

PERE MONSABRE ON FREE WILL.

(From the 'Catholic Standard.')

"It is useless, impossible, to attempt an explanation of history and of monuments unless you admit free will. In enthusiastic pages I find the praises of men sung, who have long since disappeared; I see inscriptions, tablets, medals, statues, triumphal arches, temples that recall past celebrities. But what do you mean by a celebrity? It is a genius whose inspirations have given a vigorous impulse to letters, arts, sciences, political and social institutions. It is a valiant man, always the first in combat; a hero, who sheds his blood and sacrifices his life for his country; a generous heart, whose imperishable benefactions have fallen like a saving dew over some great human misery; it is a saint, whose sublime virtues have embalmed an entire age, and save it from corruption. If all these were free, it is just to honor, to immortalize their memory. This genius, instead of exhausting himself in a prolonged labor, might have slept in idleness and been content with an easy talent; such was not his desire. The hero, instead of hastening to meet death, might have awaited its coming; this he could not endure. The benefactor might have enjoyed his treasures, instead of bestowing them upon others; he might have lived in insolent pomposity, instead of showing himself generous to the unfortunate; he wished not such a course. The saint might have imitated the balance of mankind and have taken part in their voluptuous life, or at least he might have been satisfied with ordinary goodness; he would not. To wish that which we might not desire; not to will that which have the power to consent to, herein lies all the glory, for it is in this that liberty consists. Is there no liberty, or free will? In that case make a hecatomb of all souvenirs. Obliterate, tear all asunder, break, overthrow and destroy all; historic pages, inscriptions, tablets, medals, statues, triumphal arches, temples, and in the midst of the ruins thus created, erect yourselves dwelling places wherein you may spend the day in forgetfulness of the past, submitting to a fatal law, awaiting till its iron hand strangle you, and cast you into the chasm of the unknown, in company with the false celebrities who have been glorified by mankind. Yes, the souvenirs which we call glorious are ridiculous, immensely so, if they are not the result of that self-possession given by free will. Is the sun glorious because its pregnant rays permeate all space? Is the earth glorious because it is covered with abundant harvests? Is the lion glorious because his strength and his courage cause the beasts of the forest to tremble? What are geniuses, heroes, benefactors of humanity, saints—what are all these to me, if they could not do otherwise than be what they were? The smile of destiny on their life does not merit a souvenir in my obscurity and in my misery. Glory is ridiculous, mankind odious in the execution of justice, the moment we suppress free will."

EXPERIMENTS WITH DYNAMITE.

On Tuesday a series of experiments with dynamite, intended to illustrate the safety with which it may be carried by rail or at sea, was made at Stevenston, Scotland, in presence of a number of gentlemen connected with the railway and shipping interests. Mr. MacRoberts, the resident manager of the British Dynamite Company, conducted the company through the works and explained the nature of the various processes of manufacture. As an introduction to the experiments to follow, Mr. MacRoberts cut a dynamite cartridge in two, and, in order to show that it would not explode without being in contact with the detonator, he applied a light to one-half of it, which burned slowly away. To the other half he attached a fuse and percussion cap, when an explosion of considerable force occurred. A tin case containing fully a pound of gunpowder was next placed on the top of a 5lb. case of cartridges, and a fuse applied to it. This was followed by a slight puff, the only other effect being the charring of the waterproof covering. Not satisfied with this result, it was suggested that some gunpowder should be placed among the cartridges in the inside of the case, and, this being done and the gunpowder fired, it only communicated the fire to the dynamite, which burnt slowly away without any explosion. This was regarded as affording conclusive proof of the safety with which dynamite may be carried over sea and land. Another experiment was the breaking of a charcoal wire rope of one inch in diameter. This rope was suspended in the air with fully half a pound of the explosive attached to it. When an explosion occurred the rope was found to be neatly and closely cut, a closer examination showing that the strands had been subjected to a process of straining before the final separation occurred. As illustrating the useful adaptations of dynamite at sea, several experiments were made to show its efficacy as a fog signal. It was further stated that the action of dynamite is extremely local, in proof of which Mr. MacRoberts caused two rafts to be moored 15ft. apart in a small pond. On one of these he placed a box containing 10lb. of dynamite, which, on explosion, completely smashed the raft, while the other remained untouched. The final experiment exhibited was intended to show the force of the explosion and the damage which may be caused by a small quantity of dynamite. A solid block of metal measuring 9½ by 12½ inches and 10 inches deep was set on a piece of wood, and above it was placed a canister into which 15 pounds of dynamite had been packed. After the explosion the block was found to have been forced about two feet into the sand. On being got out and examined it was seen that the surface on which the canister was placed had suffered an indentation of one inch, and that the block was cracked in all directions, while a measurement disclosed the fact that it was now 10½ by 12½, and 9½ inches deep, thus proving that the greatest force had been exerted on the upper surface of the block. This concluded the experiments, which were considered most satisfactory.—'Mail.'

