







The Catholic Record.

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THE QUESTION OF REUNION.

The Pope's letter addressed to the English people in behalf of Christian reunion has not ceased even yet to have replies sent to it from various quarters.

The latter class are the answers sent some time ago by the Archbishop of Canterbury and by the Presbyterian General Assembly.

This has been even more plainly stated by the press to be the only condition on which the thought of the reunion of Christendom can be entertained for a moment.

Christianity possessed the truth, and the first Christian missionaries were sent by Christ to make known that truth without abatement to the whole world.

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There is therefore no room for any compromise of doctrine which would be acceptable to Protestant sects generally.

An incident has occurred at Grindelwald which at first sight might appear to contradict our view of the situation.

The Holy Father's address to the English people was one of the subjects with which such a conference would be naturally expected to deal.

This document is in several respects a very strange one. The signers declare that "We lament the present divided state of Christendom.

It is acknowledged, therefore, that in the purpose of the Almighty that the Church of Christ on earth should be visibly one.

But the most curious feature of this document is the method it suggests for attaining unity.

Never was there made a more desperate attempt than this to travel by land and water at the same time. The divine purpose of maintaining a visible unity of the Church is declared.

We believe that unity must be attained, not by the absorption of Christians in any one communion of the divided Catholic Church.

We have heard very much of late in the way of objection to "absorption" of one sect by another in the event of a union being effected by any two denominations.

preserve a Babel of doctrine in the new Christian Church which will result from reunion.

According to the Grindelwald idea, it is absolutely necessary that united Christendom shall have a variety of winds to which it may trim its sails.

From all this one thing is pretty clear, that the negotiations for unity which have hitherto been carried on between the various sects are not likely to have any practical results.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

The Rev. Peter Rosen, of Heidelberg, Minnesota, has taken occasion from the recent condemnation of secret societies by the Pope, to issue a pamphlet on secret societies.

These words are said especially of the Odd Fellows. We are aware that Freemasonry, which is a society of much greater age than the Odd-Fellows, and which has a history most varied, has a record which connects it directly with efforts to overturn Christianity.

A recent decree of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII., has condemned Odd Fellowship, the Knights of Pythias, and similar societies.

Truth, too, is violated by these oaths because, directly or indirectly, the members bind themselves to a species of battledore and shuttlecock game with truth whenever the interests of these societies is at stake in examinations before the public authorities.

We have no desire to defend these societies against the condemnation of the Holy See. There is plenty of reason in their nature and their manner of procedure to merit condemnation.

Father Rosen's book contains much useful and valuable information in regard to the condemned societies of which it treats.

There is sufficient to justify the Holy Father in condemning these societies, in the fact of the rash oaths they take.

RELIGION IN RUSSIA.

The Russian Schismatical clergy appear to have been stirred up of late with somewhat of a missionary spirit.

It is scarcely a year since twenty-four priests and ecclesiastics were banished to Central Russia from the Seminary of Kielce for giving instruction in Polish to the seminarians.

The Protestant population amounts to about 2,000,000. These are mostly Lutherans, originally from Germany.

The Catholics are mostly in Poland, where they number 4,500,000. In the rest of the empire there are about 3,000,000 Catholics.

The Jews have been subjected to various times to persecution, and this persecution was carried to great extremity under the late Czar.

Among the Protestant sects, the inoffensive Mennonites twenty years ago claimed a population of 40,000, chiefly in the southern part of European Russia.

Outside of the religious beliefs we have enumerated there is a large number of sects not conforming to the Russian Church.

Persecution extends to some of these sects, especially to the Raskolniks, who are very numerous.

The Catholics and Protestants have both been subjected to severe persecution on religious grounds.

On Saturday last Miss Charlotte Frazer, daughter of Dr. Persifer Frazer, the eminent scientist of this city.

A recent cable despatch states that the Polish Catholics are now complaining of persecution because the priests were ordered to read in their churches in the Russian language the announcement of the recent birth of the Princess Olga.

SUFFERING ARMENIA.

It is one of the boasts of Christendom that the Christian powers control the world, exercising such an influence over the most barbarous and lawless nations as to bring them within the influence of civilization.

Years ago the Christian world was shocked by the atrocities in Bulgaria which resulted in the Russo-Turkish war, and led to the practical independence of the Balkan States.

Elsewhere in Europe a similar spirit was aroused, and yet there was no nation except Russia which so felt the horror as to take active measures to stop it.

Many priests have been deported and churches closed to the Catholics on pretexts equally frivolous, the churches being turned, in most instances, into orthodox chapels.

In consequence of these persecuting measures the people cannot be properly instructed, and their faith in many places grows cold.

Recently Governor Kochanov, whose jurisdiction extends from Wilna over the greater part of Russian Poland, gave orders that Government architects should not approve of the building of any Catholic churches.

There is no nobler thought of Peter the Hermit seven hundred years ago to ask Europe to rescue Jerusalem from the Turks.

It was hoped at the beginning of the reign of the young Czar that he would pursue a more liberal and tolerant policy.

On Saturday last Miss Charlotte Frazer, daughter of Dr. Persifer Frazer, the eminent scientist of this city.

The time-worn slander that the Church is opposed to learning finds full and complete refutation in the constant accessions she receives from the educated classes.

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Considerable time occurred when they were nevertheless the sands which took place showed the high s which they were at least served to c Islam into Europe a much later period ably have otherw It is certain th Turks in perpetr from time to time Christian populati be the more easi been repeatedly erals who did the has been somewi surely the duty of every civilized n like the United positive declarati of power, to in of our common h There has been among the nation Britain, France upon a course, b many, Austria o the confederatio gone so far as t with their heav danger that the mere talk The Porte in huge promises t quired of him, wrote an object remonstrating w pressed in a spe honesty of his p him to correct i pression he mu audience. Lord Salisbury out comment be lar to that be pressed his dou evidently not o of the promises matters are in they were a y with the mass Armenians at M iers, acting un stantipone, an ance in the wo the officers, h tinted the Armenians ev hundred to fo time, so that sh there have be twenty thousa doom. Villag wiped out of stroyed, wom infants tossed on the bayone iery, or they a of the scimiter Surely it is should do som whether or no capabilities o three or four pass through We may h patience of the the Sultan's i active hostilit the other han that the acco and that the liberty to do after his own It has be that Abdul H hearted man case we can the character transformed barbarity. The latest e the efforts of oblige the S tians with h him that he and the furt will soon i yield to thei maddened wreek his v whom he bl in not ha crisis. Said Pa Council, an not only fe his life, an claimed pi embassy a It is to b will soon ever for hi It is ac tween the up at ar Armenian haps only strong ar think that tian world treinty st present c







