

commence all the games of their childhood. We fancy, however, that the idea is hardly so novel as it would appear to be. We have long believed that we discerned a great deal that was childish in many of the existing religions which, comparatively speaking, are not new. Indeed such an element appears to be at once their weakness and their force, and while it must repel to a certain extent, it also to a certain extent attracts. There really is a good deal put forward in that plea urged in her excuse by an old lady who, according to *Punch*, was rebuked by her parson for having attended an unorthodox meeting: "Erron'ous, sir, their doctrines may be; but their cake, with sultany raisins, is excellent!"

SIR HENRY PARKES is very much astonished to hear any one mention so shocking a thing as the "tearing out of human bowels." Such a process HENRY PARKES, has no place in his knowledge of history. But yet such a thing has been, and it was but employed as a more open way of doing that which Sir Henry Parkes is now himself a champion of, destroying the Catholic faith. Archbishop Vaughan has used no language that he was not fully justified in using, and we have, indeed, on more than one occasion referred to this very subject in our columns, and given a description or two of this fearful torture; and now again we copy certain facts relating to it from an old chronicle of the time of Queen Elizabeth, which we find published in a number of the *Catholic Magazine*, issued in July, 1838. It is written in the style of the period, but, with the exception of a passage or two, we shall alter it to suit our requirements. "On the morning of the 29th November, Sir Hubert, lurking round the prison, from the lacquies learned that sundry gentlemen were about to visit the Popish priest (Father Mayne), who was to die that day. Keeping then in discourse with these knaves, Sir Hubert efftlye contrives to slip in with them. At the gate they betake them to the cell where was the holy man. There disturbing his last hours of life, they set up a fierce disputation with him on religious matters; but he composedly, yet undauntedly, confuted them on all points, both from Scriptures and the Fathers, so that they had not one word to reply, and after long discoursing they left him in anger. Sir Hubert, for one moment stopping behind to crave the father's benison, telling him that grievous as it was to see him thus, yet was his heart gladdened to hear him so utterly confute the enemies of our faith. Father Mayne, in a few words, bade him be of good cheer, bear manfully, but patiently, the persecutions he might also meet with, and added some kind words for his friends when he left: 'Shortly,' said he, 'I trust to meet in heaven.' Nor did he forget me, to whom he ever has been as a father, but with sweet words of counsel and consolation he sent to me his rosary, reserving only his breviary, "For that," said he, "I shall still have need of." With tears and lamentations Sir Hubert hastened to rejoin the others, and presently afterwards mingling with the crowd that now thronged the streets, he waited to witness the end of this bloody tragedy; and even when the holy Father appeared at the prison door, once more the ministers and gentlemen beset him, for that they would have him renounce his religion, promising him life and wealth did he comply. This refusing they press him earnestly to declare that the Queen is supreme head of the Church; this as stoutly he denies, wherefore they laid him on the hurdle to be drawn to the place of execution; sundry with unparalleled cruelty, urging that his head should be laid on the ground, over the car, so to be dashed against the stones as they went along; but the sheriff's deputy would no ways allow this. In ye market place was an high gibbett; at ye foote thereof ye holie martyre kneeled downe and prayedd a breefe space, then mounted ye ladder, and after ye rope was rounde hys neck, thei questionedd hym what hee knewe respecting Maister Tregiaune and Syrr John Arundelle, hoping to obtain matters agensnt themme; hee repliedd firme and loudlie, that he knewe naughte concerning them: hee was then forbidde to speak to ye people, and hee was turnedd off ye ladder ye whiles hee said, 'In manus tuas Domine,' etc., knockinge hys breste. While hee yet livedd, they cutte hym down, but fallinge soche a height, hee was but little sensible to ye butcherie that ensuedd. He was quarteredd, and ye quarters hung at Bodmyne, Tregneye, Barnestaple, and on ye Castell at Launceston." This did not take place in New South Wales amongst the Blacks prior to the arrival of Captain Cook there, as was pleasantly implied by Sir Henry Parkes, but in Merry England under the reign of good Queen Bess. But, what is more to the point, Catholics now-a-days think not one whit less of their faith than they thought then.

