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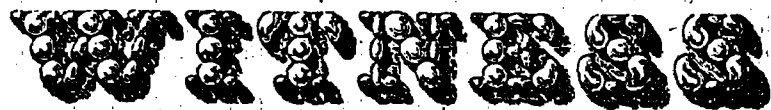
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CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

VOL. V.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1855.

NO. 28.

HOW THE WAR GOES.

JOURNAL OF THE SIEGE.—There is nothing doing except getting up shot shell and provisions. The French and Russians exchange a few shots now and then, and keep up a constant fire of riflemen.

Jan 13.—Last night the wind changed round to the southward, and the thermometer rose to 34°. A speedy thaw followed, and the roads and camp will once more suffer from the ravages of our old enemy—the mud. The Russians, who had been active inside the town during the day, and who had lighted great watch fires on the north side of the place, illuminated the heights over the Tchernaya with rows of lights, which shone brilliant through the darkness of the cold winter's night, and were evidently with all possible pomp and ostentation celebrating the opening of their peculiar new year. Lights shone from the windows of the public buildings, and our lonely sentries in the valleys and ravines, and the *enfants perdus*—the French sharpshooters—lying in their lairs with watchful eye on every embassage before them—might almost fancy that the inhabitants and garrison of the beleaguered city were tantalizing them with the aspect of their gaiety. At midnight all the chapel bells of the city began ringing and it was evident that a religious ceremony of extraordinary solemnity was about to take place. On our side the sentries and picquets were warned to be on the alert, and the advanced post were strengthened wherever it was practicable. About a quarter past 1 o'clock this morning the Russians inside the line of works gave a loud cheer. The French replied by opening fire, and the Russians in return instantly began one of the fiercest cannonades along the front of their position which we have yet heard. In the mean time while the firing was going on, a strong body of men had been pushed out of the town up to the face of the hill towards our works in front and on the flank of the left attack. As it was expected that some attempt of the kind would be made, one of the steadiest sergeants in the service was posted here with 13 men. Every reliance was placed on his vigilance and on his strict attention to his duties, but, somehow or other, the enemy crept up on the little party, surprised, and took them prisoners, and then advanced on the covering parties with such rapidity and suddenness that the party of the Sixty—th, and of the Twenty—st Regiments, which were on duty in the trenches, were obliged to retire almost without firing a shot. They rallied, however, and fired, and being supported by the regiments in rear, they advanced, and the Russians were driven back close to the town. In this affair one officer and nine men were severely wounded, six men were killed and fourteen are now missing. The French had to resist a strong sortie nearly at the same time, and for a short time the Russians were within the parapet of one of their mortar batteries, and spiked, it is said, two or three mortars with wooden plugs, but the French soon drove them back with loss, and in the pursuit got inside the lines of the Russian advanced batteries. The soldiers, indeed, say they could have taken the place that night, if they had been permitted to do so. At two o'clock this morning all was silent once more, and the allied armies had opened their new Russian year on Crimean soil.

A heavy gale of wind blew nearly all day, but the thermometer rose to 33 deg., and the snow thawed so rapidly that the tracks to the camp became rivulets of mud. The establishment of a central depot for provisions has, however, done much to diminish the labors and alleviate the sufferings of the men engaged in the duties of the siege; but the formation of the depot and the accumulation of the stores have worn out and exhausted many of our best men.

The mortality of the Turkish troops, which had, as I stated some time ago, assumed the dimensions of the plague, has now begun to be attended with much of the physical appearances of the same terrible disease, and their sanitary condition has excited the liveliest apprehensions of our medical officers in Balaklava, who have, over and over again, represented to the authorities the danger of allowing the Turks to remain in the town. Their small force is losing men at the rate of twenty or thirty a day.

January 14.—The 39th Regiment, Colonel Munro, and the draughts from England sent on board the *Golden Fleece* from her Majesty's ship *Leopard* were at last disembarked from the former vessel to-day. The 39th marched up to the head of the creek of Balaklava, and occupied ground close to the late encampment of the 18th Royal Irish, where they pitched their tents. The 18th this morning marched out to the front, so as to leave the ground clear for the 39th. The draughts went up to their respective regiments. Although the camping ground of the 39th is so near the town, there is only one hut pitched for them as yet, and the process of getting up the pieces is very slow and by no means sure.

There was a very heavy fall of snow last night, but there was not much wind, and the thermometer

stands at 29 deg. The snow is about two feet deep, but it has been drifted to twice that depth in the ravines. The camps have a most curious appearance. Tents, horses, men, huts—all seem jet black by contrast with the painfully bright white sheets of snow which hurt and dazzle the eye on every side. The weather is, however, tolerably mild, and exercise and warm clothing render it agreeable. The look of the ships in Balaklava puts one in mind of the ordinary incidents in Arctic exploring expeditions, when vessels are frozen up. The yards and rigging and every rope and stay are covered with thick ridges of fleecy snow, which hangs in flakes or broken masses from the blocks, and spearlike icicles depend from all the larger spars.

The temperature of the weather fell towards evening, and the thaw was arrested. Frequent showers of snow fell during the day. It was a weary walk for our poor sailors across from the batteries to Kamiesch, where they are going to join their ships. I met some detachments of the men of the *London* and other ships going up to the front from Balaklava to take the places of the men who had been sent away, and they offered a striking contrast in their strong healthy look to the Jacks who have been so long and who have behaved so nobly in the trenches. The French waggons were busy to-day in carrying up shot and powder for us to the depots. Sometimes our artillery waggons, with French horses and drivers, were employed in the same manner. Our officers are full of admiration for their allies. They are never tired of speaking of the gaiety, *bonhomie*, and civility of these gallant fellows.—This evening a party of 400 of them came down to Balaklava to take up shot, and the officer in charge observed to them it would be very late ere they got back to their camps. "Oh! don't say a word about it; we would work all night to oblige our good friends the English," was the reply. The aid we have given our allies in transporting them to the scene of their labors and their glories is, indeed, amply repaid by their co-operation. The French have their share of the sickness which afflicts us in this winter campaign, but the percentage of deaths and men unfit for duty is not so great among them as it is in our camps. The diseases which pursue our men are aggravated by a peculiar condition of mind which the medical men have remarked very frequently in their patients—an extreme listlessness and indifference to life—a languor which induces the convalescent to regard "rest" as the greatest happiness, and deprives them of any inclination to make the least effort or even to take food and nourishment. There was nothing done worth notice to-day in front. The French batteries were silent, and the Russians scarcely fired a shot all day. The usual small-arm practice went on in front of the lines between the sharpshooters.

The *Simla* has arrived, with about 400 horses and some convalescents. Thermometer 34 deg., this evening at sunset.

Jan. 15.—A heavy fall of snow during the night. It is 6 feet deep in some places in the ravines, and on an average is 3½ feet deep over all the plain, but it is so hard that one can walk over it without sinking more than a foot into it. The thermometer marked 24 degrees at 8 o'clock this morning, but it is almost a dead calm, and the sun shines brightly at times. At noon the thermometer rose to 34 degrees. Her Majesty's ship *Firebrand* went out of harbor this morning. The preparations for our renewed bombardment and cannonade are progressing rapidly.—Upwards of 50 fine new 32lb. guns, 13 of the largest sized mortars, and some very heavy siege guns are all up at the depot, and elsewhere, and can be placed in the new batteries at a very short notice. Up to the present date about 14,000 shot and shell of all sort, have been conveyed from Balaklava to our artillery parks, and in that number is not included 4,000 naval shells (with brass fuses.) When the batteries open each gun will be provided with 300 rounds of ammunition. There is one mortar at Balaklava which weighs four tons. How it is to be got to the front is not very easy to determine. A Polish officer who deserted recently has given us most valuable information respecting the range of our batteries, and there is reason to believe that when our fire reopens the effect will be so tremendous that the destruction of the place will be inevitable in a very short time.

It is reported that a deserter came in from the Russians to-day in an exhausted condition. There was a considerable movement visible among the Russians towards Baidar and along Mackenzie's Farm-rod to-day, and it is positively stated that Liprandi has received a reinforcement of considerable strength. The guns were silent nearly all day.

(From Correspondent of *Morning Herald*.)

JAN. 12TH.—I have lately been heading letters from here with "The Siege of Sebastopol," when our condition would have been more aptly described

as the "siege of the besiegers," for up to the last fortnight we certainly did but little to annoy the enemy, who, in return, were doing their utmost to damage us. Now, however, there is more in the announcement, as the French are, to say the least of it, fully occupying the attention of the garrison of Sebastopol. Our allies have long since been quite ready to open on the town with fifty 10 and 13 inch mortars, and have only been waiting until all the English mortars were in position, and sufficiently supplied with ammunition to support their fire. Pending this happy consummation, and to divert the enemy in the meanwhile, our allies three days since commenced firing from a distant battery with ten 13 inch mortars upon the town and strongest of the Russian works. Each of these mortars fires fifty rounds a day, and any one who has ever seen the effect produced by the bursting of a "Whistling Dick," of thirteen inches, will know at once that 500 per diem cannot fall in the enemy's lines without doing fearful mischief to all around. All their missiles are certain at 4,000 yards, and for destructive purposes can be used at 5,000; consequently, even the defences on the north side of the harbor come under fire. Where they have been thrown in the town, the stately and strong built houses on which they fall are mere ruins; 240lbs. weight of iron falling upon the roof of a house, from the height of a mile, penetrates to the very foundation, when the explosion of a well-confined bursting charge of 20lbs. of powder settles everything about the structure, from foundation to roof, for ever. Not many shells have yet been thrown among the houses—perhaps not more than twenty—yet when they have fallen buildings which throughout the siege have never shown a mark, are now mere piles of rubbish. The French, for the present, are principally directing their efforts to injuring the Garden Battery and Redan: and 495 out of the 500 shells fired each day fall in the centre of these ill-starred defences. Already no less than eleven guns have been silenced in these works, and though generally the cannon is replaced during the night, it still shows that the bombs are telling severely. On the average fifty men will be killed and wounded before a gun is injured by the bursting of bombs. The rest of the French mortars (forty), with about forty heavy guns, are, as I have said, kept in reserve until our preparations are completed. When the English commence they will do so with eighty-five mortars and sixty heavy guns, all of which, with the exception of two or three of the latter, are already in position, and only waiting for sufficient stores of ammunition to open fire. This, it is said, we are likely to do about the 17th inst., but so much depends on the state of the weather, and the consequent facility of forwarding shot and shell, that the precise date still remains wide open to conjecture; and I cannot help fearing that it will yet be another month before anything of importance is attempted. When the bombardment is commenced fifty rounds every twelve hours are to be fired from each piece of ordnance, until all the ammunition is expended. According to this arrangement about 20,000 rounds of shot and shell will be thrown into Sebastopol every twenty-four hours, and the Russians must surely be made of sterner stuff than bronze or granite if they stand fifty or sixty hours of such a cannonade. When the bombardment has done its worst it is said we are to storm. The Russians reply to the fire of the French from their batteries, in which are three mortars: Their long guns have no effect on our allies, as all their mortars are, of course, concealed by banks. From all that can be seen until now, the enemy appear but ill-provided with ordnance of the latter kind. They are using but three to reply to a destructive fire; and if, as there is every reason to believe, they possess few, if any others, the effect of our final bombardment becomes a matter of certainty. The late severity of the weather appears to have mollified the hostile feelings of the out-pickets most amazingly. At night our sentries are pushed forward considerably in advance of the Ovens, in order to give early notice of any sortie. For the same reason the Russian soldiers are sent out to within six feet of our men, in order to guard against an assault. Habit, I suppose, has lessened the aversion with which the hostile pickets at first regarded each other, and now I am informed that between our men and the French and Muscovite guards as large an amount of politeness and small talk goes forward as the mutual ignorance of one another's language will permit. All parties agree that the English are "bono," the French "bono," and the Russians "bono;" but the Turks are condemned *nem. con.* Out-pickets can only fire in case of a sortie or attack, when their alarm arouses the covering parties, who, in turn, arouse the batteries, which, by firing, turn out either the garrison or camp. All these fraternising sentries are withdrawn on both sides at daybreak; any sentry after that are fired upon by the batteries without the least compunction.

SUFFERINGS OF THE TROOPS.—During the late severe weather I am sorry to say that, besides the deaths from charcoal, two officers were frozen to death while on duty. One of these gentlemen was Lieutenant Dent, of the 9th, who had been in charge of a fatigue party to carry up provisions from Balaklava to Lord Raglan. On leaving head-quarters poor Dent, who had previously been suffering from diarrhoea, became quite exhausted, and separated from his party, when it is supposed that he sat down to rest himself and perished from the extreme cold. That night the thermometer stood at seventeen degrees, with a bitter, keen wind sweeping over the hills. The name of the other officer is not yet known, as the body, when found in a drift of snow, had been stripped of the coat and cloak, so that no regimental marks remained. During the 9th and 10th there was a smart thaw and about twenty hours' incessant rain. The effect of this upon a camp covered with ice and snow to the depth of a foot can, perhaps, be imagined; it certainly can never be described. No terms, however strong, can convey an idea of the state of slush to which we were all reduced. Previous mud faded into insignificance before the tremendous deluge which then set in. It was literally two and three feet deep everywhere, soft but horribly tenacious, produced by a thaw yet colder and more penetrating than the most severe frost. Any amount of more cold would be better and more endurable than such another liquid ordeal. Of course from all these changes the men suffer much—from the cold, from being ragged and ill clad; and from the wet, from having no change of clothes—indeed, nothing but the saturated muddy uniforms in which they stand. It is with reluctance that I say anything which can in any manner tend to damp the feeling of satisfaction which the English people must feel after having made such efforts in our behalf; but the truth must be told, and I firmly believe that all these noble exertions will be utterly useless without some sweeping change in the management of affairs out here. Lord Raglan visited Balaklava on Monday afternoon. This is the first time his lordship has visited the place since the 2nd of October last, and I am sure I am speaking within the mark when I say that it is the first time (except at the battle of Inkerman) that he has been seen out at all for the last two months. His lordship rode round Balaklava, and examined to the right of our line of defences where the marines and rifles are encamped upon the hills, and then returned to head-quarters, leaving all impressed with a firm conviction (which has not yet worn off) that something tremendous was about to happen as the consequence of his lordship's extraordinary visit.

MISMANAGEMENT AT BALAKLAVA.—At Balaklava everything remains in much the same state.—There is the same dirt, the same misery, the same suffering, and the same want of everything approaching to arrangement and system or organisation. Biscuits, warm clothing, hay and provisions of every kind, are still landed in the mud, and saturated by the rain when it falls. It would be impossible for a worse state of things to exist if we were only the remnants of a badly-levied force, which had been beaten, routed, and all but destroyed.—*Cor. of the London Morning Herald.*

THE TURKS AT BALAKLAVA.—The *Times* writes—"There is a rumor that Omer Pasha remonstrated strongly with Lord Raglan against the use of the lash by our authorities on the Turkish troops for disobedience, &c., in the town of Balaklava, and that his Excellency obtained from Lord Raglan a promise that in future the punishment would not be resorted to. The Turks who worked on the roads have refused to receive any payment, though it was at first understood that they were to get four pence each a day for their labor. The colonels of regiments have refused to let their men take the money. They said, 'We have come to fight with you on equal terms—we do not come here as a subsidised army of laborers.' However, their stomachs are entirely subsidised by us, for our commissariat feed them. I regret to say that on some occasions poor Bono Johnny is not well treated by our men, and that even some officers disgrace themselves by striking the miserable sickly creatures in the street. A strict order has now been issued that no Turkish soldier shall be struck or insulted on any pretext, and the offenders will be flogged if they are detected."

