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CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

(From the Univers.)

When the Sovereign Pontiff, in 1849, desired the French Episcopate to make known to him the mind of the clergy and laity of all their churches on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, Mgr. Parisi, the Bishop of Langres, in compliance with the command of His Holiness, addressed an instruction upon this subject to the faithful of his diocese. The series of inductions and proofs which this instruction contains is a complete demonstration of the truth of which it treats, and a refutation of all the old objections now reproduced to assail it. We have not space to give this document entire. The following are its conclusions:—

"We declare aloud, before the Catholic universe, our belief, which we are about to lay at the feet of the Successor of S. Peter, that the immaculate conception of Mary has all the certainty which can belong to a fact not supported by the supernatural authority of the Church, and the proofs of which, though gathered from all Christian authorities, do not exceed the limits of human certainty.

"We declare, then, with S. Anselm, that we hold it to be an undoubted truth that the most chaste body and the most chaste soul of Mary were, from the beginning, placed under the care of the angels, and thus entirely preserved from every stain of sin."

"We believe it firmly, for all the reasons we have already stated, and which, in conclusion, we shall repeat once more. We believe it—

"1. Because, if the hypostatic union excluded all possibility of sin from the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ, the Divine maternity by which the Son of God received His life from His holy Mother, preserved Mary from all liability to sin.

"2. Because, as Mary was predestined from all eternity to be the first principle of a new world, and, like the humanity of our Saviour, was only included in the human race under the merciful hypothesis of the Redemption, therefore she was not to be subject to the common law. On this account, God put enmity between her and the devil, whose head she has crushed, and who vainly sought to lay in wait for her heels; wherefore, according to S. Peter Damian, the virginal flesh of Mary was exempt from the sin of Adam, although she was descended from him—*Cara Virginis ex Adam sumpta maculas Adam non admittit.*"

"3. Because tradition has universally favored this blessed belief; the monuments of the Eastern and Latin Churches, the testimony of the Fathers and the words of the Sacred Liturgy, the usages of all the dioceses, and the customs of Religious Orders agree wonderfully with the supreme authority of the Popes in proclaiming Mary to have been pure from her conception. So that this article of belief, although not yet defined to be obligatory, is supported by antiquity, universality, and perpetuity, which are the principal grounds of all dogmas of faith.

"4. Because, when the holy Council of Trent refused expressly to include Mary in the decree of original sin, and renewed the constitutions of Pope Sixtus IV. with regard to the Mother of God, in which he permitted her conception to be termed immaculate in the public offices, the intimate conviction of the Church on this mysterious fact was plainly enough expressed.

"5. Because it is impossible to understand how the Conception of the Blessed Virgin could have been made the subject of a Festival, if it was the only point in which that Divine Mother was not pure; especially since we are not allowed to keep a religious solemnity in honor of what is unholy."

"6. Because it is universally admitted that we cannot extol too highly the holiness of Mary, provided that we do not attribute to her any of the Creator's prerogatives. Now, it is plain that this exceptional latitude granted to our devotion towards the Mother of God would no longer exist had Mary been defiled for one instant by original sin, since the effects of that sin are undeniably more fatal than those of venial sin, the lightest stain of which we should fear to attribute justly to this purest of virgins.

"Lastly, because it was impossible that God, who after the creation of His works pronounced them all to be very good, should, after the creation of the most excellent of all His creatures, have seen in her only a child of wrath.

"Such is our belief—firm, precise, immovable.—There is nothing we hold more certain, after the dogmas of our faith. And now our desire, which is shared by all men of faith, is, that the Holy See, which, with paternal indulgence, granted our former desires by permitting and giving to the faithful a special Office of the Immaculate Conception—will deign, in its supreme wisdom, to take effectual measures that this consoling Office may be unanimously recited throughout the whole Catholic world—that this be-

lief, in which as yet it has pleased God that the desires and hopes of all Christian people should be centered (which as yet is only based on proofs, drawn indeed from the purest sources of Catholic truth, but established only on the authority of human judgment), may be confirmed and expressly defined by the voice of him who was charged by Christ to confirm his brethren. Yes; we desire that this new splendor may be added to thy glory on earth, O blessed Queen!

"We desire it, in the first place, for thy sake; not that our homage can profit thee, but because, loving thee so ardently, our greatest happiness is to see thy perfections more and more made known, thy name revered, and thy worship perfected.

"We desire it most earnestly for ourselves, because, for every new act of praise, which rises to thy throne of power and mercy, we ever receive more ample blessings from thy liberal and maternal hands, and because, in the words of Holy Church, they who celebrate worthily thy holy Conception have a special right to hope for thy assistance.

"Yes; we desire it for ourselves, at this time above all, because of the sufferings and dangers of these calamitous times; for we know that, as the Church declares, thou art the help of Christians, the consoler of the afflicted, the refuge of sinners; and when the tempest grows most furious and the night most dark, we desire to see thee shine with the brightest splendor, O Star of the Sea!

"To thy sacred feet, O incomparable Queen of Heaven and Earth, we presume to bring these desires of our unmistakable veneration and filial piety.

"One who was illustrious among thy servants and admirable among our Doctors, S. Bonaventure, said to thee, O Mary! 'Blessed is the man who is never weary of praising thee! the light of God has risen in his heart, and the Holy Ghost enlightens his understanding.'

"Grant, O glorious Virgin, that, notwithstanding our unworthiness, these holy words may be applied also to our weakness; for we desire to praise thee unceasingly and to hear thy praises for ever.

"Wherefore, our most ardent hopes would be satisfied, if, before the end of our unprofitable life, we might hear the mighty voice of the Church proclaiming throughout the whole universe those words which we love to repeat from the bottom of our heart:—'Hail, O Restorer of a fallen world!—never, never hast thou been stained by any sin!—Salve, O cadentis mundi erectrix!—nulli unquam culpæ subiecta.'"

The same paper publishes the following letter from the learned and pious author of "Études sur le Christianisme"—

"Mr. Editor—It would seem especially unbecoming to discuss any further in the papers the question of the Immaculate Conception, now that it is probably decided by the Church. Peter has spoken, or rather Christ has spoken, by the mouth of Pius IX.—and who shall dare to contradict, or even to support the truth of such a sentence? Nevertheless, out of consideration for the weakness of those who may have been disquieted by the discussion in the *Journal des Débats*, I have thought it expedient to communicate to you two very simple observations, which I think may reassure them. I leave it to your discretion to publish them if you think fit.

"I derive the first from the following judicious passage in the Introduction to the 'History of Catholic Dogmas,' by the Bishop of Grenoble.

"The history of dogma is not properly and exclusively the history of the opinions and personal teaching of the Fathers. For even in matters of faith we may distinguish two characters in the Fathers—that of witnesses or judges of the public doctrine of the Church in their time, and that of private teachers. If, as unanimous witnesses to the tradition of the Church, their authority is undeniable, because in this case their testimony is inseparable from tradition itself—yet as particular doctors they may hold peculiar opinions, and may have an inaccurate and incomplete conception of certain dogmas. And the history of Catholic dogmas in which the doctrine of the Fathers holds so prominent a place, is not a statement of their personal ideas, but of their faith and public teaching. It is not the history of the ideas of great saints and celebrated men, but it is the history of God's revealed truth, under the various forms in which they have clothed it."

"This is my first observation. The second, which seems to me to put an end to all doubt, is that the belief of the Immaculate Conception is so necessarily contained in the fundamental truths of Christianity, that whoever professes the latter implicitly professes the former, and the Church, by her present decree only expresses publicly the belief which existed in the Catholic conscience from the origin of Christianity.

"I read in the Apostles' Creed the two following

articles: that God the Father is Almighty, and that Jesus Christ, his co-equal Son, was born of the Virgin Mary. This is enough to prove to me that the Holy Virgin was preserved from original Sin. When God raised Mary to the dignity of Mother of God, He exerted all his power in exalting her greatness. *Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: fecit militi magna qui potens est.* Common sense agrees with the words of St. Thomas, who says that to make a greater Mother, the Son must have likewise been greater, and that God Himself is, in some sort, the measure of his Mother's greatness. Therefore, if God has exerted all His power in creating this wonderful masterpiece of grace, He has also preserved her from original sin, since to do this it was within the compass of His power. If he did the greater, has he not done the less? He exalted the Most Holy Virgin above all created natures, by her Divine Maternity. Had he not exalted her above mere humanity, by the Immaculate Conception? How could she ever have been subject to the dominion of Satan, who was destined to destroy his dominion, and to whom God Himself vouchsafed to be subject? No, it is not necessary to read and compile so many books. We need but a little good sense, and the remembrance of our *Credo*, to read in the profession of our faith, in the omnipotence of God, and the greatness of Mary, the belief of the Immaculate Conception; a belief which the authority of tradition imposed upon Mahomet, and which the force of truth extorted from Luther.—Accept, Mr. Editor, the expression of my devoted respect.

"A. Nicolas."

Mary was conceived immaculate; this is the faith of the Church: whoever denies it is a heretic? What great things are contained in these words! Before she became our Mother by the bequest of our dying Redeemer, Mary, as the daughter of Adam, was our sister. It was our human nature, therefore, which God was pleased to restore to its original purity, by preserving it in her person, from the guilt of sin which had infected every other child of Adam. Such was God's love for man, so great was his affection for the work of His hands. Before he redeemed it by the blood of His only Son, God was pleased that Heaven should behold upon earth one specimen of that lost innocence, that immaculate humanity, which he had created to reign over all things visible, to love Him and to be loved by Him, and of which in His paternal love, He had said:—"I have made it very good."—*Vidit que Deus cuncta que fecerat; et erant valde bona.* And Mary appeared upon earth according to the expression of Bossuet—"as an incipient Christ," to be at once the source and the image of Him for whom the groaning earth was waiting, and whom the astonished heavens were to behold. He who, to save men, deigned to become like to them in all things except sin, bearing the burden of all their miseries, yet exempt from the infected principle of those miseries; accepting the penalty, but rejecting the defilement of sin; therefore, Mary was preserved from the original stain, and conceived without sin, that from her might be derived a blood pure enough to cleanse the world, that in her we might behold the type of that Creator, once so perfect and so glorious, for whom that blood was to be shed. Such, then, is the deformity and horror of sin, that God was well pleased to accept for Himself and His Blessed Mother all the anguish of the cross which was needful for its destruction; but neither to her nor to Himself would He suffer its defilement to come near. And that this indelible stain, may now be effaced, we cry to Jesus and to Mary. "O, man," said St. Leo, "acknowledge now thine own dignity, and, being sanctified by the grace which associates thee with the Divine nature, sink not again into thine original baseness."

As to the proclamation of the dogma now defined by the plenitude of the Pontifical authority, it would be simply childish folly to raise a question. The dogma is recognised; it exists as it proclaimed at Nice, or in the Upper Chamber at Jerusalem. It has existed from the beginning of the Church, it will exist to the consummation of ages; it is true for the lifetime of the Church, which will last as long as the earth endureth, and shall not perish with it; it is strong as death, for it is compassed about by the blood of martyrs. This is all that can be known, and all that must be said, when we speak of the power given to Peter to silence all contests, to crush all heresies, and to end all revolutions.—Peter arises, he speaks, he commands, he conquers.

SEBASTOPOL—ITS DEFENCES.

In a recent number of the *Paris Constitutionnel*, the *Secrétaire de la Rédaction* of that journal, gives, over his own signature, a semi-official explanation of the terrible nature of the means of defence accumulated by the Russians of Sebastopol, as well as the

grounds upon which the assault by the allies has been deferred.

"History, says our authority, since the invention of artillery, presents us with nothing that will compare in magnitude with the enterprise undertaken by the allies at Sebastopol. For the first time in any warfare, the inventions and improvements of modern art have lent their co-operation to the soldier, rendering practicable operations till now regarded as impossible, and substantially modifying all the essential conditions of the struggle, both in respect to the attack and the defence. The siege of Sebastopol is not only remarkable for the application of new operations in the art of destroying mankind, but also derives from the very position of this stronghold a character altogether peculiar to itself. This it derives from three things: its geographical position, the strength of its garrison, which is equal to the besieging army, and subject to constant accessions, and the fleet and maritime arsenal within its harbor. A large and deep bay, upon which the harbor itself opens, separates the city from the northern hills. It would have required 300,000 men to have invested both shores of this bay. Its southern side having been chosen for good reasons by the allied armies for their point of attack, the northern side is thus left in constant communication with the Russian army, who have possession of the open country.

"A besieging army is usually at least three times as large as the garrison besieged. But at Sebastopol the besiegers and besieged are nearly equal in point of number, while new troops are pouring in to take the place of the disabled and the dead. And it is in this respect especially, that this siege differs from all others in history, that their equipments have never been equal to those of a single rampart. Now, at Sebastopol, besides the regular equipments of its forts, the vessels sunk at the entrance of the channel have set at liberty 15,000 sailors and 2,000 cannon, belonging to the fleet, for service upon the land. With these pieces of artillery every street in the city is now bristling, commanding all the bastions, and enabling the batteries, that are silenced at evening, to be supplied with new pieces of artillery during the night, and to be ready to recommence their fires the next morning. The greatest difference, however, is to be found in the calibre of the artillery. Never before has the air been filled with showers of such immense masses of iron. The ordinary siege balls, of 24, 26, 30 or 36 pounds weight, seem now mere children's toys, in comparison with balls of 50 or 60 pounds weight; with sea cannon carrying balls of from 82 to 150 pounds weight; howitzers of eight and ten inch bore; the Schrapnel shell, enclosing 440 balls, and discharged from cannon known as the Paixhan gun. One of these shells, well aimed, would, destroy an entire battery. In order to meet this iron hailstorm, the allied armies have been compelled to resort to cannon of the same calibre; and these the navy has supplied. In the meanwhile laborers, under the direction of men of the highest military talent, have been mining the earth. These excavations have each day been making constant progress, and had at the last accounts reached a point less than one hundred yards from the Russian bastion known as the *masé*. This point, in all probability, will be selected for the breach and the assault.

"Under all these circumstances which we have enumerated, the immense number and the enormous size of the artillery of Sebastopol modify essentially the condition of its siege. A breach battery, composed of pieces, ranging from 16 to 24 in their capacity, has been planted to silence the artillery of the place, at from 30 to 40 yards distance, where they seek an entrance. This is the rule. But, at Sebastopol there is always cannon in reserve to take the place of each one that is dismounted. To silence their fires is therefore simply impossible. Fortunately the large calibre of the allies' guns permits them from their present position to open a breach, for the Paixhan-guns can batter down wall and entrenchments at that distance.

"The breach made and the moment for the assault having come, never, we may well affirm, did so dangerous a duty devolve upon a chosen soldiery; for the columns of the attack will be exposed to the artillery of the Russian entrenchments, the immense extent of which enables them to concentrate the fires of a fearful range of cannon upon the one hundred yards which the allied columns must cross unprotected, in order to reach the breach. They will have to encounter the fearful discharge from the larger guns, of a new species of projectile, technically called the *rollers*; that is to say, a piece of the capacity of 120, for example, instead of a single mass of iron or a shell, discharges a hundred balls, each of a pound weight, and they are discharged in such a manner, with smaller charges of powder, that upon their touching the ground, they follow all the sinuosities of the surface, bounding along through the space which the columns

are obliged to cross. The most experienced gunners, among them the celebrated Schambost, regards this fire as the most formidable of anything at present known in the art of war. It will thus be seen that an assault upon Sebastopol, both on account of the numerous forces which the allied soldiers will have to encounter within its walls, and the terrible artillery upon the ramparts, will be a consummation worthy of a siege in which all the phases of this great struggle have assumed proportions never known before; but it is also one of those grave undertakings which demand the most serious consideration on the part of the Commander-in-Chief.

