishes a detailed statement, of which the subjoined is a summary, of Prince Menschikoff's disposable force, both for the defence of the fortress and for offensive operations outside:—

Bayonets	...	...	...	63,800
Sabres and lances	...	...	...	15,100
Gunners, &c., with 328 guns, subject to be reduced to 248, if Danneberg's eight batteries have not arrived	...	...	...	6,400
Sappers and train	...	...	...	4,800
General total of all denominations				90,100

It is not quite certain whether a brigade of the reserve Dragoons drilled to fight on foot have or have not joined. If they have, 2,800 sabres must be added.

THE FLOATING BATTERIES FOR THE BALTIc.—The fleet of steam floating batteries building in England and France, as an auxiliary force to the Allied fleets in the Baltic, amount to no fewer than forty, and the whole of them are ordered to be launched and equipped by March next. The French government, it appears, first suggested to the Admiralty the construction of the batteries, which are to be armed with twelve of the largest Lancaster guns. They are nearly 2,000 tons burthen, flat bottomed, with round stem and stern, 180 feet extreme length, 56 in width, and 20 in depth, each being propelled by horizontal engines of 200 horse power. They have two decks, the upper being bomb-proof, eight inches thick, and the lower, the fighting deck. The batteries are perfectly encased with nearly 700 tons of wrought iron slabs, each slab four inches thick, 12 inches broad, and 14 feet in length. The tests these wrought iron slabs have undergone show that they are capable of resisting the heaviest shot in use. The new flat-bottom gunboats which are to accompany the expedition are in a very forward condition.

ARISTOCRATIC SOLDIERS.—The *Times* says:—“The siege of Sebastopol, though not raised, may be regarded as at a stand still for the present. We are standing on the defence, constructing earthworks, erecting wooden barracks, waiting for reinforcements and supplies, and giving our men a little rest and comfort, at the cost of allowing the enemy to rest also from his labors, to repair all the damage we have done, to complete new works of defence, and perhaps to receive further reinforcements and supplies. The flower of the British army, after having excited the admiration of the world, and the warm affection of our once hostile allies, will pass the winter so ill-housed, ill-clothed, and ill-fed, that they would be glad to exchange their case for that of an ordinary laborer at home. Those Guards who have stood for many years at home the common butt for the envy and jealousy of all classes, in and out of the service, and who were pronounced fit only to wear splendid uniforms and figure in State ceremonials, will have to endure scant rations and cold for a whole Russian winter, on a desolate promontory in the stormy Euxine. They will have to do this with an enemy ever on the watch to break in upon their rest. How many sordid, vicious controversy will be fanned meanwhile! For many a month we shall hear no more of rapid promotion, courtly favor, and aristocratic captains. Why, look at the lists of the slain, and half of them, if they have not a handle to their names, are at least of noble blood. Who envies them now their death sleep on those bloody heights, pierced through and through mangled and disfigured by their brutal foes?”

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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Lord Clanricarde has received a letter from Prince Dolgorouky, the Minister of War at St. Petersburg, informing him, that the Emperor, recollecting with pleasure the time when Lord Clanricarde represented the Queen as her Majesty's ambassador at the imperial court, felt real satisfaction in restoring to him his son, who, by the chances of war, had fallen into the hands of the Russians.—*Daily News.*

MARRIAGE CEREMONIES OF THE GREAT BRITONS.

(Translated from the Chinese.)

