

Lord Palmerston were alive, the British government would take up the case. Certainly it would not be deterred for want of a precedent, for, in 1850, did not that government present to the Holy See a bill for the damages sustained by British subjects during the Revolution, amounting to twelve thousand pounds sterling? But the times are changed; Italy is a great nation, or at least too great for England at the present moment, with everything else on her hands.—*Catholic Review*.

The *Temps*, giving the substance of a letter from Bessarabia on the Russian army there says:—"The army is composed of four corps of Infantry, each having two Divisions, of four Divisions of Cavalry, and twelve regiments of Cossacks. The Artillery consists of about 400 field guns, and there are four bridge equipages. The strength of the force is about 140,000 men, 120,000 of them Cavalry. The personnel and materiel are good, the soldiers are pretty well clad and well armed, and the Cavalry is very well mounted. The Cossacks form an excellent light Cavalry. The Artillery are well horsed. The administration, however, leaves much to be desired. The equipage train is entirely wanting in the Russian Army, and the lack of this important part in the materiel is seriously felt; and the commissariat, ambulance, and hospital services are hardly organized at all, or, at any rate, very badly. Great efforts are being made to remedy all these deficiencies. The field hospitals are already ranged; 30 will follow the army, and nine of these are already in working order. Thirty others will keep in the rear of the army, each of them accommodating 600 patients. The International Society of Assistance for the Wounded has offered the Government 15,000 beds on paying 1s. 30c. per day for each patient. The first supplies of corn, flour, and cattle are assured, but not for a long period."

London has a large weekly newspaper called *The Obituary*, devoted, as its title shows, to obituary and mortuary proceedings. Undertakers who get up funerals in every variety, cremationists, embalmers, vault-makers and grave-diggers, all have their say in its columns, while the makers of humble tombstones and the sculptors of gorgeous monuments are ready to decorate the last home of man. Crape-makers, manufacturers of all sorts of funeral appliances, and especially mourning mantua-makers, claim the attention of the afflicted in their special advertisement. Wills of distinguished individuals are given, and lost wills advertised; the cards of attorneys drilled in probate matters, and advertisements for absent heirs, make up a portion of its patronage. The reading matter is all suited to the subject, while the obituary notices form a staple item, and, if necessary, choice notices are written by distinguished writers for the afflicted friends and relations of deceased persons.

A sad story comes from the village of Walton-on-Trent. On a recent Sunday afternoon, when the village children came out of school, one little fellow, aged eleven, named James Mewis, was teasing a girl named Charlotte Butcher and pulling her dress. She told him to be quiet, and in pushing at him with an umbrella the point accidentally entered his eye, and he fell unconscious to the ground. He was taken home, and the effect of the shock upon his father was so great that he was seized with a fit, and died shortly afterwards. The little boy died about seven o'clock the same evening, and his mother has since been confined to the house owing to the influence of the sudden double bereavement upon her health and spirits.

The *Sport of Paris* records some dynastic facts of a curious character. With the exception of Spain, Sweden, Italy, Brazil, Servia and Montenegro, all the Christian nations submitted to a monarchical régime are, it says, governed by sovereigns of Germanic race. The House of Brunswick-Hanover reigns in Great Britain, and that of Saxe-Coburg will succeed it, after the death of Queen Victoria, in the person of the Prince of Wales. In Belgium and Portugal we again find the Saxe-Coburg family allied with the House of Braganza at Lisbon. The Emperor of Russia is a descendant of the family of Holstein-Gottorp, and, through Catherine the Great, of that of Anhalt. Another branch of the House of Holstein, that of Sonderburg-Glücksburg, reigns in Denmark and Greece; the Prince of Roumania is a Hohenzollern, and the King of Holland belongs to the Nassau family. The Emperor of Austria, chief of the Lorraine-Hapsburg House, is of a race purely German. The illustrious family of Lorraine descended from Charlemagne, and this house and that of Hapsburg were merged by the marriage of the last Duke of Lorraine, Francis, with Maria Theresa, the last inheritor of the blood and name of Hapsburg. We scarcely need remind our readers that the Emperor William I. is of pure Germanic race; and the same remark will apply to all the other German sovereigns without exception. The chief among them, viz., the Kings of Bavaria, Saxony and Wurtemberg; the Grand Dukes of Baden, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg and Saxe-Weimar; the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg, Gotha, Saxe-Meiningen and Saxe-Altenburg are all of pure German origin. France has furnished a Bourbon to Spain and a Bernadotte to Sweden; the last male descendant of the House of Braganza reigns in Brazil; and the royal family of Italy is of Savoy origin. Finally, the small principalities of Servia and Montenegro have local dynasties.

