

and which should tend to promote among the people the peace which takes its root in religion." The special pastoral issued by the Cardinal-Archbishop of Vienna for the occasion has been published by the 'Wiener Zeitung,' whereas the "Liberal" papers are fearfully wrath; and well they may be, for the eminent prelate speaks his mind very plainly in this document, and tells them plenty of unpleasant truths.

#### PRUSSIA.

It is stated that the Queen Dowager of Prussia loses 700,000 thalers by the failure of the famous banking house of Quistorp at Berlin, and that a prince of the royal family will suffer to a greater extent.

As an illustration of what the Lutheran Church is to come to under the present Government of Prussia, we notice the following quite recent occurrence:—The law court at Cassel has sentenced a Lutheran clergyman to two months' imprisonment in a fortress for asserting from the pulpit that by the new ecclesiastical laws government has banished religion from the schools.

At Cologne the police seized the electoral address of the Catholic party to the electors of the Rhine. The "liberals" have held a meeting at Bonn, with the famous Professor Sybel for president. He insulted the Catholics.

A despatch from Posen announces that Mgr. Ledochowski is suffering from a dangerous attack of typhoid fever and from erysipelas in the head. The 'National Gazette' is infamous enough to write that it would be very fortunate if the Archbishop died.

The boys' Seminary at Neuss near Aix la-Chapelle, has just been closed. Don't laugh; the Prussian Officials have been informed by a confidential circular, that ultramontane agents, especially Jesuits, are busily engaged in organising an international Association of the Sacred Heart for the purpose of fanaticizing the masses with a view to bring about the re-establishment of "the Pope's temporal power."

The 'Berlin Provincial Correspondence,' a semi-official organ, speaking of the continuation of the struggle of the Catholic Bishops with the State, says that "the government will employ, if necessary, the severest and most thorough measures either to bend or break the arrogance of the Roman hierarchy. But the Catholic population, whose consciences are not wounded by the ecclesiastical laws, and who are anxious for the preservation of peace, should take care not to increase at the elections the number of Ultramontane deputies, whose efforts under the leadership of Rome are directed to fighting the State and destroying the peace of the country."

Mgr. Kött, Bishop of Fulda, who died in his Cathedral city on the 14th August last, was one of the most distinguished members of the German Episcopate, and, under the rule of the late Elector of Hesse, had repeatedly shown an amount of true apostolic courage worthy of a Christian martyr, in his communications with the temporal government. At the time of Hassenpflug, the Hessian Bismarck's ministry, about 1851, when the Catholic Church was threatened with similar measures of coercion to those recently adopted in Prussia, Mgr. Kött refused to submit to the demands of the temporal rulers, and upon the minister's attempting to frighten him into submission, the prelate is reported to have exclaimed: "I will rather beg my bread from door to door than give way to your unjust demands." Hassenpflug soon caved in. Mgr. Kött died at the age of 73, and his loss will be regretted throughout the Catholic world.—R.I.P.

The Nuns of the Most Holy Sacrament who are being driven out of Gnesen are, it seems, all foreigners; that is to say, most of them, though Poles, are not natives of Prussian Poland, and some are French from Troyes. They were therefore ordered to depart under the clause which permits the expulsion of aliens; but they are a purely contemplative order, and it could not be pretended that they were doing the State any harm. There was, therefore, some hope that the order would be rescinded; but it appears that the authorities laid their hands upon a collection of hymns which the Nuns had made—hymns in honor of the Sacred Heart. It has been decided that this hymn-book is calculated to propagate "a superstitious belief"—a belief, that is, in the Real Presence. "This will appear incredible," says a letter from Posen, "but it is strictly true, and the nuns will have to quit their convent in a few days, to seek refuge at Léopol in Galicia."

The Bishop of Culm, Mgr. Marwitz, an old officer of Hussars who fought at Quatre Bras, in 1815, is being prosecuted for illegal nomination of ecclesiastics; and his attitude has caused as much joy among Catholics as it has vexation in the Minister of Worship. He had hoped that this prelate, so well known for his affectionate attachment to the royal family, would submit to the new laws. Happily, the Bishop has given the preference to duty before personal feelings.

20,000 faithful from the Banks of the Rhine, from Belgium and Holland, took part in the pilgrimage to Kervlaer. The Prussian police forbade their entry into the town with banners. The Rhenish Catholic nobility was represented by many of its members; Holland had sent Dominicans, Carmelites, and Pontifical Zouaves in uniform. There were as many as 400 priests, and for five hours the Holy Communion was being distributed to the faithful. A Pontifical Mass was celebrated, and Mgr. Ketteler delivered a sermon with his wonted eloquence. The governor's decree forbidding the procession produced deep indignation among the inhabitants.

#### GERMANY.

The Archbishop of Mayence, Mgr. Ketteler, has published a magnificent letter to the German Emperor, challenging him to prove the assertions made in his letter to the Pope. The letter was reprinted in the 'Times' at the request of our Archbishop. Mgr. Ketteler says:—"Your Majesty has charged us in the face of Europe with disloyal intrigues. Now, our agitation has either been conducted within the limits of the laws, and in that case you were not justified in bringing this charge against us, or our conduct has transgressed the laws, and accordingly we have committed the crime of treason." On the latter assumption, then, he challenges the Emperor to the proof, and asks him, "on the ground of the facts which must be at your disposal, in presence of such a charge, to indict our leaders as traitors. After your Majesty has uttered so frightful an accusation against our honor, integrity, and loyalty, at least allow us to prove to you how ill-

informed you have been." There are two courses open to the Government, and they will follow the dishonest one, and ignore the challenge. However, even reticence will convict them of having slandered an innocent body of men.

