

RECORD OF GERMAN PERSECUTIONS, &c.

THE "ARNIM" AFFAIR.
(Catholic Standard.)

THE "Arnim" affair has not failed to arouse attention in all the papers. As they have begun to throw light on Prussian policy with regard to the Council, it may not be uninteresting to throw light upon the further policy of Prussia towards Rome, and on the part which fell to Count Arnim. We give, therefore, an extract from the Vienna correspondent of the 'Kölnische Zeitung':—

"It is universally known, that after 1866, and yet more before, and during the last war, the idea was carefully spread that the powerful influence of the Berlin Cabinet would be employed in favor of Catholicity. They felt at Berlin that nothing would more surely win the South German Catholics to the Prussian side than the prospect of Prussian support of the Pope. But this feeling would have to be kept up by facts, or something that looked like a fact. At Berlin it was determined to cultivate the friendship of Italy, to make sure of it for the future. But how to do this without awakening the suspicion of the other side? Simply by causing the diplomats of Rome and Florence to speak a different language. Count Arnim was charged to assure the Holy Father of the profound esteem of the Berlin Government, and, without binding promises, to give him to understand that the sympathies of Berlin were on his side. This appearance of sympathy was carried on beyond the time of the occupation of Rome, so that the Catholic world looked on the raising of the Prussian King to the Empire of Germany as something whereon to build their hopes. Count Arnim played his part with great skill and success, and it shows very little gratitude to let him fall now, for such very obvious reasons. On the 19th of August of the year of the war, Visconti-Venosta declared resolutely, 'Prussia in no way opposes the plans of Italy.' On the 3rd of September the Prussian Minister, Count Brasier de St. Simon, went to Visconti-Venosta, and represented to him that it was for the interest of Germany that Italy should be powerful and consolidated. The Berlin Cabinet would feel the liveliest satisfaction in the happy solution of the Roman question in a sense favorable to Italy, and the Florentine Government would do well not to lose its opportunity. When Visconti-Venosta observed that the other Cabinets must be consulted before a determination could be made, Brasier de St. Simon replied, that they had the consent of Prussia, a gain not to be despised; that the consent of Prussia, when once the thing was understood, would not be wanting; Austria would offer just as little opposition to the proposed step; about Spain they need not trouble themselves; there remained only France who would for many years be too weak to meddle in foreign affairs.

"Four days before the attack on Rome, Von Arnim went to General Cadorna, and offered him his personal interposition and assistance. Herr Von Arnim, the diplomatic representative of Prussia with the Holy See, hastened to the Quirinal after the occupation of Rome, to offer homage to Prince Humbert. In the Corso, the Prussian Minister was the only one seen at the side of Prince Humbert, witnessing the public demonstration against the sovereign to whom he was accredited, and taking part in it by throwing bouquets. All this shows plainly enough that the Prussian Government was in earnest with its friendship, only as regarded Italy, and that it never thought of supporting the Holy Father against the Piedmontese. Yet the Berlin Government had played its cards so well, that the German Catholics, or at least a portion of them, were deceived as to its intentions. The Southern Germans reconciled themselves, in regard to the Roman question, to the thoughts of a German Emperor of the Protestant persuasion. The Catholic, or, as it is called, the Ultramontane press, suddenly ceased fire. It seemed as though, in obedience to a higher word of command, it had changed its tactics, and we ourselves have seen official documents which showed that the Court of Rome, although far from intending to throw itself blindly into the arms of Prussia, appeared, nevertheless, uncertain for a moment what to do or to leave undone."

CHURCH BILL.

This perfidy towards the Catholic Church is now illustrated by the new Bill in the Prussian Landtag, in supplement to the May Laws, for the administration of vacant Catholic Bishoprics. The Bill has been sent into Committee on the first reading, and now the Committee has finished its work. On the 4th of this month the Bill came on for second reading, and passed on the 6th with hardly any alteration. The gross injustice of the whole plan culminates in Clause 5, according to which, "All Church officials, who at the direction of any Bishop, unrecognised by the State, or deposed by the State; or at the direction of any person acting for such Bishop, in opposition to the law, shall carry out any Ecclesiastical functions, will be fined one hundred thalers, or undergo a year's imprisonment. And if in the fulfilment of such a commission, they shall perform any episcopal duties, they will be imprisoned from six months to two years." According to this clause the whole body of priests must soon either go to prison or be driven out of the country. It supposes also the deposition of Bishops by the Prussian "Tribunal for Ecclesiastical Affairs." All priests, then, who continue to obey their Bishops, are to go to prison, and the faithful are to be left without pastors, as soon as this new law shall be carried out.

