

Morning Star and Catholic Messenger. NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1877. THAT STRANGE RELIGIOUS EVENT.

EXPLANATION OF THE SO-CALLED CHURCH CHANGE AT ROME, NEW YORK.

Editor St. Louis Times: In your paper of January 22d you gave publication to an article taken from the Churchman, and headed "A Remarkable Religious Event." The article gives an account of "a whole church going from Roman Catholicism to the Episcopal Church" in Rome, New York, and which is claimed as a grand triumph for Episcopalianism.

Having formerly resided in the locality where this "remarkable event" transpired, and being acquainted with the circumstances, having just returned from a visit to that place, I concluded to give you a correct version of the affair, especially inasmuch as no contradiction of the Churchman's version has appeared in your journal.

In the early part of 1871 the German Catholics of Rome, New York, determined to build a new church. On assembling for the purpose of fixing a site it was discovered that one portion of their number favored locating the new church in a part of the city admirably adapted for such a purpose, while another portion, some of whom were proprietors of saloons, insisted that it should be erected where, when the congregation assembled, there would be a probability of a good business patronage.

The bishop sent Father Naethen, the Vicar General of the German Catholics of the diocese, to that city to examine into the condition of affairs and report the facts to him. That official did so and reported in favor of the site selected by the party first mentioned, and St. Mary's German Catholic Church was erected, and is the recognized German Catholic Church in Rome. After the decision of the bishop was received, those who favored a different site determined to build and did build St. Joseph's Church, despite the commands of the Catholic Church authorities. Their first priest was a "silenced one," who had not been authorized to officiate as a clergyman in the Roman Catholic Church for the last fifteen years.

During the first few years of its existence they employed their own pastor, as all independent churches do. At one time cards were played and lager beer drunk so near the church that services were greatly interfered with, which was just the reason that the bishop objected to building a church there. Because the pastor rebelled against such disgraceful acts, on several occasions the police had to be called in to protect him from being molested by the mob, some of whom are now trustees of the new Episcopal Church.

The church has never been known or recognized, or even pretended to be Roman Catholic, nor is it true that there are fifty families in the congregation, the fact being that there are about fifty persons, all told. Several families who attended the church when it was first opened, after finding that the services were not Roman Catholic, left and went to St. Mary's, which is largely attended and prosperous in every way. At Rome, New York, this "secession" is correctly understood and given its proper value, but the manner in which it has been heralded throughout the country would make it appear of great magnitude, and that a great religious change had taken place in the German Catholics of the United States, when, in fact, it is only the "kicking" of a few small kegs and grocers, because the Roman Catholic bishop of Albany did not erect a church in a locality that it might fiture to their own worldly aggrandizement. JOHN BENNER.

East St. Louis, January 3d.

AN EPILOGUE OF TELEGRAPHING.

The following is told by Mr. Rogers: "I think the most curious fact that I have ever heard of the electric telegraph, was told me by the cashier of the Bank of England. 'Once upon a time,' then, on a certain Saturday night, the folks at the bank could not make the balance come out correct by just a cent. It was a very serious matter in that establishment. It is not so much the cash, but the mistake in arithmetic, for it requires a world of scrutiny. An error in balancing has been known, I am told, to keep a delegation of clerks from each office at work sometimes the whole night. A hue and cry was, of course, made after this £100, as if the old lady in Threadneedle street would be in the Gazette for want of it. Luckily on Sunday morning, a clerk, in the middle of a sermon, I dare say, if the truth were known, felt a suspicion of truth flash through his mind quicker than any flash of the telegraph itself. He told the chief cashier that perhaps the mistake might have occurred in packing some boxes of specie for the West Indies, which had been sent to Southampton for shipment. The suggestion was immediately acted upon. Here was a race, lightning against steam! Steam with eight and forty hours the start. Instantly the wires asked, 'Whether such a vessel had left the harbor?' 'Just weighed anchor,' was the reply. 'Stop her!' frantically shouted the telegraph. It was so done. 'Heave up on deck certain boxes marked so and so; weigh them carefully.' They were weighed; and one—the delinquent—was found heavier by just one packet of a hundred sovereigns than it ought to be. 'Let her go,' said the mysterious telegraph. The West Indies were debited with just £100 more, and the error was corrected without ever looking into the boxes or delaying the voyage an hour. Now that is what we call doing business."

