

death of her only daughter, remarked that had her child lived she "would have been educated in a convent." "Not a Catholic convent?" I exclaimed in surprise. "Why, of course," she replied, "they make such good scholars, and then they make such perfect ladies." "To become good scholars and perfect ladies," continues the "Columbian's" correspondent, "is certainly what we send our daughter's to school for. On repeating the above conversation to a good old lady, she said that God had taken the child from the evil to come. The argument was unanswerable, but I could not help wondering why God took little girls who are not intended for convents." "Many good, conscientious Protestants," she adds, "are prejudiced against convents simply because they know nothing about them, perhaps have never been inside of one, yet they will quote such sensational writings as 'The Escaped Nun,' or 'Danger in the Dark,' and consider the matter settled." Our neighbors, that is to say, on their own testimony, are blind chiefly because they are not willing to see. It is her own intention, says the writer of this letter, to visit some of the prominent convents if time and opportunity is granted her, and lay the result of her studies before the public. There are always opportunities to visit Catholic institutions, whether of education or charity; the difficulty is that they are too seldom availed of by careful and candid observers.

It is surely very significant to learn, as we do on the unquestionable authority of the 'Pall Mall Gazette,' that every mail that arrives from Fiji brings news of the continued depression which has existed in that youngest of the colonies since the islands were annexed to the great British Empire. So far from prosperity having been augmented by annexation, it has hitherto steadily declined. If we do not mistake, this happened in the Ionian Islands too, till they ceased to be under the benevolent management of England, and it is needless to say that the same thing is happening in India and in Ireland at the present day.

We noticed last week the projected destruction of the church of St. Caius and two others. Their destruction has since been completed. The church of St. Caius was one of the most ancient in Rome; it was dedicated to Pope Saint Caius who suffered martyrdom in the year 296, under the Emperor Diocletian of whom he was a relative. He was buried in the cemetery of San Callisto. After his martyrdom his house was changed into a church, as also the adjoining house of St. Susanna, niece of St. Caius, daughter of St. Gabrinius. It is believed that in this house St. Caius exercised his pontifical function, and that is was the scene of his martyrdom. St. Sylvester I. gave to the two churches a better form, and placed in both the Lenten stations of the same day. They also became a single cardinalial title. Later this title was separated, St. Caius was transferred to St. Mary of the Angels, that of St. Susanna remained. In the course of time the churches fell into ruins, and even their original site was forgotten. Under the pontificate of Urban VIII. several noble Dalmatians after a long search succeeded in finding not only the church, but also the body of the saint and that of his brother, St. Gabrinius, which had been transferred from the cemetery to the church. Their relics were placed in the altar of the church when it was rebuilt by Urban VIII., after designs by the architects Paparelli and Vincenzo della Greca. The cardinalial title was not restored since its separation. The Church of St. Teresa, which has also been destroyed, was founded by Caterina Cesi, of the noble families of Orsini and Cesi, widow of the Marquis della Rovera. In the adjoining convent she made her profession as a religious, which in one month was followed by her death. The church was built after the designs of Bartholomeo Braccioli. The first mass celebrated there was on the 25th of April, 1627. Being very near the Quirinal it was very often visited by the Sovereign Pontiffs. There Innocent XIII. while cardinal celebrated the investiture with the white veil of his two grandnieces, daughters of Prince Ruspoli, and when he became Pope invested them with the black veil. Daily the grand old monuments, the seats of piety and learning, the triumphs of art in its noblest form, are disappearing before the ruthless hands of the atheistic destroyers.—'Catholic Review.'

On July 13th, a train full of pilgrims bound for Lourdes met with an accident of so singular a nature that all the French papers speak of it as one of the most astonishing events in the history of steam locomotion. It seems that about twelve o'clock at night the pilgrim train was stopped in order to allow the passage of a train coming from Mont de Marsan. To make up for loss of time, the pilgrim train was afterwards set in rapid motion and travelled at the rate of sixty miles an hour. Suddenly this speed was stayed by a terrible catastrophe. The team had got off the rail and presently was overturned with awful violence—all the carriages were broken to pieces. Every one expected that some of the passengers would have been killed. But, thanks to the protection of our Lady, not one was hurt. The station-master, the conductor, and all the officials declare that they never had seen or heard of so wonderful an escape. Not a man, woman or child was hurt. "Assuredly, Father," said the conductor to Father Briant, "this is the most wonderful miracle yet performed by our Lady of Lourdes. All the carriages are ruined and yet not a human creature injured."

The action brought by M. Dubac, the director of the Jesuit College, and fifty-five Jesuit students, against the newspapers for libel in connection with the Ecole Polytechnique's examination papers, has been decided. The Tribunal condemned six newspapers, including the 'Republique Française' (Gambetta's paper), to a fine of 2,000f. each, and ordered the insertion of the sentence in ten journals in Paris and ten in the provinces.

Monsignor Dupanloup, who has so long and so persistently urged the cause of the beatification of Joan of Arc, has recently received an unexpected assistance in the form of a manuscript discovered in the Arsenal Library at Paris. It is of the date of 1585 and is a confutation of the twenty propositions or counts on which the Maid of Orleans was sentenced to the stake by the British. The author was Father Elie Bourdeille of the Franciscan order and afterward Bishop of Perpignan, Archbishop of Tours and Cardinal.

