

## GENERAL NEWS.

The act of Mr James Lick, of San Francisco in making over by deed the whole of his property to the public, has excited much comment in that city. He gives 700,000dol to the construction of the largest and best telescope in the world, for the observatory at Lake Tahoe; 420,000dol for public monuments; 150,000dol for public baths; 100,000dol for the Old Ladies' Home; 100,000dol to the Society for the protection of animals; 25,000dol to the Ladies' Protection Relief Society; 10,000dol to the Mechanic's Library; 25,000dol to the Protestant Orphan Asylum; 25,000dol the City of San Jose for an orphan asylum; 150,000dol for the erection of a bronze monument to the author of the "Star Spangled Banner," in Golden Gate Park; 300,000dol for the endowment of a school of mechanical arts in California; and the residue, in excess of 1,780,000dol to the Pioneers' Society. He makes ample provision for his relatives, and reserves a homestead and 25,000dol per annum for himself.

The Italian estimates for the year 1875, for public instruction, amounts to a little over 20 millions of lire, or £805,000. But the estimate for expenses of public security or police amounts to nearly double. The estimates for police and prisons exceed 37 millions of lire or, in English money, £1,502,261. Yet with this enormous expenditure for repression of crime, the public peace is not preserved in various provinces; murders and robberies prevail to a frightful extent.

While M. Loyson, between whom, by-the-by, and his still more unbelieving State supporters, there is a menaced split, upholds the absolute abolition of clerical celibacy in Switzerland; Bishop Reinkens in Germany has been exacting from a subdeacon whom he has ordained an undertaking that he will not marry until the "Synod" has decided the point. There can be little doubt what the eventual decision will be. But the status of the new sect in Austria has received a fresh blow in a judgment of the Supreme Court mentioned by a Vienna correspondent, the effect of which is to lay down the principle that a priest of the "Old Catholic" sect is not a priest in the intention of the laws, and that marriages celebrated by such a person are invalid.

The decision of the Bavarian Parliament in the case of Count Fugger has given lively offence to the Berlin press. It will be remembered that Count Fugger is a Jesuit, and had protested against the application to him of the law of internment or banishment, on the ground of certain Constitutional privileges possessed by the famous family to which he belongs. The Bavarian Assembly has decided the point, though by a small majority, in his favor, and the "Spensersche Zeitung" turns upon it, and declares that "the situation of Bavaria is inconceivable; that its Parliament is traitorous to the fatherland, its Government incapable, and its Sovereign continually oscillating from one side to the other; and that all this is the consequence of the particularism of the small States; adding, that Bavaria must be purely and simply incorporated into the German Empire." Nor is Bavaria the only State on which the Berlin newspapers are casting a covetous eye. Several of them express great astonishment and displeasure that portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh should be so extensively circulated among the inhabitants of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. They declare that it is a monstrous thing that an English Prince should be allowed to succeed to a German Duchy, and insinuate, that if the reigning Dukes of Saxe-Coburg and Brunswick should die without direct issue, advantage should be taken of the circumstance to convert both these Duchies into Reichsländer, or immediate dependencies of the Empire.

The question of the canonisation of the English martyrs, which has been for some years before the Holy See, is moving on another step. Father Morris, S. J., has been appointed Postulator for the cause in England by the Archbishop of Westminster; and some of the Oratorian Fathers in London have been nominated to examine the evidence. The traditions of devotion to various of the martyrs which exist in different parts of England are being carefully collected together, and proofs must be adduced—and they are forthcoming—that the cause for which those, whose canonization is looked forward to, suffered was not political but purely religious. We are well aware, of course, how the world, when it persecutes, loves to lay its justification upon political grounds. Our Lord was put to death because, they said, he stirred up sedition. The Jews to this day deny that He was crucified for purely religious motives. In all ages, in England three hundred years ago as in Germany to-day, the State assigns political reasons for persecuting Christians. It is not difficult, however, for the Church to distinguish between motives. It will be a great consolation to English Catholics to be able to honor in the liturgy the memory of their ancestors in the Faith. It is not likely, however, that the canonization, if it be decreed, will take place for some years.

The withdrawal of Monsignor Augusto Negroni from the Papal Court, in order to become a member of the Society of Jesus, has caused surprise to many. He was formerly Auditor of the Rota, and was also for some time Minister of the Home Office under Pius IX. He ranked high among the domestic prelates, being one of the *Prelati Referendarii*, and was supposed a likely person to receive at the next creation the dignity of Cardinal. Yet, with such prospects of advancement before him, Mgr. Negroni has chosen to enter the lowly Society of the Jesuits, who are now persecuted and condemned in every part of Europe by the pretended advocates of civilization and progress. His Holiness, when Mgr. Negroni asked permission to retire from the Court of the Vatican, enquired whether he had well weighed the step he was solicitous to take, and convinced himself that it would be in conformity to the Divine Will. Finding Mgr. Negroni's desire to be fixed and well-grounded, His Holiness gave him affectionately and solemnly the Apostolical Benediction. Mgr. Negroni has gone to Amiens for his novitiate.

