

the Count of Flanders and the French King under the Van Artevelde in the 14th. In fact, the elections in that town are almost invariably the scenes of great rioting, and the Catholics, even when victorious, often come off badly in the matter of broken windows, or even more serious damage. On this present occasion almost anything was anticipated. On Saturday, the 'Bien Public' strove to fortify its readers by the example of the Irish Catholics under O'Connell, and occupied its first page with vivid sketches of the "Liberator" and his agitation. On Sunday, the "Veni Creator" was ordered to be sung in all the churches for the success of the Catholic cause. The same day happening to be the Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi, the grand annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place through the town. The procession was a marvellous success, attended by the cavalry and infantry, as well as by a vast body of religious, priests and laics, altogether making a procession, it is said, of some 50,000 people. Strange to say, no disturbance took place, though grave fears were entertained. I, myself, was in Ghent that day, and found the town strangely quiet. On Monday, the Catholic organ made its final appeal to the Catholic voters. "Vote for the Liberals, and you will have a Liberal Ministry. With a Liberal Ministry, Bismarck is already at the gates of Brussels!" Yesterday (Tuesday) the different elections took place; of course the various results are anxiously received here in Lorraine. A large body of the University students and others assembled at the station in the afternoon, waiting for the telegraphic announcements, and all the favorable despatches were welcomed with cries of applause. At last the telegram came from Ghent. The *facteur* or telegraph employé rushed forward, and read out: "*Gand; victoire complète des Catholiques!*" The enthusiasm of the students knew no bounds; with loud cries of *Vive les Catholiques!* and even *Vive les Culottes!* (a nickname of the priests and clerics, who wear the ecclesiastical knee-breeches) they rushed forward, seized the *facteur*, hoisted him on their shoulders, and carried him about in triumph. Thus the Catholic cause has been successful, for all the members returned by Ghent are Catholic; and, as before remarked, the Ghent election decides the whole campaign. In anticipation of serious rioting large forces of both cavalry and infantry had been sent from various parts to the turbulent city; but fortunately, though there were some commotions and a certain amount of rough work, no very grave disturbance occurred; a result probably owing to the precautions taken.

## RECORD OF GERMAN PERSECUTION, &c.

(From the German correspondent of the TABLET)

### ADDRESS TO THE BISHOP OF MUNSTER.

DURING these last days of the month of May, the Bishop of Munster has received another manifest token of the devotion and affection of those who are placed under his paternal care. In a small place, Ludinghausen by name, which has a population of about 5,000 souls, the women and young girls have, to the number of 1,160, presented an Address to their Bishop. The Address is as follows:—

"My Lord Bishop,—The undersigned women and young girls, following the impulse of their sentiments, presume to testify to you by means of this Address their veneration, interest, and devoted fidelity. Although we are not called upon, as the husbands of many of us are, to take an active part in the affairs which are now occupying the attention of all around us; still, seeing the persecution which our Holy Church is at the present day undergoing, and in which your lordship, as shepherd of the same, is taking a prominent position, we cannot refrain from assuring you that we will endeavor in all things to uphold and give our support to our Holy Mother the Church as far as it lies in the weak powers of women.

"We, therefore, promise your lordship most solemnly that if ever it should come to pass that the school be no longer guided by duly appointed priests, so that religious instruction and education should thereby suffer, we will ourselves all the more carefully instruct the little ones in the faith of the Holy Roman Catholic Church and in the love and loyalty due to our Holy Mother.

"If ever that bitter time should come when our Roman Catholic priests be hindered in the celebration of Divine Mysteries and the preaching of God's Holy Word in the churches, our houses shall become temples dedicated to the holy service of the Almighty.

"If everything round us should tend to vilify God and His Holy Commandments, we, with silent perseverance, will labor to bring up our young children even as the Christian mothers did, in the early centuries of Christianity, so as to be ready to seal their faith with their very blood.

"Finally, if ever anything should be demanded from us which is inconsistent with the rights of the Church and her divine teaching, your lordship may rest assured that, with God's holy grace, we will choose imprisonment and banishment, nay, even death, rather than fall away from the faith of our forefathers.

"Whilst, therefore, by placing our signatures to this address we solemnly bind ourselves to perform all here promised, we further pledge ourselves that our feeble prayers and communions shall be offered to the heavenly throne of God's mercy with redoubled fervor on behalf of your lordship. May it please your lordship to remember us in your prayers and in the Holy Sacrifice, and to impart to us your Episcopal blessing."

