

GENERAL NEWS.

Perhaps the most impressive sermons that are preached against intemperance now-a-days, are those delivered by judges from the bench. The English judges in particular, seem very outspoken and practical in their denunciation of a vice which lies at the root of most of the crimes which men commit against their fellows. Recently one of them said: "The places of judicature which I have long held in this kingdom, have given me opportunities to observe the original cause of the enormities that have been committed for the space of over twenty years; and, by due observation, I have found that if the murders, manslaughters, burglaries, robberies, riots, tumults, adulteries, fornications, and other enormities that have happened in that time were divided into five parts, four of them have been the occasions and products of excessive drinking in taverns and alehouse meeting." No doubt our own judges could offer testimony equally emphatic against this degrading vice.

The 'Journal de Bruxelles' publishes the following article concerning Archbishop McCloskey's new dignity: "Some years ago Lincoln—who was destined to die an unhappy death—was President of the United States. The statesman foresaw the intention of Pius IX., and the act which he has accomplished to-day. He sent to Rome a well-known diplomatic who called upon Cardinal Antonelli, and as he only spoke English, he used as interpreter one of my friends, who told the cardinal that President Lincoln begged the Pope to give cardinals to the United States, as America would gladly see the Catholic Church in her dominions possess the same splendor she does in Europe. The diplomat asked also to be permitted to make his demand in person of the Pope. Cardinal Antonelli was amazed, and replied, 'But the Pope has never sent a cardinal to America.' 'The very reason why they ought to do so now; but we do not want his Holiness to send us a cardinal; we want American cardinals, American, mind you, American cardinals.' He repeated the word 'American' in that dry tone peculiar to his countrymen. 'The United States are very far off,' exclaimed the Secretary of State; 'how could the American cardinals get to Rome in time for the conclaves?' 'Has your Eminence ever been to America?' 'No, certainly not.' 'I have just come thence. I have been there six times. It took me nine days to go from New York to Southampton, and five more to perform the journey from Southampton to here. The United States are at the doors of Rome. You speak of conclaves. Why in days gone by it took a cardinal a month to go from Seville or Dublin to Rome, now they come in a few days, and we are only in the act of rapid transit.' The Cardinal could not see it in this light at all, and repeated his objections, but yielded at last to the diplomat's request to be led into the presence of the Pope, who manifested quite different views from those of Antonelli, and said, 'I think President Lincoln is a great man, and that he is quite right. And, indeed, Eminence, I have always thought God reserved me the consolation of endowing America with Princes of the Church. Remember, I am the first of the successors of St. Peter who has ever been to America.' The greatness of the Pope's character was easily seen in his trait. He received the American diplomat with kindness, made him presents, and, moreover, gave him a mosaic table for President Lincoln, and accepted the idea of creating at a future and convenient date an American cardinal."

Modern "Civilization," heaven save the mark, is not an object of special reverence in Dr. Brownson's eyes. He sums up American and English civilization in the following pregnant paragraph: "England is the best representative of modern civilization, and, after England or Great Britain, comes our own Republic. England is precisely the country in which we find the greatest poverty and the most squalid wretchedness; and hundreds and thousands of workmen and women in our own country are out of work because there is no work for them to do, and must starve unless kept alive by public or private charity. Moral principles are sacrificed to material interests, and with them the material interests themselves. The said result of modern civilization in the material order, in relation to the well-being of the laboring classes, as evinced by the frequent strikes and destructive combinations to which they are driven, is a sad commentary on "modern civilization" and the "modern ideas."

Those Jesuits who are at the bottom of every plot of the Catholic Church to stifle science have recently been conducting themselves in a manner to call for the severest censure from every enlightened opponent of "Romanism." The conduct of a pair of Jesuits is thus fully portrayed by our East Indian contemporary, the 'Indo European Correspondence': "Some of our readers may occasionally come across persons who still believe that the Catholic Church is the deadly foe of science and enlightenment, and that if she had her way we should be all obliged to believe that the earth is flat and that the sun moves round it. Yet some of these persons may have seen in the 'Times' not long ago something about an astronomical instrument of M. Janssen's. Of this instrument the 'Times' says: 'We are not afraid of hearing that it has failed at Kerguelen; for Father Perry, in whose hands it is, is one of the only men of the English expedition long accustomed to the use of astronomical instruments.' Now this 'Father Perry' is a Jesuit of the English Province. The 'Times' also contains a notice of a work on geology (probably the one mentioned in our item of news from Belgium in the present number of our paper) which has been 'crowned' by the Royal Academy of Belgium. Few will suspect that the author is a Belgian Jesuit."

