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| One column.....  | 9-00 |

# The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

## கத்தோலிக்கப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

"Qui Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| கையொப்ப விசை                   |      |
| இலம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்.....      | 2-00 |
| சு-மாசத்துக்கு முற்பணம்.....   | 6-00 |
| இல-ம். க-க்கு பிற்பணம்.....    | 3-00 |
| சு-மாசத்துக்குப் பிற்பணம்..... | 1-00 |
| தபால்சிலவு { இலங்கைக்கு.....   | 1-00 |
| { இந்தியாவுக்கு.....           | 1-00 |
| விளம்பர விசை                   |      |
| 12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு.....   | 16   |
| 12-க்குமேற்படில் வரி-க-க்கு    | 10   |
| கரல் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.)     | 3-00 |
| அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு.....          | 5-00 |
| முக்காற் கொலத்துக்கு.          | 7-00 |
| ஒரு கொலத்துக்கு.....           | 40   |

VOL. XVI.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 1891

NO 49

### Telegraphic Summary

**Result of the French strike.** Nov. 30. The miners who have been out on strike in the North of France have accepted the award made by the joint board of arbitrators, and will resume work to-morrow.

**A textile Union.** Dec. 1. The leading textile manufacturers in Lancashire have formed a Union with the object of pressing Government to reform the monetary system, and to recognise the silver standard.

**An aristocratic separation case.** Dec. 2. The Countess Russell who is suing for a Judicial separation from her husband, has testified in Court to persistent acts of terrorism and cruelty by the Earl, in forcing her to do menial offices, and degrading her before the servants.

The Countess in her evidence also hinted at graver offences committed by her husband. During the cross-examination of the plaintiff, it was suggested that she was subject to hysteria, and that the discord between husband and wife was owing to debts the latter had contracted.

### CHURCH NOTICE.

TO MORROW

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

|             |        |       |
|-------------|--------|-------|
| Mass        | 5. 30. | A. M. |
| "           | 7.     | A. M. |
| "           | 9.     | A. M. |
| Benediction | 5.     | P. M. |

### Local & C.

**The Weather.**—We had every day heavy showers of rain from the 9th Instant.

**Health.**—The sanitary condition of the town is not quite satisfactory. Fever, cold, dysentery and diarrhea prevail to a great extent.

**Obituary.**—We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Charles Alfred, the son of Proctor Charles Strantenburg, who, after a protracted illness, breathed his last on the feast of the Immaculate conception of Our Blessed Lady, fortified by the last rites of our Holy Mother the Church. During his illness, this virtuous young man gave admirable examples of a strong faith and perfect resignation to the Holy Will of God. Blessed are those who die in the Lord!

We deeply sympathize with the bereft family. R. I. P.

**A dramatic and musical entertainment** is to be held in the hall of St. Patrick's College on the 26th Instant. Doors open at 6 P. M. Admission by tickets.

**'The Hindu Organ'**—We have read a few worthless correspondences in the Tamil columns of this paper. Their authors, evidently, do not belong to the honest, upright, and well-educated Hindus whom we know and esteem. They seem to be a set of "empty boasters, who know very little and think themselves the cleverest men in the world. They show off their skill by raising from time to time ridiculous and nonsensical objections against Christianity; and when they are driven to the wall by some Catholic correspondents, they shift the ground not because, they say, they are unable to answer, but because their Christian opponents have not what they term in their native tongue the *முடிவம்* of understanding their crushing arguments against christianity and that they should be born Hindus to take them in!

We are surprised to see that the great Sabai allows these blusterers to display their ignorance and bad spirit in the columns of the paper that represents the Hindu Community.—We think that the worthless productions that appear in the Tamil columns of the "Hindu Organ" are calculated to cast a slur on the Editors and Managers of the English Section of the paper.

**Markets in the Northern Province.** The Sub-Committee appointed to the Legislative Council to consider and report on the draft of "An Ordinance relating to Markets in the Northern Province," have the honour to recommend that the amendments marginally noted in the copy of the Draft Ordinance submitted herewith should be adopted.