(From the *London Times*.)

STATE OF THE TROOPS.—The *Times* correspondent writes:—"With respect to Sebastopol, it is doubted by military men whether, after all, it may not be better to attempt to take it by assault. The defences are, they allege, still too formidable to be attacked in the manner that has been proposed even with a greater force. They give it as their opinion that our final object can be attained with greater chance of success, and much less loss of life, by

continuing to bombard and cannonade until it is destroyed, at the short distance which now separates us from it, while the main body of the allied troops may be kept ready to repel any attack of the Russian army, if not to attack it. I am assured that an English officer who has just arrived in Paris from the Crimea, on his way to England, confirms in most particular the "horrible and heartrending" accounts which have been repeatedly given of the condition of our army. "Confirms" is, perhaps, not the word;—according to him, it is difficult for any one to give a correct idea of the state of utter misery to which our men are reduced. As to Lord Raglan, if what he says may be relied on, nothing can be more disgraceful than his conduct. It had been stated that the French are so much better off for supplies than the English because the distance of their camp from Chersonese is so much shorter than ours from Balaklava. On a reference to the map of the position, it will be seen that the distance of General Bosquet's division from the place of landing is greater than ours from the port where our supplies are buried in the mud. The French established themselves originally in fewer numbers than the English, and yet they lost no time in making roads for the transport of supplies and stores."

Another correspondent says:—"On this, the 8th day of January, some of the Guards, of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Household Brigade, are walking about in the snow without soles to their shoes.—The warm clothing is going up to the front in small detachments. Never shall I forget the bitter sarcastic laugh with which a number of an illustrated weekly journal, which came by last mail, was handed round a tent full of officers, who indulged in sad merriment over the fancy sketch of our British soldiers in their winter clothing, of furs and waterproofs, with a fine wooden edifice, 'capable of containing any number of men on paper,' in the background, suggestive of nice hot cooking and snug lying 'o' nights. I don't know how the French get on, but I know this, that our people do not get a fair chance for their lives while wintering in the Crimea—at least up to the date of my letter. Providence has been very good to us. With one great exception, which must have done as much mischief to the enemy as to ourselves, we have had wonderful weather since the expedition landed in the Crimea. The other day I was passing through the camp of the 50th Regiment of the line (French) and urging my poor steed thro' heaps of mud, when an officer came out of his tent and, with the unfeeling kindness and courtesy of our allies, invited me to dismount and take a glass of the brandy which had been sent out by the Emperor as a Christmas gift. Although he was living in a tent, the canvas was only a roof for a capacious and warm pit in which there was a bright wood fire sparkling cheerily in a grate of stones. We 'trinked' together and fraternized as our allies will always do when our officers give them a chance. My host, who had passed through his grades in Africa, showed me with pride the case of sound Bordeaux, the box of brandy, and the pile of good tobacco sent to him by Napoleon, III.—'le premier ami du soldat.' A similar present had been sent to every officer of the French army, and a certain quantity of wine and brandy and tobacco had been sent to each company of every regiment in the Crimea. That very same day I heard dolorous complaints that the presents sent by the Queen and Prince Albert to our army had miscarried, and that the Guards and Rifles had alone received the Royal bounty in the very acceptable shape of a ton of Cavendish. Several presents of the same most grateful and useful luxury had been sent to different regiments by persons who took an interest in them from former or present connexion."—*Times*.

GENERAL CANROBERT'S OPINION OF THE ENGLISH ARMY.—The *Manchester Examiner*, a very well informed journal, has the following curious statement, which, if true, crowns the disgrace of the English arms:—"A question has been asked, whether the government has not received a confidential report from some competent person as to the direction of the war? It is believed that General Canrobert, like Lord Raglan, has been accused of temporising and incapacity, and he has found it necessary to send an explanatory report to Paris. It is said that in this report, a copy of which has been communicated to the Duke of Newcastle, the French commander attributes the delay which has taken place before Sebastopol to the British army, which, being wretchedly victualled, and badly cared for, has been wanting in vigilance, slow in its movements, unskilful in the military works essential to such a siege, and often a cause rather of embarrassment than of assistance to the French troops. It was after this report that the Emperor decorated General Canrobert with the military medal. If the government have actually received a copy of this report, which is confirmed in its essentials by private correspondence from the spot, we may easily comprehend the position in which it places them as well as Lord Raglan; and it is in reference to it that a rumor has arisen of their desire to send Sir De Lacy Evans to India, in succession to the late Lord A. Fitzclarence." The above statement receives some degree of confirmation from the following passage in a leading article of the *Times* of Saturday, in reply to the attack made on that journal by Lord Winchilsea:—

"If," says the *Times*, "Lord Winchilsea would seek for confirmatory evidence, he may obtain it from our gallant friends and allies, the French. Let him ask, if he dares, for the despatches, in which General Canrobert described to his own government the desperate condition of the English army. Let him ask, if he desires the truth, for the terms in which General Canrobert has spoken of our generals and of our staff. We are willing to be judged by the deliberate opinion of so competent an authority, and we challenge Lord Winchilsea to demand the production of such evidence. If he will rely on testimony more

easily accessible let him inquire of the Rev. S. G. Osborne, or of Mr. Augustus Stafford, what is the condition of our sick and wounded at Constantinoople? In the hospital of Scutari, with its four miles of English soldiers in their agony, he will find the most expressive monument of the discretion, forethought, and philanthropy of Lord Raglan."

The following appeared in the *Times* as from a Catholic Chaplain with the army in the Crimea:—

"BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 8TH.—My dear Brother—Here we are in the midst of dread winter, with the snow falling in heavy showers, so that it is difficult to leave the tent. You may judge how nice and comfortable we are. The strongest amongst us is struck down. As yet I have been able to attend to my duties, which, you may suppose, are on the increase. The sufferings and privations of all, but particularly of the sick, are very great. Their patience and resignation afford me great comfort and consolation. The fine army that entered the Crimea a few months ago is fast melting away; not more than one-half, or, perhaps it is more correct, one quarter, will hail the warm rays of spring. The rest will have lost life—the busy pomp and circumstances of war—thousands buried round Sebastopol, thousands at Scutari, and elsewhere. You read, as we do, the details of the comforts for the army in the Crimea;—they are nothing but cruel lies. We have received nothing of these patriotic luxuries—wooden houses, sheepskin coats, preserved meats, &c. We are weary of the siege. As regards myself, my duties would be the same, whatever changes things work; but I must confess I would much rather attend the men on the field itself than here in hospital, reduced as they are to living skeletons by this murderous dysentery. I was speaking to one of the medical officers as to the amount of the men per week who in our division alone are rendered useless to the army out here—it seems incredible—the letter is indistinct here—it looks like 800.) In our division, then, the other day we require a new regiment every week to keep up our strength. Where will the present be in a few months? The operations in the trenches go on very slowly; a few are wounded or so. Indeed, we care very little about the siege just now. Our attention is principally directed to the ways and means by which we may manage to exist the next three months. The frost has set in. It is not more severe than at home, but we feel it more situated as we are. If I could get rid of this diarrhoea, that at times is very painful, I should be as well, if not better, than when I was with you."

THE HARDSHIPS OF A STAFF OFFICER.—One of Lord Raglan's Aides-de-Camp lately complained to one of his friends who was standing at his tent door "how dreadfully disagreeable his house had become; it smoked so badly that he could scarcely live in it." His friend recommended him to take to the tent, which was always free from that nuisance.

THE HOSIERY SENT TO THE CRIMEA.—A letter from an officer now in the Crimea states that on unloading the cargoes of hosiery it was found that a large number of the woollen drawers intended for the troops were useless, as they had been made for boys between seven and ten years of age.

MEDICAL COMFORTS.—The treatment of disease is very much simplified here, as we have only about five drugs. Most of the patients lie on the ground, with one or at most two blankets and a coverlid—they, of course, keep all their clothes on. We think ourselves fortunate if we get fresh meat for them three days running; they have no tea, arrowroot, or any other little thing thought indispensable in a London hospital. To-day, for a great treat, we managed to make some oatmeal porridge for them.—Now fancy, with things in this state, having to treat bad cases of dysentery, fever, frost-bite, gunshot wounds, and the like—it is all but impossible, you will say—it is certainly most disheartening—especially, too, when you consider we have no nurses, and most of the men are covered with vermin.

The following is an extract of a private letter, addressed to his family in Paris, by an officer of Voltigeurs, before Sebastopol:—

"The brigade to which I belong occupies the left of the line, towards the sea, and I have only a few steps to advance to behold the town and forts of Sebastopol. We are encamped on the slope of a ravine, which hides us from the view of the enemy. The distance is such that the shells and bullets have several times ploughed up our camp. Our service consists of guarding the trenches, and of working at them. The guard returns every three days. The battalion leaves at 7 o'clock in the morning, passes round the ravine, and enters the trenches after two hours' march, and without any marked route. They defile one by one in the passages of communication, and we are generally given 400 metres to guard. We pass in the 24 hours under every sort of weather, and without shelter, having nothing whatever to amuse us except the parabolas described by the shells, the infernal din of mortars, varied by the whistling of cannon balls and bullets. The first day our men lay down on their faces as each shell passed. Now three-fourths of them look on tranquilly, observing to their comrades, 'See how it smokes its pipe.' On the other hand, the batteries fire but little up to the present, and do not reply to the guns of the enemy, which are so violent that many of the ravines are full of their balls. We often see a white flag hoisted to the top of a pole, and hear the trumpet-sound in the Russian ambulances. This, of course, means 'flag of truce.' At once the fire ceases, and a vast number of heads are seen to pop up from under the earth to the open air. The Russians hold up to the French bottles and glasses, as if they invited them to drink each other's health. The French reply by flourishing their tin cans, and then they pledge each other's health. The bearer of the flag of truce advances on horseback, stops at about 100 paces from our trenches, while the nearest French officer goes forward to re-

ceive the despatches. Yesterday witnessed a meeting of the kind. The *parlementaire* courteously took his glove from his right hand, and shook that of a captain of Chasseurs who had gone out to meet him. So you see all the Russians are not the Cossacks they have been taken for. The *parlementaire* retires; the white flag is pulled down, and the murderous din recommences as before.

"During the night sharpshooters are thrown out in front of the trenches. They are generally selected from among the Voltigeurs, and as I have the honor to form part of the *corps d'élite*, I have had many times the pleasure of passing 12 hours of the night in a hole, having to struggle against cold, sleep, and projectiles. The labor of the trenches is nearly as painful as the guards, with this difference that you pass 12 instead of 24 hours at it. At the entrance to the camp our men, instead of reposing themselves, are obliged to go 2½ leagues in search of a fagot of wood to cook their soup. In spite of all these fatigues, I am very well in health, and enjoy amply all the comforts which the solicitude of the Emperor provides us with. Owing to him, our table is furnished abundantly; nay, sumptuously. What think you of Bordeaux wine, salmon, herrings, cigars, sugar, coffee, together with the haricots *de rigueur*, and potatoes at 1f. the kilo?"

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

(From the *Nation*.)

The British army is annihilated. No other word can express what has befallen that splendid expedition, of which the rear rolled through our streets with flaming banners and impatient tread only a few weeks ago. Day by day they rot away with loathsome diseases, or are frozen and famished. Cholera, and typhus, and tertian ague poison the air around them with plague. All the horrors of Moscow, and horrors more awful still, rage in that foredoomed camp. Skull, Skibbereen, Ennistymon, Kilrush, at their worst afforded no more awful spectacles of human misery and British blundering than may be seen along the Balaklava road. One might fancy that the Crimea was another Connaught in a famine, with another Board of Public Works, and starving men to feed, and a road to make, and the carrying of shot and shell substituted for breaking stones, and strong men, day by day, dwindling into skeletons, and the earth yawning with the dead—only, indeed, that the aim now is not to get rid of a surplus population.

Toiling through the snowy sludge of those seven miles of a wretched road, every day may be seen thousands of ragged, emaciated men, struggling from the camp to Balaklava, and from Balaklava to the camp, carrying up, each man his single cannon ball, or his bag of biscuit, or sitch of pork. Sometimes the spectre of a gallant charger, which survived Balaklava for such a toil as this, faints under his load of ammunition, or rum, or rations, and falls on the way-side, and lies there a prey to the wild dogs and birds of the Chersonese. A day never passes without some of those miserable soldiers, who have to do the work of beasts of burden, dropping dead at their wretched task, and lying there beside the horses whose skeletons strew the road. The whole wide earth, in all its scenes of human misery, does not hold the parallel for that place.

Whom the sword spares, the plague—whom the plague spares, the famine—whom the famine spares, the frost slays; and the sword is the least merciless of them all. Since the summer time last year, England's only army—her Fifty-three Thousand men, in one large scarlet stream, poured down the sunny seas towards Asia. Where are they now? Let those rank graveyards—those bloody ridges—those pestilential hospital mounds and wards—those ravenous waves tell the tale. Of that splendid army—the last hope of England—her sword and her shield against foreign or civil war—only 14,000 men saluted the New Year in arms. Fourteen thousand men! One-fourth of that splendid army is all that remains. And among these the growing devastation rages thus:—"The deaths cannot be estimated at less than sixty a day. Those disabled by fatigue and sickness are said to be no fewer than a thousand a week. The survivors, wearied, wasted, famished, and exposed; still drag themselves up to the trenches, and back again to their miserable lairs, but it would be as absurd to count upon them as men in health, as to call a ship, with five feet of water in the hold, seaworthy. It is computed that of these 14,000 men there are hardly 2,000 in good health; in fact, it was, at the beginning of this month, an army of invalids, and at the beginning of this month the Crimean winter had not set in." The words are not ours. They are the words of the *Times*, in an article that reads like a howl from the very heart of England, and that is worth to the Czar more than the notes of a legion of spies.

The Crimean winter had not set in on the first of January, and the worst was yet to come. But on the 3rd and 4th it began with rain, and snow, and frost, and torrent, and tempest. First the rain fell in a deluge that swamped the tents, that swept away the cavalry stables, and inundated the hospitals.—Under its pitiless pelting, 1,600 men were occupied dragging provisions from Balaklava to the camp.—Then the snow came down all night long, with the fierce, keen, poisonous wind of the Crimean hills that drives its arid ague into the bone. The daily average of deaths had become seventy. Men were dying—literally from cold and want of shelter.—The only fuel to be had was such roots as might be delved from under the snow. The sick might die where they fell, and it was not for the French.—That night the thermometer fell to 21 degrees, and the frost began. It killed sixty horses in the night. In one division 150 men were carried out of the trenches half frozen and cramped. The clothes, the boots, the bed-clothes, the very moisture that

gathers on a blanket from a man's breath turned into hard frost. Many had become lame with chilblains. And, saddest spectacle of all! stout soldiers, who had breasted the murderous heights of Alma, and survived the hellish morn of Inkermann, were seen crying like children as they turned out in the bleaching cold and the corrosive wind of that hideous night, to take their turn of duty in the trenches.