### THE BISHOP OF PADERBORN.

The Bishop of Paderborn is expected to be involved in a series of lawsuits. The last Pastoral Letter but one which he addressed to his flock was during Lent; on its appearance it was immediately confiscated. They have summoned before the courts of justice the priests who read it to the people from the pulpit; and as each case comes up for trial the Bishop, as being the principal cause of the supposed offence, finds himself again and again involved in a new lawsuit. These summonses increase in number every day, as there are 450 parishes in which this condemned Pastoral Letter was read. So it is not difficult to see how these actions brought against the Bishop are

likely to reach a preposterous number. But what is still more outrageous is to see that the paragraph in the said Pastoral Letter which has drawn down the indignation of the Government runs as follows: "Inasmuch as the object they have in view in assailing us as they do, is no other than to separate us from the See of Rome, as our enemies themselves confess, and the representatives of the Government declare publicly in the House." It is difficult to see what crime is to be found in this paragraph, if we consider for a single moment the words of the Minister of Public Worship which were uttered on the 29th of January, and may be found by anyone who wishes to see them, in the published shorthand report of the same. The question was put whether the Minister of Public Worship was willing to grant the salary (namely, the salary of Bishop Reinken, amounting to 16,000 thalers, to be paid out of the Treasury of the State), "I think (said the Minister) that it is only reasonable not to say merely just to grant this pension; for if the necessary means are afforded to those who adhere to the Vatican, in order to perform the rites ordained by the Church, with much greater reason should the same be made over to those who hold the position of Old Catholics." (Dr. Falk leaves unmentioned the fact that the true Catholics have a real right to these pecuniary subsidies; for the State has appropriated to itself a great part of the Church property. If, therefore, he bestows a small sum out of this fund on the Church, he is only yielding to the strictest obligations of justice.) The Minister continues: "For, gentlemen, there is this difference between them (the Catholics and the Old Catholics): The Old Catholics belong to the number of those Catholics who regard the laws of the Church as binding and are ready to obey its commands, refusing to follow the example of those who have attached themselves to the cause of the Bishops. Further, gentlemen, we must acknowledge this fact, there is in the mode of action of the Old Catholic party a certain spirit which coincides entirely with the views of the Government. What line of conduct they may later on pursue is more than I am able to say; the spirit to which I allude manifests itself in the struggle against Rome; and if you say, that in bringing forward this Bill we are endeavoring to forge for ourselves a new weapon in this our struggle, we can accept the statement only inasmuch as the Old Catholics are united with us in opposing the aggressions of Rome."

### THE THREATENED IMPRISONMENT OF THE BISHOP.

The imprisonment of the Bishop of Paderborn appears to be delayed on account of an action which has been brought by one of his relations, against the Administration. Herr Martin, a landowner of Kandelshiem, had purchased from the Bishop all his furniture, by a deed dated March 31st, 1873, and registered by a notary. He has, therefore, now brought an action against the District Exchequer Office, on account of the distraint which it had made on the Bishop's goods, by way of levying the fines which his lordship had incurred. The Provincial Court has decided the matter in favor of Herr Martin; it has laid down that the goods in question were his property, and therefore could not legally be seized in payment of the Bishop's fines. Whether the Exchequer Office will remain quiet under this decision, or appeal against it, still remains to be seen. If an appeal is made, it must be lodged within a period of six weeks; but in this case the final settlement of the affair will not take place for at least some months. Till then there is a fear of the Bishop being subject to arrest or imprisonment.

### IMPRISONMENT OF FATHER WEHN.

The affair of Father Wehn, the priest in the neighborhood of Coblenz, which, towards the end of the Session, caused so much excitement in the House of Deputies at Berlin has been brought to a conclusion by the Governor of the district in a most curious way. It was impossible to keep Father Wehn continually in prison; hence there appeared, on the morning of May 23rd, at the House of Detention, a secretary in the Governor's employ, who announced to Father Wehn that it had been arranged that he was not to be allowed to reside in the districts of Coblenz or Wiesbaden until the proceedings against him were terminated. He was further informed that he was then and there released from arrest; but that until noon of May 27th he would have to be at the disposal of the Government, and was to remain absent from his usual residence, under penalty of a month's imprisonment. After an official report of the matter had been drawn up, the following questions were put to him:—(1.) Where he intended to take up his abode? (2.) Whether he was prepared to hand over the books and seals of his church? (3.) Where these books and seals were to be found? To these Father Wehn returned answer: "The first question concerns no one but myself. The second has already been dealt with in the House of Deputies. The third is involved in the second." When invited to sign the Official report of the proceedings he declined to do so.

### PROTESTANT FEELING IN GERMANY.

To this willingness of the Government officials to back up the administration in its contest with the Church, the honorable conduct of individuals, even of some Protestants, affords a very remarkable contrast. An instance of this recently occurred within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Paderborn. On Sunday, May 20th, the men of the parish of Holzhausen marched in solemn order to the Castle of Aron von der Borg to read him an Address of Thanks which had been signed by the representatives and all the independent inhabitants of the parish. The noble Baron had, although himself a Protestant, with the greatest generosity, given to a young Catholic priest, a most hospitable reception at his castle, because he had been persecuted by the Government as the appointed priest of the parish. Caring nothing for the anger of the Liberals, Baron von der Borg had thus given expression to his Conservative sentiments by the course he had adopted. After the Address had been read, and the Baron, who is universally popular, had been loudly cheered, he returned thanks in words full of feeling for the unexpected honor they had done him. The ovation he received made all the more favorable impression from the fact of its having proceeded from the spontaneous action of the people.