Great Britain is an Island which takes in washing from the German Ocean. It is distinguished principally by its cliffs, which exceed those of any island near it by a long chalk. The inhabitants are an industrious and peaceful race, not very far advanced in civilisation, which is accounted for, by their schoolmaster being abroad. In proof of their semi-barbarous condition, their magnates classify themselves with dumb animals—thus the Crown Prince is the Prince of Whales; and their highest civic magistrate is known and treated as a Mare. The people of this island appear to subsist principally upon a bitter weed called *law* which grows in rank luxuriance upon commons. The Commons of Great Britain are like other uncultivated pastures, appropriated to the grazing of donkeys and geese. Everything in this strange country is called *prime*—a word of doubtful origin and equivocal import—thus we hear of a *prime* Stilton cheese, a *prime* Milton oyster, a *prime* Minister, &c. &c. The inhabitants are short-lived, especially the females, none of whom (if unmarried) ever live beyond the age of thirty-five. When a young man has "fallen in love," as it is rather curiously termed, with a young woman, he goes to the father's house to pay his addresses; for amongst the Great Britons, who pride themselves on their commercial character, even love-making is regarded as purely a debtor and creditor transaction. When the addresses have been duly paid, a legal acknowledgement is given, and the liabilities of all parties cancelled by a "settlement." The first demand, however, made by the young man on visiting the father of the intended bride, is to look at his lands—a request which is immediately granted, from the proposed bridegroom granting to the bride's father a similar privilege. Surveyors are then appointed on each side, and the lands are measured. If the bridegroom's land falls short of that owned by the bride's father, the young man is bowed out of the house with much ceremony; if the balance be in favour of the suitor, he shakes his head thoughtfully and promises to consult his *Mamma*. He then retires, and is seldom seen again. When it so happens that there is an equality of lands, it is looked upon as a match, and the bridegroom is called upon for pin money. This peculiar species of coin does not at all resemble pins, which are sharp pointed; whereas pin money is blunt, and like those who stamp it with their approbation, rather flat than otherwise. On the morning of the nuptials, the bridegroom presents himself, attended by a friend and supporter, at the house of the bride's father. As soon as the preparations are complete, which are conducted with great solemnity, the bride and bridegroom are led to an altar erected for that purpose, where they are bound together by an indissoluble knot, to borrow the awfully thrilling language of the priesthood, in sickness and in health, until death doth them part—a judgment pronounced upon them with inexorable austerity, and which few people can listen to without a shudder. As with most outlandish tribes, the Great Britons are naturally credulous, and disposed to take every thing upon trust. The bridegroom, therefore, is never permitted *really* to see the bride until after marriage. It is true, that when friends are present he may admire her teeth, eyes, dimples, and so on; and she in return tenderly his "imperial," (a sign of valor attached to the chin), but beyond this all knowledge of each other is rigorously forbidden. After marriage, it is consequently found that the air usually worn is altogether false, and the surprise manifested by either party on making these startling discoveries, as may be imagined, is exceedingly ludicrous. In most domestic households after marriage there is an embodied Power, called in the language of these Goths a *Mother-in-Law*; for, as before observed, the Great Britons somehow mix up everything like a salad, with this bitter weed, produced by the Commons—hence they have fathers—mothers—uncles—aunts—brothers—sisters—nephews and nieces, *all in law*. The mother-in-law's sway is absolute. To her hands are committed the reins of government, not as a matter of courtesy, but of course. She stands upon her prerogative and holds office during pleasure—generally for life. All questions of finance come within her jurisdiction, and there is no appeal. She hears all petitions, whether from husband or wife, and allows or dismisses them as she thinks fit, with or without costs. She has also the power of declaring war, which is often exercised by her in a very harassing manner; and the latch key (the symbol of liberty, and which is highly prized by young husbands, as giving them the right to travel within certain limits), hangs entirely upon her dictum. During her very occasional absences from her seat of empire, the carpets are rolled up in token of desolation, and the wine-cellar is hermetically sealed. After marriage the husband's bachelor friends are treated by the "Powers that be," with marked attention, a rigid shoulder of mutton, being always provided at stated times for their special entertainment; and testifying by its cold and studied formality the respect in which they are held. Such are some of the cannibal customs of this singular, but amiable, people!—*Punch's Pocket-book* for 1855.

that it ain't going to cost you anything, and then I'll do to invest in it. Nobody ever lost any thing by not being generous: so say by for yourself what folks expect you to give to poor people and other vagabonds, and when you are old it will not depart from you. You will have something to count on to make you happy, to pay your doctor's bill, to purchase reputation, and buy a gravestone covered with exalted virtues. Be careful, "Bimlech," allers look after the main chance, and beware of sympathy."

PROSES OF SECRET DRINKING IN SCOTLAND.—The correspondent of the *Marine Chronicle* says:—"In Paisley it has been found that the drinking of spirituous liquors does not cease when the licensed houses are closed, but is carried on in places of the humblest character, which are well known in almost every street and lane, and are frequented by numbers of both sexes who there carry on their orgies apart from the supervision of the police." The *Kelso Mail* confirms this by stating: "In our town there are houses where any amount of drink can be got on the Sunday," adding significantly, "and such scenes are taking place every Sunday throughout the country."

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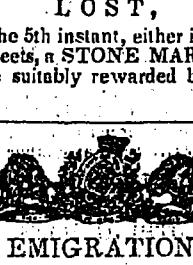
Mrs. Quigby, No. 182 Essex street, New York, under date of November 23, 1852, writes us that she had a child which had been unwell for better than two months. She procured a bottle of M'Lane's Vermifuge, and administered it. The child passed a large quantity of worms, and in a few days was as hearty as ever it had been. Parents, with such testimony before them, should not hesitate when there is any reason to suspect worms, and lose no time in procuring and administering Dr. M'Lane's Vermifuge. It never fails, and is perfectly safe.

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