We have two days later news—to the 7th Jan.; and every hour the eye of their calamities seemed to become deeper. Men and officers were found frozen to death. Flying in despair to a reckless use of the only fuel that could be obtained—charcoal—several officers were discovered suffocated in their tents. As the cold grew more intense, the frost had begun to bite, and the surgeons to amputate limbs destroyed by the deadly gangrene of the air. Four days of a Russian winter had struck more terror to the heart of the army than all the batteries of Sebastopol and all the bayonets of Liprandi. Well it might. Let the mercury fall a few more grades in the glass—let the winds quicken its fierce sweep by a few *versts* a minute—and such a doom might befall that worst-clad, worst-housed, worst-fed army in the universe as befell the Assyrian at Sennacherib. It is far from being impossible, it is far from being improbable, that by the next mail we may hear that the remains of the English army have been utterly exterminated by the cold. A Russian winter devoured the most powerful host that Napoleon ever had. The naked and famishing regiments who lie on the mountain ridges of the Crimea are a mere morsel in comparison.

Meanwhile, the Czar looks on, content to see his ancient ally, the North Pole, wreak the loss of a battle on his enemies in the still, cold watches of the piercing night—and do what battle could not do—slacken the strong soldier's heart, and make the cold blood seem to trickle in his veins. As the last despatches closed, the Cossacks were again swarming down the Valley of the Tchernaya, and Liprandi's soldiers seemed to be amassing back to their old position again. We may, ere this day week, hear of another battle with the Allies; and with whatever side, French or Russian, be the victory, it is more than probable the wretched remnant of the British will be cut in pieces in the first onset. Else their almost infallible fate is to moulder away in the cold. A greater victory for Russia than had Inkermann been carried! To generations yet unborn in the homesteads of that noble peninsula, it shall be told how the haughty islanders came and sat in siege round Sebastopol's impregnable bastions, until those whom bayonet and bullet had spared, the storm and the snow destroyed, so that one campaign of six months left England utterly without an army. In that hour will the Irish Exodus be avenged.

(From the *Times*.)

Sebastopol is not invested. People pass in and out, day and night, as freely as they do here from one suburb of London to another. Under such circumstances, every fact that is material connected with the position of the allies is as well known—we fear it is far better known—to Prince Menschikoff as to the English Commander-in-Chief. The Russian General is perfectly well aware, through his spies, that our troops are rotting away from disease in the trenches—that they have suffered the extremities of cold and hunger—that they have not got up their ammunition—that they are not in a position to reassume the offensive. He can readily know, moreover, the actual extent and amount of the few onward steps that have been made—that such and such a position is weakly defended—that such and such a battery has been erected; but we entreat of these iracund Peers to believe that he is not accustomed to wait three weeks or a month for his information. His spies are in the camp. Greeks who are ready to serve him, not only for pay, but for pure sympathy, pass from the allied lines to the Russian posts whenever they please.

THE MORTALITY IN THE ARMY.—When the dreadful mortality of our army in the Crimea was brought under discussion on Friday last, Mr. Sidney Herbert took the opportunity of referring to the losses experienced in the Peninsular War, apparently with the impression that such disasters were rendered more excusable by precedent. We fear, however, that it would be vain to search even the annals of those exhausting campaigns for any such list of invalidings or casualties as are now periodically reported from the East. In a document now before us it is stated that, whereas the mean strength of the British force in the Peninsula amounted, in officers and men, to 66,372, the deaths in that force during the forty-one months ending the 25th of May, 1814, were 35,525, of which number 9,948 occurred in battle or from wounds. It further appears that, of the 61,511 men, exclusive of officers, composing the army, about two hundred and twenty-five in every thousand were, on an average, upon the sick list, and that their mortality was at the annual rate of 161 in 1000. Taking these figures as trustworthy, we shall find that less than a quarter of the whole force would usually be in hospital, or, putting the case in other words, that a regiment 1000 strong would be able, generally speaking, to bring upwards of 700 bayonets into the field. We have doubts whether the actual results did really correspond with these deductions, but unquestionably such invaliding as is now reported from the Crimea was never heard of in Wellington's army. It is related as a memorable circumstance, calculated to give an idea of the destruction which war, in its most dreadful intensity, might possibly cause, that when, after the most bloody fight on record, the muster of a particular regiment was called only three privates and one drummer answered to their names. But this was the result of such a battle as had scarcely ever been known for obstinacy and carnage, the regiment in question had suffered by a surprise, and it is added, that many men who had been taken or lost in the confusion escaped after the victory and rejoined their standards once more. Look, however, at the reports from Sebastopol, and it will be seen that, without any such ravages of the sword, these terrible figures find a parallel in the consequences, substantially speaking, of hardship alone. Our own correspondent circumstantially reports that on the 7th January the 63rd Regiment had only seven men fit for duty, and the 46th only 30; that a strong company of the 90th (probably 80 or 90 men) had been reduced in a few days to 14

file; and that the Fusilier Guards could only produce on parade 210 men; corporals and sergeants included, out of 562 sent out from first to last. This statement is corroborated by many other accounts, and though it may be difficult to ascertain exactly the efficient strength of the army at any particular period, there can be no doubt the general facts. The most startling of the statements above given was confirmed, indeed, by a letter from an officer which we yesterday published, and in which the writer said: "Imagine the frightful mortality of the poor 63rd; they came out more than 1,000 strong, and they have now only seven duty men!" We must, of course, take into account the losses at Inkermann and in the batteries, nor is it to be understood that all the men thus lost to their regiments have actually died. Many are, no doubt, in hospital—we hope to recover—and some are now convalescent in this country; but the result, after all, is terrible beyond precedent.

(From the Tablet.)

DISASTER OF THE ARMY.—The old anticipation of the Tablet are more and more confirmed by every new intelligence from the seat of hostilities. The skies rain destruction on the English army when the missiles of the Russians pause in destroying them, and disease more terrible, because more irresistible than the Muscovites, does the work of the Czar without the intervention of an army. The folly of rulers at home has proved more fatal than the hostility of the enemy abroad. Paralyzed by the hand of God, the manufacturer of comforts, the distributor of luxuries, the proud nation of merchant princes cannot supply the meanest necessities to soldiers who fight for its interests while unfed by its sagacity. If the present tempest blow at the command of Heaven, to change the pilot, and substitute inexperience for imbecility, assuredly will not save the foundering ships. No! A visitation which has for its mission the punishment or intolerance and unbelief cannot be averted by the expedients of human policy. The irreligion of Britain is punished in the instrument of its conquests.—Threatened by the Russians, unaided by their countrymen, preyed on by pestilence and frozen by the icy blasts of a Crimean winter, the wretchedness of this army is the most appalling in history. A terrible retribution has visited the proud people who scoff at religion, mock at its priests, threaten its vestals, and refuse to believe its mysteries. They thought they could command fortune, but they cannot command the miserable rations of private soldiers.

The finger of God is here. Without receiving the wages of treason, the Coalitionists have done the dire work of traitors, and Russia could not be better served, nor English power more crippled, if Nicholas himself were a Minister in the Cabinet. That ministerial honesty which acted like treason could be only imbecility; and the apology of Ministers, their defence, is that they did "unwilling evil," were well intentioned fools. But it is God who has done it, and the empire which imitated the language and action is suffering the penalty of imperial Rome.

Though in action with the Russians many brave soldiers have fallen, it appears that thirty times as many have perished under the management of the Ministry, and we know nothing in history equivalent to English mismanagement at Balaklava. The climate, to the rigor of whose winter Ministerial negligence has stripped the British soldier, is a foe in itself. It is a remarkable fact that now, for the first time in British history, England fights a northern enemy on land. Unfortunately, as many nations have proved, the inhabitants of the north are as invincible as their climate. The northern nations have often triumphed in battle, but have never been conquered in war.—Repeatedly has the yoke of the north been imposed upon the world—never has the sceptre of the south cowed the tenants of the colder zones. To Russians the Crimea is a paradise; accustomed to the Siberian severities of Northern Russia, they deem a country which grows the grape genial and benign as the Hesperides.

In occasional battles Russians have often been defeated; in war they have always been victorious. If even the genius of Napoleon I. directed the valor and enlightened the councils of Great Britain, Napoleon, like Cyrus, like Alexander, would succumb to these new Scythians. Unfortunately, instead of the genius of Napoleon, we have had the imbecility of Aberdeen, and the result is seen in the recent news from the army. If 125 patients expire in Scutari, four die of their wounds; the remainder, 121, being slain by the late Ministry.

The calamities of the army equal the intolerance and irreligion of Britain. Her disasters do not, they cannot surpass it. The sorrows of the gentle Nuns are avenged by the rude horrors and the icy winds of a Tartarian winter.

As usual, when the hand of God interposes—when it is Heaven itself which acts—men seek and mistake human for Divine causes. Lord John Russell admits the calamity, but does not account for it. He says it is "horrible and heartrending." A twelvemonth ago he would have scoffed at the prophet who should predict such calamities. Still more must he have doubted them when he penned his Durham epistle. Is there no connection between these things? What if Lord John Russell, and the howl of fiendish bigotry he aroused, were the cause of these disasters! What of that? The statesmen are puzzling themselves for a reason, and as a reason Mr. Sidney Herbert denounces the army "from brigadiers to privates as ignorant of its profession!" But was it not this ignorant army which conquered repeatedly on the battle-fields of Asia? Is it so ignorant that, if it fail to triumph, it cannot even live? Mr. Bernal Osborne denounces the constitution of the staff, and declares reform must commence with the Horse Guards. "Sir George Grey adopts the apology of inexperience," though the generals were selected expressly for age and experience, which, according to other parties, is the source of their blunders. These are not the causes. The disaster is really judicial, and it is in vain that Sidney Herbert blames the medical department or any other department. The cause is higher. "Everything is wrong" in spite of the experience of Asiatic warfare. The Times says:—

"Never was there so unvaried a story of failure. The picture of the camp, the trenches, the road, the harbor, the transports, the hospitals, and even the arrangements at home, is still the same. Yes, at the very last date within this fortnight all the evils are increased. All this time our gallant allies were only suffering misery and death such as are unavoidable in every campaign. Such a uniformity of calamity on one hand, such darkness all round, and such light round the tents of the French, could not be accident." The Times deems our disasters "inexplicable."

We can explain them. The anger of God is visiting the sins of Protestant Britain. She is threatened with the punishment—would that she copied the penitence of Nineveh.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

DEATH OF THE REV. JOSEPH SHEAHAN, P.P. OF KILMACABEA, DIOCESE OF ROSS.—The Rev. Joseph Sheahan, P.P., Kilmacabea, diocese of Ross, has died. He breathed his last on the 7th, and was buried on the 10th inst. With fondness, and with sorrow will this sad announcement be received by all who had known this good, and dear, and devoted Priest.

DEATH OF THE REV. PATRICK O'ROURKE, P.P., CELBRIDGE.—We deeply regret to announce the death of this amiable and respected Clergyman, which took place on the 12th inst., at Celbridge, in the 72nd year of his age, of a malignant fever caught in the discharge of his sacred duties. The Rev. Mr. O'Rourke had officiated in Celbridge upwards of 26 years, during 18 of which he was Parish Priest, and throughout that lengthened period he had endeared himself to his parishioners by his devotion to the duties of his Divine calling, and by these amiable and benevolent qualities which peculiarly distinguished him. But this feeling of regard for the reverend gentleman was not confined to the members of his own flock. He was universally respected by persons of all religious persuasions, and on the day of his funeral the shops of Celbridge were closed, and his remains were attended to their last resting place by many of the gentry of the neighborhood and others who professed a different creed.—We understand that the good Priest has left all the money of which he was possessed for the purpose of building a temple for the worship of Almighty God.—*Freeman.*

EXCLUSION OF CATHOLICS FROM THE POOR LAW COMMISSION.—The Irish Catholics have received their answer from the Government. They demand protection for their religion, by adequate safeguards in the administration of the Poor Law; the result of their appeal to the justice and wisdom of the Executive is, the removal of all the Catholic Poor Law Inspectors, with one solitary exception. It has been deemed expedient to remove five of the sixteen Inspectors, and it so happens that every one of the five marked out is a Catholic. There are eleven Protestant Inspectors, including several Englishmen; but not one of them has been placed upon the rejected list. All the officers of this class who have been served with notice to quit have the misfortune to be Irishmen, and so far as the good things of this world are concerned, the unfavorable repute of being Catholics. When those five gentlemen shall be weeded out, there will be but one Inspector of that denomination—namely, Mr. W. P. O'Brien, which will just serve as the single exception to prove the rule of general intolerance in the exercise of Government control over the Poor Law System in Ireland. The religious grievances connected with the administration of the Poor Law have been accumulating, and the cases of complaint are rapidly increasing. Every newspaper exhibits the rampant pretensions of proselytism. But there are many cases of sore oppression against conscience that never came before the public. We are acquainted with the facts of one case, in a northern union, which strikingly exhibits the want of protection or sympathy for Catholics at the Irish Poor Law Board. A pauper child whose father was a Catholic, was registered as belonging to that religion by her mother, who, although a Protestant, carried out the wishes of the deceased father. After three years had elapsed from the registry of the books of the workhouse, the religion of the child was changed, on the ground that the mother had been a Protestant. A remonstrance was made to the guardians, but without effect; then the Commissioners were appealed to, but they gave no redress; and now it is in contemplation to bring the question before the Court of Queen's Bench. And it is when the entire Catholic community are in a state of excitement at the manner in which those charitable institutions, supported by a heavy poor law tax, are abused for sectarian objects that every Catholic but one, employed in a post of influence and responsibility in the administration of the law, is to be removed. From at least one of the union workhouses, in a western and Catholic district, the Sisters of Charity have been ignominiously expelled, without any allegation of a fault, or of a breach of any rule of the institution.—Such is the manner in which the poor law has been administered in Ireland.—*Evening Post.*

Monday last the Corporation of Clonmel presented a congratulatory address to Captain Kellet, C.B., the successful Arctic voyager, in the Court-house of that town. The illustrious discover of the North-west Passage, Captain McClure, and Captain Kellet, who so opportunely came to the relief of himself and his starving crew, are both Wexford men.

Pauperism is decreasing rapidly in Ireland. On comparing the number of workhouse inmates for the year ending 22nd of April, 1854, with the previous corresponding interval, we find the diminution to be nearly 40,000 in each week throughout the series.—The returns for last year give nearly 400,000 indoor and more than 13,000 out-of-door paupers; and these unfortunates were fed at the low average rate 1s 4d per head weekly.

It is a remarkable fact in the history of Ireland, to hear serious complaints coming from the province of Connaught, in the month of January, of the great scarcity of labor; yet so it is. The farmers can with difficulty procure hands, and then only at such wages as have never before been paid in the middle of winter. If such be the case now, what will they do when spring requires a vast augmentation in the number of laborers? And worse still, when the next harvest requires to be reaped?

We regret to learn that great destitution exists in Arklow, in consequence of the high price of provisions on the one hand, and of the utter failure of the autumn and winter fishing on the other. The preceding summer and winter the fishing was very irregular and insufficient, and the result of all is, that upwards of two thousand persons are reduced to the greatest distress.

CHOLERA IN COLERAINE.—According to the last weekly return, there had been, during the week, 77 new cases of cholera and 113 of diarrhoea—the deaths from the former being 20, and from the latter none.—There remained 42 cholera and 84 diarrhoea cases under treatment. The last week was the most severe, there having been 20 cases of cholera and 27 of diarrhoea altogether since the commencement.

