

DR. NEWMAN ON THE SPREAD OF INFIDELITY.

THE Rev. Dr. J. H. Newman, preaching at the Birmingham Oratory on Sunday morning on "Approaching signs of the end of the world," said that, ever since he grew up, wherever he had been, he had this one lesson imprinted on him by holy men, that the aim of the world was to exalt knowledge over religion. Before he was a Catholic, as well as at the present, he had always seen that the world asked more and more were putting forward more knowledge and the benefit which came from knowledge as the thing which was necessary for the world. They wanted to supersede religion; they did so without knowing it fifty years ago; but now their eyes were opened, they saw that they wanted religion, and they wished to destroy it by means of knowledge. There seemed to be no doubt, humanly speaking, that as years went on there would be more and more a spread of principles of unbelief or Atheism, or a denial of God. These poor men were so beguiled and deceived, and the deceit was so strong, that even the elect were in danger. It was now getting greater strength, and he did not see that there was any help for it, except by the prayers of the Church. There was no human way by which they could stop that torrent of infidelity which was threatening them so much, and of the existence of which they ought to be made perfectly aware. The literature of the present day was very specious and plausible in argument. Perhaps Catholics were not so clever as these men, who had drawn information from so many sources, and put forward their views so confidently, that it was only through God's grace they were not all deceived. The religion of the present day was one of self-idolatry, and utterly destructive of all faith and hope of heaven. Thinking much of these things in the course of, he might say, fifty or sixty years, he could not help looking with great anxiety and distress and pity on the generation before us. He believed a most dreadful combat, a most awful conflict between the powers of good and evil was now coming upon us in the next generation, and that there would be a great temptation to give up the Holy Catholic Church.

GERMAN EVENTS.

SINCE the beginning of the present persecution in Prussia, the German Catholics have every year become more united, and added new strength to the noble, though passive resistance which they offer to an infidel and tyrannical Government in its endeavors to rob them of their faith. The recent elections have furnished an irrefutable proof of this happy result of the Kultur-Kampf. Our enemies deplore it; to us it is a subject of sincere congratulation, and a hope and a pledge for the ultimate victory of the Catholic cause in Germany. As Catholics form only a small fraction of the Prussian population, they cannot expect ever to command a majority in Parliament, but what the new elections have unmistakably shown, is a considerable increase in the number of Catholic votes throughout the kingdom, and consequently of power also, with which, quiet and enduring though it be at present, the Government will one day have to reckon either in Parliament or out of it. In the two provinces of Westphalia and Rhenish Prussia all proposed Catholic members who were expected to pass have been returned; if, in a few towns like Crefeld, Düsseldorf, and Neuwied, more votes ought to have been given to the Catholic candidates than was actually done, it was not owing to the Catholic voters, but to the machinations of the Government that had previously split up the Catholic voting districts, and amalgamated the dismembered parts with Protestant districts. By this dishonorable proceeding, imitated from the Bavarian so-called Government Election Geometry, most Catholic votes lost their value. And thus it came to pass that although the number of Catholic voters increased 50 per cent. in the districts in question, not less than eight seats of the Centre party were lost; two in Düsseldorf, two in Neuwied, two in Beuthen, one in Fraustadt, one in Conitz. On the other hand seven new seats were gained, viz. two in Hohenzollern, three in Glatz, and two in Ratibor, to which must be added an eighth, that of a Hanoverian Protestant, who will also join the Centre; so that in point of numerical strength the Catholic party will be exactly what it was last year. Had not the Government played a double game, our party would have been strengthened in the Landtag by at least six, if not eight, new members.

In a village school of Silesia the new school inspector having seen a large cross hanging on the principal wall of the schoolroom, whilst the Emperor's picture occupied a less favored place, angrily began the following conversation with the schoolmaster:—Inspector. "Who gives you your bread?" Master. "Well, I suppose the 'commune' through the Government." "Indeed! have you no better answer?"—and, pointing to the Emperor's picture, he added: "Here is he who gives us all our bread. And, therefore, you will at once remove his Majesty's likeness to the large wall, and the Cross to the other." Soon after the inspector's visit came the superior, the school councillor. "What!" says he to the bewildered schoolmaster, "who told you to hang the Cross on that wall!"—"The school inspector." "Why?" "Because that gentleman thought we all received our bread from his Majesty." "Oh! indeed!" answered the councillor with indignation; "and is it not God in heaven who feeds us all? Replace the pictures where they hung formerly, and if anybody should ask you why, just say that I, the school councillor, ordered it, and that I will have it so."

The well known martyr priest, Rev. Father Classen, of Treves, who is still in gaol, has been summoned by the Ober-President to assign his functions as parish priest.

The arrest of the editor of the 'Reichsglocke,' Mr. Talchau, was not exacted for his revelations about Bismarck's shares in a commercial undertaking of—to use a lenient expression—doubtful respectability but for other offences against Bismarck's honor. Nothing undaunted, the paper continues its attacks on the German Chancellor as "gründer," i.e., founder of trade companies, and proves its accusations by the quotations of facts. Everybody is amazed in Berlin that Bis-

mark has not yet given orders to arraign the paper for calumny, and people begin to think that the revelations of the 'Reichsglocke' must be true. Military circles especially have become shocked by the paper's assertion that Bismarck received one million from Messrs Rothschild and Beichröder when the Central Rural Credit Society was founded. In case Prince Bismarck should not soon invoke the arm of justice for the protection of his fair reputation, certain superior officers will bring the matter before a court of honor.—'Liverpool Catholic Times.'

