

The *Herald* is right. To the honour of the Catholic Church be it said that their clergy, without any prudery, both preach and teach the deadly character of the sin of seeking to dodge the responsibilities of maternity by becoming an accomplice in child murder." Some little time ago we submitted a nut to be cracked by our scientific world, or rather half-world, but they did not deign to exercise their powerful jaws upon it. We put forward a foeman worthy of their steel, hoping that "Greek" would hasten to encounter "Greek," and that the sight of an opposing Titan would rouse the gods to battle, but in vain. Our scientists have never once advanced an argument in opposition to those quoted by us from Professor Virchow, who stated that evolution was a theory, as yet unproven, and dangerous to dogmatise upon, in direct opposition to all that they had so long been proclaiming to us. We trust that now, however, these learned imbibers and spouters of scientific doctrines will favour us with the mere trivial explanation we ask them kindly to vouchsafe us, believing that what we ask will be to them a bagatelle. Will they kindly explain to us, since it is acknowledged on all hands, now, that infanticide, in the broad sense of the words, does exist extensively in America, how comes it the statistics put forward here a few months ago proved that it could not possibly exist there; and, above all, whether we are still bound to believe that the purity or corruption of Dunedin is to be judged by the standard of that existing in the United States.

An article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, of March 1st last, affords an insight into the political life of Germany, a sketch of which cannot fail to be of interest to our readers. It runs as follows:—Germany has her troubles; some come to her from without, and she demands an account of them from her neighbours whose actions appear to her suspicious; others are caused by grave questions of home management, which she is much hindered in solving. There are many questions which disturb her, but that which disturbs her most is her Constitution, still very young, but already worn out. Of all forms of Government none is more difficult to organise than a Confederation, or a Federate State. The difficulty becomes graver when the Federate State is composed of lesser countries united to a great monarchy—to one of the great powers of Europe. The whole policy of the affair is in *La Fontaine*. We know what happened the heifer, the she-goat, and the ewe, when they thought good to unite themselves to a proud lion, lord of the district. These four were to divide the prey; the lion allotted the first part to himself in quality of sire; he took the second as belonging to the strongest, and the third as the bravest.

Si quelqu' une de vous touche à la quatrième,
Je l' étranglerai tout d' abord.

Of the forty-two millions who compose the German Empire, 26,000,000 belong to Prussia, and the rest to the lesser States. On setting out the lion showed himself generous. Prussia possesses in Parliament a number of Deputies proportioned to her population; in the Federal Council of the 58 voices she owns but 17. Had the lesser States been republics she would have treated them with less consideration, but little crowns have their use; they are a counterpoise to democracy. In suppressing them she would have served the revolution, but the Cæsars of Germany wish, rather, to make the revolution serve them. Still, in truth, Prussia fully indemnified herself for the concessions she made. She sealed her hegemony by uniting in the person of M. de Bismarck the functions of President of the Prussian Ministry and Chancellor of the Empire. The Chancellor is the man who does all, directs all, oversees all, the man who proposes and disposes. He alone has the watchword and the responsibility, and he who answers for all answers for nothing. M. Roesler, a Professor of the Rostock University, wrote lately, "The institution of the Imperial Chancellorship is a monstrous accumulation of uncontrollable and irresponsible powers, which defies all analogy and all rule." M. Roesler was right. One might search in vain in the history of constitutional countries to find an institution equal or analogous to this. In the Holland of the past alone might something like it be discovered, but what is a Heinsius compared with the man who sways the destinies of 40 millions of Germans. The office of Chancellor has been created by M. de Bismarck, and for M. de Bismarck. Germany would not have consented to this concentration of power in one hand, if this man had not been able to avail himself of the rights of genius and his providential mission. "Prince Bismarck," said a Berlin review recently, "is Minister by the Grace of God; he has founded an empire, and confounded himself with that empire. He figures by name, after a manner, in the constitution of the German Empire. It never enters the mind of any one that he can be overthrown by a frown from above, or that he can succumb to a Parliamentary vote of want of confidence. We are accustomed to let ourselves be governed from Varzin, and this village, or this Pomoranian estate, disputes for the moment with Berlin the honour of being the capital of Germany. Germany wishes to be governed by Bismarck. A popularity such as his has never been gained by any one, so that never in any state, not absolute, ha