The *Limerick Chronicle* states that the cholera is raging in Mullingar, and has proved most fatal.

In all parts of Ireland the mildness of the season up to the middle of January, has had a most beneficial effect, whilst the present high price of agricultural produce has stimulated the greatest exertion in preparing for an early crop.

DRIVERS FOR THE CRIMEA.—Several smart young fellows from this neighborhood have joined this useful corps, and have left for Dublin, en route to the seat of war.—*Sligo Journal.*

THE IRISH MILITIA.—The embodiment of the militia proceeds throughout Ireland with tardy success. The staffs of the various corps are easily formed, but the men are not in every case forthcoming. The officers, are, however, exerting themselves perseveringly to raise their regiments, and place them in a state of efficiency.

The Donegal Militia has received orders for immediate embodiment, and are to be stationed at Ballyshannon.

The Tyrone Militia was to proceed to Omagh on Monday, there to be stationed.

MILITARY STRIKE.—On Wednesday morning last, in this city (Armagh), the militia—who have not been paid their bounty—turned out to a man, and refused to obey orders until they were paid. The Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment had them drawn up in the Barrack Square, and after a long remonstrance, in which he assured them that as soon as he should receive an order from the Horse Guards, he should supply them with their bounty, the men fell in order in their respective divisions.—*Ulster Gazette.*

IRISH SOLDIERS.—The gallant 61st Regiment, which left Dublin some months ago for the Crimea, enlisted a great number of men in this city. These brave poor fellows, notwithstanding their hardships, have not forgotten those left behind—their parents, wives, and sisters. For the last few days, great numbers of persons have been to the Head Police office to get their papers from Sebastopol verified. They are all remittances from soldiers who had been recruited in Dublin. In one case, a son remits to his aged father £2; in another, a husband sends to his wife £3 (in this case £3 had been previously received); in another a sister gets £1 5s; another £1 10s; and, in very many instances wives get orders for £1.

It is a significant fact, showing the manner in which the staple trades of Ulster have been injuriously affected by the war, that one hundred thousand spindles have ceased working, and that no new yarn spinning mills were erected during 1854.

Thomas Tobin, Esq., has been appointed a deputy lieutenant for the county of Cork.

NO IRISH NOR CATHOLICS WANTED.—Extract from a letter dated New York, Dec. 27, 1854, and furnished to the *Waterford News*:—If you can influence any poor man or woman intending to come here, it would be a charity to dissuade them. Catholics are proscribed, and servants now have no chance of employment, if Irish and Catholic. The Know-Nothings are in reality the great majority of the Protestants of America—every day establishes that fact. Thousands of servant women would go anywhere at present for diet and lodging, but, if Catholics, even that won't be given. The Jews in Egypt were not more despised than is an 'Irish Papis' in the United States.

"SOVEREIGNISM."—The Rev. Mr. Ward, P. P. of Partree, writes to the *Telegraph*, that many of the "Soupers, who received from £2, to £3 10s, per month for their apostasy, have returned again, craving forgiveness from the Catholic Church. The following is the public recantation of one of those unhappy creatures:—

PUBLIC RECANTATION.—*Clifden, Jan. 12, 1855.*—I, Phillip Gorham, of Dalryhill, in the parish of Ballindoon, and county of Galway, do positively state that in the month of May, 1849, and for some time previous I was in actual state of starvation, having a wife and one child to support, without any means to sustain them, and no employment being in this country, I had reluctantly, and contrary to my conscience, accepted the Jumper's bribe, which they held out to all persons and characters at that time (starvation). From the first moment that I enlisted under the banner of the Devil, I do most solemnly declare that my conscience was perpetually assailed, gnawing and accusing me of selling and bartering my soul for meal, more particularly when at sleep, and nothing troubling me but the salvation of my eternal soul. In about one year after the time above mentioned, I was employed as Scripture reader, in the above-named parish, for three years, at £1 10s per month, and during that time I do conscientiously declare, from experience and knowledge of the various persons and characters who had the misfortune to join the demon band, they had the same causes, and the same causes only, which led me to endanger my salvation.

After spending some time in my native parish, I got my route as a Scripture reader and preacher, to Partree, in the County Mayo, where I spent a long time, at £2 per month; and from my experience there, I do solemnly declare that I never knew a single person to become a Jumper, nor even say one word in favor of Jumperism or its teachers until I should first hold out some inducement, such as food to the old, and food and rayment to the young.

In the month of January, 1854, I got my instructions to proceed to Galway, with an additional increase of 10s a month; I had then £2 10s. I remained in Galway until the 3d September, 1854, when, struck with the fear of God, and the interest of the salvation of my eternal soul, I proceeded to the house of the Rev. Mr. —, and told him that my conscience was perpetually accusing me of changing my holy religion for the unholy things of this temporary world, and that therefore I would resign, which I did at once, telling him that I was only a false member of his false Church since first I joined. He, however, reasoned, and advised me to the contrary; but I at once denied him and his Church.

Speaking generally of Jumperism, I do most solemnly declare before my God, that the persons employed in teaching and promoting it, are most immoral, the greatest blackguards, and, in fact, are qualified for every grade of society, save, and except, the moral and the virtuous.

After leaving the Jumpers, I got my children baptised by the Rev. Lawrence Leonard of Galway; and as satisfaction to God for my ingratitude, I came to Clifden, to the Rev. Patrick McManus, to Ballindoon, to the Rev. Edward Gibbons, and proceeded to Partree, to the Rev. Peter Ward, and in the presence of these holy priests; and the different congregations assembled to hear Mass on Sundays, I made an open declaration of the above mentioned facts. I only visited such parishes as I had been employed in by the Jumpers.

PHILIP GORHAM, Dalryhill.

GREAT BRITAIN.

His eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, arrived in town at the end of January. I mentioned in a recent letter that the Cardinal Archbishop's Pastoral Letter in Behalf of the Patriotic Fund had realised nearly £400. The exact total is 391 15s 2d.—*Correspondent of Tablet.*

We hear on good authority that Lord Auckland, the "Bishop" of Bath and Wells, whose signature, it seems, is by law necessary to the further progress of the suit against Archdeacon Denison, has refused to give it. The party prosecuting the Archdeacon is of course enraged, and the Rev. Mr. Ditcher threatens to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus to compel his own "Bishop" to take a step in a matter purely doctrinal, contrary to his judgment and will. This case may yet go through as many stages as that of Mr. Corham.—*Catholic Standard.*

PORTSMOUTH.—An order from the Lords of the Admiralty has been received at this, and we believe also at all the other dockyard, for the whole of the ships now under repair or refit which formed part of the Baltic fleet of 1854 to be expedited in their refinement, so they are required to be ready for service by the end of February, and to assemble in the Downs by the first week in March, where there it is deemed probable the fleet will be inspected by the Emperor and Empress of the French, en route from France to England to visit Queen Victoria.

Rea-Admiral Martin, Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, is publicly reported the intended Commander-in-Chief of the fleet, and Rear-Admiral Michl. Seymour second in command.

It would tax the best-red historical student to produce a more complete case of political collapse than that which it is England's ill fate, sore cost, and we had almost said foul dishonor, to witness this day. The vast prestige of that naval and military organization which we have been nursing so sedulously for these forty years, at the cost of £15,000,000 a year, has gone with a touch at the moment of trial.—*Times.*

A Successful inventor has offered the War Office an electric rifle, which greatly surpasses any weapon in use, flinging a ball from 1,000 to 2,000 feet, at the rate of sixty shots per minute.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 1851.—An account of the net income and expenditure of the country for the year ended the 31st of January, 1855, &c.—was issued on Saturday. It hence appears that the gross total income amounted to £56,737,132, and the expenditures to £59,946,192, thus exhibiting an excess of expenditure over income amounting to £3,209,060.

According to returns made up to the 31st December, her Majesty has 142 vessels of war propelled by steam-power afloat and in commission, and 104 sailing ships—total, 246.

The *Morning Herald* of Monday says:—"It is true that Lord John Russell, formerly described as 'the boy who chalked No Popery on the wall, and then ran away,' now figures in the columns of the *Times* as having 'turned King's evidence against his accomplices, and has acted in so doing in strict conformity with the antecedents of his long and equivocal public career. As long as there was a possibility of the Coalition holding office, Lord John clung to them and to place with tenacity of a limpet to the copper of a ship; but as soon as he found that the ship was dragging her anchors he loosed his hold and, we are happy to say, has sunk in the mud,—at least for the present.

MANCHESTER PEACE-GOODS.—(Disrespectfully dedicated to Mr. Bright.)—Never mind about the kicks as long as you get the half-pence. Britons, strike home; but mind, the strike mustn't come near a cotton mill. Better to lick the dust than like the enemy. There is but one Manchester, and the whole world is its profit. An Englishman's home is his castle, but when it should be a castle, not for fighting but for feasting, like the Castle of Richmond, where there are no charges but hotel charges, and the only dead men are empty bottles. The best bail for keeping the peace is your bale of Manchester goods. Every gun fired makes a hole in our profits. The mill to grind old England young is, it must be confessed, a cotton mill. Sooner than Manchester lose its peace, sacrifice the whole of England. The real pillars of Great Britain are the chimneys of cottonopolis. No securities like Government securities.

A ranting preacher at Bolton-le-Moors addressed his auditors in this highly figurative strain:—"I dare say you'd all pay to see a boxing match between Randall and Martin, yet you don't like to pay to see a boxing match between me and Beelzebub. Oh! my friends many a hard knock have I given the black bruiser for your sake! Pull off these gay garments of Mammon; strike the Devil a straight blow, and darken his spiritual daylight, At him manfully, and send him at once into Chancery! I'll be your bottle-holder; I ask nothing but the money, which I hope you will not forget before you go!"—*Stockport Advertiser.*

LIFE IN LUDLOW.—A boy named John Williams, about 13 years of age, was charged with robbing his father, John Williams, a resident of Ludlow, of the sum of £6 6s 4d. The lad's excuse was that his mother had told him to steal the money and to take it to her at Kidderminster. The accused also stated that his father made him eat horseflesh, and that there was some in the house then. After hearing this statement the constable, accompanied by Superintendent Jones, searched old William's dwelling, and found the two hind legs of an ass, salted and hung up to dry; they were smoked similar to hams of bacon. The officers took possession of the donkey meat, conveyed it to the gaol, and when the prisoner was asked what it was, he replied, "It's part of our old donkey father killed and pickled; jibab's what we eat; father pickled horse-tongues in a bucket, and boils horses' livers for us." The prisoner added, "He bought that 'hoss' the shaft run; through, and was killed on the road leading to the sheet, about four months ago; he pickled that, and made me eat it." There was also found in William's bed-room four sides of carion, having the appearance of pig's flesh smoked, but unfit for human food. The bread in the house was found to consist of bean-meal and potatoes. The affair having become known, a crowd of persons congregated round the old man's dwelling, and had it not been for the interference of the police, they would soon have demolished the premises. The prisoner was remanded.—*News of the World.*

REMITTANCES

ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND & WALES.

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

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON, At the Office, No. 4, Place d'Armes. TERMS: To Town Subscribers. . . . \$3 per annum. To Country do. . . . \$2 1/2 do. Payable Half-Yearly in Advance.

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1855.

NOTICE.—Mr. P.H. McCawley's connection with this paper as travelling agent, and collector, has ceased from this date.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Baltic brings important news. A Ministry has been formed, with Lord Palmerston for Premier, and in which, with the exception of Lords Aberdeen, Newcastle, and John Russell, the members of the former Cabinet retain office. Parliament had adjourned until the 15th inst.

The Government was actively engaged in shipping troops to the Crimea, and a sum of three millions had been voted for the support of the war. From the seat of war the dates are up to the 30th ult.; but we have nothing new to report. The total inactivity of the Allies, and their utter inability to effect any impression upon Sebastopol, are glozed over with vague generalities, about "siege works advancing," and "renewed activity." These hackneyed phrases impose upon nobody now. Translated into plain English, they mean, that the besieging army is fast melting away, and that the Russian stronghold is as impregnable as ever. Provisions were coming into camp; but the troops were still very sickly. Several sorties had been made by the Russians, in one of which the French had suffered very severely, and Lord Lucan had been recalled. This is all that is known with certainty of the state of affairs in the Crimea. Rumors, however, are not wanting. Prince Menschikoff, so it is given out, is to attack Eupatoria and Balaklava; and for this purpose reinforcements are hastening to join him. On the other hand, the Turks, under Omar Pacha, are said to be marching on Sebastopol, in the vicinity of which a great battle will soon be fought. The Russians, it is hinted, are suffering greatly from the want of supplies; there is a report also that they had met with a repulse from the Turks in the Dobrukscha.

In the diplomatic world, there is nothing new; but a feeling in favor of peace is springing up even in Constantinople. Prussia still vacillates; the attitude of Austria is becoming more decidedly hostile towards Russia; and Holland and Denmark are said to be desirous of joining the Western Powers.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the serious illness of His Grace the venerated Archbishop of Quebec. His Grace was attacked with a severe stroke of paralysis on Monday forenoon last whilst assisting at the general service of Sister La Croix. He was immediately conveyed to the Archbishopric, where he again underwent another attack, which left him speechless and incapable of motion. On Tuesday he rallied again a little, and the doctors held out hopes of his recovery. Up to the last account the condition of His Grace was very precarious.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

We were unable in our last week's issue, from want of room, to say anything about the ceremony of conferring "Doctor's Degrees" upon several of our fellow-citizens, which took place in St. Mary's College on the 12th inst., in the presence of a numerous audience, and immediately after the festivities with which the fête of the venerated Rector of the College was celebrated by the pupils. These festivities concluded, the Rev. Father Martin took his seat on an elevated stage, accompanied and assisted by the Rev. T. Dégardin and Rev. T. O'Reilly. The latter, in the name of the Faculty of Fordham University and St. Mary's College, addressed the gentlemen on whom the "Doctor's Degree" was about to be conferred:—

"St. Mary's College had contracted towards them a debt of gratitude for valuable assistance and encouragement at the beginning of the Institution. In founding a Law-school in connection with the College, this debt had been further increased: the advantages it procured to the law-student were, it was gratefully confessed, more the work of the citizens, than of the founders of the establishment.

"There was only one means in the power of the latter of testifying their sense of such valuable co-operation,—and that was, to obtain for the Patrons of the Law-school a 'Doctor's Degree.' That this might be at the same time a testimony of affection and gratitude from the whole Society of Jesus, towards Canada and the Canadians, the University of Fordham had joyfully seized the opportunity, and sent the Degree asked for, to the following gentlemen:—The Hon. D. B. Viger, the Hon. Justice Morin, the Hon. G. E. Cartier, J. B. Meilleur, Esq., C. S. Cherrier, Esq., Maximilian Bibaud, Esq., Professor of Common Law in St. Mary's College."

The Rev. Speaker paid a compliment to each of these gentlemen in particular: to the Hon. D. B. Viger;

"For more than half a century of meritorious exertion consecrated to the promoting of his country's best interests. The mark of regard thus paid him by St. Mary's College, was only an evidence of the universal respect in which so distinguished and venerable a citizen was held in the community.