"After speaking with approval of the decision in the council of war on the 7th November, to postpone the assault as a wise and politic delay, the writer proceeds—

"We have shown that an assault must be a fearful battle, engaged in a contracted space, where the advantages of position, material, freedom of action, control of the artillery, all unite to give to the assaulted party a momentary superiority, and where the assailants must overcome those disadvantages by dint of impetuosity, perseverance and many sacrifices.—Nor is an assault always successful. Witness the first assault at Badajos by the Duke of Wellington, where the flower of the English army was sacrificed in vain. Sometimes four or five successive assaults are required before a place can be captured. Applying these teachings from history to the siege in question, we cannot but see that the place owes to its peculiar position, its combination of advantages, such as the presence of a large fleet, and its immense supply of munitions of war, and more especially to the perfection which has been reached in the practice of artillery, its unexampled means of resistance, which render the contest beneath its walls at once the most difficult and the most memorable in the annals of war. In pointing out the obstacles which have retarded the triumphs of our troops, we do but add to the merits of our brave army, which has already surmounted so many difficulties, and will yet triumph over those which remain, if our national impatience will but grant them the time.

"There is usually a great inferiority in numbers between the besieged and the besiegers; even the most formidable fortress has but a limited garrison; the same troops must repair the works of defence, repulse, in person the attacks, and be ever face to face with the enemy, decimated each day by death, fatigue and disease, their spirits weakened in proportion to their losses; and when the artillery of the enemy has destroyed the walls that protect them, the assailants, with fresh troops at their disposal, and renewing, at will their columns of attack, may calculate at what cost they may become masters of the place. But these, the invariable conditions in all other sieges, exist not in that of Sebastopol. This place cannot be invested, has free communication with the interior, and consequently no limit to its garrison. The troops that come in the morning to recommence the battle are not the same whose ranks have been decimated with shot and shell the night before. As fast as one corps is demoralized, Prince Menschikoff can substitute for it another. The defenders of Sebastopol have to contend neither against superiority of numbers nor discouragement.

"On the day after the battle of Inkermann the European troops encamped before the city amounted to 65,000 at the highest computation. Inclusive of Turks and Egyptians, there may have been 75,000. The column for the assault, which was to have taken place on the 4th ult., numbered 8,000 men. To sustain them there would have been needed two columns each of the same strength. Thus very nearly one-half of their effective force would have been required to attempt a serious assault. But at the signal for the assault neither Liprandi nor Dannenberg would have remained idle. A powerful diversion would have been attempted along the whole line from Balaklava to Inkermann, four leagues in extent. At different points all the forces would have been engaged. In point of fact, it would have been a battle rather than assault, and giving all the advantages of position to the enemy; which hitherto had been against them: Under the deadly fire of grape and with enormous losses, our best troops might have gained, within the walls of Sebastopol advantages, which the least mishap in the grand battle would render unavailing. It would not be enough to triumph under the walls of Sebastopol; to succeed, the victory must extend along the whole line. No prudent general, then, would have thus staked everything upon a single stroke. Of what avail would it have been to enter, at the cost of irreparable sacrifices, a place, which the next day, it would be necessary to defend against a whole army. The strength of Sebastopol lies not in its walls, its dismantled bastions, or the rubbish which barricades, its streets, and which would not long arrest the victorious columns of the allies, but in the head quarters of General Dannenberg. In our judgment, on the day on which the arrival of the corps under the command of Dannenberg raised to the number of 110,000 men, the disposable troops of Prince Menschikoff, the siege of Sebastopol, as such, was at an end, and the campaign of the Crimea began.

"All that the art of siege can do against a place has been done. All the advantages derivable from a consummate science and skill joined with the most brilliant bravery, have been obtained. The work of destruction may be continued, but it is not possible to carry it beyond its present limit. In the state of forwardness of the siege, Sebastopol, reduced to its own resources, could not have held out three days. If it is no longer a siege, but a campaign, that the allied army must undertake in the Crimea, it is also true that time will fight for them. They have, as compared with the army under Dannenberg, all the advantages which the garrison of Sebastopol have had over them. Each day brings new reinforcements,

and ere this, it has, without doubt, once more the superiority in numbers. An autumn of unusual weather, has enabled the Czar, by forced marches, to transport in two weeks 60,000 men more than one hundred leagues. But this army transported thus post-haste, has arrived without food, artillery, munitions of war, or provisions of any description. It bivouacs without shelter, and already that rainy season has commenced which transforms the steppes of that country into so many morasses, and renders them no longer passable to convoys. Competent judges cannot fail to appreciate the ravages which disease and privations must make in this army whose first welcome in the Crimea was the bloody defeat it experienced at Inkermann. Against these soldiers, demoralized by defeat and privations, the allied army, fully provisioned by an innumerable fleet, reinforced by 40,000 fresh troops, full of courage and spirits, and encouraged by three signal victories, is about to take the offensive. In their dispersed ranks they will achieve the capture of Sebastopol."

The Morning Post furnishes a striking description of the way in which the mistaken estimate of Russian power, and of the amount of armament necessary for the prosecution of the war, has been rectified—

"The chief marvel, the grand event of the war so far, is the amazing promptitude, fertility of resource, and lavish abundance, with which England has addressed herself to the instant rectification of that error. With a loss of time incredibly small, transports have been secured, men shipped off, and every means and appliance brought to bear to raise the armament, in every conceivable particular, to the scale of the highest emergency that can arise in the progress of the mighty conflict. True, our army is to winter on the dreary plains and heights of the Crimea; but they will have comforts and alleviations such as no army ever had since wars and fightings began on earth. The appliances of peaceful life are to be furnished to the troops as far as they are applicable, and measures unheard of in military annals are to be employed to facilitate all the arrangements of the camp. A thousand huts are on their way to supplant the tents now in use, and in a day or two a thousand more will follow; and so on till all the men are lodged weather-proof and water-tight. Then in the way of clothing a contract is already completed for forty-four thousand fur cloaks; forty-four thousand fur caps, helmet-shaped; forty-four thousand fur gauntlets; forty-four thousand water-proof capes; forty-four thousand long boots, of cow-hide; forty-four thousand suits of inner-clothing; forty-four thousand pairs of leggings; and ten thousand suits of fur clothing for officers. Every soldier is to have a water-proof sheet in addition to his blanket. In the way of arms and ammunition, the siege-train is to be augmented by a large number of thirteen inch mortars from Gibraltar and Malta; by a large addition of lancaster guns, carrying shells six hundred yards further than has hitherto been possible; and by howitzers of a new description, carrying 10-inch shot five thousand five hundred yards or above three miles. The number of men has been augmented since the battle of Inkermann by 15,000 fresh troops who sailed last month. Probably 10,000 more will sail this month, besides those who are to be drafted from Mediterranean stations. There is no lack of volunteers from the Militia into the Line, and from the young men of the country into the Militia. Some fine recruits are being rapidly drilled to fill up the fearful gaps in the Guards; so that we may hope soon to see those magnificent battalions raised again to their full strength. In the way of provisions, everything that can nourish health and avert disease is to be copiously provided. Contracts are being daily taken for unheard of quantities of preserved meat and provisions of various kinds. Transports will scour the markets of the Mediterranean for sheep and vegetables; while exciseable articles are to be retailed under Government surveillance and no longer left to the extortionate mercy of heartless adventurers. All this is being done by Government; and the surprising part of it is, not that it is done so amply, but so instantly, and with such thorough confidence in the resources of the country. Then, over and above this, must be reckoned the magnificent voluntary and private undertakings now set going. From the highest to the lowest, every class of society is furnishing its quota with an exhilarating generosity. Prince Albert clothes all the Grenadiers in fur. Several noblemen send their yachts laden with all conceivable good things. The Duke of Marlborough subscribes one hundred head of deer. Ladies sell their jewels, and give the produce. Publicans send hogsheads of beer. One firm gives £250 worth of the choicest cigars. Young ladies knit cuffs, mittens and stockings. Whole parishes unite to send out sheets, pillow cases, bandages and handkerchiefs, to the hospitals; while nothing that ingenuity can devise or love provide is wanting to complete the list. But, perhaps, the most remarkable of all is the establishment of a line of rails from the port to the camp. By this road much labor and fatigue will be saved both to horses and men. Messrs. Peto and Brassey, with a large staff of their best men, undertake this unprecedented work on terms which proves their patriotism beyond a doubt. We must not forget the electric telegraph which is to be laid down through all the camp, and right away to the harbor. The aggregate of this is astounding, and speaks volumes for the prosperity of our country, and for the use we have made of our 40 years' peace. While we cannot but regret the war, we cannot but glory that, being in it, we can prosecute it after such a manner.

ENGLISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE CRIMEA.—Within the last few days the subjoined letter has been received by Mr. George Parker, tailor, of Love-lane, Windsor, from his son, a private in the

11th Hussars:—"Simpheropol, Nov. 5.—Dear Parents,—I have no doubt you will be surprised when you read this, to hear where I am, but let a few words suffice. I and a great many more were taken prisoners by the Russians on the 26th of last month in the skirmish of Balaklava. Dear parents, I must thank the Almighty I was taken prisoner as I was, without being wounded in the slightest. I was only hurt a little in the fall from my horse, when it was shot from under me; but that wore off in a few days, and now I am happy to say, I am in as good health as ever I was in my life. I must say that since we have been in the hands of the Russians they have behaved to us like gentlemen in every respect; and we had been treated equally as well as if we had been with our own countrymen. They have even allowed us this very great indulgence of writing home. There is no telling how long we shall remain prisoners; perhaps until the war is ended, and perhaps not; it is quite uncertain, but sooner or later, I hope I shall keep in as good health as I am at present.—Last Christmas day I was at home at dinner with you, but I doubt very much whether I shall be at home this Christmas-day. Dear mother, you had better not write until you hear from me again, which will be the first opportunity. Remember me to all enquiring friends. I will now conclude with my love to you all, and believe me your ever affectionate son, Henry Parker." The letter was addressed to Mrs. Parker, and was the more welcome, inasmuch as the parents of the writer firmly believed their son was slain at Balaklava, in the furious onslaught of the light cavalry.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

The Very Rev. Dr. Burke, P.P., Clonmel, has forwarded to the Very Rev. Dr. Yore, the sum of £51 contributed in Clonmel by some of the friends and supporters of John O'Connell towards the fund now in course of being made up for that truly upright and honorable gentleman.

An influential meeting has been held for the purpose of originating a steam-packet company in Dundalk, to be called the Dundalk and Midland Steam-packet Company.

Remittances have been sent as first instalments to the Patriotic Fund of £1000 from the county of Kilkenny, £750 from Limerick, £340 from Mayo, and £118 from the little town of Carrick-on-Suir.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.—The following agreeable information is condensed from a carefully written agricultural review for the current year, which appeared in the Belfast Mercury of Friday:—"The year 1854 has been one of the most favorable ever recollected in the annals of Irish farming. Not only has vast and highly satisfactory progress been made in the agricultural affairs of the north, but in the south and west equally rapid advances were effected. Industry has superseded indolence, and Tipperary rivals Down as well in relation to its self-exertion as regards its peacefulness. A gentleman who had occasion to visit some rural districts in the vicinity of Athy some months ago called at a snug farmhouse owned by an Ayrshire colonist. In the course of some conversation our friend asked the Scotchman how it was that he had ventured to locate himself amid the wild ones of the south? 'I'm weel satisfied wi' the place,' replied the ex-denizen of the land of Burns; 'I gie' the laborers plenty o' wark an' guid wages. They are a' willing to labor, an' as kindly a set o' folk as could live. As to security o' life and property, I'm just as safe here as though I were in the vicinity of the Doon.' The demand for labor in those parts of the country has not alone done good to the working ranks; others participate in its benefits: and, as we stated some time ago, the small shopkeeper and more extensive merchant find the advantages of the increased circulation of money in the several localities. Many of the native farmers, who were farming tenants on the lands, have been able to purchase the fee simple of their holdings, and now evince the greatest desire for pushing onward. During the last three years the sale of farm stock in the counties of Tipperary and Galway has arisen from £1,440,000 to about £2,000,000 in the one case, and from £1,380,000 to about £1,900,000 in the other. The new blood infused into the ranks of cultivators has given an impulse to the native farmers, and cattle of the finest descriptions are now to be seen in each of these localities. In three different periods the number of cattle and sheep owned by Ireland's agriculturists stood as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Year, Cattle, Sheep. 1841, 1,863,116, 2,106,189. 1851, 2,967,461, 3,122,128. 1853, 3,383,309, 3,142,656.

Not less satisfactory than even these favorable returns are the decrease of pauperism and the almost total absence of agrarian outrage. Ireland is no longer 'the chief difficulty' of the British Minister. With the advent of more prosperous days, which brought with them moderate supplies of those necessities of life to which the southern peasant was so long a stranger, new habits of energy and higher feelings of independence have taken up their abodes beside that peasant's hearth. Already the most remarkable change may be seen in the very appearance of the people, and we may venture to predict that the 10,500,000 acres of soil which comprise the area of Munster and Connaught will, ere many years go about, produce twice the amount of food raised there previous to the unlocking of the lands by the operations of the Encumbered Estates Court. With the high values which have ruled the grain markets for this season, the prices current for cattle and the ample receipts for dairy produce have fully kept pace.—Not even in the days of the later war—viz., 1813 and 1814—did prime cows or sheep sell for higher prices than those to be obtained at present. Butter of prime quality is readily taken at 9s. to 10s. per cwt., and pork brings full prices.—Demand for poultry has increased largely with the great facilities for conveying quantities to distant markets. At present the rapidity and cheapness of transit have opened up the best markets, and vast lots of fowl purchased in the several rural districts of Down and Antrim one day may be found, in 36 or 40 hours afterwards, on sale in the vicinity of Leadenhall street in Her Majesty's city of London. In reviewing the position of Irish farmer, it is very gratifying to observe the great desire evinced for the scientific culture of the soil.—

If those who 'whistle at the plough' have at length enjoyed a share of that prosperity which was largely known to others of the industrial ranks, they have been no less ready to re-invest surplus profits in further extending the latent powers of the soil. Every appliance likely to insure fertility is pressed into action; and we believe the demand for manure is very far beyond that of any season for a long period. 'Certainly, not less interesting than any of those points to which we have alluded is the fact, that between the men who own and the men who till the soil the best feeling continues to exist. Considerable improvements are yet to be effected in many of the relations between landlord and tenant in this country. We hope, however, that ere long that system of open bargaining, which has worked so well for owners and occupiers across the Channel, will be adopted, whenever practicable, in the home of the Celt.'