The Irrepressible Conflict of the present day, were we told, is between science and the Church. It is to be noted, however, that it is the "scientists" who tell us this. It is provoking, however, that "Catholics won't serve not a red." They deny the conflict and declare that if it existed, so much the worse for science. We commend this passage from Dr. Brownson's latest 'Review' to our readers. "Well, gentlemen, what truth of science do you allege the Church prohibits, opposes, or contradicts in her teaching? We do not ask what theory, hypothesis, conjecture or guess of so-called scientists she refuses to accept; but what fact or truth

that you yourselves dare pretend is scientifically certain and unquestionable, that conflicts with her teaching, or which she anathematizes. Think, gentlemen, examine your own minds, and precise your own thoughts. Can you name one? Suffer me to tell you that you cannot. I have no pride in the fact, but I belonged to your party before I became a Christian, and I find, in reading you works, nothing, no thought, no theory, no hypothesis, or conjecture even, bearing on the conflict you speak of, that I was not familiar with before any of you were heard of, and before some of you, it may be, were born. You are none of you original thinkers: you are notorious plagiarists. My own youth was fed with the literature from which you pilfer, and my young mind was nourished with the absurd and blasphemous theories and speculations which you are putting forth at present as something new, original, and profound—as science even,—but which had become an old story with me long before you reproduced them. We know, minus a few details of variations of phrase, all you can say in favor of your pretended science, and all you can maintain against the Church. Were we not trained in Boston, 'the Hub of the Universe,' at a time when it was really the focus of all sorts of modern ideas, good bad and indifferent? What have any of you to teach one who participated in the Boston intellectual movement from 1830 to 1844? We Bostonians were a generation ahead of you. We have the right to speak with confidence, and we tell you beforehand that you have no truth the Church denies, and that you disprove or demonstrated the falsity of no doctrine the Church teaches."

From the Dunolly 'Express' we clip the following, the writer of which would appear to have known New Zealand's present guiding spirit in his more obscure days:—"Nuttall, who was then publishing the 'Advertiser' at Maryborough, brought a plant to Dunolly, and the paper was called the 'Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser.' Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining an editor and reporters, and Mr. Nuttall applied to me to supply the paper articles and news. I was then so much engaged that I could not spare the time, and told him so, when he said that the same contributions I sent to other journals would do for him. I did not exactly see the force of this brilliant idea, and he had to seek elsewhere for the help. He at length obtained an editor, whose articles created great fun in the town, being among the richest things ever seen in print. Subsequently a gentleman, who has since made a great stir in New Zealand, and who has there mounted to the very top of the political ladder assumed the editorship of the paper, and it was then one of the best conducted provincial journals in the colony. Prior to this the gentleman referred to kept a small chemist's shop at the Hard Hills, and the difference between both his fortune and appearance then, and since, is somewhat remarkable. Certainly no one would have thought that he was likely to be the Premier of any colony, and much less that he would make one of the most daring statesmen that the colonies have ever seen. Not only has this been the case, but he has actually received the honor of knighthood, and his aptitude for negotiating loans is something surprising even to those who have considerable experience in that line. Victoria has overlooked the merits of more than one man, who, when he was lost to it, developed extraordinary talents. That the gentleman of whom I speak is a man of consummate ability, and that his talents were much underrated in this Colony, there cannot be a doubt. He did commence a political career here, but it was it under the wrong auspices, and he never managed even to get into the House. Little did the party whose cause he espoused, know their man, or they would have moved both heaven and earth to have got him elected."

A discussion on the best means of ventilating the Channel tunnel has arisen, one authority maintaining that the use of coke as a fuel for the locomotives must not be thought of, and that some other motive power than steam must be adopted. To renew the air once an hour the draught through it must be at the rate of twenty miles an hour. It is well to consider these things beforehand, but it may with confidence be asserted that if the tunnel can be built it can be ventilated.

The ex-Empress Eugenie and her son are in Madrid, on a visit to her imperial majesty's mother, the Countess de Montijo.

Bigr. Martin, Bishop of Paderborn, has received an address of felicitation and devotion, signed by 85,000 members of his flock.

Father Capeccellatro, of the Oratorio of Naples, has written a book upon Gladstone's recent publication, which is very highly spoken of in the Italian press.

The London 'Telegraph' in commenting on the elevation of Dr. Manning, remarks: "Upon a continent (America) which holds State Churches in abhorrence, and has enshrined 'freedom to worship God' among the fundamental axioms of its policy, it is worthy remark that no faith is making greater progress than that over which the Holy Father at Rome presides."

An Italian deputy, Signor Tamajor, member for Messina, recently informed the Parliament assembled in Rome, that the conditions of the prisons in Italy under the present regime, was infinitely worse than it was under the Bourbons. "I have myself visited them, and I am certain I am justified in declaring them utterly abominable, far worse than they were when visited by Mr. Gladstone. In two rooms, for instance, which are really too small to contain 80 persons, they now crowd 380. The stench in these places is horrible beyond the power of words. Three times I have appealed to the Minister of the Interior about this, but I have never been answered by his excellency. The state of the Northern Italian prisons is equally bad, and until something is done for their amelioration, we shall be disgraced in the face of Europe."

According to the 'Iron Age,' a wedge or plate of iron has been found imbedded in the masonry of the great Pyramid, the indications being that it must have been wrought in the age of Cheops, placed by some authorities as far back as 5,100 years ago. This makes the use of iron 2,500 years more ancient than it is supposed to be, and affords opportunity for explaining the cutting of the sharp and well-defined hieroglyphics on porphyry, granite, and other hard stones employed in the construction of Egyptian pyramids, temples, and tombs.