"Not less unanimous, undoubtedly, would be the feelings of respect and affection elicited by the mention of Mr. Morin's honored name. To say that he has been found worthy to fill on the Bench the place left vacant by a Magistrate so widely and justly revered as the late Mr. Justice Panet—would be no common praise. To say, however, that there was no reward high enough in his countrymen's estimation—for abilities of the first order, for devotedness superior even to these abilities, for a disinterestedness above both—was only to say what every one knew to be the simple truth. We trust, therefore"—continued the Rev. gentleman—"that the Laval University, which is to us all a source of legitimate pride—proud herself, and justly so, of this her illustrious son—will accept in this solemn homage paid her by Montreal, much more than St. Mary's College, the earnest of the feelings with which both regard the first of our institutions, and one of her greatest living glories."

Then after a becoming eulogium passed on the other gentlemen, amidst the applause of the audience, the Rev. President of the College proclaimed the Degrees, and the diplomas were handed to such of the gentlemen upon whom they were conferred as were present.

The President once more, in a few appropriate words, complimented the graduates; and impressed on the students the importance of following in the footsteps of eminent learning and merit.

Mr. Cherrier returned thanks in an elegant and appropriate speech, in which he paid a well merited compliment to St. Mary's College for the zeal which it had displayed in the cause of education, and congratulated its professors upon having been so happy as to secure the services of M. Max. Bibaud, for their Class of Common Law.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

In general, it is contrary to the principles of this Society to give publicity to any of their proceedings through the secular press. Their rule is, to do good in secret; not to let one hand know what the other hand giveth; to seek no applause from men, but to do all unto God, Who, seeing in secret, shall, on the last day, reward openly them that fear Him, and do works of mercy in His name. So strictly is this rule enforced, that, at their weekly meetings, it is positively enjoined that the contributions of each member to the common fund shall be made secretly; so that every one shall be at liberty to give, much, or little, of his substance as he pleases, without provoking the remarks of his neighbor. But to every rule there must be an exception; and since—as having been entrusted with the distribution of a portion of the public funds voted by the City Council for the relief of the poor—the St. Vincent de Paul Society owes an account to the public of the manner in which it has fulfilled the trust reposed in it, we give insertion to the following letter, which appeared in the Montreal Gazette over the signature of "Humanitas," whom the Herald pronounces to be a Protestant:—

Feb. 12, 1855.

"To the Editor of the Montreal Gazette. Sir—For some years past it has been the received opinion of us Protestants, that whilst we, in relieving the poor, have done so irrespective of Creed or origin—our co-religionists of the Roman Catholic faith, have restricted their charities to the poor of their own Church. To remove so erroneous an impression, and to render to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens full justice, permit me to narrate a few facts, which came under my personal notice yesterday.

"Called upon, in the discharge of my civic duties, to assure myself of the due application of the monies voted by the City Council a month or two ago, for the temporary relief of the poor, I had occasion yesterday to attend a meeting of the members of one of the branches of a charitable society which has existed in Montreal now about six years, known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It was organized by our French Canadian fellow-citizens in 1848, for the express purpose of relieving the poor of our city in the inclement seasons and times of distress; and is composed almost exclusively, indeed wholly—with the exception of its Directors or leading men, who form a sort of council—of French Canadians of the industrial classes—most of them of very limited pecuniary means. It is divided, if I remember rightly, into seven branches or "Conferences" equally distributed over the whole city. That I visited is called the "Conference de Ste. Marie," and numbers about 180 members. Its only source of revenue during the 6 years of its existence, until it received lately for distribution among the poor, a share of the City Grant, has been the penny contributions of its members, raised in the manner I shall hereafter notice; and during that period, it has judiciously disposed of about £1,200 in relieving the pressing wants of the poor, indiscriminately, Protestant and Catholic. The different branches "Conferences," meet once every week, and the only condition of admission to membership is—the proposal by a member at one of the weekly meetings, unobjected to at the next meeting. No entrance fee is exacted, nor any stated or periodical subscription; but, on every occasion of absence from the weekly meeting, whether by reason of sickness or any other cause whatever, a contribution of three pence towards the relief fund has to be paid into the treasury by the absent member. It is by these means alone, save a few pence occasionally collected at special meetings, that the funds, to the extent of £1,200 already mentioned, were raised. Each branch elects its Visiting Committee, who carefully investigate each case brought under their notice, before relief is afforded, except in cases of great emergency. I was shown a list of the names of the persons relieved by this branch, the "Conference de Ste. Marie," since the commencement of the winter's distress in St. Mary's Suburbs. It embraces about 157 families, or 722 persons, of whom, at least, 40 families, or 87 per-

sons, were Protestants. This distinction between Protestant and Roman Catholics was, on this occasion, noticed on the list, to enable the Mayor to judge of the manner the funds entrusted to them had been disposed of. But after having satisfied myself as to the correctness of this list, I requested the Secretary to permit me to examine the Minutes—which, I may here state, much to the credit of the Secretary, are kept with the utmost care and precision, and at the cost of a large amount of his time and trouble; and I found, upon referring back over a period of three or four years, say to 1851 at least, that the statements made at the meeting—that the poor of all classes and creeds—Protestant as well as Roman Catholic—had indiscriminately received relief from the Society since its organization, were fully verified. No distinction of course had been made in the entries previous to the reception of the City Fund, by the addition of "Protestant," when such case of relief had occurred; but I had no difficulty, from the names and other circumstances, to assure myself of the fact, that relief from the commencement of their efforts had been extended by them, regardless of difference in religious faith, Protestant as well as Catholic.

"In noticing these facts, I have entered more into the details of the organization of this society, than I otherwise should have done, from a desire to draw the attention of our industrial classes generally to this admirable and effective system; convinced that by forming a similar society, assisted by the more affluent amongst us, they might do their part more effectively in relieving the wants of the really deserving poor, than by any expedient hitherto resorted to by them for that purpose.—I am, Sir, Yours, &c.,

"HUMANITAS."

Whilst upon the subject of the St. Vincent de Paul, the following account—which appears in the Univers—of an interesting ceremony which took place at Rome on the 5th ult., when the Holy Father gave his benediction to the Sons of St. Vincent de Paul—may prove interesting:—

The Pope having expressed his intention to preside at one of the meetings of the Society, notice was given to the different Conferences in order that they might each send their representatives. The members who had assembled at Rome for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception met together on the 5th, to the number of 800, in the Great Hall of the Consistory, with M. Baudon at their head. Many Cardinals and other foreign Bishops also requested to join the meeting, to express publicly their sympathy in its proceedings, and they were placed at the right of the Pontiff's throne.

At a quarter past ten the Holy Father entered the hall, preceded by the pontifical cross. All rose as he passed on to the throne in the middle of the hall, blessing with an air of tender affection the soldiers of charity who were met together in this vast theatre. When he reached the throne he recited a short prayer. He then seated himself and signed to the Cardinal and Bishops to do the same. The rest of the assembly remained standing.

M. Baudon then, led by Mgr Borromeo, Master of the Chambers, approached, and shortly and in French thanked His Holiness for the favors which he had granted to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, especially in this present meeting, adding that the report would be read in Italian by the Prelate President of the Conferences, at Rome; and he placed in the hands of the Holy Father the list of the foreign members who were present, of whom there was a large proportion from various parts of Italy, from Geneva, Paris, France, England, and America. The Holy Father appeared to listen with pleasure to the sentiments expressed by the President General; and Mgr. Borromeo, who is President of one of the Conferences at Rome, approached the throne and read the promised report.

"This report detailed all the proceedings of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Its spirit is clearly expressed in it, and its object defined to be the mutual edification of the members, and the corporal and especially the spiritual care of the poor and the suffering members of human kind. The birth of the Society is related, and its successive developments explained in order. It is stated that the great enlargement of the work only arose subsequently to the approbation afforded to it by Gregory XVI. In January 1855 the number of Conferences spread over the whole world exceeds 1500, and half this number belongs to France. This remarkable development is owing to the protection of the Holy See, and to the numerous favours afforded by it to the work. No Conference is ever established without the consent of the spiritual authority, and when once established its whole powers are exerted in perfect harmony with the appointed authorities. Of late this society, which had hitherto been confined to towns, has begun its operations in country places with great success. The report explains the ways and means used by the society to accomplish its mission of charity. These are numberless, varying according to the wants of those for whom it is undertaken. The details are most edifying; and many traits are recorded of sublime and perfectly heroic virtue, which, when published, will be most interesting."

After the report had been read the Holy Father arose, and in a voice full and sweet, but trembling with emotion, he pronounced the following words, of which we can only endeavor to collect the sense, not having the exact words:

"After the happiness we have enjoyed during the last few days, I rejoice to behold around me so many devoted sons of the Church who are employed in doing good by putting in practice the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ—the new commandment which He gave to us, to love one another—Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem. It is this command which makes us seek to discover and to provide for our brethren of the lower condition; it is this commandment which makes it the duty of the greatest to be the servant of others. In this age of coldness and indifference to the most sacred interests of humanity, the world does not value the interests which Catholicity teaches. Protestants and infidels agree in treating humility as meanness, chastity as opposition to the rights of nature, apostolic zeal as fanaticism—charity alone is accepted by all. This is, then, a powerful motive to bring back souls to the faith—it is another motive to you to redouble your zeal, to give still greater testimony of your attachment to the Church by continuing to yield filial obedience to the spiritual sentinels of the people (the Bishops of the Holy Church). Thus prepared, return you to the world, and call back this corpse by your voice and your acts, as the Divine voice called Lazarus of old to light and warmth. On such condi-

tions will God multiply your numbers and your labors. I call down, then, upon you, and upon your society the blessing of Almighty God (here all present, except the Cardinals and Bishops, fell on their knees): of God the Father, who notwithstanding the sin, has drawn from the treasures of His infinite mercy a means of healing us; of God the Son, who deigned to shed the last drop of his blood for us; of God the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of light, of love, of power, and of understanding: of the most Holy Trinity, that he may shelter you under His most powerful protection all the days of your life and in the hour of your death. Benedictio Dei Omnipotentis Patris, Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, descendit super vos, nunc et semper. Amen!

"The Pope then retired much affected. His emotion gained the hearts of all present, which were deeply moved by his mingled kindness."

CITY COUNCIL.—At a special meeting of the City Council, held on Friday last, His worship the Mayor read the following report of the manner in which the £250 voted for the relief of the poor have been expended:—

"The £250 appropriated by the Council for the poor of the city, I am sorry to say, is entirely expended. The Council will permit me to observe that I would advise a further appropriation of a like sum, by means of which, it is expected, that the destitute will be provided for until the spring approaches and work is to be had. I have visited the Soup Kitchens with some of the Councillors; and it is most gratifying to know that the money already advanced, has, through this means, operated an amount of good, many times more than could have been effected, if it had otherwise been employed or distributed, besides being secure against an improper use of the relief tendered—for it is well known that debased and profligate parents have often, heretofore, sold the bread and meat given for the support of their children, to low groggeries for whiskey; whereas the soup cannot be thus bartered. It is eaten in the kitchens, or taken away in cans and kettles, and being of a highly nutritious nature and well seasoned, it is most wholesome and agreeable, as I know from experience, having taken a plateful at each of the establishments, where, I am most happy to assure you, gentlemen, that the needy are kindly attended to, irrespective of creed or origin. I am delighted to bear witness to the fact, that several Protestant clergymen have given soup tickets to some of their congregations; and such tickets are received with much respect by the benevolent Sisters of Charity, and the poor Protestant is at once attended to. Such proceedings are honorable alike to all parties, and betoken a true Christian spirit, the prevalence of which is equally honorable and beneficial to our common humanity.

"I am decidedly of opinion that the Council is not only warranted, but that it is incumbent upon it, to see that the Public Funds are not squandered or worse, by sustaining the idle and giving them the means of persevering in their vicious habits; the utmost caution is demanded that the assistance granted is not converted into a premium for improvidence, wickedness and idleness. The safest and most economical way of providing for the poor is through the soup kitchens.

"Councillor Thompson, with honorable feelings, informed me that there were several destitute families in his ward. A small sum was put into his hands, and limited as it was, he has been enabled to do a considerable amount of good by the judicious measures he adopted for aiding the really necessitous; that is to say, by personally visiting the homes of the applicants. Deception and fraud are thus detected, while the deserving receive succor. It is this inspection of the abodes of the applicants for relief, which has made the operations of some of our charitable societies so exceedingly useful and efficient; and I don't know if it would not be proper to impose, as a condition for such distribution of the public money, that none is to be granted until it is perfectly ascertained how it is to be applied. It is my conviction that a £1000 distributed as is usually done, would not have been as beneficial as the \$1000 we have put into the hands of our charitable societies.

"As I have already remarked, another sum of £250 will be required for the soup kitchens, notwithstanding that the Rev. Mr. Villeneuve has kindly informed me, that he will see to the provisioning of the soup kitchens at the Grey Nun's and at La Providence; but the two remaining kitchens, one in the Quebec Suburbs, and the other in the St. Antoine Wards, are as yet to be sustained, as well as the one lately established under the auspices of Mrs. Falford and the other philanthropic ladies, who have originated the Protestant House of Industry at Richmond Square, where an excellent description of soup is also made.

"Every effort is made for procuring labor for the poor. Hundreds of toises of stones are being broken, and the gentlemen of the Seminary have generously given over 400 toises of stones at one sixth of the contract price it cost them, that work might be had for the poor and willing laborer.

"By the united efforts of all the citizens, in the shape of Bazaars, Concerts, and Public Meetings, &c., considerable sums have been obtained for the succoring the distressed; and the consequence is that there is an infinitely less amount of misery in our midst than there otherwise would have been, and I cannot but express my admiration of the noble conduct of our citizens, in abstaining from the usual assemblies and festivities of the season, that more might be applied to the indigent, and, at the same time, that the starving might not complain, that while they were suffering, the wealthy were revelling in abundance and frivolity. Montreal has every reason to be proud of the noble feeling which pervades every class of its community."

A motion of M. Valois to the effect that another sum of £250 be placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee was postponed, as being out of order.

We have been requested to insert the following letter from the Rev. M. Villeneuve, to the Mayor of Montreal:—

Mons. THE MAYOR.—When cholera by its frightful ravages commenced to freeze with alarm the hearts of the citizens of Montreal, I called upon your Worship to suggest to you a method proper to calm the minds, raise the courage of, and give succor to, the unfortunate persons struck by the epidemic.

The Corporation failed in nothing that could be done to divert the scourge with which we were menaced; by watching over the cleanliness and the sanitary condition of the city; but we had no hospital for cholera patients. People talked of removing the sick, first to Point St. Charles; afterwards to the sheds of

the Quebec suburbs; but the alarm inspired by the disease was so great, that the project had to be given up, lest the population in the neighborhood of those sheds should be excited to violence.

It was in these circumstances that I went to you, to offer in the name of His Lordship the Bishop, the assistance of the religious communities, who devote themselves to the service of the sick and poor.

The four galleries of the Hotel-Dieu, and the three galleries of the St. Patrick's Hospital, were opened to cholera patients. During the whole period of the epidemic, all the sick who presented themselves were received; but as there was great apprehension of being in the same place with other cholera patients, the nuns had great difficulty in inducing the sick to allow themselves to be transported to the Hospitals. The greatest number of those attacked were, therefore, taken care of at home, and that difficult task was accomplished with equal charity by the nuns of the General Hospital, and by those of La Providence. But as cholera only raged for a short time in the western part of the city, you will permit me to call your Worship's attention to the labors of the Sisters of La Providence, who were charged with the duty of visiting the sick, from St. Lawrence Main Street, to the foot of the Current St. Mary.