THE PROSELYTISERS IN A PANIC.—Documents have been forwarded to us which show that one of the most scandalous schemes that ever yet was devised for the degradation of an unfortunate starving people is on the point of being completely abandoned. The time of famine in Ireland was selected for the base purposes of proselytism. Creatures who were starving were offered food, clothing, homes, and occupation if they would abandon the faith of their fathers. Numbers were tempted, and many fell, and many more were made martyrs. The famine martyrs preferred hunger, cold, and a miserable death rather than be hypocrites, and profess an adhesion to that which they in their conscience believe to be a heresy. And so they died, and are now reaping their reward in Heaven. As to those who fell, we have placed before our readers from time to time, in letters from the good priests of Dingle, Achill, Clare, and other parts of Ireland, the record of the sorrow of the perverts for their fall, and their abhorrence of the scandal which they (poor creatures!) in their woeful destitution had given.—A God blessed the earth with a restoration to its abundant harvests, the noxious weeds of proselytism withered away from the face of the land; and whilst Heaven rejoiced over the repentant sinners, the tempters alone grieved—for they saw that their sham was exposed; that their make-believe of a new Reformation was proved to be a delusion; and that there was only one thing effectual it did—put money in the pockets of those to whom Bible-reading is a trade, and Protestantism a profitable profession. And as this delusion became the more apparent, the subscriptions declined; and an appeal was made to bigotry to keep up a staff of 56 ordained missionaries, 321 readers, 150 schoolmasters, and mistresses, with 443 Irish and English teachers; in all 970 persons, perfectly well disposed to live without labor, and play-act Protestantism as long as a penny could be made by it. An appeal was made in June last for the Soupers. It was not responded to; and now another appeal is made, and a new fund is set on foot, which is called 'The Rescue Fund;' and to that fund we grieve to say it, there are the names of two Irish Judges! one of these judges subscribing £20, the other £10. The £20 judge always professed liberality, and propped up proselytism; and the £10 judge was, in his day, the most ardent of 'Liberal Protestants.' There was a time when to accuse the £10-judge of being unfriendly to the Catholics would have been a personal offence. And now, there he is, paying £10 in the hope of prolonging the existence of a scheme that he may believe, because of the intensity of his prejudices, to be good, but which beyond all others ever concocted and carried out, should justly reflect disgrace upon every man who participated in it; for it was from the first, as it is to the last, a plot to purchase souls, to buy consciences, and bribe the miser into a profession of faith which they detest, because it has always appeared to them in the garb of an oppressor. This wretched plot is now exploded. It is seen through; and all the fortunes of all the judges, archbishops, and bishops of the Law Established Church, could not prolong it for five years more in Ireland. The 970 stipendiaries will, despite 'The Rescue Fund,' have to betake themselves to some honest employment.—Dublin Telegraph.

THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE.—We find the following announcement in the Dublin Freeman's Journal:—"Mr. Thomas D'Arcy M'Gee, who was obliged to withdraw from this country in consequence of the part he took in the proceedings of the Irish Confederation in 1848, and who has been during the intervening period, most actively employed at the head of one of the leading Catholic newspapers of the great republic, is about to visit this country on a mission wholly unconnected with politics. He is coming at the solicitation of the Rev. Dr. O'Brien—who sat on foot the great movement for the establishment of the 'Young Men's Societies'—to assist in forwarding that movement by delivering courses of public lectures to the different societies now established in many of the cities and towns of the empire. The Rev. Dr. O'Brien received the subjoined letter from Mr. M'Gee, from which it appears that the subject selected by him for these lectures is that of 'Catholic Characters.' Limerick, Cork, Dublin, and the great manufacturing and commercial towns of England will be visited in succession:—

"New York, Nov. 3, 1854.
"Rev. Dear Friend—With certainty (please God) I shall be able to leave here by the middle or end of January. I will divide six weeks, or two months between your societies, and do my utmost to give another impulse to your extraordinary work. It is a movement the most remarkable for many a generation that Ireland has seen, and I should sacrifice much more than a journey across the ocean: can be to aid it in the least.
"You shall know by New Year's Day, the precise date of my departure. It will not be later than the last of January, nor earlier than the 20th.
"The necessity for my remaining here yet a little is the mob spirit. If you see the Celt, you can judge of its fury and cowardice. All that we need is a bold front and prudent tongues and papers. After the autumnal and new year elections, the tempest, I expect, will dissipate, no doubt, to gather again and again. Its sudden rise has surprised every one, and actually compelled me to delay my journey. My American usefulness would have been gone forever if I had left at the crisis, and justly too.
"I shall go in January, with a clean conscience and a mind concentrated on the duty to which you have called me, and which I propose to fulfil by lecturing on 'Catholic Characters' (especially of illustrious laymen), as St. Louis, Columbus, Thomas More (not Moore), O'Connell, &c.
"With every good wish, yours,
"T. D. M'Gee."

GREAT BRITAIN.

IRON BATTERIES FOR THE BALTIC.—Some weeks since it was announced in the *Mercury*, that our Government contemplated, through the suggestion of the French Government, ordering a number of floating batteries, to be constructed of wood, and cased with iron plates, as an auxiliary force to the allied fleets in the Baltic. The batteries are to be 40 in number, and are to be ready in March next. They will be flat-bottomed, with round stern and stern, and nearly 2,000 tons burden, 150 feet long, 56 feet wide, 20 feet deep, and propelled by horizontal engines of 200 horse power. The strongest materials are to be employed in the building of these formidable engines of war, and in their construction the resources of Liverpool have not been overlooked. The Mersey Steel and Iron Company, at the south end of the town, have received a large order for the manufacture of the casing plates, and the workmen are now engaged upon them night and day. A considerable portion of the plates has already been completed, and sent per rail to London. Each of the plates is 12 feet long 3 feet wide, and 4 1/2 inches thick; and each battery will require 700 tons of those plates. From experiments which have been made, and of which these batteries are the result, it has been found that the strength of iron increases enormously in proportion to its integral thickness as compared with the same amount of metal in laminae, or single plates, however closely or firmly they may be united. As, for instance, 8-inch boiler plates, strongly bolted together, being exposed to the fire of ordinary artillery, each shot perforated the mass with certainty and ease; but when a four-inch wrought-iron plate was subjected to the same task, it was found completely shot proof, and even the heaviest shot directed against it at a distance of 300 yards was shattered and broken like a snowball against a stone wall. These new flat-bottomed gunboats are to be armed with 12 of the largest Lancaster guns. Each boat will have two decks, the upper being bomb-proof, eight inches thick, and the lower will be the fighting deck. A number of these boats are already in a forward state, and the whole, no doubt, will be ready by the time they will be required by the Government. There is every reason to believe, from the experiments which have been made, that these enormous floating batteries will be more than a match for the formidable Russian forts in the Baltic, and that early in the spring of next year, if he should not give way in the interval, the Czar will find himself outwitted, after all his years of labor and expense upon his supposed impregnable strongholds.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

FOREIGN ENLISTMENT.—“Government has proclaimed a necessity, and we have no help for it but to submit to it, as the least of two evils. They must have been well aware how unpalatable the proposition would be, and how requisite it was that the bitter draught should be gulped down at once, for when was so grave a measure so abruptly announced, so peremptorily enforced. Without one word of preparation to anybody, without a hint in the Queen's speech, the Minister of War gets up and informs the House of Lords that he must have a foreign legion, and as the means thereto the power of keeping a depot of foreign troops in this country. We are accused of inconsistency. If it is inconsistent to say that we hate the thing intensely, that we distrust it, that we expect it to bring discredit on our army both abroad and at home, yet feel that we must acquiesce as a matter of confidence in the powers that be, then we confess we cannot satisfy those who abuse the government, whatever it does, and for the present measure only as much as for all its measures. It is not pleasant to find ourselves thus early as deep in a European war as we were in 1804. Think of all the old names—Hanoverians, Hessians, Brunswickers, Danes, and 20 other denominations—reviewed in Hyde Park! What a host of German princes and barons will turn up! All this is on the most favorable hypothesis. It supposes that we have caught our hare and have only to cook it. But it is possible we may not catch our hare; and if we go out recruiting over the continent, and do not succeed in bagging more than a few wretched criminals and vagabonds, the good cause we are fighting for will be considerably damaged by the failure of this appeal.”—*London Times*.

The *Daily News* has taken some pains to show that the expenditure of the war has not exceeded the supplies already provided. These are the figures. “The cost of the Army, Navy, and Ordnance, in 1853, was £16,325,675; and the number of men voted for the three services was 165,381—Army, 102,283; Navy, 45,500; Ordnance, 17,598. The number voted in 1854 as sufficient for the war was—Army, 127,241, increase, 24,958; Navy, 56,500, increase, 13,000; Ordnance, 19,266, increase, 1,669; total increase, 35,007, or about one fifth. The addition therefore to our military power, caused by the war; over and above the peace establishment of 1850, as measured by the number of men, which includes officers of all ranks, was 21 per cent. The additional money, however, asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and readily granted, for this increased military power, was the surplus revenue £2,000,000, additional taxes, £10,000,000, a loan by Exchequer Bonds £3,000,000, and a vote of credit, £3,000,000, total £21,000,000, which added to the military expenditure of 1853, makes a total provision for the military expenses of more than £37,000,000. While the force was increased only 21 per cent, the money voted was augmented 130 per cent.”

THE FIGHTING POWERS OF DIFFERENT NATIONS.—The French, proverbially a brave and excitable people, are brilliant and formidable in an attack. If repulsed, a revulsion equally violent usually takes place, and would often prove fatal if it were not for the precaution of placing reserves. When these are not wanting, they are capable of being easily rallied, and their lively spirit is soon restored. The Russians are less excitable; but, nevertheless, in an attack they are not to be surpassed in bravery and perseverance by the troops of any European nation, with this advantage, that they appear to be incapable of panic, and, though they may be repulsed and defeated, they cannot be forced to run in confusion from the field of battle. The Prussian armies engaged in these campaigns were not, for the most part, very young soldiers; a spirit of enthusiasm pervaded their ranks, which rendered them capable of the most brilliant achievements. In cases of defeat, the effects of momentary hurry and confusion, to which all young troops are liable, were less violent with them than the French; but, though easily rallied, and their patriotic enthusiasm soon restored, they could not rival the Russian stoicism in adversity. The Austrians, properly so-called, were highly disciplined and brave; but the infantry of that race appear-

ed deficient in energy, when compared with the French or Prussians, and their physical powers could not be compared with those of the sturdy Russian soldiery. The Bohemians appeared to be somewhat more healthy and robust, but did not materially differ in point of national character from their Austrian brethren in arms. The Hungarian infantry were decidedly superior to both in point of energy and physical power; and the select corps of Grenadiers furnished by that nation were equal, if not superior, to any in the field.—*Cathart's Commentaries*.

ALEXANDER McLEOD.—Capt. Alexr. McLeod, of steamer *Caroline* notoriety, has preferred, before the Mixed Commission, now sitting in London, for the adjustment of Anglo-Saxon claims, a demand against the United States government, for compensation to the extent of £5000, for the sufferings and losses sustained by him during his imprisonment and prosecution in this country, on the charge of being concerned in the attack on the *Caroline*.—*U. S. Paper*.

UNITED STATES.

We observe that the Massachusetts “Know-Nothings” are endeavoring to operate upon the United States. They sent last week a memorial to that honorable body “settling forth the evils arising from emigrants, and particularly Roman Catholic emigrants,” and asking for a law imposing a head tax of \$250 on every foreigner arriving in the country.—*Catholic Herald*.

The Governor of Michigan, in his annual address to both branches of the Legislature, recommends among other laws the prohibition of bank bills of a denomination under five dollars; the repeal of the prohibitory liquor law, and in its stead the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors in a less quantity than of one or more gallons.

Messrs. Buck, of Lebanon, N.H., have just completed a large order for their improved machinery, for the Army at Woolwich, England. Messrs. Robbins & Lawrence, at Windsor, Vt., have executed another for the same destination, to the extent of \$80,000. The latter is exclusively for the manufacture of Minie rifles, guns, &c.

The total naturalization in the Superior and Common Pleas Courts of New York, during the last year, was 66,04, and about the same number of foreigners have declared their intention of becoming citizens.

A memorial is in circulation, addressed to the Senate and House of Massachusetts, requesting those bodies to declare any United States officer residing in this commonwealth, who shall help to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, infamous and incapable of holding office under the state; also, to pass a law, making it punishable by fine and imprisonment for any state, county, city or town officer to help to enforce said Law. Claimants of slaves are to be punished by fine and imprisonment.

THE MAINE LAW IN BOSTON.—The enforcement of the liquor law gives a great deal of trouble in Boston. In six months there were four hundred and fifty-five violations of the law, and the offenders prosecuted. Mayor Smith, in his inaugural address on Monday, remarked:—“These familiar with the working of self-interest in these prosecutions, to aid the penalties of a conviction represent that there is a fearful amount of hypocrisy, misrepresentation, and wilful perjuries committed, indicative of a state of demoralization so truly painful, as to lead many of the staunchest friends of temperance to lament, that the attempted suppression of a vice destructive to reputation and the body, should sometimes peril the soul by sins of a darker hue.”—*Boston Pilot*.

“A beautiful mulatto slave was hanged at Entaw, last Friday for murdering a child.” The circumstances were as follows:—Her master was a young man and the father of her child. When her child was three years old, he married a young lady of small fortune, and bought the plantation for himself. The lady soon ascertained that he was the father of the little-curly-head and at once became indignant towards it, and at the slightest offence would cruelly abuse the child. The mother bore it with patience for a while, but seeing her mistress get no better, she knocked her child's brains out with an axe and went to the Court house, told the circumstances, gave herself up, and was committed to prison.

The people of Ellsworth have had presented to them an American flag, for tarring and feathering Mr. Bapst, the Catholic priest.

Bishop Delaney, of Western New York pronounces “Protestant Episcopal Brotherhoods” and “Sisterhoods” to be “needless, cumbersome, hazardous, forming a church within a church, and likely to become a sectional, exclusive, and inimical party organization.”

The “Escaped Nun” is going to write a romance *a la Marin Monk*. Before so doing, we would recommend her to read the life and sad end of her prototype. No woman has ever yet dishonored her sex by such an attempt, on whom God's vengeance has not visibly fallen.—*Boston Pilot*.

The *American Celt*, whose talented editor is about to pay a visit to his native land, complains that “taking advantage of the state of excitable uncertainty—theseimps of darkness—the organizers of secret societies—have lately gone among our young men, and have sworn in many of them, for an illegal expedition to Ireland. They say they are already certain of ten thousand young men in this and three other cities; but the number we think grossly exaggerated. They have, however, ensured a good many, and are catching many more;—the most taking bait to hook these gudgeons being, certain pretended accounts that a similar society is spread ‘all over Ireland, including at least two or three million members!’ A million, more or less, is no trouble to these gentlemen. Of course we have no faith in any such report or expedition. We have and can have neither act nor part in secret societies. No Catholic, no good citizen can. But there is no use in reasoning with these men, at this distance. They will believe their own informants, not yours, and very possibly they may bring again, within ten years, on the Irish name and cause, another burden of shame as sad and as heavy as the memory of 1848.”

