

of 100,000 Irish electors, and will keep a watchful eye upon the proceedings of their representatives in the Imperial Parliament.

In Germany there are nearly 100,000 more women than men.

Ice two inches thick will support a man; at a thickness of three inches and a half it will support a man on horseback; five inches of ice will support an eighty-pounder cannon; eight inches, a battery of artillery, with carriages and horses attached; and, finally, ice ten inches thick will support an army—an innumerable multitude.

Maréchal, the communist who urged the shooting of the Archbishop of Paris, has died at New Caledonia.

Isaac Butt, in one of his speeches, compared Sir Hicks Beach, the Irish Chief Secretary, to Lambro—the mildest mannered man who ever scuttled ship or cut a throat.

Mr S. Royce stated recently, before the New York Liberal Club that the annual death-rate among the laboring classes is 55 in every 1000, while among the wealthy it is only 15 to the 1000.

As a substitute for the guillotine, an American inventor has laid before the French Government a self-acting machine, which takes the condemned out of this world in a twinkling, and the new apparatus only costs £400.

A recent return states that the amount of suitor's stock and cash in the hands of the Court of Chancery is £60,425,400; the unclaimed dividends in the Bank of England reach to over a million; and about a million and a half lies to the credit of the Intestate Estates fund.

Gabriel Max, a German artist, is said to have produced a painting with a most extraordinary characteristic. It is a representation of the face of the Saviour. At a distance the eyes appear to be closed, but as one advances they seem to open gradually until they bend upon the spectator a mournful and pathetic gaze. This remains until the visitor gets quite close to the painting, when they are again closed.

A dog show has been opened at the Crystal Palace, and 1178 animals of all kinds and breeds are exhibited. The Princess of Wales has won a first prize for a fine St. Bernard.

It is stated that the English Government will issue a Royal commission upon vivisection. Cardinal Manning has written a strong letter condemning the practice.

Three new field-marshal's are to be appointed in England. The first-named is the Prince of Wales. The next is Sir John Fitzgerald, who entered the army in 1793, eighty-two years ago, and the third the Marquis of Tweeddale, who entered in 1804, and served under Wellington in Spain. The tardiness with which the honor has come to the veterans is made conspicuous by its bestowal upon the Prince, who never smelled powder when there was any danger in the operation.

During the rifle match, Colonel Bodine, one of the American competitors, made fourteen bull's-eyes out of fifteen shots at a distance of 900 yards.

Dublin proposes to take the lead of all other literary centres in the matter of establishing a School of Journalism.

Professor Gori, of Rome, suggests to have capital punishment inflicted by wild beasts in the Colosseum. The professor has not been inaptly named.

A man's rank in Siam is indicated by his attendant slave. This last bears upon a tray the badge which designates his master's position. Ten-kettles of gold and silver, plain or ornamental, are patents of the highest grades of nobility, and are presented by the king as commissions of office.

Before hereditary surnames came into use, men were distinguished from their fellows by some personal peculiarity or employment, or by residence. One John was called "the Smith," another John "the Carpenter," one was Gurth of the Vale, another Gurth of the Wood. The practice obtains in many districts of England to this day.

THE 'STAR' ON RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION; EATING THE POPE.

Your brother of the 'Star' appears to entertain very obscure and misty ideas—very confused notions—on the subject of persecution for conscience sake, and on the legitimate limits of the civil power in relation to the ecclesiastical. The Catholics of the German Empire, according to him, are not at present suffering any persecution. They are only being punished, and justly punished for disobedience to the Civil Government in a purely civil matter. A man who says that, will say anything. What is the use of any reasoning with such a man as the editor of the 'Star' on such a subject. It is worse than idle, a mere beating in the air to do so. Happily, there are many Protestants and some English conductors of Protestant journals, who regard Bismarck's present line of policy to the German Catholics in its true light, and look upon "the man of blood and iron" as a barefaced persecutor—who wishes to "strangle" the Catholic Church—by placing German Catholics, and if he could, the Catholics of every other country under the thumb of the Civil Government in religious matters. He appears to regard this as his "mission." He will run to the end of his tether in due time. He will no doubt find the Pope and his friends a great deal more difficult to "manage" than he supposes. He has only begun to feel his difficulties; when a man once enters on a course of lying or deception, he finds that one lie or trick only leads to the necessity for others and worse. So with a tyrant or persecutor—one measure of injustice or tyranny only prepares the way for others of a more aggravating kind, until the climax is reached and a "burst up" ensues. Bismarck began with fines and banishment; he has now proceeded to imprisonment; by-and-by he may be forced to conduct his victims from the prison to his block, since they defy his powers. They prefer to obey God rather than Bismarck. For this every honest and consistent Protestant, non-conformists of all kinds, especially ought to admire and applaud them. Many Protestants, especially in Germany, do admire them for such

courage. The bright, particular 'Star' of Dunedin does not, and is false to his own creed, as a professed liberal and friend of liberty, by condemning their conduct and approving that of their ironhearted persecutor. It has been said with more force than delicacy that whoever eats the Pope will burst in the end.