It was not till the month of July that cholera was severely felt in Griffinton, while from the month of May, we had very sad fore-runners of the epidemic in Dufresne Street and the adjacent streets. Day and night the Sisters of La Providence were at the side of the sick. The list which I annex will make known to your Worship the names and the residences of the patients who were assisted, the number of nights passed with them; and you will thus see that all religious denominations have been the objects of their heroic devotion. This list only shows the cholera patients assisted—how many others have been aided besides? The superiors of La Providence has told me, that from the month of May to the end of December, they had passed more than 800 nights by the bedsides of the dying;—the days, they do not count.

It is then evident that the nuns were, during the cholera, as they were during the time of typhus and at the great fire, tutelary angels. It was they who by their piety, their calmness, and their devotion, in the midst of danger, re-assured our alarmed population. What should we have done without their aid? The corporation wished to establish a Hospital for the cholera patients; but besides the enormous expenses which such an establishment would have caused, where were persons to be found to nurse the sick? You remember that the nurses of the English Hospital threatened to leave if cholera patients were received there.

The nuns of La Providence then offered to take charge of that establishment during the time of the epidemic, and their large Orphan Asylum was placed at your disposal, to be transformed into a Hospital. But why insist on a devotion that you so justly acknowledged in the report you made when the cholera had almost disappeared from our midst? It is that the Council which represents the city, may use its influence with the Government to obtain for this community, which has rendered us such services, the aid of which they have so much need. To succor the poor and sick, the nuns have not thought of themselves. Their community is very numerous; they clothe and feed 167 orphans or infirm persons, of whom 24 are mad or idiotic; their house, though not yet furnished, is burdened with an enormous debt, of which they pay the interest; and to meet so many charges they have no other resources than their labor and the charity of the faithful. Their work having been suspended or diminished during nearly eight months, they have been obliged to contract new debts. M. N. Valois, one of the members of the Council, told me some days ago that the nuns of La Providence owed for flour, nearly £500 to the house of Renaud et Frere.

Please then, M. Mayor, to propose to your Council to support with all its influence the petition which the Corporation of ladies, to whom the asylum of La Providence belongs, is about to address to the Legislature, to obtain funds to succor the poor whom they receive from all parts of the Province. It is the only charitable establishment in Montreal which has received nothing. If the burden which weighs on them was lightened, these nuns might do more to afford aid during the visitation of those scourges to which Montreal is so often exposed. As our good nuns make no distinction of persons, I am persuaded that all the members of the Council will give their support. Permit me in conclusion to remind you of the promise you made me, to obtain from the Council, which had invested you with all power to oppose the progress of cholera, all the expenses which in concert with the nuns I might deem necessary. I am happy to say that, having collected all the accounts, the whole does not amount to £100. This is a new proof of the important service the nuns have rendered to the city. To establish a hospital as proposed would have cost £1,000.

Accept the profound respect, &c., L. VILLENEUVE.

The definition of the dogma of the "Immaculate Conception" has had at least the effect of bringing to light this important fact—that, in their antipathy to Mary, Protestants are ready to renounce every distinctive doctrine of Christianity, if by so doing they can impugn her purity, and virginal integrity. Their religion consists, more in hatred of the Mother, than in love towards the Son; and to gratify the former passion, they care not what dishonor they do to Him, whom they outwardly with their lips pretend to honor as the second person of the Trinity—as God blessed for ever and ever. We are not surprised at this: nay—we see therein but the accomplishment of the prophecy—"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed, and her seed.—Gen. iii., 15. The old feud between the serpent and the woman, between his seed, and her seed, has been perpetuated to our days; and modern Protestants, by their rancorous malignity against Mary, approve themselves the worthy children of their great spiritual father.

It is in this hatred of Mary—in this enmity betwixt the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman—rather than in any desire to vindicate the doctrine of the transmission of "Original Sin," that we find the explanation of the aversion which Protestants generally entertain towards the doctrine of the "Immaculate Conception." Like good dutiful children they seek to vindicate their father's honor, im-

pugned by the "new Roman dogma," which declares that never, no not for a moment, had he dominion over Mary—that the Virgin Mother of God was never, for one instant, the slave of the Devil. This limitation of their father's authority, Protestants cannot brook; and in their zeal to assert his honor, and his universal kingship, they show themselves in their true colors, as the enemies of the Son as well as of the Mother.

We speak not of infidels alone—of the openly avowed enemies of Christianity; but of those who style themselves orthodox Protestants; that is, Protestants who have not as yet protested against all mysteries. We speak of Protestants who still pride themselves on retaining all the fundamental doctrines of Christianity; of Protestants who daily recite the Nicene Creed, and who profess to believe that Christ was born of a "pure virgin," by the miraculous operation of the Holy Ghost. *Et Incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine.* And yet, from their hatred to Mary, we find these very Protestants, members of the Episcopal church which still recites the Nicene Creed, explicitly denying the purity of the Virgin Mother, and, by implication, the miraculous Conception of the Son—"qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto."

This may seem harsh; yet we will make good our assertion; and, from the argument which a leading journal of the Episcopal Protestant Church in the United States puts forward as "valid" against, and totally destructive of, the new Roman dogma, viz., the "Immaculate Conception"—we will show, that that denomination explicitly denies—not only the Blessed Virgin's immunity from Original Sin, but—her freedom from actual sin; that it, by implication, rejects also, the doctrines of the perpetual virginity of Mary, and of the miraculous conception of her Son by the Holy Ghost. To such lengths are even the most orthodox Protestants prepared to go, if, by so doing, they can find occasion for attacking the teaching of the Catholic Church on the glorious prerogatives of Mary.

We quote from the *N. Y. Church Journal* of the 8th inst.—in which that organ of the Protestant Episcopal sect in the United States concludes—from the fact that the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin—that it is impossible to believe in her Immaculate Conception. Noticing the letter of a correspondent on the same subject he says:—

"A correspondent calls attention to the apparent incompatibility between the new Roman dogma, and the keeping of the Festival of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The objection thus taken is sound, and at first view very striking. The two things are undoubtedly incompatible; and as Rome has adopted the one, she ought for consistency to discard the other. For when the Blessed Virgin came to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer her pair of turtle doves, it is expressly stated that she did so 'to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the Law of the Lord.' And 'that which is said in the Law of the Lord is this.—Levit. xii., 8.

"If she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean."

"Of course, therefore, this offering was an acknowledgment of sin, on the part of the offerer, and therefore totally destructive of the new Roman dogma."

Our Protestant cotemporary then notices, but only to scout as futile, the explanation given by all the Fathers, of the reasons for which Mary submitted to the ceremonial of the Levitical Law—though such submission was as unnecessary in her case, as were circumcision and baptism to her divine Son.† We therefore deduce from his argument that, according to the belief of his sect, which retains the Festival of the Purification on its calendar, the Blessed Virgin was bound to the observance of the Law of Purification; and that the offering by her of two turtle doves was an acknowledgment of sin or impurity, either moral or physical, on her part; and therefore that she was not a "pure virgin." But the argument of the *Church Journal* implies a good deal more. It, by implication, denies that the Son of Mary "was conceived by the Holy Ghost;" and asserts, either, that He was the son of Joseph, or the fruit of an adulterous intercourse. From their hatred of Mary, we should not be surprised to find Protestants adopting the latter hypothesis.

For, if Mary was bound to submit to the ceremony of Purification prescribed in the twelfth chapter of Leviticus, it must have been because she had contracted some impurity, either moral or physical—and that, by becoming a mother in the ordinary way, and under the circumstances described and provided for in the second verse.‡ Under no other circumstances could she have been obnoxious to the Law requiring Purification on the part of the mother, forty days after child birth; for the Law of Moses did not apply to the case of a virgin "found with child of the Holy Ghost."—*St. Matt. i., 18.* This is the argument of St. Bernard, whom Protestants are at present so fond of quoting; and as he so thoroughly deals with the arguments of the *Church Journal*, and so forcibly shows the monstrous, blasphemous consequences which inevitably flow from the premise that Mary was subject to the Levitical Law, we will quote his very words, which we commend to the attention of our Protestant cotemporary. "Who does not at once perceive"—says St. Bernard in his third discourse on the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, and when treating of the Levitical Law—xii., 2—"that the Mother of the Lord was altogether free from this precept?" And he immediately adds:—

* See Book of Common Prayer: collect for Christmas Day.
† "Magis propter consuetudinem legis, quam propter necessitatem"—says St. Augustin.—"Sic enim baptizari; ipse etiam dignatus est.—*Quaest. in Levitic.*"
‡ Mulier, si suscepto somine pepererit masculum, immunda erit.—*Levit. xii., 2.* But remark—only upon that hypothesis.

"Putas enim quia dicturus Moyses, mulierem quam peperisset filium immundam esse, non timuerit super Matre Domini blasphemiam crimen incurrere, et idcirco promiserit 'suscepto semine?' Alioquin, nisi pariteram prevedisset sine semine Virginem, quae necessitas erat de 'suscepto semine' fieri mentionem? Patet itaque quod lex ista Matrem Domini non includit, quae, non suscepto semine filium peperit.

Non ab altero viro, virum suscipiet; non humana lege concipiet hominem; sed intra viscera intacta et integra virum claudet; ita sane ut intrante et exeunte Domino, juxta alium prophetam," *Ezech., "porta orientalis clausa jugiter perseveret."*—*St. Bern. Sermo III. De Pur. B. Mariae.*

The argument of the Saint, which we need not translate, is this—If the Son of Mary was "conceived," not by man, but "by the Holy Ghost," then the Mother was not included in the Law—*Levit. xii., 2*; in her maternity there was neither sin nor impurity, moral or physical; and therefore she stood in no need of Purification. If, however, the Mother did indeed stand in need of that Purification—if she were indeed obnoxious to the Law of Moses—then must it have been because her son was not "conceived by the Holy Ghost," but was either the son of Joseph, or else the fruit of an adulterous intercourse with some other man. From this dilemma there is no possible escape for him, who blasphemously dares to insinuate that, because the Blessed Virgin, from great humility, voluntarily submitted herself to fulfil the precepts of the Mosaic Law of Purification—therefore she was impure, or in need of Purification. But the *Church Journal* does more than insinuate this: he positively asserts that the submission of Mary to the precepts of the Levitical Law is incompatible with her "Immaculate Conception," because by so submitting herself, she confessed her need of Purification; and, therefore, acknowledged her actual sin, and the impurity, either moral or physical, of that maternity, which Catholics look upon as "Immaculate," both morally and physically.

The "keeping of the Festival of the Purification," then, is not "undoubtedly incompatible" with "the new Roman dogma" of the "Immaculate Conception"—as the *Church Journal* most ignorantly, and most blasphemously, asserts; for if it were, it would be equally "incompatible" with the old Catholic dogmas, that Christ was born of a "pure Virgin," and that "He was conceived," not by man, but "by the Holy Ghost"—dogmas which the *Church Journal* most inconsistently professes to retain, together with the Festival of the Purification. The Catholic Church celebrates the "Festival of the Purification," because it is a historical fact, that, as Christ submitted to be circumcised and baptised, so also did His Mother submit to the Mosaic Law of Purification.—But the Church does not therefore believe that Christ needed baptism, or that Mary was impure, either morally or physically, or in any need of Purification; because—having conceived and brought forth a Son, without sin on her part, without impurity, or detriment to her "pure" virginity—that law did not by any means apply to the Blessed Virgin. Where, then, is the inconsistency betwixt the celebration of the "Festival of the Purification" and the belief in the "Immaculate Conception?" We pause for a reply. But perhaps our cotemporary will observe a prudent silence on this question, as he generally does when detected in some gross error or misrepresentation.

THE SECTS AT LOGGERSHEADS.—The *Montreal Transcript* gives an amusing account of a squabble betwixt the Non-Catholic sects in Toronto; in which a strong minded lady on the one hand, and Dr. Strachan, the Anglican bishop, on the other, figure conspicuously. The particulars, in so far as we can make them out, are as follows:—

A sum of money has been collected at Toronto for the establishment of an "Orphans' Home;" to be open to the orphans of all Non-Catholic denominations without distinction. But, as the principal subscribers to the fund, and the managers of the asylum were for the most part members of the Anglican denomination, it was understood that the spiritual supervision of the establishment would be entrusted to the ministers of that sect. To this, no objection was made until the opening of the building, when it was proposed that Dr. Strachan—who holds a government appointment in the Anglican church as bishop—should be requested to officiate as minister, and to conduct the religious exercises. This was violently opposed by a portion of the Lady Patronesses, who were members of other denominations, and who thought that the ministers of their respective sects had just as good a right to "lead in prayer" as had Dr. Strachan. These ladies, with the secretary at their head, vehemently resisted the pretensions of Dr. Strachan's supporters; as tending to ignore all Non-Catholic sects except the Anglican. On a division, the latter had the majority; but the secretary in announcing the fact to Dr. Strachan took care to let him know that there was a difference of opinion on the matter, and that his presence was only required by a majority of those who were present at the meeting. Under these circumstances, Dr. Strachan very prudently declined to officiate at the opening of the Protestant "Orphans' Home."

Another meeting of the subscribers was again called; and again an overwhelming majority decided in favor of Dr. Strachan's claims over those of any other Protestant minister; and a request was again sent to him, requesting him to officiate on the occasion. "What the upshot may be"—says the *Transcript*—"it is difficult to determine. In all probability, an opposition 'Orphans' Home'—and heart-burnings and jealousies among families hitherto living in unity, for years hence."

A numerous signed requisition has been presented to our excellent mayor—requesting him to allow himself to be put in nomination for the ensuing year. Of course he will be re-elected without opposition.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.—We are happy to have it in our power to state that the new and powerful organ, now in process of construction for the St. Patrick's Church, by Mr. Warren of Notre Dame Street, is advancing rapidly towards completion; and that, during the month of May, the whole will be finished and put up. By St. Patrick's Day, we have every reason to hope that a considerable portion of the work will be completed. The following are some of the details as to the size and capacity of this instrument: The Great Organ will consist of 775 pipes—the Choir Organ of 337—the Swell Organ of 462—the Pedal Organ of 113—making in all between sixteen, and seventeen hundred pipes. When completed, we may venture to say that the St. Patrick's organ will have no superior, and but few equals, in British North America.

We would take advantage of this occasion to call upon any who have not paid up the last instalment due on their subscription, to do so at once. This can be effected on Sundays after High Mass, when some of the Organ Committee are almost invariably in attendance at the St. Patrick's House for the purpose of receiving subscriptions.

The *Journal de Quebec* contains an obituary notice of the late lamented Rev. A. Parant, long Superior of that Institution, who departed this life on the 11th inst., aged 69 years.—*R.I.P.*

The *Quebec Colonist* gives a good account of the "Charitable Irish Soirée" which took place at Quebec on Friday last. A large sum has been realised for the use of the poor. The Bazaar, held on the same evening in aid of the funds of the Magdalen Asylum, realised the sum of £792. Our Quebec brethren, it must be confessed, manage to "go a-head" with their charities. More power to them.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—We read in the *Herald* that Chief Justice, Sir L. H. Lafontaine has placed the sum of £12 10s. in the hands of the Mayor as his contribution towards this fund. The *Toronto Colonist* mentions that the employees on the Great Western Railroad have already made up a sum of £600 for the same purpose, and expect to increase it to £1,000.