A young American engineer of talent and skill, who had served in the navies of England, Russia, and the United States, sailed from Boston last week for Europe, in response to tenders made him by the Emperor of all the Russias again to enlist in his service. He took with him some fifteen or twenty young men, whom he had enlisted as associates.

IMMIGRATION.—The total number of foreign immigrants arrived at Boston, during the last year, numbered 22,000.

“A KNOW-NOTHING.”—John W. Shrock, Treasurer of Holmes County, Ohio, has absconded, taking with him some \$30,000 of the people's money. The gentleman is thus described in the *Cleveland Leader*:—“Shrocks is an old gray-haired man, a prominent church member, and a leader of the ‘Democratic party.’”

An extract of a letter from Mr. Walsh to the *Journal of Commerce*, represent the Rev. Mr. Coquerel, a Protestant clergyman of Paris, and an associate pastor with the Rev. Mr. Monod, whose tenets are of what is called the evangelical school, as avowing, though with certain modifications, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The sinless birth of the Virgin however, he makes no exception to the general rule, maintaining the entire innocence of all human beings at their entrance into the world. Mr. Coquerel is what some call a liberal Christian, agreeing, we believe, in his general views, with the Unitarians of this country.—*Christian Inquirer*.

IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.—OUR STAPLE IMPORT.—A correspondent has supplied the *Albany Evening Journal* with a mass of information respecting what the journal quaintly, but very appropriately, calls “Our Staple import,”—to wit, the bones, blood and sinews of men, women and children from the shores of Europe. The information thus supplied is derived from authentic and official sources, having been, in fact, obtained at the census office, where it accumulated during the taking of the census. According to these figures the Irish immigration is still the largest and that from other countries ranges numerically in the following order, after that from Ireland:—Germany, England, Scotland, France, the Canadas, Switzerland, Prussia, Holland, Norway, the West Indies, Wales, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Austria, Russia, China, &c. The whole number of immigrants in the Union is 2,244,602. The largest number that ever arrived in one year was in 1852—372,725. The largest from any one country in that year was from Ireland, 157,543. The smallest number from any one country was from Turkey which sent us but three Turks during the year. The total immigration increases a few thousand every year. The immigration from Ireland in particular, however, is decreasing.—It reached its climax in 1850, when 117,038 Irish were imported into the United States, through the port of New York alone. The same remark applies to the Protestant and Catholic immigration respectively. The former is increasing; the latter is diminishing, and were the immigration from Ireland to be discontinued, the number of Protestant immigrants now yearly arriving would largely exceed that of the adherents of the Romish church. Of the various creeds which this importation of aliens incorporate with our own religious denominations, the Germans are (principally) Lutherans and Catholics; the Irish Catholics and Presbyterians; the English, Episcopalians and Methodists; the Scotch, Presbyterians; the French and Canadians, divided between Protestants and Catholics; the Swedes, Norwegians, Prussians, Swiss and Dutch, Lutherans or Calvinists. Of the temporal avocations of the 2,244,902 immigrants already mentioned, 62,628 are farmers, 82,571 labourers, 24,514 mechanics, 11,558 merchants, and more than 50,000 household domestics.

Now before uttering wholesale condemnation of the “influx of foreigners to our shores,” it might be well to consider awhile the above array of facts. But for this large importation of foreigners, how could our railroads have been built, our vast private city improvements have been made, or our public works have been constructed. Suffering commerce had suffered no disturbance where should we be if the eighty-two thousand laborers, the twenty-four thousand mechanics, the sixty-four thousand farmers (probably the larger portion of them farm laborers) and the upward of ninety thousand household domestics were removed from our midst? Why, the contractor could not afford to build a frame road at prices which would tempt any one to employ him on such a work. The farmer could not afford to build a fence or dig a trench; while, alas! for our wives and daughters, (and ourselves by consequence,) the menial service of the household would have to be performed by their delicate hands, all women's rights to the contrary notwithstanding, for the man's whole time would be required by the increased labor thrown upon them.—Ary fear that the native population will at any time be crowded out, is proved to be groundless by the fact that the native births in the Union annually number 653,917 or about double the number of immigrants yearly imported to our shores. The same writer mentions that of the two millions, two-hundred and forty-four thousand immigrants now in the Union, the slave states contain but 314,670, while the free states have within a fraction of 1,330,000. This unquestionably is one of the secrets of the more rapid growth and prosperity of the free states, and as the *Evening Journal* justly remarks, it is also an element in their increasing political powers as opponents of slavery, and hence it is properly held that the slavery question and the immigrant question are not isolated and separate issues.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

SISTERHOODS OF MERCY.—The British nation is learning a lesson of practical wisdom just now, arising out of the exigencies of the war, which is dispelling a large amount of prejudice, and imparting no inconsiderable quantity of enlightenment. Hitherto everything that was found in the Church of Rome, whether good, bad, or indifferent, has been either denounced or derided: Its connection with Popery was its inevitable condemnation however great or small its merits.—People were prejudiced against it, because of its associations. The Protestant mind of England had yielded to the blinding and besotting influences of prejudice. “There are habits of misapprehension and misjudging.” It has been aptly said, “common among all degrees of men: fretfulness, industrious to seek, or even feign and chew upon matter that may nourish it; captiousness, ingenious in perverting the meaning of words; partiality, warping everything to its own purpose; censoriousness, unable to discern a bright part in characters; self conceit, averse to discern the real motives of acting; melancholy anguishing always for the worst; beside many more, some of which every one may find lurking in his own breast, if he will but look narrowly enough.” Now, that such habits are but too common with all, there is evidence in all directions; and the prejudices which they create and enforce are apt to prevail with overwhelming effect among us Protestants, in our judgment of everything Roman.—Much that is useful and good, there-

fore, has been lost to us on that account. One thing in particular, the value of which is beginning to be seen and acknowledged, and by England at the present moment, taken advantage of to a considerable extent—we mean the institution of Sisterhoods of Mercy and Charity. What has opened the eyes, lately so blinded with prejudice, to the value of an institution of which the Church of Rome has been allowed so long to have a monopoly, is the urgent necessity that has arisen to provide suitable nurses for the wounded and the sick of the British army in the Crimea. The French had no difficulty in finding as many as they require among their Sisters of Charity—women of whom Voltaire, who is not one likely to be suspected of a leaning towards any religious order, has yet been constrained to say, that their devotedness to the consolation of the afflicted, and the relief of the distressed, and their friendliness to the desolate, was one of the noblest sacrifices which the world could witness. But the English knew not where to look—save indeed, to Rome.—*N. Y. Churchman*.

MAINE LIQUOR LAW IN MAINE.—A writer in the *Leader* (Toronto), who is sending to that journal a series of articles on the operation of prohibitory laws in New England, gives the following startling statements, which our Maine Law friends will have to explain. We know nothing about the statistics. For the rest, we can ourselves testify that at the dinner tables of the Portland hotels, the drinking of intoxicating liquors is as open as at those of the hotels of Quebec or Montreal.—*Montreal Herald*.

“That there might be no possible room to cavil about the accuracy of the statistics, I resolved to search the records of the courts in order to note the fluctuations of crime since the celebrated ‘Maine Law’ went into operation, in July, 1851. For judicial purposes, the city of Portland is united with the county of Cumberland: one municipal court serves the joint purposes of both. From the official records of that court I obtained the following statistics, showing the number of persons annually charged with crimes and offences from the year previous to the enactment of the ‘Maine Law’ to the 21st of this month, the day on which I examined the judicial records:—

No. of persons charged with crimes and offences.	Year.
495	1850 (the year before the law passed)
523	1851 (Law in force from July)
642	1852
627	1853
734	1854 (to Dec. 21)

Thus, then, the number of persons charged with crimes and offences, in the city of Portland and the county of Cumberland, in which the city is situated, rose from 495, in 1850, the year before the law went into operation, to 734, on the 21st December, 1854, when the year had ten days to run. The law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors has been three and a half years in operation; and the progress of crime so far from being arrested has gone on increasing in a geometrical ratio, having far outstripped that of the population. In 1850, Portland contained 20,000 inhabitants; in 1854 it was 25,000; showing an increase of twenty-five per cent. in four years. The increase of crime, in the same period, has been nearly fifty per cent. But, it may be said, there may be some other explanation of these astounding figures: that these crimes do not necessarily argue the existence of drunkenness; but that they may have occurred in spite of the forced but exemplary sobriety of the people. This theory, however, does not rest upon facts. The judicial records show that somewhat more than do drink to excess in this model city of forced abstemiousness; that in the police office charges of drunkenness are daily preferred; and what is more extraordinary still that the number of persons charged with this offence in 1854 is greater than it was the year before the prohibitory law was enacted. On this point also I examined the judicial records before quoted; with the following result. In 1850, the year before the ‘Maine law’ was enacted, two hundred and sixty-six persons were charged with drunkenness, or with being common drunkards; while two hundred and sixty-eight had been charged with the same offence to the 21st December in the present year! But the actual increase of drunkards in the city of Portland and county of Cumberland is greater than even these figures indicate. The actual number of persons accused of drunkenness in 1850, the year before the ‘Maine law’ went into operation, is exaggerated in the records of the courts; owing to the practice which then existed of classifying as ‘common drunkards’ vagrants sent before the court on workhouse warrants; a practice which has since fallen into disuse. Nor do these figures show the whole number of drunkards arrested during the present year; for many who are taken to the Marshal's office during the night are released in the morning. We have thus official evidence of the astounding fact that the number of public drunkards in this city and in the county of Cumberland, in which it is situated, is considerably greater after three and a half years' operation of the ‘Maine law’ than it was before that law was enacted.

“From all the evidence I can collect, I believe that the sellers of liquor not only derive great benefit from the prohibitory law; but that they are so fully convinced of the fact that they would not procure its repeal if they could. They charge about twice as much for liquor as they did before the law was enacted, and that for a vastly inferior article; thus making their profits three or four times as great, as before the law was passed, on the quantity sold. And that the quantity sold is much less, the statistics I have quoted give no indication. But the advantages of the law to retail liquor-dealers do not stop here. They are free from the license tax; free from the obligation to provide stated accommodations for their patrons; in short, they enjoy a lawless freedom from everything but the least of detection. And, in point of fact, they care very little for that; for society having conspired to defeat the law, the liquor-dealers are held harmless of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, which are ultimately borne by their customers; being raised by a sort of voluntary assessment. When a fine for illegal selling is announced, the regular customers of the house mulcted contribute each his proportion to make up the amount.”

KOSUTH.—If you ever meet with a person whose special gift it is to prove, everybody wrong and set every body right—who is always ready to school his neighbors—to whom all difficulties are trifles and no subject is strange, he generally turns out to be one whose own career has been a series of failures and mistakes. M. Kosuth is one of these unhappy creatures.—*Guardian*.

REMITTANCES

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

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JAN. 19, 1855.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The steamship Canada, from Liverpool 6th Jan., arrived here this afternoon. The news from the seat of war is unimportant, except that the Allies had, on the 28th December, 200 guns in position and ready to open fire on Sebastopol, and after a bombardment for 48 hours it was expected that the place would be stormed. General Canrobert writes "we shall soon be able to take the offensive. We make good our losses more promptly and solidly than the enemy can. We are full of confidence. Negotiations at Vienna had been postponed for 14 days further, to give the Russian Minister Gortschakoff, an opportunity to communicate with his Government. Although peace was supposed to be altogether improbable, it was not thought to be wholly impossible. Consols had further declined, and closed on Friday at 90 1/2 for money.

PROTESTANT MISREPRESENTATIONS.

The Church Journal, one of the leading organs of the Anglican sect in the United States, thinks it his duty to help his readers to a clear understanding of the dogma of the "Immaculate Conception;" this is the more urgent upon him, in that he is scandalised at the amount of ignorance upon this question which prevails amongst his brother Protestants. "We have received," he says—"several communications which satisfy us that there is more ignorance afloat on the subject of the new Roman Dogma than we had supposed possible." After such a pompous exordium, we naturally expected to find the Church Journal free from that gross ignorance which he so justly condemns in others. And yet, a few lines lower down, we read:—

"Our church, while teaching, with universal Christendom, that the Mother of Our Lord was a pure virgin, has never asserted—nay abhors—the false dogma which would make her, equally with her Son, to be pure by nature, and therefore needing no Saviour." Church Journal.

Thus our erudite cotemporary—who rebukes the ignorance of others—gives his readers to understand that the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, as lately defined, teaches—1st—That Mary was immaculate, or "pure by nature;" 2nd—that, she stood in no need of a Saviour; and therefore, as needing nothing, so also receiving nothing from, or in virtue of, the merits of the Redeemer. If there be meaning in words, this is what the passage cited above clearly implies; and as we should feel loth to attribute wilful falsehood to a journal so respectably conducted as the Church Journal, and one whose articles are generally characterised by a freedom from abuse and ungentlemanly personalities, we must in charity hope that he has not read the definition of the dogma which he denounces as "contrary to all revelation and reason;" or that, having read it, he is himself under the influence of that gross ignorance which, in his opening paragraph, he so forcibly rebukes. We therefore commend to his attention the words of the Sovereign Pontiff in which the dogma is defined:—

"It is an article of faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary—by the instant of her conception, by the special privilege and Grace of God, and in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the human race—was preserved from all stain of original sin."

Thus, by this definition, the Church expressly teaches that the Blessed Virgin was conceived immaculate, or pure, by a special grace—but if pure, "by grace," then not "by nature"—as is most falsely, but we trust most ignorantly, affirmed by the Church Journal. Again, it is also expressly asserted in this definition, that this "special grace" was accorded to the Blessed Virgin, solely "in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ." Who was thus as much the Saviour of the Blessed Virgin as He is of any others of the redeemed; as it is solely in virtue of His merits as Redeemer of the human race, that she was, by the grace of God, exempted from the stain of original sin, or that they are numbered amongst God's elect.—Well! therefore, and with good cause, might Mary exclaim—"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour;" and thus the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, as defined by the Pope, is not opposed to Revelation.

But, according to our cotemporary—"to assert that the Blessed Virgin was herself immaculately conceived is contrary to all reason." Nay, good Church Journal; if human reason is to be the final arbiter on this question, the decision will be in favor of the poor Baptist. Reason, without the aid of revelation, would pronounce that all are immaculately conceived; and would condemn "as contrary" to its promptings, the assertion that the newly conceived babe is tainted with sin, and comes into existence responsible for an act of disobedience in which it had no part.—Reason alone is an unsafe guide in these matters; if to it alone we trusted, we should feel compelled to assert, not the immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin, only, but of every child of Adam. Thus

neither "by Revelation" nor "by reason" is the dogma, as defined—not by the Church Journal, indeed, but—by the successor of St. Peter—contradicted.