Washington was married, but had no children. Adams was married and had one son, whom he lived to see President. Jefferson was a widower; his wife died twenty years before his election. They had six children—all daughters—of whom only two survived infancy. Madison was married, but had no children. His wife was the most elegant woman that ever adorned the Presidential mansion. She survived him many years, the pride of Washington society, having lived to listen to Clay's farewell speech in the Senate. Monroe was married, and so was John Quincy Adams. Jackson was a widower, and so were Van Buren and Harrison. Tyler was a widower when he entered office, but soon afterwards married the heiress Miss Gardener of this city. He was the only President that married during his term of office. Polk was a

married man, and his wife survived him a number of years. General Taylor was a widower. Pierce was a widower, but Buchanan was a bachelor. The social condition of such men as Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant needs no reference, except to add that Grant is the first President who had a daughter married while in office.

Death has recently deprived the Carlist cause of one of the eldest as well as the bravest and most devoted of its defenders. Don Francisco Merry was born in Seville, on the 6th of November, 1793, his father being a resident merchant there, of Irish descent, and his mother a lady of noble Andalusian extraction. He entered the British navy as midshipman, and was present in the Stork frigate at the siege of San Sebastian, 1813, for which service he afterwards received the naval war-medal. In the Spanish navy, which he subsequently joined, he rose to the rank of post-captain, and during the revolutionary troubles of 1820-23 was remarkable for his truly Conservative Royalist opinions. When Ferdinand VII. was arrested by the Cortes and thrown into prison at Cadiz, Don Francisco Merry proposed to run in his ship and carry the King off in triumph to Gibraltar; but the intention became known through some oversight or folly on the part of the King himself, and Don Francisco, who had gone to Seville to make certain arrangements with reference to the affair, was astounded to read in the revolutionary official journal the entire details of the plot, together with his own name as that of the prime mover. He managed to rejoin his ship in disguise, and when the King re-entered Madrid (as Roy Absolut!) Don Francisco was on the occasion created a Knight Commander of the Royal and distinguished Order of Charles III.

HISTORICAL! Vide "Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. A. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. C. Skinner. "So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, almost useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded." Honorary Certificate, 629: Gustav Hirsch Dunedin, for specimens of Dyeing in Silk Feathers, &c.

A R T U N I O N

TO CLEAR OFF THE DEBT ON THE

CATHOLIC CHURCH CHRISTCHURCH,

TO BE DRAWN FOR

ON THE ART UNION PRINCIPLE,

ON

THE 9TH APRIL, 1877.

PRIZES CONSISTING OF—

One New Double-seated Buggy, with patent leather hood	100
One Harmonium	18
One new set of Plated Buggy Harness	15
One Cow in full milk	15
One Horse	35
Quarter-acre Land (a town section)	15
One Lady's new Gold Watch	10
One Gentleman's New Silver Watch	10
One Eight-Day Timepiece	5

And various other Prizes, consisting of Works of Art, Jewellery, &c., &c., ranging in value from £1 upwards.

The winning numbers to be published in the Christchurch daily papers and the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

TICKETS—TEN SHILLINGS EACH.

Tickets can be obtained from an Member of the Catholic Church Committee, or the Clergy, Christchurch.

CATHOLIC ART UNION.

THE DRAWING FOR THE PRIZES IS POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 9.

All Books, with the duplicate numbers and the money for the tickets sold, must be returned on or before Tuesday, April the 3rd, in order that prizes may be obtained in proportion to the number of tickets sold.

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