SAINTS AND THE SABBATH.—An inquisitive friend asks of us, if it be true that certain Sugar Works in the vicinity of Montreal—commonly reported to be the property, or at least under the control, of an eminent professor of religion, who takes a lively interest in the spiritual welfare of the Canadians, and whose bowels are moved at the sight of Papists laughing, talking, singing, or dancing of a Sunday afternoon—are almost invariably kept in operation on the Lord's Day? This question we cannot answer; as we know nothing whatever about the subject referred to.—However, this much we may say, that, as Saints generally never allow religion to interfere with the profits, and as the one great maxim of Protestant business morality, is, "make money"—the story to which our questioner alludes may very possibly be true, though we by no means guarantee it to be so. Our friend must remember that Protestant morality consists, not in not doing wrong, but, in not being detected. Finally we would recommend him to apply to the other *Witness* for further details.

CRIME IN TORONTO.—Serious crimes—murder, arson, and burglary—seem to be fearfully on the increase in Upper Canada; scarce a week passes but what the papers have to relate the perpetration of some revolting atrocity. At present, there is in jail at Toronto, and under sentence of death, a boy only 17 years of age, named Mathew Gleason, who was convicted at the late assizes, of murder, and sentenced, without any recommendation to mercy, to be hanged on the 28th of next month. Thanks to the influence of our Catholic Clergy, and the attachment of our French Canadian population to the faith of their fathers, in spite too of the corrupting and demoralising influences of Yankee immigration and French Canadian Missionary Societies, serious crime is of rare occurrence in Lower Canada.

Died,

At St. Anne's College, on the 11th inst., of inflammatory fever, Master James Connolly, aged 17, deeply regretted by all who knew him, and to whom his gentle, unassuming demeanor, and sincere piety had deeply endeared him.—*R.I.P.*

On the 3rd ult., at her son's residence, Athleague, County Roscommon, Ireland, Mary Burke, aged 75 years, relict of the late Mr. Daniel Carrick, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland.

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 third of which will be delivered by

W. F. SMYTH, Esq.,

ADVOCATE,

AT THE ST. PATRICK'S HALL, On Monday Evening, the 26th instant,

Subject:—"IRELAND'S GREAT MEN."

Admission—Gentlemen, 1s. 3d.; Ladies free.

Doors open at 7 o'clock, Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock precisely.

Montreal, February 22.

HOUSES TO LET

WEST OF THE WELLINGTON BRIDGE.

ONE large BRICK DWELLING HOUSE, with every convenience attached. It is furnished with blinds and double windows, gates, &c. Also, a good Well of spring water, a Tank in the cellar for rain water, a Garden, Stables, Sheds, &c. It is pleasantly situated near the new Victoria Bridge, now in the course of erection near the public works on the Canal.

Also, TWO good substantial new BRICK HOUSES, contiguous to the above.

Apply to the proprietor on the premises, FRANCIS MULLINS,

AND FOR SALE,

Several BUILDING LOTS in the neighborhood. Feb. 22, 1855.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

THE FRENCH DYNASTY—STRANGE RUMOR.—The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says:—"A report is in general circulation here, which, however extraordinary it may appear at the first blush, will probably turn out to be correct. Every one knows that the Count de Morny is the uterine brother of the Emperor. It is now said, and I may add, is believed in the best informed quarters, that the Emperor has resolved to declare the Count de Morny the legitimate son of King Louis of Holland and of Queen Hortense, and consequently, his own brother. It is added that his Majesty will at the same time raise the Count to the rank of Imperial Highness, and declare him heir to the Empire.

France has given another indication that she is again preparing for a naval campaign. In all the ports of North Germany and of the Baltic the French Consuls, or others acting under their directions, are endeavoring to engage on liberal terms for employment in France or on board of French ships of war all ship carpenters and others connected with ship-building operations. In this species of enlistment, however, they have not been very successful. The demand for shipping at their own homes secures for them higher wages than usual, which keeps back those who have families, while younger men are restrained by their own Governments, who are not at any time inclined to part with artificers of this description, and who at present particularly avail themselves of their power to withhold their permission from those who have not yet fulfilled the requisite amount of military service, and are therefore not at liberty to leave their country without such authority and sanction.

MARCH OF A FRENCH ARMY INTO AUSTRIA.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"I have repeatedly mentioned the fact of an expedition of a French army to the Austrian territory. It is now stated that such army (its number is variously estimated) will forthwith proceed to the succor of that Power against the Russians. Some fix the amount at 100,000, some at 160,000, and the Imperial Guard, with the exception of one regiment. The 5th of February is the date fixed for the commencement.

THE FRENCH IN THE CRIMEA.—Marseilles, Jan. 28.—From the number of soldiers embarked here for the East during the last three months, it is calculated that the French force before Sebastopol must amount to 100,000 men.

CONVERSION.—The Count de Stolberg (grandson of the celebrated historian of that name, who was converted to the Catholic faith in 1808) has followed the example of his grandfather, and returned to the bosom of the Catholic Church a few days since, at Kaltern, Tyrol.—*Univers*, Jan. 23.

The *Univers* of the 30th ult., states that Mr. Robert Belaney, formerly member of the University of Cambridge and Anglican minister, entered about four months since l'École des Carmes, to study theology and prepare for the priesthood.

ITALY.

The expedition from Piedmont will leave for the Crimea towards the end of February. General La Marmora, Minister of War, will command it in chief, the Mazzinian party are addressing revolutionary proclamations to the army.

These proclamations has unfortunately produced no effects whatever. On the contrary, they appear to have stimulated the soldiers to join the expedition, as the applications are most numerous; and even a considerable number of young men of the other States of Italy have arrived in Piedmont and have demanded to be allowed to proceed to the Crimea as volunteers.

A correspondent of the *Morning Post* a "Citizen of Turin" gives some important information respecting the actual condition of the Church in Piedmont, whose property the State is about to confiscate on the pretence that it is so great. The writer says:—"According to the account lately presented by the Sardinian Government to the Parliament, the whole yearly land-revenue of the religious orders in the State amounts only to £38,080. Can you think that this is two-thirds of the whole land-revenue of the Sardinian kingdom, as it was said in your leading article of the 18th inst.? This kingdom although comparatively small, is neither the principality of Monaco, nor the republic of San Marino.

"On the 11th ult., M. Dupine, Deputy of Savoy, observed to the Lower Chamber, that the extent of the landed property, belonging to the religious orders on the continent, is about 11,311 hectares; and that the whole of the continental territory of the State amounted to 5,121,311 hectares; consequently, only the 400th part of the whole territory is in the hands of the religious orders. About the same proportion may be safely affirmed to hold good in the Isle of Sardinia.

"Besides the landed revenue, they have from other sources a yearly revenue of about £33,230, and thus all together, £91,310; which, divided amongst more than 8,300 persons (about the number of all the religions, male and female), make an average of £10 13s. each per annum. Hence they are not over rich.

"If you would also like to know the yearly revenue that the secular Clergy draws from landed property and every other source, according to the statement presented by the government, it amounted to about £320,000. Add to this sum the before-said £91,310, and you have all the yearly revenue of the secular clergy and the religious orders in £411,310, which does not exceed the 70th part of only the yearly produce of the whole real property in the kingdom; and thus it cannot be said to interfere with the welfare of the State.

"In the same article, we are told that the religious orders in Piedmont enjoy many privileges incompatible with the national interest. But I challenge any one to produce any other privileges besides that of exemption from military services; which, however, has been considerably reduced, and which was granted even by the pagans to the ministers of their religion.

"You said also, that M. Rattazzi is right in the motives he adduced in behalf of his bill, for the suppression of convents and colleges of canons, because, he declares, that he does not interfere with their religious bonds. Well suppose that the English Government should propose a bill for a confiscation of the property of the clergy, under the plea that they do not interfere with their spiritual power or ecclesiastical offices, but only with their temporalities, which are an appendage of the State, would you approve such reasoning? I am sure you would not. Now this is exactly the case in Piedmont. If the bill pass, Rattazzi, supported by soldiery armed with the bayonet, will go and say to the religious families and colleges of canons—"I do not interfere with your vows and your psalmody; these are left under the jurisdiction of the Church; but away from your houses, your churches, and all your property; these are temporal things, over which the State has absolute dominion."

"I think that every sensible man must admit with me, that such conduct as this, whatever may the sophistry alleged in its defence, deserves only the name of an unjust spoliation."

ROME.—Count Robert di Pralormo, Representative of Piedmont to the Holy See, left Rome several weeks ago. It is said to be only a simple leave of absence, but the well-known opinion of this minister leads us to believe that this leave will end in his absolute dismissal, if the Piedmontese government is not stopped in the course it is pursuing. What Christian could, in fact, represent such a policy at the court of Rome, and make himself the organ and accomplice of such flagrant violations of the rights of the Church? What man of honor could appear to lend his hands to the spoliation which the Sardinian government proposes to its parliament? The Pope, in his Allocution of the 9th of December, spoke of the serious measures which were preparing in the counsels of the Holy See against the authors and accomplices of this sacrilegious usurpation. In the next Consistory these measures will probably be made public. When matters have come to this pass, our readers will not be surprised to hear that the Count di Pralormo is about to withdraw from a course of policy which is even more anti-Catholic than revolutionary.

The Roman Correspondent of the *Univers* writes that the Holy Father has appointed Cardinal Roberto Protector of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and at the works of charity connected therewith—an appointment which cannot fail to be very acceptable to the Society.

The Irish Bishops we hear, have asked and obtained, that St. Patrick might be honored as a Double by the whole Church; an honor granted without difficulty to any Saint, who holds the great title of an Apostle. Another Saint decorated with the same title and closely connected with England, St. Boniface, an Englishman, the Apostle of Germany has had a similar petition made for him by the Bishops of Mayence and the other Bishop of Germany and other places; with what success has not yet transpired.

SPAIN.

The situation of religion in Spain becomes every day more critical. The anti-Catholic papers abound with calumnies, and miserable repetitions of the infidel pamphlets which disgraced France in its worst days, but they bear an appearance of novelty in Spain. The spoliation of the Clergy is a most tempting proposal for the avarice of those in power; it offers to the treasury, now exhausted by corruption, a delusive resource which the unscrupulous partisans of Espartero will not be able to abstain from. It is announced that the project of confiscation is quite ready, and the official gazette will publish an outline of the project. But, to the honor of Spain be it said, the courageous zeal of the Catholic journalists is redoubled at the approach of danger; the Bishops have already remonstrated, and have prepared protestations as firm as they are moderate in tone, and the Holy See is about to display that calm resolution and invincible constancy which the Duke of Victory has reason to remember.—*L'Ami de la Religion*.

SWEDEN AND DENEMARK.

It was generally reported here some days ago that Sweden had cast in her lot with the Western Powers. This may have had its origin in the circumstance that the Swedish Government having resolved to assemble their whole army in military array towards the end of March. Persons who have the best means of information believe that Sweden does not contemplate any such movement, but that this step is taken merely for the purpose of evincing their continued adherence to the armed neutrality treaty entered into with Denmark last year; and it is not at all improbable, when the new Danish Ministry are permitted to attend either to matters of detail or to affairs of external policy, that a similar demonstration will be made throughout the various provinces of this kingdom. Neither country is inclined to go to war either for or against Russia, and they certainly will best consult the interests of their people by maintaining the position they occupied last year.

RUSSIA.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE BALTIC.—According to letters from Revel, of the 15th ult., it appears that the future army of the Baltic, the assembling of which was decreed on the 10th ult., by the Emperor, is to be much more considerable than was supposed when the ukase was issued. General Siewers, commander of the first corps of army of infantry, having

also under his orders, that of the Baltic, and whose headquarters are established at Mittau, will also have under his command an army of at least 100,000 men, destined to operate, in case of need, in the provinces of Lithuania, Courland, and along the coast of Finland, between Libau and Revel.

THE NEXT BALTIC CAMPAIGN.—It is well known that the Czar is making extraordinary exertions to render more efficient his Baltic fleet, by supplying the most recent improvements in gunnery, weight of metal, &c. Russian naval men say, that should the allies again appear in the Baltic they will risk a naval action. This information is supplied from reliable sources.—*Post Correspondent*.

AUSTRALIA.

Trade is very dull. Land jobbing has received a check. In spite of the attractions of the goldfields, wool has increased, 22,598,688lb., having been exported against 21,965,104lb. last year. Gold is said to have been found in Van Diemen's Land. The estimates of revenue and expenditure have been laid on the table of the Council—they have taken the public breath away. They exhibit the following totals:—

Expenditure	£4,801,292
Estimated revenue	3,015,683

Deficiency £1,785,609

And this for a country having 283,000 people at the highest estimate!

Clerical Converts to the Catholic Faith since the publication of last year's Battersby's Directory.

- Rev. George James Hill, Rector of Salford, near Bath.
- Rev. T. N. Morton, late Curate of Devizes.
- Rev. W. H. Scott, Brasenose College, Oxford, son of Sir John Scott, of Barr, Staffordshire.
- Rev. Mr. Hamilton, M.A. of Balliol College, Oxford, late Curate of Christ Church, Kent Road, London.
- Rev. T. A. Pope, Rector of St. Matthias, Stoke Newington.
- Rev. John George MacLeod, M.A., late Curate of St. Matthias, Stoke Newington.
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- Rev. Wm. Hayes Neligan, of County Court (1853).
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ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Upon the authority of a report of a committee of the House of Commons, published some time since, when the consumption of tea did not reach anything like its present amount, we are justified in stating that, if tea annually sold in this country, an amount varying from four to six millions of pounds is nothing more than a mixture of sloe and ash leaves. The manufacture has not diminished with the lapse of time, and we believe that it is pursued at present with as much secrecy and success as ever. The process of transmutation is carried on upon a large scale, and executed with much scientific skill. The leaves are first boiled, and then baked upon an iron plate, and when properly dried they are rubbed with the hand to produce the curl which belongs to the genuine tea. When died black by a strong decoction of logwood, the transformation is complete.—But the substitution is often provided by a far easier method, namely, by collecting the tea leaves which have already done their morning and evening duty, and submitting them to the above process of drying and curling until they are once again ready for use.—The police magistrates have frequently had to notice and to punish frauds of this description, and a large class of persons exist who make their livelihood by going round to the different large hotels, coffee houses, and clubs of the metropolis, and buying the refuse tea leaves for a trifle, which they then prepare according to the prescribed manner, and sell to the dishonest tea dealers, a class with which London actually swarms, under various titles and denominations resonant of the genuine tea districts. The tradesmen buy this refuse for a few pence per pound, and mix it largely with the cheaper teas which they sell. The worst of it is, that no test can discover this adulteration, or detect the infamous cheat, excepting the want of flavor and strength; and as the poorer classes are generally the persons imposed upon, they cannot be expected to exercise much discrimination in the matter. The dishonesty of adulterating tea is not, however, confined to this country: It often undergoes a strange process of transmutation before it reaches the hands of the English dealer. The Chinese are not at all behind us in practices of dishonesty, and the genuine and fraudulent tea-trades flourish in China with almost equal vigor. The people of that country have long enjoyed an unenviable pre-eminence for their success in ingenious deceptions. Recent travellers have confirmed the well known testimony of Sir Francis Davis, in reference to the extensive exportation of adulterated teas by the natives. He speaks of a regular manufactory for the production of spurious green teas, which

