

Sec. iv.—Does the Appointment of a Catholic Hierarchy trench on the Royal Prerogative?

On this question, the Cardinal submits to those better versed in the law than himself, including the hundred members of the Bar who memorialled the Queen, the following consideration:—

“In this document, and in many other similar ones, including the Premier's letter, the Pope's acts are spoken of as real, and taking effect. The Pope has ‘assumed a right;’ he has ‘cancelled out the land;’ he ‘has named archbishops and bishops.’ If, according to the oath taken by non-Catholics, the Pope not only ought not to have, but really ‘has’ not power or jurisdiction, ‘spiritual or ecclesiastical,’ in these realms, it follows that, according to them, the Pope's ecclesiastical acts with regard to England are mere nullities, and are reputed to have no existence. It is as though the Pope had not spoken, and had not issued any document. To act otherwise is to recognise an efficient act of power on his part.

“I am confirmed in this view by Lord John Russell's explanation of the Protestant oath. ‘The oaths now taken are not altered. We shall continue to take the oath, ‘that the Pope has not,’ &c., though at the same time, there is no doubt, in point of fact, that he exercises a spiritual authority in these realms. I have always interpreted the oath to be, that, in the opinion of any person taking it, the Pope has not any jurisdiction which can be enforced by law, or ought not to have.’ Now, no one, for a moment, imagines that the Pope, or the Catholics of England, or their bishops, dream that the appointment of the hierarchy can be ‘enforced by law.’ They believe it to be an act altogether ignored by law; an act of spiritual jurisdiction, only to be enforced upon the consciences of those who acknowledge the Papal supremacy by their conviction and their faith.”

Besides, the law has allowed certain Dissenting Bishops in England, Moravians and Irvingites, or Apostolics, for instance, to assume titles from their sees, and to establish those sees. As to the tone and form of the Papal brief, ‘every official document has its proper forms; and had those who blame the tenor of this taken any pains to examine those of Papal documents, they would have found nothing new or unusual in this. Whether the Pope appoints a person Vicar-Apostolic, or Bishop in ordinary, in either case he assigns him a territorial ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and gives him no personal limitations. This is the practice of every church which believes in its own truth and in its duty of conversion. What has been done in this brief has been done in every one ever issued, whether to create a hierarchy or to appoint a bishop.”

Sec. v.—Has the Mode of Establishing the Hierarchy been Insolent and Insolentious?

“The words in this title are extracted from the too memorable letter of the first Lord of the Treasury. I am willing to consider that production as a private act, and not as any manifesto of the intentions of her Majesty's government. Unfortunately, it is difficult to abstract one's mind from the high and responsible situation of the writer, or consider him as unpledged by anything that he puts forth. There are parts of the letter on which I would here refrain from commenting, because they might lead me aside, in sorrow, if not in anger, from the drier path of my present duty. I will leave it to others, therefore, to dwell upon many portions of that letter, upon the closing paragraph in particular, which pronounces a sentence as awfully unjust as it was uncalled for, on the religion of many millions of her Majesty's subjects, nearly all Ireland, and some of our most flourishing colonies. The charge, uttered in the ear of that island, in which all guarantees for genuine and pure Catholic education will of necessity be considered, in future, as guarantees for ‘confining the intellect and enslaving the soul,’ all securities for the Catholic religion as security for the ‘non-meres of superstition,’ in the mind of their giver—guarantees and securities which can hardly be believed to be capriciously offered—the charge thus made,

in a voice that has been applauded by the Protestantism of England, produces in the Catholic heart a feeling too sickly and too deadening for indignation; a dismal despair, at finding that, where we have honoured, and supported, and followed for years, we may be spurned and cast off, the first moment that popularity demands us as its price, or bigotry as its victim.

“But to proceed; so little was I, on my part, aware that such feelings as that letter disclosed existed in the head of our government, on the subject of the hierarchy, that, having occasion to write to his lordship, on some business, took the liberty of continuing my letter as follows:—

“Vienna, Nov. 3, 1850.
“My Lord—
* * * * *

“I cannot but most deeply regret the erroneous, and even distorted, view which the English papers have presented of what the Holy See has done in regard to the spiritual government of the Catholics of England. But I take the liberty of stating that the measure now promulgated was not only prepared, but printed, three years ago, and a copy of it was shown to Lord Minto by the Pope, on occasion of an audience given to his lordship by his Holiness. I have no right to intrude upon your lordship further in this matter, beyond offering to give any explanations that your lordship may desire, in full confidence that it will be in my power to remove particularly the offensive interpretation put upon the late act of the Holy See, that it was suggested by political views, or by any hostile feelings.

“And with regard to myself, I beg to add, that I am invested with a purely ecclesiastical dignity—that I have no secular or temporal delegation whatever—that my duties will be what they have ever been, to promote the morality of those committed to my charge, especially the masses of our poor, and keep up those feelings of good-will and friendly inter-communion between Catholics and their fellow-countrymen, which, I flatter myself, I have been the means of somewhat improving. I am confident that time will show, what a temporary excitement may conceal, that social and public advantages must result from taking the Catholics of England out of that irregular and necessarily temporary state of government in which they have been placed, and extending to them that ordinary and more definite form, which is normal to their Church, and which has already been so beneficially bestowed upon almost every colony of the British Empire.

“I beg to apologize for intruding at such length upon your lordship's attention; but I have been encouraged to do so by the uniform kindness and courtesy which I have always met with from every member of her Majesty's Government with whom I had occasion to treat, and from your lordship in particular, and by a sincere desire that such friendly communication should not be interrupted.

“I have the honor to be, my lord,
“Your lordship's obedient servt.,
(Signed)
“N. CARD. WISEMAN.
“The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
First Lord of the Treasury, &c., &c.”