E. Noel, Walker, C. P. Layard, J. A. Swettenham, P. Ramaathan, A. Seneviratne J. J. Griminton.

**Quarantine at Manaar.**—It is likely that, after all, a quarantine of five days will be established at Manaar on the arrivals from the coast. Sheds will be put up at Manaar and other landing ports, which will be in charge of guards. Each cooly is to receive a cumby on starting, the cost of which is to be charged by the Government to the estate. Food will also be supplied to them, the cost of which too will be charged to the estate. This is all we have been able to gather at present, but we fancy there will be no little stir among the planters on the scheme being unfolded. Dr. Kegel, as stated by a correspondent some days ago, is to be entrusted with the launching of the scheme. The news will be hailed by the inhabitants of the towns and villages through which coolies now pass, and which are now visited by epidemics brought by the immigrants.—"Examiner."

**Sanction for the Northern Arm.**—The Colonial Secretary, in reply to Mr. Mitchell, informed the Legislative Council today that the Secretary of State had sanctioned the construction of a northern arm to our breakwater, provided the local Government could satisfy him on two points—the manner in which the money was to be provided, and the sanitary effect of the measure. On both these points satisfactory replies have been despatched by H. E. the Governor; so that we may congratulate the colony on sanction being obtained for another great public work—one likely to add to the importance of Colombo in every way. Sir John Cooze's estimate for the work is £ 370,000.

**Minutes by the Governor.** The Right Honourable the Secretary of State has had under his consideration the employment on a more extended scale in the service of the Government of persons born and bred in Ceylon.

2. And in pursuance of His Lordship's instructions, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following scheme for the formation of a Subordinate Service.

3. Certain appointments, some hitherto ranked in the Civil Service and others which may be added hereafter, are to be set apart and classified as the "Lower Division" of the Civil Service, to be filled by persons born and bred in Ceylon, whose families are permanently resident in the Island.

4. As soon as it can be done without prejudice to existing Civil Servants, advantage will be taken of suitable vacancies to be set part the following posts, which are, however, to be regarded as liable to be interchanged with other posts in the Higher Division, as well as to be reduced in number by transfer to the Higher Division, at the discretion of the Governor, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State:—

- CEYLON CIVIL SERVICE.
- Lower Division.
- Office Assistants:—Galle, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, Battaramulla.
  - Police Magistrates:—Jaffna, Kalutra.
  - Landing Surveyors:—Jaffna, Galle.
  - Deputy Fiscal, Colombo.
  - Assistant Collector of Customs, Trincomalee.
  - Police Magistrates:—Azisawella, Chilaw, Kayts, Matara, Galagedara.
  - Four Cadets.

5. Appointments to the Lower Division will be made by the Governor, who will be guided by the following principles.

6. In selecting young men who have little or no previous service under Government, nominations will be limited to candidates who have passed the Senior

Standard of the Chambridge Local Examination, or any other public examination which may be deemed to be of an equally high standard, whose respective merits will be further tested by competitive examination. After appointment they will be required punctually to pass the examinations prescribed for the Civil Service in Law, Accounts, and the Native Languages.

7. The Governor will at the same time have the power, subjected to the approval of the Secretary of State, of occasionally appointing to the Lower Division, without examination, older men possessing aptitude for public business. In appointing such men regard will be had to their ability, social standing, high reputation, and long experience. After appointment they may be required to pass whatever examination in Law, Accounts, and Native Languages may be prescribed for each by the Governor, and within such period as may be required.

8. All persons appointed to the Lower Division will serve for the first two years on probation, irrespective of such term as they may serve as Cadets, and thereafter subject to their punctually passing the prescribed examinations.

9. Appointments to the under-mentioned posts in the Higher Division of the Civil Service may, in exceptional cases, be made by the direction or with the sanction of the Secretary of State, after the interests of all existing Civil Servants have been safeguarded. Persons born and bred in Ceylon, whether they belong to the Lower Division or not, will be equally eligible if their merits seem to justify the consideration of their qualifications, and other circumstances appear to make desirable the selection of a candidate not of the Civil Service.