We can certainly see nothing repugnant, either to reason or Revelation, in the doctrine that St. John the Baptist was cleansed from the stain of original sin in his mother's womb, and that he was therefore born immaculate. The Protestant sect also to which the Church Journal belongs, still retains amongst its Festivals, that of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist—thus admitting—unless it professes to honor that which is defiled with sin—that the Baptist was, in his "Nativity," Immaculate. But this Immaculate Nativity was as much a miracle, as such an act of "special grace," and as much in "virtue of the merits of Christ Jesus the Saviour of the human race," (and therefore the Saviour of St. John as well as of His Blessed Mother)—as was the Immaculate Conception of Mary. To be conceived Immaculate, is no more out of the ordinary course, is no more wonderful, no more contrary to Revelation, than it is to be born immaculate—as is conceded by the Anglican Prayer Book, which, in the Baptismal service, declares that all men are, both "conceived and born in sin." Now, as our Anglican friends make an exception in the case of St. John the Baptist—declaring in the words of the Collect appointed by Parliament to be used on the Festival of his Nativity, that he was "wonderfully born"—they admit, in spite of the declaration of the Baptismal service, that John was not born in sin; and that therefore his Nativity was Immaculate. Why then should it seem to them repugnant to Revelation, to admit that the Mother of God was not conceived in sin; and that therefore her Conception was as Immaculate, as was the Nativity of the Precursor of her Divine Son? To admit the one, and deny the other, upon the pretence that the latter is opposed to Revelation, is but to imitate the hypocrisy of the Pharisees of old, who strained out the gnat, but swallowed a camel.

And if, from Revelation we appeal to reason, it does certainly seem "contrary to the latter" to admit the Immaculate Nativity of the Baptist; but to deny the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. Reason tells us, that, if for the greater honor and glory of Christ, and to confer additional lustre on the inauguration of the Messiahship, it were requisite that St. John the Baptist—who, in comparison with Mary, was called upon to play but a very subordinate part in the work of man's redemption—should be born immaculate—much more was it fitting and requisite, much more was it necessary, that she—who stood in so much closer a relationship with Christ, who bore Him in her womb, and for whose consent, for whose "Fiat" the Angel Gabriel had to wait ere the "Incarnation" could be commenced—should be conceived immaculate. Again we say, that, if the Anglican admits the Immaculate Nativity of St. John the Baptist, it is unreasonable on his part to object to the Immaculate Conception of Mary, as contrary either to reason or Revelation. And if for the sake of erasing this difficulty, he denies the Immaculate Nativity of the former, then—as his sect, by command of Parliament, honors with a special Festival that Nativity—he must admit that "the Church, as by law established," honors that which is not immaculate, which is therefore tainted with sin, and loathsome in the eyes of God; and that therefore his sect is not the Church of Christ, but rather the synagogue of Satan.

One word as to the antiquity of the dogma which our cotemporary sneers at as the "new Roman Dogma;" but which, if he knew anything of ecclesiastical history, he could see was a dogma, not peculiar to the Latins, and of immemorial antiquity in the East. From the earliest ages, the Church has sanctioned the celebration of the "Conception" of the "Virgin" as a religious festival; and as even in the Anglican calendar, this festival still holds its place—though, for it there is no special service as there is for the "Nativity" of the Baptist—Anglican Protestants cannot deny the antiquity and once general celebration, of the Festival of the Conception. But as the Church never sanctions the celebration of a religious Festival in honor of that which is defiled with sin, or which is not Immaculate, it is a logical deduction from her sanctioning the celebration of the Festival of the Conception, that she believed that Conception to be Immaculate; and thus we conclude that the belief of the Church—both in the East and in the West—in the Immaculate Conception is as old, at least, as the celebration of the Festival in honor of the Conception. This argument is decisive, not indeed as to the truth of the dogma, but as to its antiquity and universality. As, from the celebration of the Festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, we are compelled to conclude to the belief of the Church in the Immaculateness of his Nativity, so also must we conclude, from the celebration of the Festival in honor of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin, to the belief in the Immaculateness of that Conception; unless indeed we are prepared to assert that the Church honored that which she believed to be defiled with sin, and therefore loathsome in the eyes of her Divine Spouse. From enunciating such an absurdity, such a palpable contradiction in terms, even Protestants would shrink.

To return to our erudite cotemporary of the Church Journal—who "wonders that a Church which so highly honors Epiphanius, both as a Saint and Theologian, should give so little heed to his solemn

* Majora privilegia creduntur concessa Beatae Virgini, quam aliis, ut Jeronimo et Joanni Baptistae, qui fuerunt sanctificati in utero.—S. Thom. Sum. pars. 3. q. 27. † Festum non celebratur, nisi pro aliquo sancto.—S. Thom. Sum. p. 3. q. 27. ‡ The Church celebrates—besides the Nativity of our Lord—the Nativities of the Blessed Virgin and of St. John the Baptist, because of these only were the Nativities Immaculate. Of the other Saints, she celebrates the anniversaries, either of their martyrdom—dies natales—or conversion.

testimony." May not this wonder proceed from our cotemporary's ignorance of the writings of Saint Epiphanius? just as, in charity we trust, that his assertion, that Romanists hold that the Virgin was "pure by nature," proceeded from his gross ignorance of the definition given by the Sovereign Pontiff. Had our cotemporary studied St. Epiphanius, had he even paid any attention to the passages which he quotes from the writings of that Father, he would have perceived that St. Epiphanius "the Saint and Theologian" clearly asserts the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. In the words of the Church Journal he "gracefully compares her to Eve, the Mother of all living;" and by all the old writers, Mary is spoken of as the second Eve. But the soul of the first Eve came from the hands of its Creator, Immaculate; therefore, unless the soul of the second Eve was created in a like state—unless Mary, as well as Eve, was free from all taint of original sin, the "graceful comparison" of St. Epiphanius would be but a silly mockery; and the language of all the Fathers, who liken Mary unto Eve, but sustain baldersdash—intolerable even to a Protestant audience—and Lord knows there is scarce any amount of trash that they are not prepared to swallow, nor any absurdity too gross for their acceptance.

EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.—A body so called—that is, so self-dubbed—is in the habit of meeting in the rooms of L'Institut Canadien, for the purpose of devising a new educational system for the Catholics of Lower Canada. When we mention that, most prominent amongst these agitators is a certain M. Cyr, a person very well known for his Anti-Catholic prejudices—our readers may be able to judge what confidence Catholics should place in, or what countenance they should give to, such a movement.

It is, in plain English, merely an attempt on the part of a few demagogues and anti-Catholics, to enforce the same tyrannical and irreligious system of education on the Catholics of Lower Canada, as that which presses so cruelly upon our brethren of the faith in the Upper Province. Now, the best, because the shortest, method of dealing with these gentry is, simply to tell them at once that, as Catholics, we will not submit to their dictation—that we need not their advice as to how to educate our children—that when proffered, we scout it with contempt, as a monstrous piece of impertinence on their part—and that if we had any doubts as how to act, the simple fact that they—that the Doutrés, the Cyrs, &c., &c.—recommend one course of action, is sufficient to determine us, and every sound Catholic and honest French Canadian, to adopt the very opposite.

How our children, how the children of Catholics, should be educated—is a question with which these men can have no possible right to meddle; it is a question which, morally and intellectually, they are utterly incompetent to answer. Hitherto Upper Canada has been the field on which we have had to fight the battle of "Freedom of Education;" but signs are not wanting which indicate that the scene of combat will, ere long, be transferred to the Lower Province; and that here too we shall have to contend for the principle—that the State has no more right to tax the individual for School, than for Church, purposes; and that if it does tax its subjects, it must give to all, schools of which all can make use, without doing violence to their conscientious scruples—no matter how unreasonable these scruples may appear to the ruling powers.

"Freedom of Education" is our motto, as is also "Freedom of Religion." By "Freedom of Education" and "Freedom of Religion," we deny not the right, nay the duty, of the State to make material provision for the support of education and religion—of Church and School—within its bounds. By these words we mean the perfect immunity of education and religion, of both Church and School, from all State control. As against the State, in these matters, the rights of the Church, nay of every individual parent, are good; and any attempt upon the part of the State—no matter whether exercised in the name of King or People—to enforce of itself a religion or an education, a Church or a School, upon its subjects, is a usurpation of power not rightfully belonging to it, and which therefore we are not only not bound to obey, but are at liberty to resist by all means sanctioned by the Church. "State-Schoolism" and "State-Churchism"—that is, the assumption by the State of the right of control over either School or Church—are alike odious, alike incompatible with civil and religious liberty. Now, we perceive clearly, both from the language and the antecedents of the most active members of this "Educational Convention," that the design of the movement is, to make the State, or Civil government of Canada, supreme, in both sections of the Province, over the schools and educational institutions of the country. This design it is the duty of every Catholic, of every lover of liberty, to counteract; and for this purpose it would certainly appear as if some Catholic organisation, capable of exercising a direct and powerful influence on all political questions in which the interests of religion or education are concerned, were highly desirable at the present juncture, or rather, indispensably necessary.

The Quebec papers announce the death of Judge Pañet in the 64th year of his age.

Our best thanks are due to our active agent for Aylmer, Mr. James Doyle.

Remittances in our next.

The Official Gazette offers a reward of £50 for the discovery of the persons concerned in the assault upon Louis Poissant, on the 31st of October last.

The City Council have voted the sum of £250 for the relief of the poor during the present inclement season, when work is so scarce, and provisions so dear. This sum will be devoted to furnishing soup to the poor; and for this purpose four depots have been formed—at the Providence Convent and Grey Nunnery; for the Quebec suburbs—at the Widows' Asylum, Visitation street; and, for the other end of the town, at the St. Joseph Convent in Cemetery Street. We trust that these provisions will meet the wants of the poor, and we are certain that, in the distribution of the relief, no distinctions of creed or country will be allowed to interfere.

Our attention has been directed to the following statement in the Montreal Witness, to which we have been requested to reply:—

1. "That a few Sabbaths ago—the Irish endeavored by force, to remove a French priest from the altar or pulpit," in St. Anne's Church, Griffintown. —Montreal Witness, Jan. 17.

Our reply shall be short.—No Irishman, nor any one else, ever endeavored to remove, by force, a French, or any other, priest, either from altar or pulpit of the church in question. The statement of the Witness is but an ordinary Protestant lie.

2. The Witness adds—that the result of this attempt "to remove by force," &c., was "a general fight between the Irish and the French Canadians," in which "several persons were injured, one severely."—Ib.

Our reply again shall be short. As no attempt was ever made, by any person "to remove by force" any priest either from altar or pulpit, so no "general fight" ever arose in consequence of such an attempt; and so also, no persons were injured in a fight which never occurred. We trust our readers will pardon us the pains we have been at to give the lie to one who is a notorious liar.

THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER.—In memory of the glorious battle of Inkermann, in which the blood of Catholic soldiers was so freely shed in the cause of Great Britain, it has already been proposed that the lying and insulting Service in the Anglican prayer-book should henceforward be disallowed. A Clergyman, writing on this topic in the Times, observes that this might the more easily be accomplished, seeing that "the use of the service for the 5th of November is not sanctioned by Act of Parliament," and that, in consequence, every government clergyman making use of it, does thereby violate the provisions of 13th and 14th Charles II., commonly known as the "Act of Uniformity;" and exposes himself to the penalties enacted against every minister of the Church of England who shall worship God otherwise than as provided for "by Law." Another curious fact connected with the "Church As By Law Established," is brought to light by the Very Rev. E. Tighe Gregory, of Kilmore. Complaining of the unauthorised services in which the clergy of the establishment are wont to indulge, he particularly enumerates the "sanciful church consecration forms" invented and adopted by some prelates, and for receiving converts, used by some fervid clergyman, and all the occasional forms, which are mere Acts of Council; on the very last occasion of which there was not one bishop of the church present; while two Roman Catholic members of the Council were, and appended their names to an "Order for Observance" in all Protestant churches and chapels."—London Times.

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE IRISH NATION, COMPRISING A MEMOIR OF THE IRISH BRIGADE IN THE SERVICE OF FRANCE; with an appendix of official papers relative to the Brigade, from the Archives at Paris. By the late Matthew O'Connor, Barrister-at-Law. Dublin, Hodges and Smith.

We have been favored with a copy of the above book by Messrs. Sadler, & Co., and have great pleasure in recommending it to our readers as one of the most interesting volumes that has for years come under our notice. It was published in Dublin as the title specifies, by the eminent house of Hodges and Smith, publishers to the University, and was sold at nine shillings sterling, (or 11s 3d of our money); but one of the firm of Sadler & Co., on a recent visit to Europe, purchased all that remained of the edition, and the work is now offered to the public at a reduced price. The appendix alone is worth the price of the whole book.

Although a work of general interest, especially at the present time, when Irish valor is again reaping a harvest of glory, this work will have a peculiar interest for the Irish people. It is written with the avowed object of vindicating the military character of their nation, as will be seen by a reference to the first paragraph.

"A French writer, whose cursory remark has grown into a sort of historical apothegm, observes that 'the Irish who show themselves the bravest soldiers in France and Spain, have always behaved shamefully at home.' Remarking on this, the historian of the Brigade goes on to say:—

"Had the lively M. Voltaire condescended to read the annals of an obscure people, shut out by distance and insularity from European history, he probably would not have indulged in this disparaging contrast; for he would have found Irish valor the same at Clontarf, at the Black Water, and at Aughrim, as at Luzara, Cassano, and Fontenoy; the same at Dunboy and Limerick, as at Guillestre, Embrun, and Cremona; therefore, although my chief object in these Memoirs is to preserve the remembrance of my gallant countrymen, whose valor, when proscribed at home, shone with such distinguished lustre in foreign service, I have judged it right to couple the Memoirs of the Brigade with a short review of the military achievements of the Irish at home and abroad, during the century of active service that preceded its formation." Such is the object of this work; and although we have as yet only glanced through its pages we can

rough for the fidelity and the accuracy of the writer, who approaches his subject with a master hand and a loving heart. Here will the reader find chronicled—the wars of Hugh O'Neill, and his colleague Hugh O'Donnell; the noble and chivalrous, though ineffectual stand made by the Irish in favor of the ill-fated house of Stuart, together with the long and eventful history of their valorous exploits, in the service of the Catholic powers of Europe, when English oppression had driven them from home. Who that has Irish blood in his veins can read without a thrill of delight the account of the battle of Fontenoy where "Clare's Dragoons" won the day. Fontenoy so nobly sung by poor Davis:—

More lively than the summer flies, French tirailleurs rush round; As sabbles to the lava-tide, French squadrons strew the ground; Bomb-shell, and grape, and round-shot tore, still on they rush'd, and fired— Past, from each volley, grenadier and voltigeur retired. 'Push on, my household cavalry,' King Louis madly cried; To death they rush, but rude their shock—not unavenged they died. On through the camp the column trod—King Louis turns his rein; 'Not yet, my liege,' Saxe interposed, 'the Irish troops remain!' And Fontenoy, famed Fontenoy, had been a Waterloo, Were not these exiles ready then, fresh, vehement, and true. 'Lord Clare,' he says, 'you have your wish, there are your Saxon foes,' The marshal almost smiles to see, so furiously he goes.

On Fontenoy, on Fontenoy, nor ever yet elsewhere, Ruck'd on to fight a nobler band than these proud exiles were, O'Brien's voice is hoarse with joy, as, halting, he commands. 'Fix bayonets—charge—' Like mountain storm, rush on these fiery bands.

