

polling-booth and in Parliament, because Catholics are so successfully availing themselves of such freedom. Is it now a crime in Catholics to avail themselves of a freedom which had so long been monopolised by their Protestant neighbours? The Protestant press are for ever declaiming on the advantages of liberty and constitutional government; but the moment Catholics come to be able fully to participate in these advantages and to act accordingly, than we are denounced as "conspiring against the laws and institutions, the liberty and independence of the country," and a hue and cry is raised against us—witness the article in the 'Evening Star' I now send you, and which may be supposed to be an echo of the Home press. The English Protestant mind was long possessed with the idea that France was the "natural enemy" of England, and writers such as the 'Evening Star' and his contributors, labored hard to keep alive and intensify that most mischievous feeling. But such a diabolical sentiment is happily a thing of the past. England, the most Protestant of States, has long been on the most cordial and friendly terms with France, the leader of Catholic Europe; and they are likely to continue united for ever. In the same way Protestants and Catholics have long been represented as hereditary enemies, at least under the English Crown. But that notion too, in spite of the efforts of many ill disposed men to keep it up, is fast dying out. In the eyes of some men, of whom the 'Evening Star' is possibly the representative, the greatest fault which the British Legislature can commit, is to do full justice to the Catholic; and the greatest offence of which the Catholic can be guilty, is to show a devoted loyalty to the Protestant British Government. When a few unwary or misguided or infuriated Catholics can be seduced by artful men into treasonable plots or conspiracies, great is the joy of their enemies. Witness the pretended Gunpowder Plot, in James I's time, which some Protestants, and those well informed historians too, firmly believe was the work of the King's Ministry themselves; a plot laid by them to entrap unwary Catholics, and afford a pretext for persecuting the whole Catholic body still more. This Plot could never have been carried out of course; the Ministry having the wires in their own hand, they could stop it and pounce on the "conspirators" when they chose. Be that as it may, certain it is the great body of the Catholics of the period had no more connection with it than the man in the moon, but abhorred it as much as the Protestants. The first respectable Catholic who came to the knowledge of it, Lord Montague, immediately disclosed it to Government. There is moreover strong reason to suspect that the anonymous letter he received about it came from emissaries of the Ministry, and was written by them to entrap him into the plot, or afford a pretext to accuse him of a guilty knowledge of it, since no Catholic of character and position was connected with it. The men who were engaged in that plot, about thirteen in number, were only nominally Catholics, like many in our day. The Catholic subjects of Queen Victoria at this time, are stupid enough to refuse to engage in real plots against Government; their enemies, therefore, like the writers in the Auckland 'Evening Star,' are kind enough to impute imaginary plots to us, to terrify our Protestant neighbours. Many men admit, and none more readily than the most eminent Protestant historians and statesmen, that the Catholics under the British Crown, have, in past days, suffered most cruel wrongs, from Government—wrong more than sufficient to drive the best disposed and most loyal subjects into most furious rebellions. But of late years they have received a large, if not a full, measure of justice, and are in the way of recovering their full rights at home and in the colonies. They would do well, therefore, as far as possible, to forget past wrongs, and to remember that to forgive injuries and to pray for those who inflicted them is the especial duty of every faithful Catholic; and that more particularly when the author of the wrong shows a disposition to acknowledge his fault, and to make suitable reparation, as the British Government has long been doing in regard to us. We are not now as we once were, placed in the painful position of being obliged either to apostasise from our creed, or to surrender our rights as freemen. Bismarck is fast driving the Catholics of United Germany to that cruel alternative; and, strange to say, a portion—but happily only a portion—of the Protestant Press and people of England, applaud him for the wicked act. Surely these men can hardly be honest or sincere in their loud professions of respect for liberty and the rights of conscience. On the contrary, they must be the most egregious hypocrites. The independent and honest, and consistent portion of the Protestant Press of England have expressed themselves as strongly against Bismarck's ecclesiastical policy as any Catholic could do. This shows that the tide is fairly turning in Protestant England generally against Bismarck and the German Catholics. The result of which will be a great accession of popularity and consequent strength to the Catholic cause throughout the whole extent of the British Empire. No wonder, then, that our enemies are at their wits end how to excite a prejudice against us in the Protestant mind, and get up imaginary "Popish plots" for that end. If few Protestants read the TABLET, the so-called R. O. Protestant "leaders of public opinion"—or some of them, it appears, do so, and are not always pleased with its contents. They found it necessary to put in a word or two "on the other side." So much the better. If they would only abuse and slander us a little more, all the better for us, and we should thank them for the favor.

#### MESSRS. DISRAELI AND GLADSTONE. THE CATHOLIC VOTE.

THE recent change of the ministry at home cannot fail to be ultimately for the benefit of the Catholic party, not that Mr Disraeli, however, is any greater friend of Catholics than Mr Gladstone. Both these men, like other Protestant statesmen in England, are mere men of expedients. They have no prominent principles. They are like a cork on the water, and float any way as the wind and tide drive them—very much in that respect like the Protestant Press. If Catholics be necessary to sustain them in power, they will favor Catholics, not otherwise. Mr Disraeli may feel the want of Catholic support in the hour of his extremity, and he will secure it if he prudently can by conceding something to the Catholics, if not all they want. It will be

the same thing in New Zealand, so Catholics here had better look after themselves and manage "the Catholic vote" well. On certain occasions, and these the most critical, our vote tells when given in a block, however few we be compared with Protestants. Divide the Catholic vote and we become the victims of our enemies at all times.