#### SCHEDULE.

##### Higher Division.

Class I.—Auditor-General, Postmaster-General, District Judge of Jaffna.

Class II.—District Judge of Batticaloa, Register-General, Director of public Instruction, Inspector-General of Police, Inspector-General of Prisons.

Class III.—District Judge, Kegalla; District Judge, Tangallu; Police Magistrate, Galle; Commissioner of Requests, Colombo.

By His Excellency's command,  
E. NOEL WALKER  
Colonial Secretary.

**The Jaffna Tobacco Trade.**—Pursuant to a notice signed by Messrs Allegakoon Tambo, and Manuall Pillai, a large and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Jaffna was held on Saturday last at the hall of the Jaffna Petiah School, to consider what step should be taken to induce the Government of Travancore to repeal the law now enforced there adverse to the interest of the Jaffna Tobacco Trade. Mr. Moorns, the Agent of the New Oriental Bank, presided, and every section of the community was fully represented.

Feeling and eloquent speeches were made by the Chairman, Advocates Allegakoon and Nagalingam, Proctor Casipillai, Ellankansyaga Mudaliyar, and other speakers, regretting that the Government of Travancore which had till recently, for more than a century encouraged the Jaffna Tobacco Trade, should have thought it proper suddenly to alter its policy by practically reducing the duty on Coimbatore tobacco by sixty rupees per candy, without at the same time reducing the duty on the Jaffna tobacco, causing thereby incalculable loss to the Jaffna merchants. A representative Committee was appointed to frame, sign, and forward a memorial to His Highness, the Maharaja of Travancore, praying for the repeal of the law complained of.—Independent.

A strange story from Colombo.—Mr. Labouchere writing in the current number of Truth says:—I understand

that there is a man in the regiment now quartered at Colombo who has been recommended for promotion to lance-sergeant by his company officer and colour-sergeant, but whose promotion has been voted by the Commanding Officer for no discoverable reason except that the man is a Roman Catholic. If any other reason exists, it would be well for the Commanding Officer to state it, or for Mr. Stanhope to ascertain it. Nothing could be more intrinsically wrong, or more prejudicial to the popularity and efficiency of the Army than an underhand attempt of this kind to introduce religious disabilities into the military service. Independent.

**Mr. C. M. Chelliah.**—We are glad to learn that this young Jaffna Gentleman now holds the office of Chief Interpreter in the office of the Official Assignee in Bankruptcy at Singapore, on a salary of R 135 per mensem. He is the second son of the late lamented A. John Kanapathipillai Modr, who first as Shroff and then as Adigar at Mannar and finally as Maniagar at Jaffna, enjoyed the highest esteem and confidence of the veteran Government Agent of the Northern Province. He received his education at St. Patrick's College Jaffna and subsequently at St. Joseph's College, Trincomopoly under the Jesuit Fathers and passed the Matriculation and First Arts Examination of the Madras University with great credit and special distinction in English and Mathematics. About three years ago, he entered the Clerical Service of the Straits Government as Interpreter of the Immigration Department, the Superintendent of which, Mr. Innes was so impressed with the keen intelligence and uncommon attainments displayed by Mr. Chelliah as to recommend him strongly for some higher appointment on the ground "that he is well educated, that he can be trusted to write a good English draft letter or any ordinary subject—an attainment extremely rare among members of the Clerical Service in the Straits and that he thoroughly understands Court and Land Office work and is quite fit to take a chief clerkship in either of those Departments in any big office." Sir Frederick Dickson, once Government Agent of the Central Province, now Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements, we are glad to find, has made mention of Mr. Chelliah as follows, in his officially published notes of his visits, in May last, to District offices in the Straits Settlements:—"Mr. Innes specially brought to my notice the qualifications of Mr. C. M. Chelliah, Clerk of the Indian Immigration Department who knows English and Tamil and can speak Malay and is specially deserving of promotion." We may add that Mr. Chelliah has passed the highest examination prescribed for Interpreters by the Straits Government and we make no doubt that the excellent education he has received and the excellent character he bears will secure to him the highest post attainable by a native. Patriot.