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REFUSING AN INHERITANCE.

The terrible vice—it may well be called a vice—of the age we live in is the reckless rush for the accumulation of sudden wealth. It is encouraged because of the universal worship of the golden calf. Every one flings himself down before the rich man, and the word in society is never now, "What is he?" but "What has he?" If you are a poor man you are despised, and would be kicked by your neighbors but that you may have good, healthy muscle and might return the uncomplimentary action. If you are a rich man, no matter how you gained your wealth, you are "such a nice fellow," and "such a good fellow," and your hundred pounds in charity, which, in comparison, may be infinitely less than the poor man's hundred pence, excite exclamations of—"And oh! he is so generous! This is the man that ought to have money!" In such a state of society—and it exists not as much on the Continent as it is in England—it is refreshing as it is strange to see him who might be one of the richest men in Europe, who might have an income of nearly a thousand pounds a day, willingly lay down his wealth, and refuse to touch a franc of his vast inheritance.

Such a man is the young Duke de Galiera, who will not on any persuasion assume that title, and who simply signs himself Philippe Ferrari. It was a mistake to think that this young man was not the adopted—this abroad means the legitimized—son of the late Duke. He is his legal and second surviving son by his marriage with the duchess, a member of the great Brignole Sale family. Young Ferrari, who refused five millions sterling is now at Genoa, but means soon to return to Paris to earn his daily bread by teaching languages to the sons of rich grocers of Paris. He is said to have a surprising aptitude for foreign tongues, and, though only twenty-six years old, can speak seven or eight of them fluently. Some people think, especially the ladies who take a great interest in the young semi-Communist, that his mother whom he tenderly loves, may induce him to accept a portion of the inheritance—say at least, as she says herself, a miserable 50,000, or 60,000 pounds a year—but those best acquainted with Philippe Ferrari believe he will be as stern as Timon in repudiating his millions.—French Correspondent Dublin Freeman.

EFFECT OF CLIMATE ON PLANTS.

Observations made during the Arctic Expedition have brought to light one or two curious facts in connection with the powers of growth possessed by different plants under varying conditions of climate. American research has proved that the seeds of certain plants, if gathered in one climate and sown in another will germinate earlier or later, and with more or less vigor, according as the new climate is warmer or colder than the old. And even a perceptible change of climate is not required to show these results; a difference of a few degrees only in latitude is sufficient to do so. For example, wheat from Scotland, sown in the south of England, will germinate and ripen much more quickly than wheat of exactly similar quality gathered in the South and planted in the same latitude in which it grew.

This fact is of the utmost importance to agriculturists. To secure early-growing wheat, it is only necessary to take care that the seed is gathered in a colder climate than that in which it was sown. The process is perfectly practicable, as it might be so arranged that the wheat sown in the North should not be consumed, but preserved for seed for the next season in the South. The same thing is noticeable among other plants, and horticulturists might take advantage of this circumstance to produce both earlier and stronger plants than they do now without the appliances for forcing. Another curious fact is that seeds—especially wheat—will stand an immense amount of cold without injury. Some wheat left in the Polar Regions by Captain Hall of the Polaris, in 1871, and found by Captain Nares, in 1875, germinated and produced healthy plants when sown under glass on board ship.

