

General News.

THE Austrian Government have just given a proof that whatever be the letter of their legislation respecting religious orders, the spirit in which it is carried out is very different from the spirit which breathes through Prussian legislation towards the Church. The Piarist fathers were formerly very numerous in Bohemia, and even down to recent times they were extensively engaged in the education of youth in the provinces under Russia as well as those under Austrian sway, and had a considerable reputation for skill and the successful training of their pupils. There was formerly a Piarist training school in Cracow. But it and most of the other establishments of the order succumbed to the powerful Josephine influences of a century ago. A former member of the body conceived the idea of resuscitating it. The Austrian Government met the proposal cordially; surrendered the church, the buildings belonging to the former convent, and even the funds which formerly belonged to the religious. The few Polish members of the order who still survive will now be reunited; for the present they have associated themselves to the Bohemian province, and have received from thence the teachers necessary to commence their work in Cracow efficiently. The establishment of a boys' school conducted by religious is a great spiritual boon for Cracow. For although the Galician schools are not by any means as bad as those to be found elsewhere, yet one may find in them traces of the modern materialistic spirit, and religious instruction is notably neglected.

MGR. GREGORY VON SCHERR, O.S.B., Archbishop of Munich, died at 6.30 P.M. on Wednesday, October 24. It will be remembered that some weeks ago he was very ill from internal inflammation and fever. Very little hope was entertained of his recovery, but he got much better, and seemed likely to live. He had, however, a relapse, and was slowly gaining strength, when symptoms of dropsy manifested themselves, and it became apparent that his life could not be saved. He suffered much during the last days of his life, but his actual end was painless. An hour before his death no one imagined that the end was near. He sank into a quiet sleep in which his soul passed away. He was in his seventy-fourth year, unbroken in spirit and in body, and had never had any very serious illness until this last fatal one. He was Archbishop of Munich twenty-one years and three months. His lot latterly was cast in very troubled times, and he had to endure many afflictions and personal disappointments. But he exhibited in them all the greatest moderation, prudence, and firmness, and shewed himself a faithful Bishop and adherent of the Holy See. The funeral ceremonial was to be very solemn. Both Houses of the Bavarian Legislature purposed taking part in it. Mgr. von Schreiber, Archbishop of Bamberg, and also the Bishops of Ratisbon and Reichstatt, arrived in Munich, on Friday, October 26, in order to assist at it. The Bishops of Augsburg and Passau were expected. The two other Bavarian Sees, Speyer and Wurzburg, have been vacant for nearly two years. R.I.P.—*Tablet*.

MR. GLADSTONE returned to Hawarden from Ireland, on Monday, November 12. At Holyhead he was presented with an address, in response to which he delivered a speech. After expressing the pleasure he had derived from his Irish tour, he alluded to the war in the East, repeating his condemnation of Ottoman rule, and declaring that England alone had prevented a settlement of the question before the war. He noticed that the Premier, in his Guildhall speech, made no mention of the integrity of the Turkish Empire, but Mr. Gladstone warned the country not to be dragged into the quarrel on the wrong side by any illusion about British interests.

ACCORDING to the official returns of the results of the recent French elections, the colonies excepted, 4,313,000 Republican, and 3,636,000 Conservative votes were recorded, thus leaving a balance of 677,000 votes in favour of the Republicans. In 1876 the total number of Republican votes was 4,030,000, and of Conservative votes, 3,160,000. The Republicans have thus gained 283,000 and the Conservatives 476,000 votes.

THE Turks on the horns of a dilemma illustrated by "Gelert" in the *Times* of India London letter:—"What is to become of the unhappy Turks? Mr. Gladstone and his lot insist that they shall be driven bag and baggage out of Europe, whilst the Russians are evidently bent on driving them out of Asia. Whither are they to betake themselves, then? The dilemma reminds me of one suggested by a sailor on board one of Her Majesty's ships to an old post-captain whom I knew. The captain met him coming on board drunk, and addressing him sternly said, 'What do you mean, sir, by being drunk on board ship? I won't have it, sir. And I hear, besides, that you've been drunk on shore. I won't have it, sir.' The inebriated sailor staided himself for a moment, and, looking the captain full in the face, hiccoughed out, 'Well, if a man mayn't get drunk on board and mayn't get drunk on shore, where the blank is he to get drunk?'"

THE Emperor of Germany has distributed a large number of orders and decorations to the various proprietors and landowners on whose land the Prussian manoeuvres were recently held, as well as to many local officials. In a naturally poor country, as Prussia certainly is, burdened with the largest standing army of the world, and with a multitude of useless pensioners who occupy official positions made to provide for them, industries at the lowest possible ebb, taxation excessive, and religious liberty existing only in name, a free and liberal distribution of orders is used as the means to promote loyalty among the middle classes, and to do away with the desire for social and political liberty, which most assuredly is rapidly growing up.—*Vanity Fair*.

RECENTLY you repeated, in an article headed "Reform in Capital Punishment," what you have frequently said before, viz.: "The neck is not broken, and the victim perishes by the long and painful process of strangulation." The experience of John Burns, an old and heavy citizen of this county, leads me to believe that strangulation by hanging, like strangulation by drowning, is not a very painful process after all. Some time during the war some ruffians who desired to be thought bushwhackers came upon Mr. Burns at his house, intending to compel him to give up some money that he was supposed to have.