A desperate struggle followed, given in detail in the work before us, when

On Fontenoy, on Fontenoy, like eagles in the sun, With bloody plumes the Irish stand—the field is fought and won!

And the equally glorious day of Ramillies, (glorious, at least, for the Irish and French), and Ypres, and Cremona, are all recorded with a graphic pencil. We are quite sure that this book will be a popular one with the Irish, and it has every right to be so. The distinguished author has passed away from this world, but his memory will remain fresh and green amongst the warm-hearted, grateful people to whom he has bequeathed this *Military History* of their nation.

THE FIRST BOOK OF HISTORY, combined with Geography and Chronology, for Younger classes. By John G. Shea. New York, Boston, and Montreal: D. & J. Sadlier & Co.

This work is intended to fill up a void long felt by Catholic teachers. The title explains itself and renders any comment on our part wholly unnecessary. It will be found an invaluable acquisition to our stock of Catholic school books, and as such will be well received by those entrusted with the care of youth. In looking over the work, we notice some trifling errors which we hope to see corrected in the next edition. Meanwhile, we can honestly recommend it for the use of schools.

CALENDAR FOR 1855.—We have received two copies of Mr. J. C. Becket's Calendar for 1855, which for chasteness of style, and exquisite taste, reflects the highest credit on the publisher.

The following letter is too good to be lost; it was written under the following circumstances. A Rev. Mr. Bermingham wrote to W. H. Gregory, Esq., formerly M.P. for Dublin, complaining that, at a late Patriotic Meeting, precedence had been given to the Catholic Bishop of Kilmacduagh over him—the Rev. Mr. Bermingham, the Protestant clergyman aforesaid—thus inflicting upon him and his brethren an unwarrantable indignity, and setting at naught the provisions of the last Penal Law enacted by the Legislature against the Catholic Hierarchy. In reply, Mr. Gregory writes as follows:—

Coole-park, Dec. 19. "Very Rev. Sir,—My absence from Coole, and your communication of the 6th inst, having been forwarded to the Kildare-street Club, where I only received it yesterday, had prevented me from sending you an earlier reply:

"Had you applied to me when requested to do so, as you write by Captain S. Taylor (who, I may parenthetically observe, made no such request to you, but merely referred you to me for such explanations as you might require) you would have spared yourself the trouble of communicating with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, would have saved the indignation which it appears, according to your statement, your letter created among that highly respectable and learned body."

"I have had no communication with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on the subject of any point of precedence connected with the Gort Patriotic Fund meeting, nor did I at any time state to any one that I had any such communication."

"I may premise, before entering into this discussion, that if I wished to avoid an explanation of the course that has been pursued in the arrangement of the Gort Patriotic meeting, I might refuse to entertain your letter, and refer you to the Gort committee, as whose chairman I acted, and at whose unanimous wish the resolutions and their proposers and seconders were appointed. I do not, however, seek to avoid the responsibility, but take the whole of it on myself, premising merely that the course adopted was acquiesced in by every person, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, who was present and took part in the preliminary proceeding. The illegal and unwarrantable indignity offered to you, if I understand aright, and for which you require me to 'justify' myself in your eyes, consisted in the first resolution of the meeting not having been assigned to you, but to the Roman Catholic Bishop of the district; and at the conclusion of your letter you state that 'your rank and station would have been sacrificed at the shrine of Catholic ascendancy' had you taken part in the proceedings."

"I am sorry to commence my justification, by informing you that 'your rank and station' are imaginative; they do not exist; and, as you appeal to rules

and practice of precedence; I refer you to the table of Irish precedence, in which you will perceive that as Dean you are not recognized, but, as being Doctor of Divinity, you can, if you please, take your position next to Doctor of Medicine. So much for your positive 'rank and station'; and here I may remark that Lord Clanmorris, who has both established 'rank and station,' did not consider them sacrificed at the shrine of Catholic ascendancy, nor himself treated with indignity by being requested to propose or second some intermediate resolution, to which, with perfect readiness, he consented.

"But now, as regards your relative 'rank and station.' Assuming, for argument, that as Dean you are entitled to such, and that the maintenance of precedence was the only cause that induced the committee to request the Roman Catholic Bishop to propose the first resolution—I will adduce some instances of usual practice which may satisfy you that the course pursued by the committee and myself was the right course, and that, had we acted otherwise, we should have been subjecting the Roman Catholic Bishop to an 'unmerited and unwarrantable indignity.'"

"First of all, I will adduce the routine observed by the first magistrate of the metropolis, the Lord Mayor, at his usual dinner, at which the Queen's representative is present. You will perceive, according to the list of toasts, that the health of the Roman Catholic Archbishop immediately follows the health of the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, and Archbishops, you are perhaps aware, take precedence of dukes, and you will find that the Roman Catholic Archbishop takes precedence at the Lord Mayor's dinner of every other Irish dignitary, the Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant alone excepted.

"You may, however, be unwilling to recognise a Lord Mayor of Dublin as an authority; let me proceed a step higher, and refer you to the usage of her Majesty, the head of the Anglican Church. Her Majesty held her first levee in Dublin on Wednesday, the 8th of August, 1819; in the list of the private *entrées* we find the following precedence;—Archbishop of Dublin; Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; Lord Chief Justice, Queen's Bench; Master of the Rolls, &c.

"This order of presentation is arranged after due consideration by the Lord Chamberlain, and by it you will perceive that the Roman Catholic Archbishop takes precedence precisely as if he had been a third Archbishop of his Church; nor am I aware that the marquises, earls, viscounts, bishops, lords, and other dignitaries then present and afterwards introduced, complained of their 'rank and station' being sacrificed at the shrine of Roman Catholic ascendancy on that occasion."

"But, perhaps, you may demur to the usage of Lord Mayor and Queen; I must, therefore, go further, and refer you to the proceedings of Parliament, and to an Act of Parliament, entitled the Charitable Bequests Act. Allow me to point out to you the 15th, 17th and 18th sections of that act of Parliament, in which the archbishop and bishops of the church of Rome are recognised and acknowledged. Nay more, in the list of commissioners attached to the act you will find that the Roman Catholic Archbishop Murray takes precedence of the Earl of Donoughmore; that he is, in fact, in the same position as he would be at the table of the Lord Mayor and levee of the Sovereign. Let me, however, advance a little onward, and advert to recent practices in similar cases. By reference to the proceedings of the late Loughrea Patriotic Fund meeting, I perceive that the Roman Catholic bishop of that district moved the first resolution, and I have yet to learn that Lord Clonbrock, although a peer of Parliament, has complained that his 'rank and station' have been sacrificed at the shrine of Roman Catholic ascendancy by his taking part in the proceedings after a Roman Catholic prelate. But as you may consider that Lord Clonbrock is less tenacious of his 'rank and station' than he ought to be, it may be satisfactory for you to learn how our own bishops act on similar occasions. By reference to the *Dublin Evening Post*, of Friday last, I find the following list of the Tuam Patriotic Fund Committee, as arranged at a public meeting, and this is the order of arrangement:—Lord Plunket, Chairman; Archbishop M'Hale; Mr. S. Kirwan; the Dean of Tuam, &c., with this somewhat significant concluding resolution:

"That these our resolutions be published in the *Dublin Evening Post*, &c.

"PLUNKET, Chairman." "This, I am sorry to say, must be a catastrophe to you as a believer in the divine rights of deans, for you will perceive that the Protestant bishop, with as little compunction as a collector would employ towards a *searbanus*, catches and pins down a Protestant dean to his proper place, after a Roman Catholic prelate and a deputy-lieutenant."

"From these instances, then, I must deduce the conclusion that if I had sacrificed your 'station and rank' at the 'shrine of Catholic ascendancy,' I am justified by the example of a peer of Parliament, of a Protestant Bishop, of a Lord Mayor, of a Ministry, of Parliament, and of Her Majesty Herself; and, pardon me for adding the special plea that, according to the practice of precedence, you have, as dean, neither rank nor precedence whatever."

"Let me, however, contrast the circle of general precedence to that of Church precedence, in which your position as dean is immediately below that of bishop. I am surprised it did not strike you that, even according to the Church precedence, a Roman Catholic Bishop might take precedence of a Protestant dean, and that even the most orthodox Protestant might acquiesce in this proceeding without any abrasion of his conscience. You recognise Roman Catholic Ordination by the fact that a Roman Catholic clergyman becoming Protestant becomes also, *de facto*, a Protestant clergyman. You recognise, therefore, Roman Catholic consecration; and are doubtless aware that a Roman Catholic bishop, although without a see—that a second consecration would be unnecessary, perhaps sacrilegious; and that the imposition of hands from such a bishop would be valid ordination. You do not refuse to the Roman Catholic church the gift of apostolical succession (a favorite topic of yours in the pulpit); you only claim to share it with her, and I should be much surprised if the 'highest dignitaries of the church of England do not at this instant consider you as a Protestant dean to be *de jure ecclesiasticus*, inferior in 'rank and station' to a Roman Catholic bishop, as you are, *de facto*, and ever will be, so treated by the other authorities I have mentioned."

"But, among other strong expressions, you accuse me of acting illegally, or giving illegally the title of Bishop of Kilmacduagh to the Roman Catholic bishop. Assuming, therefore, that this was my act, and not the

act of the committee, allow me to inquire how you constitute the illegality? I am afraid your knowledge of law is co-extensive with your knowledge of precedence. You, of course, have the Ecclesiastical Titles Act before your mind—let me recommend you to peruse this most wise and effective production of recent legislation, and you will ascertain the fact, that the illegality applies to the person assuming ecclesiastical titles, or constituting ecclesiastical titles in the realm; but, from the beginning to the end of the Act of Parliament, there is neither section nor expression which can, by any ingenuity, be construed into its being an illegal act for an individual to address another individual by whatever ecclesiastical title he may think fit."

"I have confined myself to this point, to questions of legality and precedence; but I cannot allow this correspondence, which you have commenced, to close by the mere justification of my own conduct. I cannot help adverting to the shame and grief I felt, at the conduct which you, as a clergyman, thought fit to pursue on the occasion you refer to, by offering to Roman Catholic gentlemen, assembled for the purpose of benevolence and humanity, an insult as unprovoked as it was unwarrantable."

"I was in hopes that neighbors of all persuasions had met that day on neutral ground, and I begged of you to propose the second resolution. Your reply was a request to see who proposed the first, and on reading the Roman Catholic bishop's name attached to it, you said, in a voice audible to all the bystanders, [some of whom were Roman Catholics] 'that there was no such person,' and you refused to take part in our proceedings. I then thought your conduct originated in mistaken conscientiousness—your letter shows it to have been from mistaken self-conceit. The object, the main object, of our small county meeting, I may say, was not so much the collection of the very small sum that could have been subscribed in our neighborhood, and which is, as it were, a drop in the good stream of public benevolence, but it was hoped and intended to influence the sympathies of the lower orders in the sufferings and achievements of their gallant countrymen in the East. I could not have expected much effect from the co-operation of the Protestant clergy in a district almost exclusively Roman Catholic; but, nevertheless, we should have gladly accepted their assistance. It was a sight, believe me, which gave pain and astonishment to many Protestants present to see the hearty good will and good feeling with which the Roman Catholic bishop and Roman Catholic priests both subscribed from their limited means, and urged upon their flocks the observance of this good work of duty and humanity, and to observe the Protestant clergy standing aloof upon a miserable and mistaken point of precedence. I can only attribute all this to your representations to what you call your chapter, two in number, of the indignities they had undergone. Another Protestant clergyman present, not of your chapter, but almost a stranger, in our district, was one of the first, under the influence of different, and better impressions, to come forward, and very handsomely to tender his subscription."

"I will now conclude this correspondence which nothing shall tempt me to renew. I have too much respect for the church to which I belong to take pleasure in wrangling with its ministers, whose office it would be my pleasure to respect. You have made use of hard words and harsh insinuations. I will not reply to them beyond informing you that I do not consider contention to be the synonyme for Christianity, nor Protestantism for presumption."

"I have the honor to remain, very Rev. Sir, Your most devoted servant, "W. H. GREGORY."

To the Editor of the True Witness. Montreal, January 11, 1855.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—I find in this day's *Transcript* a report of a Lecture, delivered on Monday evening last to a large and delighted audience, by the Anglican Bishop of Montreal. Will you, Sir, allow me to make a few remarks upon this lecture; and, I have no doubt, but that the *Transcript*, and the other liberal papers in Montreal, will copy my communication, so that the Rev. lecturer may have an opportunity of seeing my remarks. The *Transcript* says:

"The Right Rev. Lecturer then gave several curious incidents of old times relating to the smallness of ancient libraries and the difficulties of obtaining them; among others, the fact that Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, and Chancellor of England, as early as 1341, collected perhaps the first private library in England; having purchased 30 or 40 volumes from the Abbot of St. Alban's for 50 pounds weight of silver. He was so enamored of his collection that he composed a treatise on his love of books entitled, '*Philobiblion*.'"

"Many of the most splendid writings of the ancients were destroyed, through the ignorance of the Monkish transcribers of manuscripts. These men, finding a greater demand in the middle ages for the lives of favorite Saints than for classic productions of famous Pagan writers, and finding parchment on which to write them difficult to be obtained, took these Tools on which these great books had been written, and effacing the writing on them, wrote above them what was most in demand. Thus many celebrated works perished. A few of them had been recovered. The most valuable copy of Tacitus, of whose works so much is still wanting, was discovered by accident in a monastery in Westphalia."

It appears to me, Mr. Editor, that the learned lecturer has proved exactly the contrary to what he intended. According to his showing, "the monkish ignorance" of the XIV. century gave the people a greater love for the lives of Christian Saints, than the works of Pagans. In fact, they thought more of establishing the religion of Christ than that of Paganism; I pray Almighty God that the souls of these ignorant people may rest in peace for their choice; and I trust the Catholic world, in the present day, would act likewise. But, with all their ignorance, "Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, (a Catholic I presume), and Chancellor of England," forms the first private library in England; and so great was his love for books; that he gives for 40 volumes 50 pounds weight of silver. And to whom, Mr. Editor? Why, to one of these said ignorant monks, the Abbot of St. Alban's. Well, I must say it is a strange proof of ignorance, certainly one which I

don't think the present Bishop of Durham will be accused of. But this good Catholic Bishop of the XIV. century gives another proof of the ignorance of the times, by writing a treatise of his love of books. But listen to the further proof of the ignorance of these monks—"The most valuable copy of Tacitus was preserved by them in the monastery of Westphalia." These are (as I have already said) certainly strange proofs of monkish ignorance in the XIV. century.

It is easy to bring an accusation against a man or body of men; but it is quite a different thing to prove the accusation. This difficulty, I think, the Rev. lecturer found, for he gave no proof whatever that the monks ever did efface the original writings from the parchments, but says—"Thus many celebrated works perished. A few of them have been recovered." This sentence puzzles me more than a little. If works perished in this manner, how is it known that they were celebrated? or, if they thus perished, how have some of them been preserved?—for the passage reads that it was of those that perished, that some were preserved. And, again, who was it that preserved them from those ignorant monks? I hope the Rev. lecturer will condescend to explain this passage in his lecture.

