

## NEWS BY THE SAN FRANCISCO MAIL.

We are glad to place on our list of foreign exchanges the *New Zealand Tablet*, published at Dunedin. It is a well conducted paper, and seems to be an able and zealous promoter of Catholic interests. There are two Bishops in New Zealand, one at Dunedin, the other at Wellington, and it is evident that the Church is making great progress in that country, judging from the mention of new churches, convents, and schools in the *Tablet*. In looking over the first numbers that have reached us we were surprised to come across some pieces from the *Ave Maria*.

The recent illness of the Holy Father was grossly exaggerated by the cable telegrams. It seems that he one day suspended the customary audiences on account of a slight indisposition, and this was magnified into an alarming illness, and gave rise to the most absurd speculations as to his probable successor, &c. His Holiness is quite well again, and has resumed his daily audiences, charming everyone by his accustomed amiability.

Our American friends will be glad to learn that steady legal steps are being taken to promote the completion of the O'Connell National Monument, impeded by family strife regarding the will of Foley the eminent sculptor. It is not very long since I spent several hours in the studio, in Osnaburg-street, London, with Mr. Brock, Foley's chief artist, and I am bound to state that neither Europe nor America has such a work of art, in the shape of a memorial, as the O'Connell monument, which Foley left all but completed.

Dr. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, is editing the Life and Letters of the late Very Rev. James Maher, D.D., parish priest of Graigne (Carlow), his kinsman, who was uncle to the Cardinal Archbishop of Dublin. Dr. Maher's career covered a long and deeply interesting period of the modern history of the Irish Church, from the accession of his bishop, the illustrious Dr. Doyle, to the overthrow of the Irish Protestant Church; nor was his voice or his pen ever quiescent during that half-century. The volume will form an interesting contribution to the modern history of Ireland.

The *Carlow Post* says that every now and again in the anti-Catholic Press we come across some flippant reference to the new doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, promulgated to the world by his Holiness Pope Pius IX. It will hardly serve to placate such writers, but still it may do no harm to remind them that the late commemoration of that mystery in December was the fourth centenary since the same Feast was, with its own Liturgy, celebrated as a universal Feast by the whole Church. That was according to the constitution of Pope Sixtus IV. published in 1476; and, being prior to the establishment of Protestantism, and also prior to the discovery of America, should certainly be old enough to satisfy the average scribbler.

The Irish Lord Chief Justice, in opening the Galway Assizes on Monday, was able to state that the country was in a peaceful and quiet state, and comparatively free from crime. Throughout the whole circuit the same satisfactory state of things prevailed. There would seem to be no patriotic Englishman in the West of Ireland committing crime to "foist it upon the Irish."

A Bill has been introduced in the Commons to authorize the enrolment of volunteer corps in Ireland, established on the principle and subject to the regulations controlling the various corps at present existing throughout Great Britain and the colonies. The Bill contains forty-eight clauses, which are based on the law at present in force with regard to the organization of the volunteer force in Great Britain, but it has not the slightest chance of obtaining a second reading. We fear the Irish people will have to wait until their Parliament meet in the "old house at home" before they will have a volunteer force of their own.

The citizens of Dublin have assembled in public meeting, and have adopted the Public Libraries Act with only one dissentient voice. Mr. Gray was the chief mover in this matter, and has done his work well. One of the resolutions was moved by a Catholic priest, and seconded by a Protestant clergyman. The chief opposition in the Dublin press seems to be on the part of the extreme Protestant party as represented by the *Dublin Evening Mail* and the old Orange *Saunders's News Letter*. And yet these are the papers that talk of "Romish ignorance."

The *Saturday Review*, in a recent article on "Federalism, Dualism, and Home Rule," engages in the labor of defining the first two of these forms of government, and showing that the Irish Home Rule demand does not accord with either of them. Federalism and dualism, it says, may be very good things in themselves, and one or other may answer admirably in other countries, but Ireland needs none of them, because "Ireland is not as Hungary was before 1866, held in bondage by Great Britain." This, to begin with, is a pretty fair specimen of an English blunder. We are not aware that Hungary was held in bondage by Great Britain before 1866. But we know very well that Ireland has been held in such bondage before and since. In saying that Ireland has nothing to complain of, the *Review* simply begs the whole question. Surely the Irish people are entitled to have an opinion on that point. Every set of oppressors in the world are always ready to declare that the people under their sway have no just cause of complaint. The Austrian government made exactly such protestations with regard to the Hungarians. "The dualism of Austria and Hungary," says the *Review*, "arose as a medium between the illegal absorption of Hungary by Austria, and a complete separation of Hungary from Austria." So has Ireland been "illegally absorbed" by England, against which absorption the Irish people mean to struggle to the death. But Ireland, says the *Review*, "is simply a part of the same kingdom with Great Britain," no more, we say, than Hungary was or is a part of Austria. But Ireland has a constitution, says the *Review*, to which we reply that she has not her own constitution, but a sham constitution forced on her by England, under cover of which constitution she is robbed, depopulated, and degraded by England. Vienna journalists pre-

vious to 1866 could write against the national claims of Hungary just as flippantly as London journalists now write against the claims of Ireland. The battle of Sadowa, which brought the Austrian empire into imminent peril, put an end to such logic as far as Hungary was concerned, and obtained for that country the rights for which her people had long contended in vain. If England should wait for *her* Sadowa, it may be too late to offer either federalism or dualism, or any other sort of political connection with her, to the Irish people.