#### LATE EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

MADRID, March 2.—General Thomas's force will embark at San Sebastian for Santander, where it will be joined with troops under General Moriones. In the official reports of the battle on the Heights of Someroto the Government troops lost 800 killed and wounded. Subscriptions are being raised here for the wounded. Merchants in this city and provincial deputies offer the Government men and money.

BAYONNE, March 2.—The 5000 Republicans who were encamped near Portugalete, fifteen miles north-west of Bilbao, were surprised by the Carlists, and a bloody engagement took place, in which 1000 Republicans were killed, and the remainder took flight, and were closely pursued by the Royalists. All of them were either captured or drowned in attempting to cross the river in way of their retreat.

The Spanish army under General Morines has made three attacks on the Carlist forces before Bilbao, and were repulsed each time.

BAYONNE, March 4.—Don Carlos has been proclaimed "King of Spain." The coronation is to take place in the cathedral at Bilbao. He will appeal to the foreign powers to recognise the belligerency of the Carlists.

March 21.—Mr Butt, Q.C., moved an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's Speech, that the House legislate in favor of Irish self-government. The amendment was rejected by 314 to 50.

#### THE EXPECTED WAR.

WRITING from Paris under date, Jan. 16th, the correspondent of the Bombay 'Catholic Examiner,' says:—"At this minute we are under the most serious anxiety. War threatens us, and everything leads me to believe that within three or four months war will break out, we are not ready and everything leads us to fear a more terrible defeat than that inflicted on us three years ago. The war will come upon us from Italy and Germany. During last summer Victor Emmanuel had an interview with the Emperor William and during that interview the plan of attack was concerted. Yesterday I gathered all about this through the letter of one holding a high place in the State of dignity of the Church:—"Do what you will, we shall have war with Italy in spring." These words were written in the name of the Government." I have nothing new to tell you of the war preparations made by Italy during the past two years. Doubtless you have been informed about the armaments, the defence and the reorganisation of the army on the Prussian system; all this meant nothing but war. For some time past, the Italian regiments have been on a war-footing and have their campaign equipage. Italy, despite the penury of its defences, seems to be quite ready to take the field aided by Prussia. France is not ready for war, though preparations have been made. Thus the strongholds of Dauphiny and Savoy have just been put in repair; the Commandant of the Grenoble division has made the inspection of all the forts on the south-east, and upon his report, the Commandant of Toulouse has received orders to forward towards the frontier all the cannons he can spare. These details I give you because I am quite sure of them. They are busy making cannons at all the State foundries; but notwithstanding all possible preparations, we shall be sadly deficient in war materials, if Italy's threats are put into execution in the coming spring. According to the plan concerted between Berlin and Rome, Prussia being unwilling to incur the odium of a new war against us without pretext, will send Italy down on France through Provence and will be ready herself to lend aid as the ally of Italy. Despite all the fancies of patriotism, if this plan comes to be realised we shall be quite powerless in resisting this double invasion.

#### DEATH OF THE O'GRADY.

THE 'Times' records the death of the head of one of those ancient "septs" or clans of Ireland which claim Milesian descent far more venerable and illustrious than that of any of the members of the Irish peerage, except, perhaps, the O'Briens, representatives as they are of the Princes and Kings of Thomond—we refer to the O'Grady, of Kibballyowen, in the county of Limerick, who died a few days since, at the age of fifty-seven. The late William de Courcy O'Grady, was the eldest son of the O'Grady, J.P. and D.L., and formerly High Sheriff of the County of Limerick, who died in 1862. He was born in the year 1816, and was educated at Westminster and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took the usual degrees, and was called to the Irish Bar in 1840. He married, in 1851, Anne Grogan, daughter of Mr T. de Rinzi, of Clobemonhall, county Wexford, by whom he had, with other children, a son, Thomas DeCourcy, born in 1844, who now becomes the O'Grady. According to Sir Bernard Burke, the Milesian family of O'Grady is one of the most ancient in the far west of Ireland; and Dr. O'Brien, the late Catholic Bishop of Cloyne, in his 'Irish and English Dictionary,' assigns Conal Enchluath, King of Munster, A.D. 366, and sixth in descent from Oliol-Olum (of the race of Heber, eldest son of Milesius, King of Spain, who colonized Ireland), as the common ancestor of the O'Gradies and the O'Briens, now represented by Lord Inchiquin, of Dromoland, county of Clare. The same authority tells us that, "when the latter house subsequently, in the person of Brian Brien Boromhe, the renowned monarch of Ireland, established an ascendancy of power in North Munster or Thomond, of which they became hereditary rulers, the O'Grads came to acknowledge their paramount sway, and were arrayed as dynasts or chiefs of a sept under the banners of these provincial princes.—'Freeman's Journal.'"

In a letter from Caprera, dated September 2, Garibaldi says:—"In our quarrel with France, we are standing on a volcano, and I dare not risk my foot in it. You speak of priests! Yes! before engaging in the struggle, we must exterminate the priesthood, or we are lost."