In Switzerland there is a law, it is said, which compels every married couple to plant six trees immediately after the ceremony, and two on the birth of every child. They are planted on commons and near the roads, and being mostly fruit trees, are both useful and ornamental. The number planted amounts to 10,000 annually.

## ARRIVAL OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MAIL.

The Macgregor arrived at Auckland on last Saturday. From the items of news telegraphed we select the following:—

## ENGLISH AND FOREIGN.

Duke De Cazes, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, complained to the British Government that Germany was seeking to quarrel with France *in re* the Carlists. France denies conniving with Carlists.

An immense Home Rule demonstration was held in Glasgow. A procession a mile long was formed.

Twenty thousand persons attended a mass meeting, with similar demonstrations, at Dungannon.

In Spain, the Republican General captured Vittoria. The Carlists have suffered several reverses. The President of Spain thanked Germany for first recognising the Government.

Accounts of the famine in Asia Minor are of a very thrilling character. In one district 5,000 perished, and numbers subsisted on grass for weeks. The bodies lay unburied for many days. Several villages have been deserted.

Fifty thousand miners were addressed by Bradlaugh and others.

Eight hundred and six persons, formerly connected with the Commune, were arrested at Marseilles.

European reports are satisfactory respecting war between China and Russia. Advices state that China pushed forward 190,000 picked troops to the Kashgar frontier, and also garrisoned the frontier towns. It is attended to attack Kashgar, in which event Russia will assist that country.

Three Carlist officers concerned in the execution of a German named Schmidt have been arrested in Paris.

The German Government has instituted more vigorous measures against the Catholics, and seized large numbers of documents.

Don Carlos has been interviewed by newspaper correspondents. He professed great confidence in ultimate success, and his intention to build up Spain to her former national grandeur.

The Union Bank has declared a dividend of 14 per cent; the New Zealand Trust and Loan Company of 51 shure [£2 11s per share?]

The Emperor of Russia has presented £1,000 for distribution among the metropolitan charities.

Great distress prevails in Florence. Arrests have been made of persons connected with bread riots.

Advices indicate that the Bengal famine is still very serious. It will be five months before the rice is harvested. The death-rate is fearful. Some districts are suffering distressingly.

## AMERICAN NEWS.

Political riots with firearms have occurred in South Carolina among negro factions which were struggling for control of the State. A band of negroes in Mississippi were repulsed by the white residents with several killed. Military assistance was sent for.

Two railway accidents, with loss of life, have occurred.

Extensive fires have occurred in various parts of the States. A fire broke out on a Cincinnati steamer. Thirty-five lives were lost.

Great scandal is created in Montreal, owing to the discovery of the exchange, by three members of the Cabinet, of a piece of Government land worth 230,000dols. for a piece of private property worth only 40,000.

The Cubans attacked and destroyed plantations, and are arming emancipated negroes.

The Pacific mail steamer Guatemala was wrecked. No lives lost.

By the Otago, which arrived at the Bluff on Wednesday, our English intelligence is supplemented by the following items of intelligence. The latest Cable dates are to the 8th September.

Sir George Berkely has been appointed to the governorship of Western Australia, as successor to Governor Weld, appointed to Tasmania.

The ship Suffolk, from London to Brisbane, is at Mauritius refitting.

Tallerman's meat preserving company has declare a dividend of 10 per cent.

The Austrian Arctic Polar explorers have arrived at Norway, after abandoning the expedition. Tegretsoff reports travelling in sledges over mountain ridges beyond latitude 80 degs.

The Great Eastern has completed laying the new Atlantic cable.

The Marquis of Ripon has adopted Catholicism, and has resigned the Grand Mastership of Freemasons.

At the wool sales 116,000 bales were sold principally to the Home trade. Tone of the market is now weaker. Balme and Co., wool-brokers, report of series that advance. Superior scoured fleece is 1d lower; scoured, 1½d to 2d; washed half-breds, 1d to 1½d; greasy half-bred ¾d to 1d; greasy merino, ¾d.

Wheat steady at decline. Adelaide, 55s to 58. Flour 37s to 43s per 37lbs.

On the 4th September, a disturbance occurred in the department of Meuse. The Gend'armes intervened. One rioter was killed and nineteen wounded. Slight demonstrations also occurred in other places, and at Lyons several arrests were made.

The Zabala Cabinet have resigned, and a new ministry has been formed, with Don Sagasta as Premier; Minister of Interior, Signor Bogaayr; Ministerial Offices, Finance, Colonies, and Foreign Affairs remain unchanged.

The Carlists have abandoned Puigcerda.

The Carlists at Gutaria, in the North, fired upon a German gun-boat, which replied, sending twenty-four shells into the town.

An extensive conflagration at Meiningen, in Prussia, which destroyed half the town, and 3000 persons were rendered homeless.

MELBOURNE, Sept. 10.

The Albion arrived this morning with the supplementary English mail, but was detained owing to damage done to her rudder.