with the most daring effrontery, has been erected exactly opposite the European factories at Canton, on the other side of the river. He naturally found some difficulty in procuring admission within its precincts, but his object was at length effected through the influence of a Hong Kong merchant, and the scene is thus described:—"In the first place, large quantities of black tea which had been damaged by the floods of the previous autumn, were seen drying in baskets placed over ho. pans of charcoal. The dried leaves were then transferred, in portions of a few pounds each, to a number of cast iron pans, which are placed over furnaces. They were next stirred rapidly round with the hand by a workman, who had previously added a small quantity of turmeric, which imparted a yellowish tinge to the mixture. In order to convert this into a green hue, the color so much desired, some lumps of Prussian blue and gypsum, were added in such proportions as reduced the dark blue to a light shade, of which a small teaspoonful was added to the yellowish leaves. These were then stirred before the fire until the tea had taken the 'fine bloom' color of hyson, with very much the same scent. The transformed leaves were then picked, sifted chopped small, and supplied to the merchants as excellent young hyson."—Bread, as an object of extensive adulteration, has long acquired an unhappy notoriety. The manufacture of the adulterating material forms in itself an article of trade of no inconsiderable amount, and it is retailed to the bakers under the slang title of stuff, or whites. It is manufactured with much chemical ingenuity, and is granulated to make it resemble salt, with which it is largely mixed, to escape detection by the proper authorities. There is, of course, a heavy penalty, against its sale and use, but it is difficult to penetrate to the recesses where it is employed, or to detect it under the ingenuities by which it is concealed. All praise to the custom-house regulations of England, this is the happy spot where the adulteration of wine has attained the acme of perfection. When port is required to be manufactured, two separate processes are deliberately and systematically gone through; first, the wine itself is made, and then the bottles are prepared into which the liquor is to be transferred. When the mixture itself is deficient in the fragrant peculiar to the grape, a bouquet is contributed by means of sweet scented herbs, by orris-root, elder flowers, or laurel water. A vinous odor is sometimes imparted by small quantities of the liquid known as "the oil of wine." The pleasant juice of the sloe imparts a port-like roughness to the compound, and saw-dust or oak bark effect the same purpose. A fruity taste is given by a tincture of raisins, and the rich ruby color has probably once flowed in the vessels of the sandalwood tree. But the bottles have to be crusted. This is done by tincture of catechu and sulphate of lime. The corks are steeped in a decoction of Brazil wood. And the very casks are prepared with a layer of cream of tartar, which is formed at the bottom in glittering crystals. Thus, a pipe of port which was young in the morning is made to fall into extreme old age in the course of the afternoon. These are no exaggerations, and the following has been given as the chemical analysis of a bottle of cheap port wine, though for obvious reasons we suppress the quantities: Spirits of wine, cider, sugar, alum, tartaric acid, and a decoction of logwood. In most instances, when the wine is not manufactured in this country, the consumer is victimised by a three-fold adulteration. The exporter adulterates, the importer adulterates, and, finally, the retail-dealer adulterates.—*News of the World*.

PERTH.—In our contemporary, the *Constitutional*, of the 24th Jan. we find that the Catholic pastor of Perth has in his last lecture given a home thrust to the Bible Society of the Fair City. The Biblical speech which the Solicitor General delivered, on resigning the presidency of the Society, and for which he was so well taken to ask by Mr. McCorry, was rewarded by a vote of thanks from the officials. In communicating to the secretary his acknowledgements for "the very gratifying resolution of the Perthshire Bible Society's committee," Mr. Craufurd, now Lord Ardmillan, *very innocently*, we must say, expresses his surprise, in a long letter, that his speech should have received such severe chastisement at the hands of the Catholic priest. This really is amusing. Protestant lawyers as well as Protestant parsons think that they should ever be allowed to say what they please against the ancient church, and none of her defenders should parry the assault! Let this be as it may, it is not very likely, after the check which he has received, that Mr. Craufurd will be in a hurry to deliver himself of another speech about the Protestant "circulation of the Word—the pure Word, the whole Word of God." We copy the following from the *Perthshire Constitutional*:—

"We understand that the letter which appeared in our last issue, from the Solicitor General (now Lord Ardmillan) having reference to the speech which he delivered at a meeting of the Bible Society, was reviewed by the Rev. J. S. McCorry during the course of his lecture on Sunday evening. The rev. gentleman said, that as Lord Ardmillan had stated, in very courteous terms, that he had 'neither leisure nor inclination to engage in controversy,' he hoped that the office-bearers of the Society would take upon themselves the responsibility of trying to prove that they were circulating the pure and the whole Word of God."

Now, this is a very respectful invitation; and if the Bible Society should fight shy of it, no doubt it will seem that there is a screw loose in their organisation!—*Glasgow Free Press*.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. McGee left New York for Ireland on the 7th inst, in the steamer Pacific.

THE GRAND KNOW-NOTHING COUNCIL.—This body, which held a meeting on Tuesday in the Methodist church, in North Russell street, Boston, continued its session until two o'clock yesterday morning, and, judging from the condition in which they left the church, and adjoining premises, they had a stormy time, and a shower of peanuts, plugs of tobacco, and filthy water fell. The interior of the church was left in an extremely filthy condition, as were also the entrance to residences immediately adjacent. We very much doubt whether a caucus chamber or a town-hall in the most rural districts ever presented so disgusting a sight as did the place where the nocturnal deliberations of this Grand Know-nothing Council was held. We understand that considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by persons connected with the Society, that the house of God should be desecrated in being turned into a caucus chamber or lodging house.—*Boston Chronicle*.

PRETTY GOOD.—The Usurine Convent, question is coming up in a new form. The claimants for indemnity for the destruction of property naturally do not look with much hope to the present Legislature; but the other side has taken courage, and a petition has been presented for compensation for fine and imprisonment suffered on account of participation in the burning of the Convent. We shall next hear of a man claiming a pension for having knocked down an Irishman.—Providence Journal.

PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Rev. W. W. Andrews, in bidding adieu to Congregationalism, thus describes the state of orthodoxy in that body:—"We have not been able to defend ourselves from the deadliest heresies. The mysteries of the Trinity and the Incarnation—those foundations of the Christian Faith, without which no redemption were possible—have been rejected in the heart of the New England Churches. And though there was life enough to cast out this Apostasy, as soon as the faithful men of a generation now almost past were able to drag it out of its disguises to the light, we know that there is now again uncertainty, doubt and irresolutions, in quarters not a few, as to these vitals of Christianity. The old foundations are felt to be breaking up. Nothing is looked on as decided by the concurrent testimony of the Universal Church, but all must be cast into the crucible anew. Few can say, I believe. Opinions, fluctuating as the waves, are substituted for faith, and no one can tell how far the ship loosed from her ancient moorings, will drift away; or before what storms and ocean currents she may be driven, helpless. Who can look upon her decaying faith, her rampant heresies, her disorganizing doctrines and movements which are nourished in her bosom, the increasing relaxation of principle, dissoluteness of morals, and the falling off of large masses of the people from Christian ordinances altogether, without feeling that Puritanism has failed to fulfil its promise, and that we, with the whole Church, must take up the confession, 'We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.'"—American paper.

DECLINE OF THE BAPTIST SECT.—We (Boston Pilot) find in a very respectable Baptist exchange the following commentation, over the symptoms of decline in that sect. Other callings than the ministry are absorbing the energies of able men among us, who have done good service as pastors. [That is true. They are getting into the legislature by dozens. Who can blame them? They look upon preaching as a trade, which they can at any time exchange for a more lucrative one.] In nearly all our colleges, comparatively few young men are preparing themselves to preach the Gospel. He next cites attention to the fact that many ministers are going into politics, some fifty or more, he says, now being members of the Massachusetts Legislature.

A CLERGYMAN FLOGGED.—Mr. Fuller, pastor of a "colored" church at Cleveland, was arrested on Saturday week, on a charge preferred by some of his congregation, of having created a disturbance. He gave bail. He has had several of his flock arrested on a charge of riot. The Plain Dealer says that about a month ago, one of his "female" parishioners, feeling herself aggrieved by the Rev. gentleman, seized him by the collar as he was leaving church, and cowhided him to his heart's content.

FOREIGN SOLDIERS.—The question has been asked us—"What would Governor Gardiner have done with the foreign companies that have been President or Commander-in-chief when Gen. Lafayette and his French troops helped us to fight the battles of the Revolution."—Bath Mirror.

The Detroit Advertiser says, that no less than 1482 fugitive slaves, have crossed the river at Detroit, since May last.

SUFFERINGS OF PASSENGERS ON THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.—On the Illinois Central, affairs are very bad. A train is frozen up near Decatur, and the wretched passengers suffer not only from lack of fuel but from want of food; and shocking to relate were compelled by the bitter necessity of their condition to eat dogs to keep from starving. This fact is reliably stated in the Bloomington and Springfield papers, and is further confirmed by the testimony of individuals in Bloomington. Indeed, it was a subject of conversation in that city. We can imagine how deplorable must be the situation of persons, and to what extremities they are reduced, when they have no other alternative than to eat dog flesh to drive off the demon of starvation.

As Rufus Choate was cross-questioning a witness the other day in one of our courts, he asked him "what profession he followed for a livelihood? The witness replied, "I am a candle of the Lord—a minister of the gospel." "Of what denomination?" asked the counsellor. "A Baptist," replied the witness. "Then," said Mr. Choate, "you are a dipty but I trust not a wicked candle."—Courier. The Hon. Mr. Choate has probably forsaken Blackstone and taken to old "Joe Miller," in the earliest of whose works the above joke has a prominent place.

ATTEMPTED REVIVAL OF THE NEW ENGLAND "BLUE-LAWS."—Judging by the following article from the Boston Atlas, it would appear as if our friends in Massachusetts had some intention of reverting to the principles of their Puritan ancestors, and converting their republic into a theocracy, in which the vox populi—that is, the Know-nothing majority—shall be practically recognised and enforced as the infallible vox Dei, against which the minority of Know-some things shall have no right of appeal. Some of our own well-meaning philanthropists will do well to perpend our Boston contemporary's protest against such attempts to confuse the duties and attributes of the legislator, with those of the theologian and moralist.—Montreal Herald.

"Every body will remember the sagacious Mr. J. Cade, who undertook to dress the Common-wealth of England and turn it and put a new nap upon it." "There shall be," said Mr. Cade, "7 half-penny leaves sold for a penny; the three hopped pot shall have ten hoops; all the realm shall be in common, and in Cheapside shall my palfrey go to grass. There shall be no money; all eat and drink on my score and I will apparel them all in my livery, that they may agree like brothers, and worship me their lord." The Massachusetts Legislature can boast of certain members, who ought to be, if they are not, legitimate descendants of the celebrated Jack, for they have like intense faith in impossibilities and a perfect confidence in the omnipotence of absurd decrees. They think it only necessary to enact whatever crude notions come into their heads; they believe that there is

no evil under the sun that legislation cannot reach, and their cool way of confounding the distinctive duties and powers of the Federal Congress and the General Court is beyond all praise. Our readers will recollect the large variety of propositions with which we have been favored during the last week—propositions for amending the naturalization laws, for co-operating with Congress in the repeal of the coal duties, for starting the State in the business of distilling new rum from national molasses, for interfering in the private business of private school keeping, for a commission to report how often the nuns go to vespers, stay away from matins, fall in love with their confessors, and are throttled by lady superiors, cruel as Lucrezia Borgia, and implacable as Norma. Variety is the spice of life, but this is spicing legislative life too highly altogether.

"There are two elements at work in the present general Court, either of which would be sufficient to account for its vagaries—the element of unlimited power, which predisposes to tyranny, and that of ignorance, which naturally leads members to suppose that all the ills of society can be cured by a prescription, beginning 'Be it enacted, &c.' In the first place, we notice, with pain, an inclination to trample upon private right, and to disregard that personal freedom which the Constitution gives to every man resident within our borders. We tell gentlemen of the legislature plainly, that it will not do to hamper and harass, to mortify and exasperate any class of men in this community, by petty, meddlesome enactments, conceived in a narrow spirit and carried out with bigoted insolence. Christianity forbids it, and so does the constitution, and so does common sense. Folly is no better for being enacted, and a silly law is the silliest thing in the world—a succession of silly laws the most fatal of all political evils. Men feel naturally indignant when their private affairs are impudently interfered with by blundering legislators—when their religion is covertly or openly attacked—when the management of their children is taken from them—when they are themselves selected as special objects of legislative care and guardianship. The inexpressibly weak and wicked order respecting private schools, to which we have often alluded—an order aimed at the Catholic private schools—was the reductio ad absurdum of the present fashionable style of government. We assert the right of Catholics to educate their children as they please, and to put into the hands of their progeny just such books and primers, histories and grammars as they may select. We deny the right of the Legislature to interfere in this affair at all, for it might just as well prescribe the square inches in the pinafore, or the lacteal and saccharine proportions of the morning pap. We are living, not in Prussia, not in Austria, but in republican Massachusetts. It will be republican Massachusetts no longer if, such laws, unworthy of autocrats or even of the dark ages, are to be enacted or enforced. If we are guilty of such tyranny ever mind and conscience, let us be frightened by no such squeamish considerations, but once more banish the Baptists, and flog the Quakers at the cart-tail."

THE CURIOUS DISCOVERIES OF SCIENCE.—Ether will supply any "bouquet" you please to your wine, and any flavor you like your jelly; and there is a metal so potent that it will reduce your rival at a ball to a Pariah not more presentable than a black in an American drawing-room. Almond-soap is indebted occasionally to coal-tar for its agreeable qualities, and occasionally to less delightful and less mentionable substances. Hippuric acid and British cigars are allies of a very old date. Ham and pryligneous acid have long since passed into equivalent notions. Vinegar and potato-ether are the godfathers of all the taste which lives in jargonelle pears; valerian and potato ether are the sponsors of the Ribston pippin; a similar compound stands for the representative of quince, another for pine-apple, another for melon; a similar compound transmutes British brandy into the choicest Cognac; another will turn any alcoholic base into whisky. He would be a clever cook who should construct an oyster-patty without an oyster, but the chymist will do it for you at five minute's notice. The tricks of trade are notorious, but the tricks of philosophy mount higher, and descend deeper.—The modern Thales, is not content with buying up the wine presses. He can turn any Burdeau into Chateau Lafite, and any gooseberry into Champagne. A single grain of the compound of the metal "tellurium" administered to a healthy man, will make his neighborhood perfectly intolerable for weeks, and sometimes even for months, after he has swallowed it; and there are compounds of arsenic, not one or two alone, which can be used as the material of the "fusée asphyxienne," and which have the double property of taking fire as soon as they are exposed to the air, and of destroying all the animal life within the range of their influence.—News of the World.

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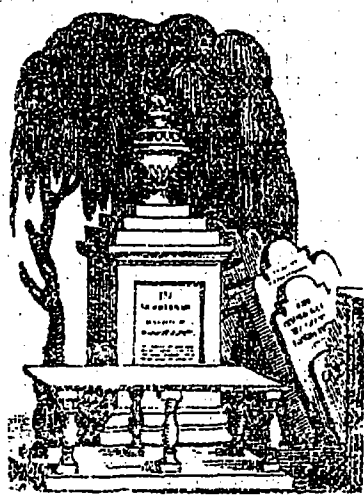
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