

Continent to which Mr Disraeli refers. On the contrary, the battle which the Catholics are fighting in Germany and in Switzerland has for its avowed and sole object the maintenance of the *status quo ante*, and if Mr Disraeli were to take any such part in the struggle as his "stand on the Reformation" would seem to prognosticate, he would be guilty of most distinct "usurpation," and of encroachment on the rights of conscience, and on that civil equality, of which he declared himself last week the champion. He probably, however, did not mean much more than this—that he and his party were the real Protestants, and ought to be supported by Scotchmen.

FRANCE.

The Sultan has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Osmanie upon the Duc de Broglie, and the same decoration set in brilliants upon Marshal MacMahon.

Several provincial deputations have taken on themselves to inform Marshal MacMahon that they cannot answer for the maintenance of order if the Monarchy is proclaimed. The Marshal politely informed them that he had no fear on this head, and would answer for it himself, in the name of his colleagues and the army.

All hopes are concentrated at present in Marshal MacMahon, and there is no exaggeration in saying that he holds the destiny of the nation in his hands, and that because, almost alone among all the men who held high position and influence, he remained faithful to his trust, and bore his unsought honors with modesty and energy. "*C'est un des plus beaux caracteres des temps modernes*" has been said, thought, and written almost every day within the last week, but all this incense and just praise never reach or affect the illustrious soldier, who, like his glorious ancestors, is ready for every sacrifice to save his adopted country.

"*Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret*," says the poet, which, when rendered into the Queen's English, doth signify that although you subdue Communists by bullet and bayonet they will not the less continue to plot and conspire. A pretty little plot has just been unravelled in the provinces of the Saone and Loire. The radicals had determined to secure the establishment of a republic after their own ideal by seizing the wives, children, and parents of the Conservative members of the Assembly, and by holding them as hostages. What the fate of these hostages would have been if the detestable plot had succeeded, our reminiscences of La Roquette sufficiently indicate: but the agents of the Government were too early on the alert for the Reds. Madame La Marquise de MacMahon was, above all, to be seized and used as a means of bringing her gallant husband to terms. Documents have been secured which leave no doubt of the culpability of certain Deputies of the Left, and we sincerely trust that all concerned will be made to rue their evil design. As it is the discovery of this little plot has given additional ill-odour to expiring Radicalism.

In the French Assembly the proposition of Marshal MacMahon for the prolongation of his powers for the term of seven years was ratified by 378 votes against 310. This turn in French affairs is announced to have given serious umbrage to the German Government, who are also manufacturing as against France a new grievance, in a pastoral lately issued by the Bishop of Nancy, part of whose diocese is in the ceded provinces.

Fifty bishops have promised to be present at the laying of the first stone of the Church of the Sacred Heart at Montmartre.

Père Hyacinthe becomes Hyacinthe Père.—Mme. Loyson has presented the "happy father" with a son. Hélas! le fils est l'enfant de père Hyacinthe, oui, d'Hyacinthe per du!

Bonapartist Activity.—Three hundred thousand photographs of the Prince Imperial have just been distributed through the workshops of Paris. It does not appear that the authorities made the least objection to the distribution of those portraits. Under the present state of things the Republic lets people do pretty well as they please.

A new Idea.—We are going shortly to borrow from Belgium one of her best institutions. It is called the *Œuvre du Carton Catholique*. The *modus operandi* is to buy up the works of Voltaire and Volney, the "philosophers" of the eighteenth century, Dupuis, Rousseau, and the rest, and work them up into excellent pasteboard, which is sold, and benefits the Peter's Pence.

ITALY.

The relations between France and Italy are suspiciously cordial, if not precarious, owing to the present uncertainty of the future policy of France. Disquieted by a guilty conscience, the Italians cannot console themselves with the fact reiterated, that France will not blindly rush into "a war of revenge."

No need to say how much excitement the Pope's autograph correspondence with the Emperor William caused here. Who can say what is coming next?

The Roman Liberal prints are very indignant at the gloomy views of the 'Times' correspondent, regarding united Italy.

Reuter made the Holy Father utter an Allocution objurgating the Religious Orders and telling them that their present afflictions were a judgment on them for their dereliction of monastic strictness and non-observance of their religious rule. "The suppression of religious corporations was a visitation of Providence upon those bodies for failing to observe their fundamental rules of discipline, and for having allowed corrupt manners to creep in among them." The whole story is "an impudent fabrication." The Pope never uttered those words, or anything like them.

Rome presents, just now, to the Catholic visitor the appearance of a city which has undergone a military occupation. The prevailing tone of thought among the present railway servants must be decidedly anti-clerical, if the words *Morte ai preti*—Death to the priests—scrawled on the buffed windows of the ante-room for the custom-house servants may be taken as the evidence.

The topic of all the newspapers is France. The anxiety to know the issue of the present efforts of the monarchical party is intense. The tone of the Italian papers continues to be most irritating and provoking towards the nation to which Italians are so much beholden. Individual Frenchmen have been insulted in public places, while the

Prussians and Germans of all kinds are flattered and made much of. The ill-feeling now displayed towards France seems to be purposely excited and fanned by malicious persons who are desirous of a rupture with the French, and of a war if possible.