Capt. Allen Young, of the Pandora, has on board his yacht a curiosity in the shape of a rose tree, grown in England, which has been on board ever since he left England for the Arctic Regions. When in the Polar cold the tree drooped, and to all appearances died; but as soon as the vessel reached a warmer climate the rose tree revived, and is now in full bloom and in a perfectly healthy condition. The fact is that the life had been suspended while the tree remained in the cold latitudes, but they were not destroyed. This is curious, as tending to prove that a tree which will stand frost at all will bear almost any amount of cold; and also that, if its natural growth and development are retarded at the proper season, the plant cannot defer the revival of its development till the next normal period, but will continue its development at the first opportunity, which, in this case, after the intense cold of the Arctic Regions, occurred in the more moderate cold—the comparative warmth—of an English November. It will be interesting to see if this plant blooms naturally at the proper season next year.—London Country.

CURRAN'S REPLY TO JUDGE ROBINSON.

At a time when Curran was only just rising into notice, and while he was yet a poor and struggling man, Judge Robinson, it is said, ventured upon a sneering joke which, small though it was, but for Curran's ready wit and scathing eloquence, might have done him irreparable injury. Speaking of some opinion of counsel on the opposite side, Curran said he had consulted all his books, and could not find a case in which the principle in dispute was thus established. "That may be, Mr. Curran," sneered the judge, "but I suspect your law library is rather limited." Curran eyed the heartless toady for a moment, and then broke forth with this noble retaliation: "It is very true, my lord, that I am poor, and this circumstance has certainly rather curtailed my library. My books are not numerous, but they are select, and I hope have been perused with proper dispositions. I have prepared myself for this high profession rather by the study of a few good books than by the composition of a great many bad ones. I am not ashamed of my poverty, but I should be ashamed of my wealth if I could stoop to acquire it by servility and corruption. If I rise not to rank I shall at least be honest; and should I ever cease to be so, many an example shows me that an ill-acquired elevation, by making me the more conspicuous, would only make me the more universally and notoriously contemptible."

APPRECIATION OF WAGNER.

A story from Bayreuth shows to what extent some of Herr Wagner's disciples appreciate his compositions. A popular writer of English songs was going through the piano-forte score during his stay in Bayreuth, when a little group of devotees happened to call, and begged him to continue the exquisite strains of the *Gottterdammerung*. This he did amid a chorus of rapturous exclamations, until the music became so complicated that, skillful pianist as he was, he found himself on the wrong tack, and ran off into a sort of burlesque imitation of the master. Instead of the expected chorus of remonstrance from the devotees, at the profanation of the wonderful music, to the astonishment of the player the ejaculations of delight were redoubled. He crashed away handfuls of the abominable chords, in the bass, and the disciples called upon each other to admire the harmony and grandeur of the theme. He rushed up and down the keyboard in vague chromatic scales, interspersed with casual thumps on any notes upon which his senseless fingers chanced to strike, and in hushed tones his hearers bade each other to remark with what wondrous subtlety the leading motives were suggested and introduced. He played vague discords on ever-changing keys on all parts of the piano, and with upturned eyes the disciples pointed out with what grace and power the subject was brought before them—they could learn every detail of the story without a word of explanation, so eloquent was the music when heard only on a piano; and they could but wonder how, after playing such heavenly music with so much skill, the pianist could still hint that Herr Wagner had ever been approached by mortal musician, and could even smile as he talked about the master's sublime genius.

Sixteen Thousand Dollars Paid for Two Pink Vases of Old Sevres.

(Montreal Herald.) In the drawing room of the Marquis of Durfort, at his chateau of la Feire Saint Cyr, a pair of vases with covers, of pink old Sevres, have stood on the same table for over a century. A bat not long since, happening to get into the drawing room, and dashing round and round, after the manner of those disagreeable creatures when they find themselves caught in any enclosure, threw down one of these vases and broke the cover, which was mended as neatly as might be. The incident attracted the attention of a visitor to these vases, which nobody had noticed previously. A few days afterwards a dealer in curiosities called on the Marquis, bringing a letter of introduction from the friend in question, and told him that he had come from Paris expressly to see the two vases, which he was accordingly allowed to see, and which he examined with all the air of a connoisseur. The dealer would fain have bought them, but the Marquis declined to sell them, remarking that he was not a dealer in porcelain.