In conclusion, I would humbly recommend his Lordship to be a little more logical in his next lecture, and to try and persuade himself that there are a few individuals, even in this community, given so much to scepticism, that they do not take everything for gospel, even though it should come from so high an authority. And if he would condescend to read page 240 of Balmes on the civilisation of Europe, I think he would come to different conclusion about the ignorant monks.

I am, Mr. Editor, Your obedient servant, PATRICK.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY beg to announce that they have made arrangements for a Course of POPULAR LECTURES, the first of which will be delivered by T. S. HUNT, Esq., Chemist of the Provincial Geological Survey, at the ODD FELLOWS' HALL, Great St. James Street, On Friday Evening, the 26th instant, Subject—"THE GEOLOGY OF CANADA." TICKETS, 1s 3d each; may be had at Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Moore's, McGill Street; Mr. John Phelan, Dalhousie Square; from the Committee of the Society, and at the door the evening of the Lecture. Doors open at 7 o'clock, Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock precisely. Montreal, January 19.

CHARITABLE SOIREE.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL SOIREE OF THE YOUNG MEN'S ST. PATRICK'S ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON Tuesday Evening, the 6th of February next, AT THE CITY CONCERT HALL, Proceeds to be devoted to Charitable Purposes. A SPLENDID QUADRILLE BAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE Refreshments of superior quality will be provided by Mr. E. CLOUSER, Confectioner. CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. TICKETS of Admission—Gentlemen's, 6s 3d; Ladies, 3s 6d, (refreshments included); to be had at the Book Store of Messrs. Sadlier & Co., O'Meara's Restaurant, Franklin House, Clouser's Confectionary, from Members of Committee, and at the doors on the evening of Soiree. Montreal, January 19, 1855.

THE NEW CATHOLIC PAPER OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS, TO BE CALLED "THE LEADER,"

A Literary, Political and Family Newspaper; EDITED BY J. V. HUNTINGTON: WILL be devoted to News, to Literature, and to the temperate discussion of every question that concerns us as free Citizens of this great Republic. "THE LEADER" will be handsomely got up, and folded sixteen pages to the sheet, a form equally convenient to read and to bind. The price is THREE DOLLARS, (delivered by the carriers); to Mail subscribers, TWO DOLLARS AND A HALF per annum, payable invariably in advance. To clubs: Five copies for \$10; Eleven for \$20; Seventeen for \$30; Twenty-three for \$40; Thirty for \$50. Single numbers to the trade, at the rate of \$3 33 per hundred, always in advance. The first number will be issued on Wednesday, the 7th of February. Orders, and the subscriptions of those who wish the work from the commencement, should be forwarded immediately. Advertisements (limited to four pages) will be neatly and effectively displayed. Publishers will find "THE LEADER" a desirable advertising medium. Address "THE LEADER," St. Louis, Mo.

MONTREAL MODEL SCHOOL, 71, ST. JOSEPH STREET.

THE duties of this School will be RESUMED on THURSDAY, fourth instant. Mr. W. DORAN, Principal, Mons. GARNOT, French Master, Mons. VIVANT, Drawing Master, Mr. LYONS, Proprietary, ditto. W. DORAN, Member of the Catholic Board of Examiners. N.B.—An ASSISTANT wanted in this School January 2, 1855.

Died, at Quebec, on the 6th instant, Jane M'Gauran, wife of Mr. John Waters, aged 36 years.—May her soul rest in peace. At Brantford, on the 26th ult., Eliza Murphy, the beloved wife of John Comerford, Esq., deeply regretted by a large circle of friends, to whom she was justly endeared by her many amiable qualities.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The French Chambers were opened on Thursday, the 26th ult. by His Majesty, the Emperor, who delivered the following speech from the throne, which may be accepted as an exposé of the policy of our Ally. By the English Press, this speech has been warmly applauded, as a statesmanlike production:—
 "Monsieurs les Sénateurs, Messieurs les Députés, Since your last meeting great deeds have been accomplished. The appeal which I made to the country to defray expenses of the war was so well responded to that the result has surpassed my hopes. In the Baltic, as in the Black Sea, our arms have been victorious. Two great battles have added renown to our standard. The intimacy of our relations with England has been brilliantly attested. The English Parliament has voted thanks to our generals and to our soldiers. A great empire made young again by the chivalrous sentiments of its Sovereign, has detached itself from the power which for forty years has menaced the independence of Europe. The Emperor of Austria has concluded a treaty—defensive to-day, offensive to-morrow—which unites his cause with that of France and England.

Thus, gentlemen, as the war is prolonged, the number of our allies increases, and the ties already formed become closer. For what ties are, in fact, more secure than the names of victories shared by the two armies and recalling a common glory, the same anxieties and the same hopes agitating the two countries, and the same aims and the same intentions animating the two Governments in all parts of the globe? Thus the alliance with England is not the effect of a mere passing interest of political expediency, but is the union of the two powerful nations associated for the triumph of a cause in which for more than a century their own greatness, the interest of civilisation, and the liberty of Europe are at the same time involved. Join me, then, on this solemn occasion, in thanking here, and in the name of France, the Parliament for its cordial and warm demonstration, and the English army and its esteemed chief for their valiant co-operation. Next year, should peace not be established, I hope to obtain the assistance of that Germany whose union and prosperity we desire.

I am happy in paying a just tribute of praise to the army and fleet, who, by their devotion and discipline, in the south as in France, have nobly answered my expectations. The army of the East has hitherto borne and overcome everything—disease, fire, tempest, and formidable artillery on land and sea, and two hostile armies superior to us in numbers, have been powerless to weaken its courage, or subdue its spirit. Each man nobly did his duty, from the marshal who seemed to have forced death to wait till he had conquered, to the private soldier or sailor whose last cry in expiring was a prayer for France, and cheer for the elect of his country. Let us, then, together proclaim that the army and the fleet have deserved well of the country.

War, it is true, brings with it cruel sacrifices, yet everything bids me push it on with vigor, and for this purpose I count upon your assistance. The army at present consists of 518,000 soldiers and 113,000 horses, and the navy of 62,000 sailors afloat. It is indispensably necessary to keep this force in an effective state; and to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the annual discharges and by the war, I shall ask of you, as I did last year, a levy of 140,000 men. A law will be brought before you for ameliorating the position of soldiers re-enlisting without increasing the expense; it will be of immense advantage to increase the number of veteran soldiers in the army, and to allow in future the weight of the conscription to be diminished. I hope that this law will soon meet with your approval.

I shall demand of you authority to conclude a new national loan. Although this measure will increase the public debt, we must not forget that by the conversion of the Rentes the interest of the debt has been reduced by 24 millions. The object of my efforts is to place the expenditure on a level with the receipts and the ordinary budget to be presented to you will be found in equilibrium, while the resources of the loan will suffice to meet the demands of the war.

You will see with pleasure that our revenues have not diminished, that industrial enterprise is sustained, that all the great works of public utility are continued, and that Providence has graciously given us a harvest sufficient for our wants. The Government nevertheless does not close its eye to the uneasiness caused by the dearth of provisions; but has taken every measure in its power to prevent and lighten this uneasiness, and has founded in several places new elements of work.

The contest which is going on, restrained as it is by moderation and justice, although it causes the heart to beat, has caused so little alarm to the commercial interest, that the different parts of the globe will soon bring together here all the fruits of peace.

Forbidders cannot but be struck with the remarkable spectacle of a country, which, counting on the divine protection, sustains with energy a war at 600 leagues from its frontiers, and which develops with equal ardor its internal riches—a country where war does not prevent agriculture and industry from prospering, nor the arts from flourishing, and where the genius of the nation shows itself in everything which can bring glory to France.

On the 27th, the Legislative body unanimously adopted the bill authorising the Minister of Finance to negotiate a new loan of 50,000,000 francs.—Two hundred and forty-one members were present when the bill was voted. On the evening of the 28th, the whole assembly met at the Tuilleries and presented the bill to the Emperor.

THE DEFENDER OF SEBASTOPOL. —The Paris correspondent of the *London Times* says:—It is not, I believe generally known that the officer who directs the engineering works of the defence of Sebastopol is a Frenchman—General Destrem. At the period of the treaty of Tilsit, after the celebrated interview of the rapt, constructed on the Niemen, it is known that not only between the Emperor Napoleon and Alexander the greatest cordiality prevailed, that also between the French and Russian officers who formed the suites of the monarchs. The feeling extended even to the soldiers of the two armies, and the days and nights were spent in feasting by those who had so lately been arrayed in mortal combat against each other. In this effusion of good will and friendship

the Emperor Alexander, who seemed so fascinated by the overpowering genius of Napoleon as even to neglect the interests of his unfortunate ally, the King of Prussia, begged, as a favor, that his imperial brother would permit a few young men of the Polytechnic School to enter the service of Russia. Napoleon at once consented, and selected four of the most distinguished pupils of that celebrated establishment, whom he presented to Alexander. The young officers had just issued from the school, each with a first class number in science. Their names were Bazaire, Faber, Potier, and Destrem. The first three died many years ago, and the last is the General of that name who has had so great a share in the construction of the fortifications of Cronstadt. He is spoken of as an engineer officer of the greatest merit, and what is rather rare, he has a remarkable talent for poetry, united to profound mathematical knowledge. He is the author of several beautiful compositions; but his best work is said to be a translation into French verse of the fables of the Russian Lafontaine, Kriloff.

ITALY.

According to letters from Florence of the 19th Dec., Tuscany will soon be evacuated by the Austrian troops. The regiment of French dragoons that has been in Rome since 1849, is to be immediately withdrawn, and is not to be replaced.

The *London Times* commences an editorial, in its publication of the 28th, in these words:—

"We learn from our continental correspondence that the refugees who aim at directing from their own retreats the politics of Italy, have seized the occasion presented by the Russian war, to urge all Italians to immediate insurrection. The hour is said to be propitious, the opportunity inviting, the prospect hopeful, and the result secure."

SPAIN.

M. Soulé has returned to Madrid where he was well received. The Spanish Cabinet are unanimous in their resolve not to part with Cuba; and though Spain has no cause to place any reliance on the good faith of the American Government, it is thought that the difficulties now existing between the two countries will be smoothed over for the time. M. Le Marquis D'Albaida, a leader of the Liberal party spoke strongly against the abandonment of Cuba, and expressed his personal and absolute repugnance, as well as that of the entire democratic party of Spain, for the policy of a Republic which holds slaves, and which only desires the acquisition of the island of Cuba to render harder still the servitude of the blacks. "Do you wish," he exclaims, "to put an end to these American pretensions? Abolish Slavery in our colonies!"

This, no doubt, is the true policy of Spain. If it cannot hold Cuba, it should at least make it worthless in the eyes of the American slave-holders by bequeathing to them together with that island, an interminable servile war.

GERMAN POWERS.

Great expectations are formed upon the diplomatic re-union to have been held at Vienna on the 21st ult., and at which Prince Gortschakoff, was to meet the Representatives of Great Britain, France, Austria and Prussia. No decisive steps have followed the Treaty of the 2nd December, but something positive is anticipated from this conference of all the Powers.

RUSSIA.

The Czar has issued orders to the effect that—whoever shall commit acts of cruelty to the wounded prisoners shall suffer death. Affairs look gloomy in St. Petersburg; a letter written from that City on the 17th ult., says:—

"The news of the treaty of the 2nd of December being signed, has caused a great cessation in our political circles, and together with the still dangerous state of the Empress, thrown a gloom over the Russian capital which it is difficult to describe. The Court is far from being in a humor to enjoy the festivities of the approaching Christmas, the aristocracy dare not give their usually brilliant balls and entertainments, the merchants find their commerce nearly ruined, the shopkeepers have no sale for their fancy goods and articles of luxury, and the prevailing fear of coming misfortunes extends down to the very lowest classes.

"Never did the Czar apply himself more vigorously to business than he does at the present moment, working daily for sixteen hours, for he knows very well that he has no one to rely on, and that his orders, however exigent, are never executed, unless he sees them done himself. The whole system of Russian bureaucracy is so rotten that no confidence can be placed in anybody, and no one is more conversant with this fact than the Emperor himself. The general opinion here is, that a war with all Europe is inevitable although a part of the nobles affect to believe that Austria will never be brought to draw the sword against Russia, and doubts are beginning to be seriously entertained whether it will be possible even for Prussia and the States of Germany to maintain any longer their one-sided neutrality.

"The last accounts from the Crimea are anything but encouraging. The army is decimated by disease, provisions are getting short, and in the present state of the roads there is no mode of sending supplies.—Great fears are entertained that Sebastopol will not be able to hold out much longer, and Menschikoff's flaming despatches, with his poetical descriptions of brilliant attacks and successful sorties, with the stereotyped loss of 'one man killed and wounded,' fail to inspire general belief any longer.

"That the nobility and mercantile classes devoutly wish for peace cannot be doubted for a moment, however unwilling they may be to clothe in words such an unpatriotic sentiment. It is only the peasants who still entertain any enthusiasm for the Czar. The new levy to be raised in March, of ten men to 1000 inhabitants, will drain the population of nearly

a million of men—on paper; for nobody seriously believes the possibility of raising such an army by an imperial ukase, it being well known that the Czar must first raise—the wind."

THE CRIMEA.

The siege still drags its weary length along. A few sallies from the garrison have been vigorously repulsed, but little real progress has been made.—It is rumored that the garrison is about to withdraw the guns from the ramparts of the town, and to devote all its strength to the defence of the different forts. On the other hand, according to the *European Times*, the Allies have got some new and powerful batteries ready to open on the place, and a rumor prevailed that the bombardment would recommence on the 17th Dec., when all the new and powerful guns from both the English and French works, built and fortified recently with much care, and at a great sacrifice of the health and comforts of the men, would open fire simultaneously, and that the storming of the place would be made on the 19th; but these dates were probably fixed in ignorance of the exact time at which the forces of Omar Pacha would be fit to take the field. These forces were arriving in large numbers at Enpatorin, the first detachment of which consisted of 5,000 men—the veterans who had fought with such bravery on the Danube last summer, not the raw levies who fled in terror at Balaklava. With a force like this in the rear of the Russians, and a formidable army before the Sebastopol, the position of the Russian general will not be enviable. At all events, something decisive may be shortly expected, and, although New Year's Day is close at hand, it is not unlikely that the tidings of a great battle and a great victory may reach us about the advent of the coming year or shortly after. Certain it is that General Liprandi had retired from Balaklava, a movement which is regarded as an encouraging sign for the allies. Prince Menschikoff is said to be ill in Sebastopol, and the command has devolved on General Osten-Sacken.

The weather, it is gratifying to find, has improved. A letter written on the 12th says, "the changes of temperature are sudden. On the 8th we had ice; to-day is like a cloudy day in England. We are all waiting for events." The most desponding sign is the health of the troops, for, exposed to the winds and rains which had prevailed, the mortality was very great—as much as 60 and 90 per day of our own men, while the horses were dying in still greater numbers. But the worst had evidently passed, for a good deal of warm clothing had arrived, several cargoes of potatoes, and many little comforts which could not fail to be acceptable. A writer thus sketches our own men: "I could not help observing the conduct and manner of our fellows as they lay in the trenches, some fully impressed with their duty, and not the less better soldiers, read their prayer books with attention and seriousness; others swore and blasphemed in ordinary conversation, as they were wont to do; but their countenances were atrocious, and nothing better could have been expected; some slept on the cold ground, and some played cards, as if to pass time; others with round shot, ground their coffee and prepared a brew."