The Premier, therefore, asserted an untruth when in his letter to Exeter he stated that the Government were ignorant of the proposed arrangement.

THE EXAMINER.

Wednesday, December 25, 1850.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

We attended the Examination at the Catholic School last Saturday, and were much pleased at meeting, besides the Trustees and Parents, many visitors who take an interest in the success of the School. Nothing tends more to excite a generous emulation than Public Exam-

nations, attended by those who, possessing the advantage of a liberal education themselves, are able to take an active part in them; nothing better calculated to inspire public confidence, as it precludes even the suspicion of *stuffing*, as it is called. Most of the classes were examined by visitors, and in all the answering was most satisfactory. One class in particular, (of very young girls) by their good reading, and thorough comprehension of what they do read, as well as good answering in Geography, elicited the approbation of all present. Prizes were awarded to the *first* in each class, which were distributed after a suitable address by the Rev. M. Reynolds.

INFANT SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

A FRIEND who attended the Examination of the Infant School last Thursday informs us that the whole affair reflected the greatest credit upon Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard; and that the progress made by the children was clearly evinced by their readiness in answering. Their knowledge of Scripture and of Geography—their facility in Computation and in Spelling—their spirited and pleasing Singing—all mark this Institution as admirably adapted for communicating the blessings of wholesome training to the young children of the Town. The examination was, as usual, well attended; and the marked order, the happiness, and the cleanly appearance of the children, called forth the warm approbation of the visitors, amongst whom we noticed his Honor the Chief Justice. In the evening, through the kind assistance of numerous friends, the children were regaled with plenty of Cake; and Mr. Hubbard showed the wonders of his Magic Lantern to about 200 delighted little folks.

SINGULAR VERIFICATION OF A DREAM.

—Just two weeks ago, last Saturday night, a young lady residing in Hanover Street in this city, retired to bed at her usual hour, and in her usual cheerful, happy frame of mind. After having fallen asleep, she had a frightful dream or vision. She dreamed that her brother, who was in the Western part of New York, was killed, and his body horribly mangled in death. This dream seemed so vivid and real, and impressed her mind so forcibly, that she awoke, and even rose from her bed and walked her room, weeping in great anguish. Another lady who was asleep in an adjoining chamber, was awakened by her wailings, and on going into the room to ascertain the cause, found her sitting in a chair weeping. The lady endeavoured to soothe her fears, and finally persuaded her to retire once more to bed, and try to forget the dream. The next morning (Monday) the young lady received a telegraphic despatch announcing that her brother, Mr. Wise, a brakeman, on the Western Railroad, had fallen from the cars, on one of the freight trains, near East Chatham, N. Y., and been run over and instantly killed. The accident happened at about two o'clock on Sunday morning, precisely about the time of the dream.—Boston Transcript.

CLERICAL TITLES.—The newspaper called John the Baptist, of Providence, R. I., has the following remarks on the titles of ministers:—

“The titles of honour that are given to ministers are not in accordance with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are in direct opposition to the spirit of Christ, and foster pride and vain glory. What minister has a right to expect or even give a minister of the gospel the titles of Rev., Dr. or Rt. Rev.? These are titles which Jesus Christ never gave to his

ministers; and those of them who call each other by these nick-names never dare to apply them to the Lord Jesus Christ or his Apostles. How would it sound to hear the Rt. Rev. John the Baptist, the Rev. Dr. Paul, or the Rev. Simon Peter. How much better have ministers become that they should be called by such reverential names, in the nineteenth century?”

POLITICAL LULL.

The stillness which reigns at present over the political world of Canada, is as gratifying as it is unusual. The Kingston Herald defending the absence of political writing from its editorial columns, says:—

“We can with great satisfaction enjoy the lull in the political atmosphere, and bask in the warm sunshine of national prosperity. Who would trouble themselves with dry augmentation on crude theories, or seek to agitate the calm bosom of society while our country is groaning under the weight of a bountiful harvest, while happy faces are smiling all around us, while the air resounds with the ‘gee haw’ of the honest farmer holding his plough, while provisions are cheap, while our waters are furrowed with the keels of our Steamers and Merchant vessels? While a bright and cheerful sun is daily shedding his warm bright beams upon us like the eye of Deity rejoicing in the happiness of his dependent creatures—who would disturb this state of things by introducing an agitation on political questions?—Not we.

The Packet with the Mails had not arrived up to the latest hour of our going to Press yesterday evening. The delay is easily accounted for by the storm on Monday, which prevented the Ice Boat crossing the Straits.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN ENGLAND.

—Willmer and Smith's European Times says: “We understand, with some truth, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has at last been convinced, by the powerful arguments and convincing statistical returns of the Newspaper Press Association, that it is advisable in the next Session of Parliament, to abolish the paper duties, as well as the stamp duty on newspapers, and duty on advertisements—in fact, to make the press of this country as free as it is in America.”

We have heard the question frequently put, during the last month or two, What has the Royal Agricultural Society done with the articles designed to be forwarded to the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations to take place in 1851? We hope that some of our correspondents will furnish us with an answer to the question, for we are unable to supply it ourselves. It does seem, from what little we have heard, that notwithstanding all the expense the Society has incurred in awarding prizes, for articles sent in to them, this Island will be unrepresented at the great National Exhibition.

THE WEATHER, during the greater part of the present month, has been intensely cold; and since Monday last the Snow has been so deep as to cut off, in a great measure, the communication between Town and Country. Owing to Christmas falling on the usual Market day (Wednesday), the Market House was yesterday opened for the sale of Country Produce, &c., but the state of the weather prevented the Market from being well attended, and the price of every thing exhibited for sale was consequently high.