The six Chinese companies at San Francisco have sent telegrams to their agents at Hong-kong, requesting the cessation of further immigration of their people to this country, because of the hostile attitude of the whites.

THE JEWS IN GERMANY.

Come and read, and then acknowledge that what the Radical Railway organ in Prussia now says, has been repeated again and again in our columns, with a warning cry of danger. The danger signal should be hoisted outside the house of every Jew: now learn why:

Considerable attention has been excited at Berlin by an article written in a newspaper of extreme Radical politics, the 'Eisenbahn Zeitung,' or 'Railway Gazette,' calling for the expulsion of the Jews from the German Empire. The exile of the Jesuits, it says, is a *fait accompli*, and that of the Hebrews must follow, if Germany is to be saved from a danger indescribable by any other term than that of 'invasion,' so numerous are the Jews, so audacious, and so powerful. Their activity, the writer goes on to say, is immense, and the more active they are the more mischief they do the country. Their activity, he asserts, is entirely devoted to gain, *quocunque modo*; and, as they outnumber the Christians on the Bourse of Berlin as 20 to 1, while official statistics of taxation show that Christian wealth is to Jewish only in the proportion of 10 to 1, he thinks the conclusion is mathematically warranted that the acquisitiveness of the Hebrew race exceeds that of the Christians tenfold. Only twenty-five years ago the mansions in the aristocratic suburb of Berlin, called *Unter den Linden*, belonged exclusively to Christians; those houses are now, without a single exception, the property of Jews, so that the *boulevard* is now popularly called the *Judengasse*, or 'Jews'-street.' Then also joint-stock companies, which to a lamentable extent, have proved themselves of late years little else than a mode of swindling and plundering the public, are principally in the hands of the Jews, who outnumber the Christians on their boards of directors in the proportion of 90 to 1. As to the public Press, it has long been known that it is in Germany to a great extent at the disposal of Jews. The Radical railway organ's conclusion is:—'We expelled the Jesuits that we might not cease to be Germans, we must take some measures with the Jews if we would escape being beggars.' He asserts that the complaints of people who have grievances against the Jews is loud throughout Germany, and that 'the Jewish question has become a question of life and death. Why does not the majority of the nation exhibit as much resolution against the Jews as it did against the Jesuits?' The reason is evident. It is not in obedience to the dictates of genuine public opinion that the Jesuits and the Church have been persecuted in Germany. The country is ruled by two powers: openly by Cæsarism and secretly by revolutionary influences. The Catholics have been sacrificed to a temporary coalition of the two naturally hostile forces. The ill-assorted compact already shows signs of dissolution. When it breaks up, a change of the present policy will become inevitable.—'Catholic Examiner.'

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

Every Irish Bill introduced this session in the House of Commons by the Home Rulers have been defeated—with one exception,—a bill to regulate the pensions of coroners, introduced by A. M. Sullivan—which was accepted by the Government. The majorities, however, have been remarkably small, compared with late years. The Irish Franchise Bill was strongly supported by John Bright and other leading Englishmen. The chief Irish bill of the session is the Land Tenure Bill, introduced by Mr. Isaac Butt, and now under discussion. In his opening speech, Mr. Butt said he had convinced himself by studying Irish disaffection, that until the land question was satisfactorily settled they never could have peace or contentment in Ireland. He also satisfied himself of two things—that they never could settle the land question until they gave the tenantry security of tenure, and that security could never be obtained as long as they left in the hands of the landlord the arbitrary power of eviction. This land question, and the unsettled relations between the landlords and tenants of Ireland, he had no hesitation in saying, were the cause of all the miseries of Ireland. It was apparently the general wish and desire of the landed proprietors of Ireland to keep their tenants in a state of subjection to themselves. A country where the people were in a state of serfdom never could be prosperous, contented, or peaceful. But landlords used that power of eviction which good landlords employed only for beneficial purposes. In 1849, no less than 500,000 civil bill ejectments were served in Ireland, and since that time he had himself seen whole districts desolated. The two main provisions of the bill were the taking away of the landlord's arbitrary power of eviction; and, secondly, their power to raise the rent without due cause. Tenants would have the right to claim the protection of the Act whenever they wished. Another provision of the bill was to give greater security to Ulster tenant-right. The settlement of the value of the rent he proposed to leave to three persons, one to be nominated by the landlord, one by the tenant, and the third to be chosen by the other two. In case this arbitration broke down, the rent was to be fixed by a jury. In one case he retained the landlord's power to evict, and that was where the tenant committed wilful waste on the land. In conclusion he denied that the bill was a violation of the rights of property. The bill is bitterly opposed by the Government; and there is not much hope that it will eventually pass.—'Pilot.'

A pilgrimage to Lourdes from Ireland is in preparation. For the sanctuary of that favored spot, two beautiful and costly offerings will be borne, early in the approaching summer, by pious pilgrims from the Sister Island, as evidences of their love and veneration. One of these is an exquisite silver lamp from Munster, the other is a richly emblazoned and embroidered banner from Connaught.—'London Register.'