Burns had none; and told them so. They did not believe him; and their next move was to cut a cord out of a bedstead, tie one end around Burns's neck, throw the other over a joist over head, and pull him up till his feet were clear of the floor. This they did four times, questioning him between whiles. Burns says that he lost consciousness every time as soon as his feet left the floor; that he felt no pain at any time; that after the second hoist he meant to sham continued insensibility, when they let him drop again (to lower him they let go of the rope and he fell on the floor), but it was beyond his power. His first consciousness was that he had raised his body to a sitting position, which put shamming out of the question. He experienced no pain when the rope tightened, nor while he was suspended, nor after he was released, except the soreness caused on the chin by the chafing of the rope. Mr. Burns is a man of truth, and there is no reason to doubt his statements. His weight was sufficient to tighten the rope well, being about 200 pounds.—*St. Louis Republican*.

THE *London News* says:—"Operations connected with the submarine tunnel have already been commenced on the other side of the channel, several pits having been sunk to the depth of about 110 yards. At the same time the French and English committee have definitely drawn up the conditions of working for the route. The property of the tunnel is to be divided in half by the length—that is to say, each company will possess half of the line, reckoning the distance from coast to coast at low tide. Each company will cover the expense of its portion. The general work of excavation will be done on the one hand by the Great Northern of France, and on the other by the Chatham and Southeastern Companies, the two latter having each a direct route from London to Dover. All the materials of the French and English lines will pass through the tunnel in order to prevent any unnecessary expenses and delay of transhipment, as in England and in France railway companies use each other's lines, and goods can pass from one line to another without changing vans. It is understood that arrangements will be established for a similar exchange of lines between all the English and Continental railway companies when the tunnel is completed. The tunnel will belong to its founders. At the expiration of thirty years the two Governments will be able to take possession of the tunnel upon certain conditions."

Mayfair says of France:—"We shrink from the imputation of assuming the role of alarmists, but we have unquestionable authority for the assertion that the blow will fall much sooner than is expected. How far the result of the elections may affect the scheme we cannot say; but we have very good reason to believe that before five months are passed the crisis will have arrived, and will have been precipitated by Germany."

MYSTERIOUS lights have recently been seen on the coast of Wales. They seemed to rise from the sea and flash about in an erratic manner, and no one can understand them. As far back as the fifteenth century they were observed, and in the seventeenth they became so bold as to land for a while and burned a field of hay. The tints of the flames are various.

THE late Marquis of Bute (says a London correspondent) was a Protestant, the Dowager Marchioness was a follower of Dr. Cumming, and they brought up their son to the Protestant faith. This is apparently why the present Marquis, who has joined the Roman Church, is erecting an oratory at Cardiff to his father's memory. From an artistic point of view, this is a very grand work. It is like the Memorial Chapel at Windsor—a piece of pure luxury, overflowing with every kind of gorgeous ornament. It is understood that it will be opened before the winter has set in severely.

IN Kosten, the parish of Mr. Break, one of the Sisters of Mercy was this week conveyed to prison like a criminal, because she refused to give evidence against the Rev. Czechowski, who is accused of having transgressed the May Laws. When we remember how long the Rev. Kantecki had to remain in prison for not revealing the name of a correspondent, we shall not be surprised at the cruel treatment to which this poor sister is being subjected by the barbarous Prussian Government. Moreover, this is the second time that the noble lady has been thrown into prison: last year she had to undergo incarceration because she would not take the oath against her own superiress and three priests, accused of May Law offences. After having spent several months in prison, she was suddenly set free, nobody knew by whose order. Of the fifteen persons accused of having buried the dead without Mr. Break's permission, fourteen were this week sentenced to six and four months' imprisonment.—*Catholic Times*.

FATHER CARTON, S.J., writes:—"There came to Lourdes, on Friday, August 17th, a poor sailor, born in Scotland, aged 35, whose parents were Irish. He had been paralyzed for the last four years in the right side. It was with the greatest difficulty that he could walk even with the aid of a stick, it taking him about three hours to accomplish the distance of one-half a mile. The good zealous pastor of Dundee, the Rev. Mr. McDermott, paid his passage from Glasgow to Bordeaux, and thence to Lourdes. He made my acquaintance on Sunday the 19th—finding his extreme poverty and houseless condition, I had him easily provided for by the good nuns of Our Lady of Dolours. On Monday, the 20th, I had him bathed in the water of the fountain, his faith being strong in the power of the Immaculate Virgin's intercession. On coming out therefrom he certainly felt better. The next day, Tuesday, he had a second bath, after which he came forth without the aid of his stick, and was able to bless himself, and put on his cap, as a test of improvement, with the hitherto paralyzed arm. The crowd assembled around him; being ignorant of the language he was frightened somewhat, yet he looked at me with eyes filled with tears of joy. He was conducted to the grotto where the *Magnificat* was sung in thanksgiving, and afterwards he walked unaided to the missionaries' house where the details of his affliction and more than partial recovery therefrom were duly taken down. People may be anxious to know what became of the poor Scotch sailor. The story is quickly told; with a few pounds given me to take a vacation during the month of October, I managed to do him a charity, and sent him home from Bordeaux to Glasgow, where he no doubt is praying for me and all the poor sufferers who visit Lourdes."

A SAN FRANCISCO clergyman says that only one-tenth of the men in that city ever go to Church, and about one-tenth