A day or two afterwards he received a letter from the man entreating the Marquis to fix his own price for the two vases. Several others, repeating the same request, arrived at short intervals, until the Marquis, annoyed at the dealer's persistence, consulted his attendant on the subject, remarking: "We must really do something to discourage this persecutor; what reply had I better make to him?" "Tell him he may have them for 60,000 francs," said the attendant with a laugh. The Marquis, amused with the idea, replied accordingly to the persevering dealer, supposing that such a reply would put an end to the correspondence. But to his astonishment he received next morning a telegram saying: "The vases are mine. I am on the road to your chateau, bringing with me the 60,000 francs." "I write in joke," said the Marquis to the dealer when the latter arrived, "otherwise I should have replied to your propositions by repeating my refusal to sell these vases at any price. But I have never allowed my signature to be protested, and I cannot do so now. The vases are yours," he continued, as the dealer laid the roll of bank notes on the table before him, "but I hope you will explain to me why you have bought them." "Most willingly, Monsieur le Marquis," replied the dealer, "Sir Richard Wallace's collection of old Sevres porcelain was incomplete; it lacked precisely the pink shade; these vases are just what he needs to complete his collection, and I have sold them to him for 80,000 francs."

As a gentleman stepped into a New York drug shop and called for a glass of soda water, the boy at the fountain jokingly asked, "Will you have a fly in it?" "Yes, sir," said the man promptly. The boy scooped out of the well, and dropping it in the syrup, drew on the water, and set it down for the purpose of continuing the joke; but before he could withdraw it the stranger seized the glass and swallowed the beverage, fly and all, remarking as he wiped his mouth, "I'd swallowed that if it had been an elephant, rather than have a boy with no hair on his lip get the best of me."

A very poor old man was busy in planting and grafting an apple tree, when some one suddenly asked, "Why do you plant trees, if you cannot hope to eat the fruit of them?" With great calmness he raised himself up, and, leaning on his spade, replied, "Some one planted trees before I was born, and I have eaten the fruit; I now plant for others, that the memorial of my grandeur may exist when I am dead and gone." "I should think that the old man had once been a kind boy."

A rural poet breaks forth: "O, the snore, the beautiful snore, filling her chamber from ceiling to floor! Over the coverlet, under the sheet, from her wee dimpled chin to her pretty feet! Now arising aloft like a bee in June, now sunk to the wail of a cracked bassoon! Now, fute-like, snubbing, then rising again, is the beautiful snore of Elizabeth Jane."

Mr. John Ruskin, in his "Modern Painters," dwells with great elaboration on the principle of gradation in color. He tells us that Nature never uses a color without grading it; that is, never employs flat tints. And he further claims that Turner, whom he considers only inferior to Nature, probably because of his fallible humanity, never painted a square inch of canvas without grading his tint.

Despair is like a petulant child, who, when you take away one of his playthings, throws the others into the fire in sheer madness. He grows angry with himself, becomes his own executioner, and revenges his misfortunes upon his own head.

SAILS SUPERSEDING STEAM.—A remarkable change in the character of the shipbuilding on the Clyde has for some time been going on, and during the last year it reached very large proportions. This is the substitution of iron sailing ships for iron steamers, and the change is ascribed in some measure to the increase of late years in the price of coal, an increase which makes it difficult to run steamships at a profit. In 1873 there were built on the Clyde 125 iron screw steamers of 218,000 tons, and only twelve iron sailing ships of 19,000 tons were launched. But in 1876 only eighty-three iron screw steamers were built, while ninety-seven iron sailing ships of 96,000 tons were constructed. This is an increase of more than eight-fold in three years. The change is one which will be welcomed by sail makers and sailors, who generally dislike steamers for reasons of their own.

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