The provisions of the previous clauses, for filling vacant Sees, read like a mockery of the Cathedral chapters, who are called on to create a schism by the election of a new State Bishop. All of them, even such as were considered most favorable to Government, have repudiated the idea of such a thing. But for this refusal on their parts the State has provided a remedy. After ten days' delay the Church property is to be seized, and administered by the State; which will likewise take the administration of all the Church property of the Diocese, including the parishes, vicariates, chaplaincies, and Church foundations, and all property dedicated to Ecclesiastical purposes. This is one way in which the State means to profit by the obstinacy of Catholic Bishops and priests; but it has another way also. It has some apostate priests in store, and hopes that the number may yet increase, although the prospect does not seem very hopeful. Now, these apostates are to have rich benefices; and so it is decreed that in

case a vacant parish remain unfilled, the right of filling it passes to the congregation. It will be sufficient if ten men of the congregation, who are of age, and who are of sufficient dignity, demand from the Landrath that the parish should be filled. Whoever of these ten men is chosen by a majority becomes parish priest. It will evidently be easy to find ten men who have quarrelled with the Church. Prussia will plainly not rest until the Church is entirely annihilated. How far this strife is to go on before God puts a check upon it, the future must know.

This Bill has, of course, been strongly opposed by the Centre Fraction; but they are powerless before a tyrannical majority. Reichensperger, Windthorst, Dr. Lieber, and Von Mallinckrodt, pointed out repeatedly how objectionable these clauses were. With regard to the clause on the seizure of Church property, Windthorst remarked:—"Since this bill has come forward, a good deal of my time has been occupied with the question—Can one possibly bequeath one's property to any pious purposes without its falling into the hands of this Moloch State and its commissaries? Those who lived before us thought of no precautions. It is a flagrant breach of trust to give their bequests into strange hands, to yield up at discretion to a secular commissioner things that are most delicate and sacred. . . . I see here the first step towards a confiscation of Church property, or the first step towards putting it into the hands of those who are no longer Catholics."

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

An American inventor, Mr John W. Keeley, asserts that he has discovered a new motive power which is destined to supersede steam. This discovery is a method whereby water is transformed by a mechanical process to vapor, without the application of heat, and yet transformation results in the production of a motor far more powerful than steam. This discovery is the sequel of 25 years' of experiment on the part of its inventor. Before he was 20 years old Mr Keeley was at work on a model water-wheel, and at that time the idea occurred to him that an engine might be constructed which should be driven partly by water and partly by atmospheric pressure, which should be as powerful as a steam engine and infinitely less expensive. After many experiments he succeeded in making an engine whose motive power was compressed air on one side, and a vacuum on the other, while water was the agent for holding the vacuum in suspension. This was in his opinion a vast improvement on the steam engine; but the inventor saw by the working of his model where he could better it by simplifying it. This he proceeded to do, and he now has a motor which is merely a cold vapor produced from water by mechanical means, yet so powerful that it can produce a pressure of ten thousand pounds to the square inch. In fact, the tremendous results of this process quite astounded its discoverer. It is also a peculiarity of this vapor that it can be used at any rate of pressure desired, from ten pounds to thousands of pounds to the square inch; it can also be generated and preserved in receiving vessels for an indefinite length of time without losing its force. Mr Keeley has proved this by repeated experiments, sometimes keeping the vapor for a fortnight without appreciable loss of power. When the discovery was first brought to the notice of prominent scientists, the simplicity of the invention made it seem impossible to them; they saw the results, but could not believe the evidence of their own senses. They suspected the hidden presence of electric, magnetic, chemical, or other known agencies, when they witnessed the marvellous operation of the machine, but the closest investigation by experts convinced them that Mr Keeley's assertion was true that a mechanical process alone generated this strange motive power, which was at once so simple and so tremendous. There is no doubt if Mr Keeley's process proves to be all that it now promises to be, that steam is destined to be superseded entirely by this new motor. An entire revolution in steamships, railway engines, horse cars, and in fact in every department of mechanical operations, will be effected, and that speedily. This process is simple and inexpensive, and its working models are so marvellous in their operations, that not only many scientists but capitalists also have become converts to the new motive power. Already stock companies have been formed which have purchased the right to use this new and strange motor in various States, New York and the New England States among them. This is an era of scientific progress, and a motive power which shall supersede steam, is no stranger discovery than the electric telegraph or the uses of steam itself. It was one of Professor Faraday's sayings "that a grain of water contains electrical relations equivalent to a very powerful flash of lightning." If Mr Keeley has learned the art of extracting these electrical forces from their watery hiding place, and forcing them to do his bidding, he has only wrested one more of Nature's closely hidden secrets from her jealous keeping, and in this evidence of supremacy over the material world, he has given another proof that it is not altogether an idle boast that man is the lord of creation.

The richest man in the world is said to be a certain Senator from Nevada, named Jones. This worthy is accredited with the annual income of £1,200,000; and is reported to be the owner of the most productive mine known—a silver mine from which he has been in the habit of drawing a profit estimated at £50,000 per month, but which, owing to the discovery of a new vein is said to be returning him double that amount.

The 'Swabian Mercury' says it has received intelligence from Zurich positively announcing that the Castle of Arenberg is to be prepared for the reception of the Empress Eugénie and the Prince Imperial, who shortly intend taking up their residence there permanently.

It is stated that after leaving Denton, Caroline County, Md., and for eighteen miles below, there is not a licensed liquor saloon in that part of the county, which embraces one-half the territory and population of the county. In all this territory there is not a single criminal indictment against any citizens residing in that section.