"The Latest Sacrilege."—The announcement that the sacrilegious Piedmontese have seized the Church of San Pietro di Montorio has deeply pained the heart of Catholic Ireland, and the soldiers of the Piedmontese Robber have occupied the monastery, and ere long the graves of Erin's royal exiles will be dug up, and their ashes scattered to the four winds of heaven. It may be doubted if in the wide world's expanse there was a spot more sacred in the eyes of Irishmen than this, where—

Two princes of the line of Conn
Sleep in their cells of clay beside
O'Donnell Roe!
Three royal youths, alas! all gone
Who lived for Erin's weal, but died
For Erin's woe!
Ah! could the men of Ireland read
The names these noteless burial stones
Display to view,
Their wounded hearts afeesh would bleed,
Their fears gush forth again, their groans
Resound anew

But not even the Gaelic bard, whose matchless elegy Mangan has given to us in English garb, imagined, in the deepest depth of his distress, that upon the men of Ireland would fall the still more cruel sorrow that is theirs to-day. That 'the men of Ireland' should endure all this, and no Irish sword be there to guard Pontiff, Church, or Tomb, is an anguish and a humiliation such as the Tyrcannel minstrel never contemplated for his countrymen.

Mgr. Liverani, who in 1860 left Rome, being then a canon of Sta Maria Maggiore, and wrote in Tuscany a pamphlet against the Pope and the Holy See, and has since consorted with ultra-liberals, has retracted, asked pardon of the Holy Father, and is now in retreat with the Passionist Fathers in Rome. *Deo Gratias*.

At Turin the monument erected to the memory of Count Cavour was unveiled. At the banquet given in the evening by the municipality to 500 guests, the British Minister, Sir Augustus Paget, "assured the Italians of the sympathy of England with the Italian cause, and its high admiration of the great statesman who insured its success." Sir Augustus went on (says a telegram to the 'Times') "with a touching allusion to his predecessor, Sir James Hudson, the old friend of Cavour, who had always admired, loved, and supported him throughout his glorious career." The Catholic Press has taken Sir Augustus Paget sharply to task.

A New Comet.—A new comet has been visible for several nights by aid of the powerful telescope at the Roman Observatory. It is described as most brilliant, with a tail of extraordinary splendour.

PRUSSIA.

The article, the first portion of which we publish this week,— "The persecution in Prussia explained,"—makes the reasons for the German persecution no longer difficult.

A correspondent of the 'Universe' suggests that an attempt will be made to get rid of the Catholic members of the Landtag, should their opposition annoy the Government, by imposing an oath of fidelity to the ecclesiastical laws on all the members of the House.

On the eve of the Prussian elections, and in the presence of the strength shown by the Catholic party, Prince Bismarck found it necessary to repudiate sentiments attributed to him by the correspondent of the 'New York World' in a report on an alleged interview. The correspondent asserted that Prince Bismarck, in the course of the conversation, avowed that he intended to crush Rome in order to crush Christianity. The Chancellor ingeniously replies that the phrase imputed to him is enough of its kind to bear the source and purport of the invention. "In America," he says, "people will, I trust, say to themselves that if a man were impious enough to entertain such thoughts he would hardly be stupid enough to avow them." Bismarck, however, does not attempt to deny that his chief strength is in the support of the anti-Christian faction, who detest all religion. If he is not "impious," he serves the cause of the impious.

As to the elections for the Landtag. From the comparatively moderate articles of the sober 'Borsen Courier' of Berlin, we take a paragraph which will sufficiently depict the situation as viewed by the more thoughtful portion of the Liberal coalition. "The Ultramontane party can look back upon its success with the most complete satisfaction. It has conquered along the whole line. It will return to the Parliamentary arena ninety strong, and from its zeal in the sessions of the Landtag, it will be in a position to exercise a most powerful moral influence upon the undecided section among the deputies." In fact, if the Prussian Catholics are not absolutely ninety strong, they are certainly eighty-five, and by the co-operation of a handful of Christian Protestants, like the venerable President Von Geisach, their party may not improbably command a total of ninety-five German votes. The Centre Party, as the allied party of the Catholic and Christian Conservatives is styled in Parliamentary phraseology, entered the last Landtag in the spring of 1870 in possession of no more than fifty-two votes.

This success too is obtained in the face of the fact that although an almost universal suffrage is nominally the rule, the wealthier classes obtain such a factitious preponderance that half-a-dozen Jew usurers may have more weight than hundreds of Catholic farmers and artisans.

SWITZERLAND.

The protest lodged by the "Ultramontanes" against the measures of the Berne Government, respecting the Catholic priests in the Jura, has been rejected by the Swiss Federal Council.

From the Catholic journal of Lugano we have the news, that in Swiss Catholic Jura a salutary reaction is beginning against the Radical persecuting Swiss Government. At some recent elections in the district of Delemont, the Conservative candidates obtained 1,500 votes, against 400 votes obtained by the Radical candidates.

SPAIN.

The steamer "Vilu de Bayonne" has landed at Oudarroa 4,000 Remington rifles, and 1,000,000 cartridges for the Carlists.