THE San Francisco mail, which arrived at Auckland on Tuesday evening, brings a few additional particulars respecting the state of affairs in Ireland. Besides Daly, Davitt, and Bryce arrested for seditious language, seventeen others were also to be prosecuted. A committee of defence was about to be formed by the Home Rule executive. News by cable, however, has informed us that the prosecutions have been abandoned. In Sligo, a farmer is said to have been maltreated for having paid his rent in advance. Mr. Parnell has relinquished the idea of making a tour in the United States. An Irish National Land

League has been formed with a central committee in London. A special report made to the Imperial Government of Irish affairs, shows the potatoe crop to be everywhere deficient, and pauperism on the increase, especially in Ulster. Affairs in France betray symptoms of future commotion. Gambetta is at war with the Waddington Cabinet, and Prince Jerome Napoleon is preparing himself to contest the presidency. There is some dissatisfaction shown with regard to England's Egyptian policy. Respecting Germany, it is reported that Bismarck has made concessions to the Vatican. Another report concerning Rome runs as follows (we give it for what it is worth):—"Cardinal Manning has gone to Rome to endeavour to win the assent of the Vatican to his long-cherished scheme which, by admitting certain charges in the external organisation of the Catholic Church in England, will facilitate the return to Catholicism of an important group of English Protestants."

THE Jesuits continue to give trouble in France. THOSE JESUITS Positively it was too bad of the Senate to interfere with M. Ferry and his seventh clause. It will now be necessary to act upon the threats of M. Paul Bert, and introduce more determined and sweeping measures for the eradication of these "phylloxera," as the gentleman referred to names the order; their conduct is no longer supportable; we learn in short that at the recent law examinations, the first prize at Grenoble was won by M. Frederick Panty; the first prize at Aix by M. Martineau Deschesnez, and the first prize at Paris by M. Paul Gontard; each one of the three being a pupil of the Jesuits. We may add that it is a little amusing to read, as we occasionally do, of liberal and enlightened Catholics being forced out of devotion to their children to send them to non-Catholic schools, when we invariably find that the pupils of Catholic schools, in the event of competition, carry all before them. We may be excused if under the circumstances, we doubt not only the assumed liberality and enlightenment of such Catholics, but even the nature of their devotion to their children.

SOME NIHILIST DOINGS.

THE following stories are from the Russian correspondence in the *Newcastle Chronicle*:

The evening of the day that witnessed the execution of Tchubaroff and the rest at Odessa saw a fresh demonstration on the Boulevard. Just before seven o'clock a young man sprang upon a seat and commenced a harangue against the Government. A crowd gathered round, and there were some cries of approbation. The police, however, rapidly arrived in force and arrested the youth, who, the whole way to the station, inveighed so loudly against the Government that his captors, to make him keep silent, gagged him. While being examined by the inspector at the station he spat upon that functionary, and disowned his authority. In the cell he tried to immolate himself with his lamp, like Somoff, the Nihilist, did three weeks ago. His clothes being extinguished, he refused his food, and when the police forced some soup down his throat by the aid of a funnel, he waited his opportunity, and then beat his head so savagely against the walls of his cell that he fell at last insensible. The same night he died of concussion of the brain. He was only seventeen. His death is officially described as arising from madness, but it is currently believed that he was impelled to commit suicide to avoid experiencing the pressure (*i.e.* starvation and other acts verging upon torture) which the police of Russia make use of to extort confessions from political prisoners.

Attached to the Revolutionary Association at Odessa was a youth of seventeen, named Goronovitch, belonging to one of the public schools. Whether correctly or not, the committee imagined him to be acting as a spy for the Government, and determined to put him out of the way. Accordingly, one evening, in the autumn of 1877, as he was taking a walk on the outskirts of Odessa, he was set upon by men, and his head almost beaten to a jelly, after which, with diabolical cruelty, altogether Russian in its conception, the Nihilists poured vitriol over the wounds. Strange to say, Goronovitch survived this terrible treatment. In the hospital he made disclosures which were deemed so remarkable that as soon as he was convalescent he was sent to St. Petersburg to give evidence before General Mezentsoff. His appearance at the Third Department excited a shudder—he had no ears, eyes, or nose, and his hair was wholly burned away by vitriol, his head thus being like the scarified stump of a limb newly amputated, and having one solitary hole, drawn all awry, to serve as a mouth. To conceal his disfigurement the police made a hood that covered the head down to the chin, and left only an aperture for the mouth. The result of his evidence was that three hundred persons were arrested, most of whom are still in prison awaiting trial at Odessa.

On the 16th August, two days before the arrival of the Czar at Nicolaieff, two gendarme officers, while waiting the arrivals on the steamboat pier, observed a young man whose appearance struck them as being suspicious. Him they arrested and conveyed to the police station, where he described himself as a Joseph Stchenansky, student. In his possession were found false passports, a revolver, dagger, and a slip of paper with the address—"Engineer street, No. 10—ask for student Bashko." Proceeding thither, the gendarmes found Wittenberg, the Jew, and Logovenko, the boatman, preparing a Voltaic battery and other apparatus for the Czar's assassination. Enough dynamite was discovered to have blown up an ironclad.