One day, on the Boulevard Pereire, Paris, a mad dog started in pursuit of a velocipede, mounted by a boy of fourteen named Dupraty, living in the Boulevard, No. 16. The case was a terrible one, and ended in the fall of the boy. Happily it was in the iron of the velocipede wheel that the teeth of the mad bulldog closed. There ended the first act of the drama. The second follows: In an impulse of passionate joy on seeing her son saved from so great a danger, Mme. Dupraty pressed her lips to the wheel of the velocipede. Some hydrophobic virus had remained on the iron, and after an agony of a fortnight the poor mother died, raging mad.

The *Journal d'Alsace* says that it receives almost daily communications, which give evidence of the profound emotion caused in every family by the orders of expulsion from the territory of Alsace-Lorraine, recently intimated in the most unexpected manner by the authorities to very many who have expressed their preferences for the French nationality. Young men connected for many years past with commercial and banking houses, heads of firms, fathers of families, all have been affected by an order of this nature coming at a moment when they least expected it. This rigorous measure, which nothing can justify, in a general point of view, cannot but act fatally in every respect. Not only will it ruin many a bright prospect and prosperous career, and throw the commerce and industry of the annexed provinces into inextricable embarrassments, but it is also sowing in the hearts of the people whom it touches and injures in their affections as well as in their interests, the seeds of a discontent which they take no pains to conceal.

A terrible catastrophe has just occurred in France at the village of Port (Ariège). Seven houses, of which five were inhabited by about twenty persons in all, were buried three days back by an avalanche. Several corpses have been extricated, but the work of clearing away the snow presents great danger.

Biett, the illicit manufacturer of *matanette*, a kind of dynamite, which is prohibited in France, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and the payment of a fine of 30,000fr. Forty-two barrels of his explosive products were placed in the fort of Larmon, where they blew up all the buildings and killed ten men.

"A few days since," writes a reporter of one of our French exchanges, "I passed through Beaucaire. I had gone to pray at the tomb of St. Martin at Tarascon, which is only separated from Beaucaire by the river Rhone. A historian, with whom I by chance became acquainted, kindly offered to accompany me to the hermitage of St. Sixtus, in the environs of Beaucaire. It seemed strange to me that this Bishop, ordained by St. Peter, according to the Roman Martyrology, and first Bishop of Rheims, has left his work here even after a lapse of nineteen centuries. This was explained to me, however, by my religious historian, who quoted a still extant tradition and gave other incontestable proofs. St. Sixtus was one of the band of Bishops whom the Prince of the Apostles had sent from Rome to evangelize the Gauls. Having fallen sick at Beaucaire, he remained there and built a little hermitage, in which he dwelt for some time. The faithful kept this hallowed spot in great esteem until the times of the Calvinists; and even up to the period of the Revolution, St. Martha and St. Trophimus, first Bishop of Arles, had commenced to sow the Gospel at Beaucaire, and St. Sixtus, during his convalescence, continued the mission. After being fully restored to health he went to Rheims, where he founded that episcopal see. St. Denis, the first Bishop of Paris, was among the first band of missionaries sent from Rome; St. Sixtus belonged to the second. A chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, and still to be seen at Beaucaire, not far from the Rhone, seems to have been built by St. Sixtus, even during the lifetime of the Prince of the Apostles."

It is stated beyond doubt that King Victor Emmanuel is afflicted with a polypus of the tongue. This does not prevent him from going out, but it is a great impediment in his speech and in the taking of his meals. The courtiers around the king try to hush the matter up, but in spite of this it is whispered so loudly that before long it will be known everywhere. It is known that about two years ago a scurrilous pasquinade could be seen in the streets of Rome, representing the Pope on one side, and King Victor Emmanuel on the other imposing silence upon the venerable Pontiff, saying: "To speak is silver, but to be silent is gold." This satanic pasquinade finds its illustration in the new law to be enforced against the clergy, but it is said that the king since his affliction with polypus of the tongue is much concerned about the sanction of this law. May God grant that he reflect twice.—*Propagateur Catholique*

A telegram from a correspondent of a contemporary at Constantinople says: We are threatened with a complete stoppage of business in the Ottoman post and telegraph offices. The employees refuse to take depreciated paper in payment of their already small salaries, and have sent in their resignations from all parts of the empire. The Grand Vizier has referred their petitions to the Council of State, but the Minister of the interior has declared that if they will not work for the pay offered they must be dismissed, and other persons put in their places. This is impossible, as there is no reserve, especially of telegraphists.

The amount which the German Parliament have been asked to vote for the salary of the German ambassador in London amounts, in English money, to a trifle over £9800, being an advance of £1500 on the vote of last year. In justice to the Opposition it is only fair to say that our own ambassador in Germany receives