

The answer is, "Sitting."

The next question is, "If you think the Speaker was sitting, in point of fact, then, was the sitting for the purpose of preparing or correcting notes which he was about to use in addressing the defendant, or for any other purpose, and, if for any other purpose, can you say for what purpose?" The jury answer, "Sitting for the purpose of preparing or correcting notes which he was about to address to the defendant."

Then, thirdly, "Had the Speaker resumed his seat, and, if he had, had he resumed it for the purpose of allowing the defendant to make and subscribe the oath?" The jury answer, "No."

Fourthly, "Have the Crown satisfied you that upon the 11th February, 1884, the defendant had no belief in a Supreme Being?" The jury say, "We unanimously agree that the defendant had, upon the 11th February, 1884, no belief in a Supreme Being."

Then, fifthly, "Have the Crown satisfied you that the defendant, upon the 11th February, 1884, was a person upon whose conscience an oath, as an oath, had no binding force?" Answer, "Yes, we are satisfied."

Then "Had the House of Commons full cognisance and notice of the said matters by reason of the avowal of the defendant?" Answer, "Yes."

"Did the defendant take and subscribe the oath in the sense explained according to the course and practice of Parliament?" The answer is, "Not according to the full practice of Parliament."

Then, "Generally, did the defendant take and subscribe the oath?" Answer "Not as an oath."

(*Their Lordships consulted.*)

Upon those findings, Mr. Attorney, I think it is not necessary to have any further consideration of the case—it appears to me that we are bound to enter the verdict for the Crown.

Passing Notes.

A wealthy Californian says in his will—"This death-bed repentance and pardoning of old wrongs is worse than hypocrisy. I don't want any minister or preacher of any kind at my funeral. The masons shall do the entire work. Gospel sharps and I never flocked together. Not much!"

When a Catholic member of Parliament dares to oppose the will of the Priests he receives excommunication in the following manner. The 'Dunedin Tablet' speaks:—"Our readers by referring to the letter of our Auckland correspondent will see that in New Zealand we are blessed with at least one phenomenal 'Catholic.' The famous Dane O'Grady it will be remembered was d—d glad that he had a country to sell to the British Government; Mr. Tole, and with still more appropriateness, is evidently d—d glad that he has a soul to sell to the Orangemen. We wish each of them joy of their bargain, and all the credit that is respectively and mutually due to them. Mr. Tole, in fact, has been pilloried by the Orangemen as an example of Catholic meanness and perfidy." Mr. Tole is apparently an illustration of that *rara avis*—a Catholic without the patent conscience supplied by his church.

The following paragraph, from 'The Catholic Herald' is to the point—it claims rightly enough that the Church of Rome is the bulwark of Christianity, and it might have said that it will be the last rampart to be stormed by the legions of Freethought:—"Father Lambert's 'Notes on Ingersoll' is having a very extended circulation. The work has gone through its sixth edition, and may yet reach its sixtieth. The Young Men's Christian Association, of New York, sent an order recently for 125 copies to be distributed among the general secretaries with the view to its circulation among that body of Protestant young men. Mr. Wark, of Boston, was negotiating for 1,000 copies for distribution here on account of Ingersoll's lecture. This recognition by Protestants of all denominations of the value of Father Lambert's work is a great tribute to the author, and shows that infidelity can best be met by arms from the armoury of the Church."

A statement having been made in the 'Bruce Herald' to the effect that a Catholic boy educated at a denominational school would not be allowed to compete at a Civil Service examination, Mr. Habens, the Inspector General, has written as follows in reply:—"There is no foundation whatever for the assertion that a Catholic boy educated at a Catholic school would not be eligible or allowed to compete at a Civil Service examination. The Government of New Zealand do not recognise any Church or any faith as entitled to precedence of any kind, and treat all men alike, as far as their religious professions are concerned."

Commenting on the manner in which the contest in Dunedin East was conducted, the 'Timaru Herald' remarks:—"Mr. Stout has behaved throughout with the dignity and self-respect of a leading politician; and his supporters have taken no part in the religious war, beyond protesting in strong terms against the narrow-minded bigotry of those who would deny to a public man—or private man either, for that matter—the universal right of liberty of conscience. But the methods adopted by the pious Mr. Green and his friends have been enough to make any intelligent person sick; and certainly enough to do more damage to the cause of true religion in a week, than all the efforts of the reverend gentleman during all his life could do it good. If that is religion, then the less religion we have in the world the better. A greater piece of humbug never existed; and if our conception of religion is a correct one, nothing in the shape of humbug ought to enter it at all."

"An interesting article on fisheries in 'Engineering' contains the following:—In the northern parts of the British Isles the failure of the herring fishery has often been attributed to Sunday fishing, whilst other fish less favourable to Church influence are recorded to have left the coast because tithes were levied on their capture. During an inquiry held in Sweden about 50 years ago as to the reason that the herring schools had deserted the coast, we find the first six probable reasons discussed to be:—1. God's wrath on account of the abuse of His gift, human godlessness and ingratitude, Sunday fishing, refusing to pay tithes to the clergy, or dissatisfaction with the laws and regulations made by the Government. 2. Magic. 3. Spilling of blood. 4. Cruelty shown towards the herring. 5. Using herring as manure. 6. Conflagrations on the coast, erecting lighthouses, &c. Other and more material causes were also advanced, but the conference appears to have come to no very definite decision, a result not altogether to be wondered at."

The 'Dunedin Tablet'—the organ of the Roman Catholic Church in New Zealand—has the following estimate of the value of the records from which the Christian Church derives its spiritual authority:—"A correspondent wrote to one of our contemporaries a day or two ago, in effect, that the 'unaltered' text of Holy Scripture was an undeniable need in the public schools. But where is this good correspondent or his friends to find that unaltered text? If it had existed in the Authorised Version, for example, no revision would have been found necessary; but a revision of the New Testament has been made, and that of the old is approaching its completion. Is it to be found in the original languages in which the Scriptures were written? The Greek text, at least, on which the revisers have chiefly relied, is the Vatican Codex, a manuscript supposed to have been brought, some four hundred years ago from the East to Rome by Cardinal Bessarion—but of whose authenticity Catholic theologians have no high opinion, holding it to have been probably a copy made hurriedly on the order of Constantine and altered to suit the Arian leanings of Eusebius to whom the order was issued. All that is available, then, for the use of the schools is the imperfect translation of doubtful originals, and how, therefore, shall the 'unaltered' text be forthcoming?"

The enormous popularity of Colonel Ingersoll was never better shown than at Chicago. The Republican convention had adjourned early in the day to allow the delegates time to strengthen their slates and the committees to patch up their resolutions, when some one espied the Colonel in the galleries and shouted for a speech from him. The delegates and people who packed the immense hall paused in their outward movement, and men gathered around Ingersoll and tried to pull him from his seat amid vociferous cheers. The Colonel declined, and "Uncle Dick" Oglesby got up