The discovery was made by the famous hagiograph Father Marcellino.

It is notable that the war estimates in France have steadily gone up since the close of the contest with Germany, until they now stand at 535 millions of francs for 455,000 men; the same gentleman who in the last years of the Empire used to insist that the time of standing armies had gone by, and that what the nation required to render it irresistible was liberty, now voting in favor of compulsory military service, and, in fact, of almost every demand made by the War Minister!

The 'Times,' commenting on the appointment of General Berthaut as French Minister of War, says—France is striving to resume her old military influence. Europe cannot dispense with it.

The Turkish commander, Osman Pasha, who was defeated and taken prisoner by the Montenegrins, is an Hungarian renegade. In 1848 he was implicated in the Hungarian revolution, but on the suppression of that movement fled to Turkey, where he embraced Islamism, and attained high rank.

A correspondent complains in 'the London Rock' bitterly on un-Protestant and unfaithful bishops, and refers thus to the Model Houses Association meeting in Willis's Rooms: "The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided. Dr. Manning was on the right. The whole meeting was nothing but a mutual admiration business. 'My Lord Cardinal' was congratulated on his earnestness, &c.; and the Romish dignitary compared notes with an Anglican bishop on the subject of church building and pastoral work. To hear a Protestant bishop say 'My Lord Cardinal' to a Popish prelate in a public meeting made me indeed sorrowful and pensive. It will not be a matter of great surprise to you to hear that Dr. Elicott's engagements took him away, and that, at the request of his lordship, the scarlet dignitary aforesaid then went to the chair."

Belgium and Portugal have just been celebrating on a grand scale—the one the forty-sixth anniversary of national independence, the other the forty-third anniversary of the establishment of constitutional liberty. In the former country religious ceremonies in the Catholic churches, banquets, balls, and illuminations characterized the day; in the latter there were also balls, and banquets, and illuminations, and on Monday evening in Lisbon, writes the correspondent of the 'Daily News,' "a grand review of 7,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, 42 pieces of artillery, and six mitrailleuses was held by the king, with a brilliant staff." Home Rule has evidently done those little countries no harm.

The Antonia Palace of Malta has been taken from November next for the residence of the Duchess of Edinburgh, who will thus be not so far from her husband, at sea in the Sultan.

The loss of life and damage caused by the late floods near Dinapore, in Bengal, seem, according to Bombay papers of the 28th July, to have been much more serious than was at first reported. A correspondent at Dinapore, writing to the Agra paper, says, "A few miles beyond the railway, the Bund or canal works have given way, the consequences of which have been sad. Three villages, with about 500 men, women, and children have been swept off, and their lives sacrificed. The whole of the country for about ten miles is flooded, the water coming down through the station of Dinapore like a fierce mountain torrent." The 'Times of India' says portions of Bombay have been flooded owing to the heavy rain which fell on the 25th and 26th of July. The Ganges overflowed its banks on the 24th. Serious floods are reported from Northern India. The railways have been much damaged, and many miles of country are under water.

Lord Penzance had before him to-day at Lambeth Palace, as Dean of Arches, the second suit under the Public Worship Regulation Act, Hudson and Others v. the Rev. Arthur Tooth, for Ritualistic practices at St. James's, Hatcham. The "representations" under the Act, which had been filed and served on the defendant, set forth that on Sunday, the 19th of December last, and on Sunday, the 9th of January, he had a procession immediately before the Communion service with lighted candles and a crucifix. Mr. Tooth, in the procession, wore an alb girdle, maniple, stole, amice, and chasuble, and had a biretta on his head. Two candles were placed on a table at the side of the chancel, and on the conclusion of the service were carried out in the same manner. There were 18 charges in the articles as to illegal vestments, using incense, having a mixed chalice, adopting the eastward position, having his back to the congregation, kneeling during the prayer of consecration, using wafer bread, making the sign of the cross, having the hymn "Agnus Dei" sung, partaking of the sacrament when less than three persons were present, having a great bell tolled during the communion service, with having lighted candles held by persons in cassocks and surplices, with wearing a belt, and with images near the communion table. Evidence was given, and occupied the whole day.—'Ulster Examiner,' July 22.

The 'Pall Mall Gazette' (London) says:—"At the present time there is not in the peerage a lineal male descendant of one of the many earls and barons created by the Conqueror or his immediate successors, the Norman Kings of England. There is no male descendant of a single baron who was at Runnymede either for or against King John, nor of any peer who was at Agincourt with Henry V., and only one, Wrotesley, who can claim male descent from a Founder Knight of the Garter—the Wrotesleys having reached the peerage within the last forty years. Under their existing creations the dukedoms of Norfolk and Somerset only are older than the reign of Charles II., the marquises of Winchester and Worcester only are older than the reign of George III., and only eleven earldoms, six merged in superior titles, are older than the reign of James I., the five others being Shrewsbury, Derby, Huntingdon, Pembroke, and Devon. At the death of Queen Elizabeth the peers of England numbered about sixty, and forty of the then existing peerages are now extinct."