The spirited letter to the Emperor in the 'Mainzer Journal' places the pitiful tyranny of Prussia in the most clear and open light. The Emperor had accused the German clergy of disloyalty. "If we have transgressed the law, why have we not been prosecuted? if there be no ground for prosecution, how venture to brand us as disloyal?" The dilemma is inevitable. The bishops were either traitors or law-abiding citizens. If the former, why have no proofs, no trials, been forthcoming? If the latter, then his Imperial Majesty has been imposed upon by the mendacity of some deliberate slanderers behind the scenes. Not that we absolve the Emperor from a heavy share of responsibility. He ought not to have brought such a charge without evidence, and when he knew that there was no evidence forthcoming, he should have been silent. The present persecution of the Catholics cannot even plead the poor excuse of concession to popular pressure.

The unlooked-for increase of the Parliamentary power of the Catholics of Prussia, in spite of the unscrupulous measures which have been directed against them, is the result of the Prussian elections which has struck dismay into that phalanx of servile tyrants, and misnamed Liberals of Germany, and their backers and admirers at home and abroad.

The Archbishop of Posen, who is liable to forty-three suits, has had a second carriage and pair seized in satisfaction of a fresh fine of 200 thalers imposed on him for neglecting to institute to Filehue a parish priest acceptable to the Government. He has further been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in satisfaction of fines to the amount of 900 thalers inflicted on him for other infractions of the persecuting laws.

The Posen correspondent of the 'Cologne Gazette' telegraphs that on Nov. 22 the bailiffs attached to the Kreisgericht of that place made their way into Archbishop Ledochowski's private residence, and, on a warrant of that court, seized his furniture and goods in three rooms for distress. The Archbishop was deeply affected by the violation of his private house, not having expected so severe a measure, but is said to continue firm in his resistance to the temporal power. Since that a fresh sentence has been pronounced against him for the unlawful institution of nine priests. The fine inflicted is 5400 thalers, or in default two years' imprisonment.

The Emperor of Germany and the Pope.—The 'Cologne Gazette' states the German Emperor's letter to the Pope to have been penned by his Majesty himself. A few additions were made by his Ministers, but none of them amounted to much, and, on the whole, the letter may stand for the Emperor's own mind expressed in his own words.

Among the champions of the Catholic cause in Germany the distinguished Archbishop of Posen and Gnesen, Mgr. Count Ledochowski, holds at the present moment one of the most prominent places. In his manly opposition to the execution of the baneful laws for suppressing time-honoured prescriptive rights of the Church he has the whole of the people of ancient Poland at his back, who are anxious to resist the encroachments perpetrated by the Germans on Polish soil ever since the first dismemberment of the realm of the Jagellons and Piasts.

While the Polish papers published in Prussia are prevented from speaking their mind by the arbitrary measures Bismarck's police now hesitate in adopting against them, those appearing in Galicia are vying with one another in espousing the cause so brilliantly advocated by the eminent prelate. Whatever Bismarck's friends tell us of "pre-montory symptoms of approaching submission," as they term it, only shows that the wish is the father of the thought. They must grow, a good deal older before the white flag is hoisted on the walls of the Catholic Church.

We are told that the Pope is an enemy of civilisation and a friend of barbarism, and the apostles of civilisation must hold congress at Berlin to rescue the world from barbarism and Pius IX. Strange civilisation is that which employs the plot, the sword, petroleum, and the dagger. It is a curious band of civilisers which consists of those who have broken treaties and forsworn their oaths. The political purity of Bismarck is of course spotless as that of Minghetti, and their pledged vows to each other are about as valuable as the oaths of fidelity sworn by the latter to the Pope. But perjury is doubtless a virtue of civilisation.

The German papers have, without exception, been speaking very disrespectfully of their late visitor, the King of Sardinia. It appears that Victor Emmanuel neglected to visit any of the grand things at Berlin—museums, monuments and curiosities—and the intellectual *titres carrés* have taken great offence thereat. But what would they have? He cares for nothing but soldiers, hunting and debauch; he would be quite out of place in a museum, unless he would consent to be kept there for the amusement and instruction of posterity. However, he has left them, and is back once more among his usual elevating pursuits. What a King! But is possible that his ministers (when they sent him into Germany) were so silly as to suppose that the world would not at once apprehend their motive? Did they think we should imagine that it was intense love for the Emperor William, and not rather intense fear of the Catholic party in Italy, whom it sees, with dismay, looking in the direction of France for help and deliverance? After all, the prospects of the Sardinian are not very bright. The perspective of an armed peace is anything but pleasant to the eyes of the usurper. The state of his finances all the world knows; the mass of his people are ripe for revolt, and on the stock exchange of Europe it is a matter of wager whether the *statu quo* of Italy will last five or six years. Men will live, see, and learn. As for the Church, she can wait.

There is a nice boy at Sparta, W. s. He amused his leisure hours by boring a hole through the dam just to see the water spurt. In fifteen hours after he started this leak the dam had given way, carrying off a valuable mill. What a flogging that boy would have got in ancient Sparta!