Bismarck has been some time engaged in "eating the Pope" and finds him rather tough food, and hard to digest. We shall in due time see the effects of the meal, whether he burst or not. History has many instances, and some even in times not very far remote of rulers who have eaten the Pope; in other words, have treated him and his spiritual children with injustice and contempt, and tried to "strangle" the Catholic Church. But history further tells how these "great men" have burst—how they came to a miserable end after a career of vice and cruelty, and entailed many calamities on their posterity and country, and sowed the seeds of future wars. This remark will naturally recall to every one's mind the names of the English Nero or Bluebeard, our Henry VIII., and the modern Alexander, Napoleon I., and even the Third Napoleon—the modern Pontius Pilate. These two latter it is true, died in the faith of the Church, and God is merciful to all truly penitent sinners, however grievous their sins. But their history furnishes a memorable illustration of the fact that he who eats the Pope will burst at last. Even the Protestant historian, Alison, a man of a most religious and enlightened mind, could not record the terrible sufferings of Napoleon's army in the memorable retreat from Moscow, when the arms dropt from the benumbed hands of the men without adverting to the fact of Napoleon having scornfully remarked on being excommunicated by the Pope, that he could not take the arms from his soldiers. Alison considers that the dropping of the arms from the soldier's frozen hands in such circumstances, had a connection something more than "accidental" with the Pope's excommunication, and Napoleon's derisive boast of his inability to take the arms from his men. The finger of the Almighty was visibly displayed on the occasion, and the Pope proved more than a match for this proud and terrible conqueror of nations and kings. After such an example Bismarck would do well to beware. He, too, like Napoleon, has entered on a life and death contest with the Pope. He, too, defies the Pope to his face, heards the lion in his den, and tries to seize and strangle him. We have seen the commencement of this contest. The end has yet to come. The youngest among us may not live to see its close. If Bismarck be wise, he will "come to terms" with the Pope ere it is too late, though such counsellors as the 'Star' of Dunedin would no doubt urge him to stand out and show no quarter to "Papists," to treat them on the Cromwellian principle, and deal with them "thorough,"—smite them all with the sword of the Emperor, if they would not submit to place their consciences at his absolute disposal.

In the meantime I believe we shall not see war. The Pope is peaceable, and England is bent on peace. The Pope and England rule the world, saving the presence of Bismarck and the 'Dunedin Star.' England long ago eat the Pope, and has good reason to remember the consequences. As time passes on, the Pope and the English Government, and people become better and better friends. The Royal Family of England have of late shown delicate marks of respect and reverence for the venerable occupant of St. Peter's Chair, such as some pretended Catholic sovereigns have been far from showing, and which the Dunedin 'Star' may think ought not have been paid. No doubt the 'Star' considers the chastisement of females by the lash at the command of the Russian Government because they refuse to renounce their faith as Catholics is quite legitimate, and a very praiseworthy thing in vindication of the civil power. The abettor of persecution is as odious as the persecutor himself.

Since writing the above, I have seen in your paper that the Protestants in England are now fully alive to the nature of Bismarck's policy to Catholics. Their generous offering of pecuniary aid to Bismarck's victims is a memorable incident in the history of our times, and this remarkable struggle. Your brother of the 'Evening Star' might now well blush for shame at what he has written of Bismarck and his victims. *Quem deus vult perdere prius dementat.* Those whom God has doomed to ruin, first run into mad and desperate courses. So it may be, and probably will be with Bismarck in spite of all his talent. His energy is the energy of a madman. He has gone to far, and cannot now either advance with safety, or retire without disgrace. To add to his other difficulties, he has now roused the indignation and horror of English Protestants against him. They have found him out, as they found out Garibaldi. The 'Star' refuses to have its eyes opened as yet. Poor dupe, what will not bigotry and prejudice do to darken men's minds, and pervert their judgment.

LARC.

MR. MACANDREW.

MR. MACANDREW seems now coming round to common sense and justice in his view of the education question. He has got thus far apparently that as an honest man and consistent Christian, he is bound to treat Catholics as he would wish that they, under like circumstances, should treat him. Hitherto he and his party seem, in the treatment of Catholics, to have ignored this plain and fundamental principle of Christian morals. You suspect his sincerity. But wait and see. Time will show him in his true colors as an honest man or a canny dissembler in this case. You ask "is he in earnest." I say may-be aye, and may-be no. The celebrated Junius had so bad an opinion of Scotch sincerity, that he said he never saw a Scotchman smile but he felt an instinctive inclination to guard himself against mischief. Mr. Macandrew now begins to smile a little on Catholics—let us hope he means them no harm but good, in spite of Junius' venomous remarks. If he only prove true to the principle he enunciated at Port Chalmers, and follow it up, we may yet have him on our side. Junius spoke of Lord Mansfield as "that canny Scotchman whom some verily believed to be an honest man." We must not speak of Mr. Macandrew that way as yet. A shrewd Scotchman he certainly is.

NORTH BRITON.