THE GREEN FIELDS OF THE MOON.

WHEN the moon is at the full the unassisted eye readily distinguishes on her face certain dark grey spots more or less sharply separated from the brighter portions. Through a telescope these spots appear as broad, level spaces, resembling terrestrial seas. Indeed, the earlier observers mistook them for seas, and by that name (Latin *mare*) they are known to this day. They are not seas, however, but ancient sea beds, now probably, nearly, if not quite, destitute of water; vast arid basins like the Sahara, or the great interior Utah basin of America. Examined more closely, these dried-up sea beds—to which Nelson applies the irregular but convenient plural *mares*, are seen to have a rolling surface like some of the western prairies, or to be traversed by numerous long ridges, resembling the wave-like sandhills which give so marked and peculiar an appearance to the deserts of Western Australia, the level portions being dotted with low mounds interspersed with small crater pits. In many places formations of an apparently alluvial character abound, while the ancient coast lines show distinct traces of water action. Two of these lunar plains—*Mare Humorum* and *Mare Crisium*—are walled in completely by lofty mountains, presenting stupendous precipices to the vanished sea. The larger *mares* are more like ocean beds. They run together as terrestrial oceans do, and sometimes merge into the brighter continental regions without a distinct line of demarcation. In other places they show a rugged coast line, rising into cliffs and peaks, and pierced at times, by valleys and ravines. One of the most conspicuous of these lunar ocean beds, also one of the deepest, is known as the *Mare Serenitatis*. Its area is nearly 125,000 square miles. Within its dark grey border, from thirty to eighty miles wide, is an extensive inner plain which at times presents a fine, clear, light green tint, with a central streak of pure white, the green area lying lower apparently than the grey exterior. The green tint is difficult to catch, except under favorable conditions, and is much weakened by the effect of numerous small white round spots and grey ridges. Another of the moon's green plains was discovered by Madler in the *Mare Humorum*, already mentioned. This is one of the smallest, as well as most distinctly bordered of the dark grey plains. Its area is 50,000 square miles. The greater portion of its interior is distinctly tinged a dusky green, sometimes very marked, affording a strong contrast with the pure grey of the borders and high enclosing ridges. On the west the green area extends nearly to the edge of the *mare*, but elsewhere, as in the *Mare Serenitatis*, it is separated from the border by a narrow darker grey fringe, except on the north-west, where the grey and green areas merge insensibly into each other.—'Scribner's Monthly.'

RELIC OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

AN interesting relic of Mary, Queen of Scots, will soon be lost to the antiquary and to the admirers of the unfortunate Queen. In the little seaport town of Roscoff, situated in the north of Brittany, in the department of Finisterre, there stands a small ruined chapel, dedicated to St. Ninian. This was founded in 1548 by Mary Stuart on the very spot where she disembarked when coming into France to be affianced to the Dauphin. To preserve the memory of the place of her landing, history tells us that her foot was traced on the rock, and above it was raised the little Gothic chapel, beautiful in its simplicity, if we may judge from the remains still standing. The roof has long since disappeared, but the arched doorway, though weather-beaten by the lapse of ages, is there. The mullions of three windows remain perfect, though disfigured with stones replacing the ancient glass. The interior of St. Ninian's Chapel is desolate indeed, though three stone altars stand in their original places, and impress one with the idea that the restoration of this sanctuary would not be difficult. Alas! another fate awaits St. Ninian's; the little chapel is doomed to entire destruction, and those who would wish to visit it must hasten to do so before the end of this year, as early in the next the work of demolition will be begun. A small plot of land adjoining the chapel has been given for the purpose of erecting a "Salle d'Asile," an excellent institution much needed in the parish; but the space is not sufficiently large, and hence the appropriation of the ground occupied by the chapel has been voted. The commune is poor, and unable to purchase a site for the "Salle d'Asile" elsewhere. The little chapel presents no special architectural beauty, no elaborate stone carvings to sacrifice, but as an historical monument it cannot be replaced. Is there no lover of antiquity, no partisan of the House of Stuart, who would wish to preserve the Queen's Chapel, and by timely aid would help in the erection of a "Salle d'Asile" elsewhere? A work of charity unquestionably of more real value than ruined walls!—'Catholic Mirror.'

The Irish and their descendants have given the Catholic Church of the United States the majority of its clergy. As an instance it may be stated that there are to-day 400 priests in this Republic bearing only Irish names. They are as follows:—Brennan, 15; Brady, 22; Carroll, 13; Doherty, 16; Kelly, 25; Lynch, 21; McCarthy, 15; McGuire, 14; Meagher, 14; Murphy, 33; O'Brien, 24; O'Connor, 24; O'Neill, 18; Reilly, 34; O'Sullivan, 18; Quinn, 16; Ryan, 31; Walsh, 33.