"STATE OF THE TROOPS."—"If any of our great geologists want to test the truth of their theories respecting the appearance of the primeval world, or are desirous of ascertaining what sort of view Noah might have had when he looked out of the ark from Ararat, they cannot do better than come out here at once. The whole plateau on which stands the camp before Sebastopol—the entire of the angle of land from Balaklava round to Kherson, and thence to the valley of Inkermann—is fitted at this moment for the reception and delectation of any number of ichthyosauri, sauri, and crocodiles—it is a vast black dreary wilderness of mud, dotted with little lochs of foul water, and seamed by dirty brownish and tawny-colored streams running down to and along the ravines. 'Chaos has come again,' or rather has just disappeared from the scene. A grand plateau of bog, varying in depth from a foot to two feet, extends from the valley of Inkermann to the sea at Balaklava. It is trodden into holes in every direction by the hoofs of mules, horses and camels.—It is scarred deeply by the wheels of carts and arabas, and the white tents dotting its surface, and a few white scattered farm-houses, and the snug quarters of Lord Raglan, contrast strongly with the black profound amid which they rear their straight outlines. All over its surface are strewn the carcasses of horses and miserable animals torn by dogs and smothered in mud. Vultures sweep over the mounds in flocks; carrion crows and 'birds of prey' obscene, hover their prey, menace the hideous dogs who are feasting below, or sit in gloomy dyspepsia with drooped head and dropping wing on the remnants of their banquet. It is over this ground, gained at last by great toil and exhaustion, and loss of life on the part of the starving beasts of burden, that man and horse have to struggle from Balaklava for some four or five miles with the hay and corn, the meat, the biscuit, the pork, which form the subsistence of our army. Every day this toil must be undergone, for we are fed indeed by daily bread, and only get half rations of it. Horses drop exhausted on the road, and their loads are removed and added to the burdens of the struggling survivors; then, after a few efforts to get out of their Slough of Despond, the poor brutes succumb and lie down to die in their graves. Men wade and plunge about, and stumble through the mud, with muttered imprecations, or sit down on a projecting stone, exhausted, pictures of dirt and woe unutterable. Sometimes on the route, the overworked and sickly soldier is seized with illness, and the sad aspect of a fellow-countryman dying before his eyes shocks every passer by—the more because aid is all but hopeless and impossible. There is a great deficiency of hospital marquees, and horrible as it is to

think of such a thing, it is no less true that, according to information received from no doubtful source, five men of a battalion of the Guards were found dead outside one of the tents within the last thirty hours."—*Cor. of the Times.*

THE CONDITION OF OUR TURKISH ALLIES IS, IF POSSIBLE, WORSE.—The mortality among the Turks has now assumed all the dimensions of a plague. Every sense was offended and shocked by the display, day after day, in the streets of processions of men bearing half covered corpses on litters at the busiest hour of the day; and Colonel Daveny at last gave orders, or rather granted permission, that the Turks should bury their dead on the hill-side, over the town. Yesterday, ere evening, upwards of seventy bodies were carried to their long home, and deposited in shallow graves, not above a few inches deep, and were left with a shovelful or two of earth and pebbles over them, as close together as they could be packed. To-day the same process is going on. I can count thirty-five bodies already on the ground, and it is early in the day; over the hill-side come men bearing more litters. As the result of such a mode of burial would be the outbreak of some all-destroying pestilence, the commandant of the place has ordered it to be discontinued, and the Turks must in future bury their dead outside the town in the valley, in graves four feet deep."

A PEEP INTO SEBASTOPOL.

The correspondent of the *Morning Herald*, writing from the camp, on the 7th, thus describes the appearance of Sebastopol, and the condition of the Russian defences, as viewed from the Ovens:

Sebastopol is not in ruins, and what is more important still, the defences are four times stronger and more vigorous than the first day we opened fire. I know this statement may make my letters unpopular with a certain set, who will see nothing but victories and causes for gratulation in all we do; but nevertheless, it is only the truth, and I am confident that time will vindicate my assertion even in the eyes of the public.

To satisfy myself on this point beyond all possibility of doubt, I yesterday determined to visit the "Ovens," our most advanced picquet post, within 200 yards of the Russian batteries, and closely over looking the town and harbor. It is perfectly easy to approach this place now, for a covered way has been constructed to it, and both sides have, comparatively speaking, ceased firing for some time. I, therefore, got to the Ovens easily, and lying under shelter of a broken wall was enabled, with my glass, to survey the whole town minutely.

I confess I never saw the town under such favorable circumstances. Except now and then from an occasional Russian gun there was no smoke, and the sky being lowering and heavy, objects could be distinguished with unusual clearness. At the first glance I was led to suppose that the town had in reality been much injured, for all the little huts and storehouses connected with the dockyards were indeed in ruins. But, changing my point de vue for one more lofty, I was soon convinced of my mistake.

The real damage inflicted on the town of Sebastopol amounts to this—all the huts used by the dockyard laborers, and the Turkish part of the town, outside the walls, are nearly destroyed—that is, laid almost level with the earth. This quarter appears to be the only dirty and wretched part of Sebastopol—something of the same kind as our Ratcliff-highway. The walls are here and there marked with shot, but most unquestionably, as defences, they are still uninjured.

One large barrack inside the walls, against which our fire, as against a government building, has been particularly directed, is riddled in every part, and most of its roof destroyed. The same is the case with about sixty or seventy of the houses nearest to the walls, but beyond this nothing has been done. Had any of the principal mansions more to the centre of the town been injured, it would be easily seen, as most of them are detached, and all are white as snow, and instantly show a shot mark. The splendid structure which we call the "Parthenon"—the Government House—and, indeed, 19-20ths of the buildings show no trace of injury.

The streets which I could see, and which, of course, were those nearest to our batteries, were all in a most enviable state of cleanliness and good order. In these were numerous bodies of troops lounging about unconcernedly, with their muskets piled upon the pathways. Many civilians passed constantly to and fro, and now and then an ammunition wagon; but I saw no trace of either women or children, or other vehicles of the ordinary description.

Once during the time I was watching, three carts, laden either with sick or wounded—most probably the former—passed towards the north side of the town. None of the Russians appeared to take the least notice of their suffering comrades, so that one may not unreasonably argue that they are as used to death and misery as ourselves.

The only incident that appeared to move these "Muscovs" was the passage along the streets of an officer, evidently of high rank, when they all instantly stood to their arms and beat their drums while he passed, just as the French salute their generals. Who he was of course I was unable even to guess, but he certainly displayed a considerable amount of courage and coolness, as a few minutes after I saw him riding from battery to battery, attended by five or six officers on foot.

Near the walls on the south are the ruins of some building, which has evidently been burnt. This is the hospital in which so many of the Russian wounded unfortunately perished. Two or three more buildings near the dockyards are also blackened by fire, as if they had been "gutted," but the walls were too thick to permit the conflagration extending. Most of the houses in the Crimea—even peasants' cabins—are built with stone, and of extraordinary thickness, for the purpose of resisting the tremendous gales which sweep this part of the world in winter.—So much for the aspect of the town.

Of the earthworks round Sebastopol it is more difficult to speak with accuracy. So numerous are these defences that of them it is quite impossible to gain at once a near and extensive view. As far as I can judge from traversing nearly two-thirds of the allied lines, the enemy's batteries appeared generally in good working order.—Only in one or two instances were their embrasures masked—that is, closed up when a

gan is dismantled—and these maskings I was informed by our officers would be merely temporary, as the enemy always managed to replace their artillery in twelve or fifteen hours. I myself have seen them do so within three hours.

The whole of the enemy's batteries are now protected by a deep ditch in front, with regular abatis and rows of stockades and chevaux de frise. From this fact alone it is evident that they are guarding against, and therefore, fear an assault. But it is principally of the north side I wish to speak. I was told before I set out upon my survey that I should be astonished at the immensity of the Russian batteries, reaching from the head of the harbor to the east, right round to Star Fort and St. Severina on the north, and all of which had only been unmasked two days previous.

I know something of the nature of Russian works and the energy of Russian perseverance, but still the tremendous extent of new redoubts and batteries which I then saw thrown up all around the city, did, indeed, astonish me. Every space from the circular earth-work and martello tower, (the latter now a mere pile of rubbish,) round to the sea near Cape Constantine, is one long line of redoubts and batteries. Malta, Gibraltar or the lines of Chatham—all in one, would be far more vulnerable than these formidable entrenchments, covered with infantry, pits, and deep ditches in front, and protected by scarped banks, stockades and masses of cannon. I have seen many of what are called first-class fortresses but never any like these.

That which struck me more than all was a certain coxcomby of finish about these works which I have never yet seen attempted elsewhere—no, not even in the elaborate redoubts of Chobham ridges. Every bastion was lined with stone; every embrasure perfect; every angle and scarp smoothed off with beautiful regularity; and as if the whole was rather an architectural embellishment than one of the most formidable kinds of defence known to modern warfare.

It will scarcely be credited, but inside these lines were regular foot-paths and made roads, covered with gravel and loose stones, and laid out with as much neatness as if intended to pass through private gardens. I could hardly believe my eyes when these latter adornments were pointed out to me, but there they were sure enough. It must have taken the enemy nearly as much time to make them as the batteries, and, as a matter of course, beyond the mere effect of the bravado—such as it is—they are utterly and entirely useless. Yet, useless as they are, they have been made as if to show how little the progress of our siege employs or impedes their numerous garrison.

Your readers may, perhaps, ask how it is that all these works have been erected within the last few days. But such is the case only with three or four to the extreme north. Nearly all the rest have been finished since we first opened fire, and though the batteries have been known to exist there throughout, yet, as the embrasures were always masked, no one knew where the guns were, or how to distinguish real batteries from breastworks.

On our extreme left the French push the enemy closely. They have not lately advanced their works, but their third parallel is still within 200 yards of the Russian batteries, and only 400 or 500 from the houses outside the walls. The part of the town opposed to the French is certainly more injured than on our side—of course, because of their being nearer, their guns have longer range. The mud fort, which, at the commencement of the siege, mounted nearly forty guns, is now almost untenable, and rarely fires. The Quarantine Fort, of stone, is nearly ruined, and is certain to be completely destroyed the instant we resume our fire; but the flag-staff earthwork, which did the French so much injury, is still, I regret to say, almost as strong as ever. However, with regard to this latter opponent our allies speak most confidently of being able to dispose of it when they wish. On this point I shall only say that I think their conjectures are well-founded.

It was a trite remark of the great Napoleon "That in war, it was not men that were wanted, it was a man." So thinks the Times at the present moment; who does not think however that Lord Raglan is "the man." The statements of the leading organ of England may be exaggerated, but there is in them much matter for serious reflection.

"What remains, asks the Times, of more than 50,000 men, the best blood of the country, which now represent, 3,000 miles from home, the glory, the influence, the courage, and the ability of our race?—The England of European history is now in the Crimea. We have defied the largest army in the world, and, if we have not backed our challenge with quite sufficient strength or promptitude, we have at least made an effort beyond all former example. At this moment it would be rash even to conjecture the fate of those hardy survivors of the 54,000 men. Do they still maintain the unequal fight—chilled, drenched, famished, utterly neglected? Has a slight aggravation of their many ills—a drop of the thermometer some degrees below zero, or a few more inches of rain, extinguished them altogether, or left scarce enough for a safe retreat? Or may we dare to hope that desperation itself has urged the brighter alternative, of a dash at the city, with a somewhat less cost of life than would attend another month of inaction? After the dreary, and even still drearier, history of this siege, we cannot hope as much. Yet, if that has not been done, what is the other alternative? It is, that the army is now in a worse condition than ever it was. We say this deliberately. The reinforcements and supplies that have been sent out, would, up to this, December 23, only keep the army numerically at the inadequate force at which it landed, setting the certain drain by death and sickness against the reinforcements, and the consumption of food and material against the supplies. But, if that army is numerically no larger, it is physically and morally much worse. It is true we have been making immense efforts lately, but no one can say how much everything has been retarded even at home, by the pressure and by the elements. With the westerly gales of the last few days, nothing but the most powerful steamers can get down the Channel, or out of the port of Liverpool, and many sailing vessels and screw steamers of moderate capacity are weather-bound.—Not a rail, not a "navy," and but a few "huts," have left these shores. Immense quantities of warm clothing, of bottled meats, and Christmas dinners, and we know not what besides, are still in our harbors.—With such weather as we have had, one cannot but have great fears for the many heavily-laden vessels that are out at sea. At all events, if the army should want supplies at this moment, we are unable to send

them. All this is bad enough; but, dark as the picture may be at this end of the passage, it is worse at the other, because more hopeless.

"The burden is forced upon us, and we must speak out. Good nature is a pleasant thing in its way, but, if England is ever to be ruined, it will be by unseasonable good nature, by unlimited condonance, connivance, indulgence, and all the softer forms of virtue. England has not become what it is by good nature, nor is good nature the one sole element of our social and commercial system. The period for good nature is over in the Crimea, and sterner qualities must now be invoked into action, unless we would throw away the last chance that remains for redeeming the character of this country, now in fearful jeopardy. Send out some man with competent administrative powers to the necessary basis of our operations—Constantinople. Give him the command of the hospitals that present so scandalous a contrast to the French hospitals; the command of the post-office, and of transports waiting for orders; and give him also the ordering for such supplies for the army as can be procured in that neighborhood, and which the French have not obtained before us. Nobody has yet had command of this important station who was fit for anything else than to be the figurehead of his own ship. There is Sir Charles Thevelyn, for example, who possesses the administrative power of 50 old admirals. Why not send him as High Commissioner to the Bosphorus? Send somebody to Balaklava with a head on his shoulders and a competent staff, so competent, both in numbers and ability, that the whole work will not immediately change hands on the death or removal of one man; and let everything sent for the army, the officers and privates, be addressed to this officer, who shall be answerable for its delivery. Must we stop here? Shall we be true to the statements we venture to make above, if we imply that Constantinople and Balaklava are the only places wanting reform? No, we shall not; so we will proceed. If Lord Raglan is the man he is thought to be—and nobody doubts his high courage, his perfect coolness, and his great ability in his former employments—he wants better instruments. He wants better coadjutors and staff—men who will supply that ubiquity of which the chief is incapable—to tell him everything, convey the wants of the army, take orders, and see that they are executed. Send out men, who will save the army not from the Russians, though they are formidable enough, but from despair, which is weighing down the spirits of every one, and an utter distrust in the arrangement of the expedition.—It will be of little use to send out reinforcements by thousands unless we take steps for their better management. As it is they march to their graves, and begin to perish by scores from the hour they land. Misrule receives them on the beach, and wears them, worries them, drenches them, shivers them, and so destroys them, till a few spectral figures are all that remain. The soldiers of the Peninsula, when they saw the Duke of Wellington after an absence, used to exclaim that his face did them more good than the arrival of ten regiments. Such a head, or coadjutors equivalent to it, is what we want for the Crimea."

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