a ministerial situation been seen dowered by all the functions and powers he re-unites in his hand." Germany had determined that, during M. Bismarck's life, she would content herself with the constitution he had given her. To alter her mind it was necessary for Bismarck himself to say:—"I can do no more, my burden is too heavy, unless you decide on accepting the combination that I shall be in a position to propose to you, I shall resign. Meantime I shall take a holiday." Since the Spring of '77, negotiations have been conducted between M. de Bismarck and the liberal party in order to discover a means to solve the difficulties and the questions pending. The point was to discover a negotiator pleasing to the Chancellor. He is not disposed to listen to the first comer. He would perhaps say to any envoy they should send to him, that which he formerly said to a certain Austrian minister:—"Your word is no more to me than the wind in my chimney." Happily the Prussian liberals have a man suitable to M. de Bismarck. M. de Bennigsen, President of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. During the course of last year, M. Bennigsen went and came to and from Varzin more than once, and all Germany hung on the movement. But nothing came of the matter; M. de Bismarck asked too much and would grant too little. The negotiation having fallen through, M. de Bismarck took counsel with himself and with himself alone. In interior policy he is a man of expedients, and it was an expedient that he brought back with him from Varzin. His ideal is an empire which, having in its hands the greater part of the finances, would not be reduced to go begging to the doors of the German States, but would be in a position to give them money and to shower upon them the manna of its liberality. He, however, puts off for the time the fulfilment of his great design, and in order to increase the revenues of the empire he contents himself with creating Imperial stamp duties and with increasing the tax on tobacco. At the same time he submitted to the Federal Council an important project concerning providing assistance for the Imperial Chancellor, in case of need, a project destined to relieve him a little of his burden by giving him a co-adjutor in the person of a Vice-Chancellor. It is, meantime, well understood that should he wish it, he will or will not have assistance. His convenience only will decide the matter, and it is undoubted that, should he wish it, the administration of the empire will be confided to half-a-dozen Prussian ministers. This project, at first, caused some emotion in the Federal Council. The delegates of the lesser States seemed to hear it said—"All is lost; the sails are torn. It is not Prussia that belongs to the empire, but the empire that belongs to Prussia." They, however, kept their melancholy reflections to themselves, resigned themselves to their fate, and voted in favour of the project, with a slight amendment. The hour is come when the truth of things triumphs over conventions, and, as it has been well said, "the German empire, while it borrowed the exterior forms of a federate state, in reality constitutes an union of half-sovereign States with a sovereign State." What reception will the liberals of Parliament give to the propositions of M. de Bismarck? On the matter of taxes their *mot d'ordre* is "No new taxes without a general reform of the fiscal system, and no reform without constitutional guarantees which will assure to Parliament the full exercise of its rights over the budget. The Vice-Chancellor will be regarded as the man of the future—the presumptive heir of M. de Bismarck—will he be a liberal or a conservative? It will be known ere long; but from that day Germany may assure herself that she is not done with the policy of expedients, and a great nation accepts with difficulty the part of being reduced to expedients submitted to the convenience of one man. It cannot refrain from saying to itself—*et après?*—What next? This is why Germany is troubled.

We have learned from the columns of the *Melbourne Age* of the *Argus* particulars of the wreck of the *Loch Ard*. The ill-fated vessel, it appears, set sail from London for Melbourne on March 2nd last, under the command of Captain George Gibb, and having on board, besides the crew, sixteen passengers. Of these the principal interest surrounds the memory of the Carmichael family—a father, mother, four daughters, and two sons—because of the melancholy fate that overtook them in all perishing together, with the exception of one daughter, saved as if by miracle. All appears to have gone well with the ship until the night when the storm arose in which she was wrecked—that is the night of Friday, May 31st last. Bearings had been taken that day by the sun, and it was calculated that Cape Otway was still 150 miles distant, but unfortunately the iron in the vessel is supposed to have affected the compasses, and the calculation was false. The iron-bound coast and precipitous cliffs in the neighbourhood of the Cape were much nearer than it was supposed. At about four o'clock in the morning of June 1st, while the vessel was under close-reefed topsails going with the breeze, an alarm was given of land ahead. The captain was at his post on deck, and gave orders to hold the ship to the wind, but she could not weather the land, and seemed at the mercy of the wind and sea. Orders were then given to let go the anchors; these, however, dragged on a bottom of