**Freemasonry.**—The following extracts, set side by side of the instructions respectively given to Garibaldi and the Prince of Wales, on their investiture as Grand Masters of Freemasonry (33rd degree), have peculiar significance of their own:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| To Garibaldi:   | To H. R. H.   |
| Masonry, being simply the Revolution in a permanent conspiracy against political and religious despotism, does not trick itself out with absurd decorations, through which Princes and Priests play in public the parts they have stolen and usurped. | Our rituals prove to you how Freemasonry tends to inspire in all the purest morality, to recommend obedience to the laws, filialty to rulers, the zeal and devotion of philanthropists, and, in a word, to teach all the duties, domestic and social virtues. |
| Man is at the same time God, Pontiff and King in himself. Freemasonry, is therefore the God, the Pontiff, and the King of Humanity.   | Masonry sets out to make of a man a being essentially believing, by virtue and goodness.  |





THE

**Jaffna Catholic Guardian**

DECEMBER 12th

**CREMATION.**

Our Hindu contemporary, in his last issue, has invited the special attention of his readers to a "Discussion on the disposal of the dead" that took place at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association held at Bourne-mouth, July 1891. Our contemporary is so glad to hear a few godless European Doctors assert that Cremation is the best "mode of disposal of the dead" and that "burying in the ground is the most insanitary plan"; and that "the burial of the dead in the earth is dangerous to the living and that cremation is safe and economical." We well know that sanitation is not the object our friend has in view when he reproduces in his columns the opinions of a few infidel cremationists—for if the principles of sanitation were his only aim, he would at the same time strongly advise his own Correligionists to perfect their crematories and not "poison the living when cremating their dead." His only scope in his long and frequent quotations on cremation is to show to the ignorant and simple Hindus that the civilized inhabitants of Europe have found out that cremation is the best mode of disposing the dead, that Europeans are adopting the religious customs of Hindus in a word, that Europeans are getting converted en-masse to Hinduism. Our contemporary purposely omits to say that the European Cremationists base their opinions on purely sanitary grounds, and not on the superstitious tenets of the Hindus who believe that they will reach "the Supreme Happiness" in the world to come, if their ashes are blended with the "Sacred waters of the Ganges."

Not to leave our friend under the impression that the opinions of Spencer Wells, William Moore, P. W. Nunn, are irrefutable, we will sum up here the reply of Mr. Seymour Haden, the famous etcher and the inventor of an "earth to earth" coffin, to Sir Henry Tompson's advocacy of cremation. There are two kinds of burial—one which may be called nudetakers' burial, and which, by the enclosure of the dead in coffins which prevent their resolution, accumulates in all our great cities and towns a vast store in human remains in every stage and condition of decay; the other, which by enclosure in perishable coffins promotes that resolution and ensures their return to their elements. Haden in his reply, says that the first kind of burial is objectionable on sanitary grounds, but not the second. The earth, adds Mr. Seymour Haden, is and has been since the world began, the daily and hourly recipient of a mass of dead and effete matter, which is only equalled in amount by the sum of animal and vegetable life which is going on upon its surface. It is the sole agent in the disinfection, and the chief factor in the resolution, of the whole of this enormous and otherwise poisonous mass. This resolution, which is only another name for the dissolution and re-entry into new and harmless combinations of this vast residuum, is but a necessary step to its revivification and reanimation—a condition precedent to a complete repair of all losses incurred throughout the globe by death and decay; to the maintenance of its population and of all other forms of life, animal as well as vegetable; to the purification and replenishment of all rivers and springs to the renewal of the atmosphere itself; and, in a word, to the reformation and re-establishment in all its luxuriance, healthfulness, and beauty of the whole earth's surface. Now, were the cremationist contention true, the bodies of the dead—which constitute but a tithe of the residuum referred to, would be either an exception to, and have no part in this dispensation; or that, forming a part of the common residuum they would be exempt from the operation of a law for its conversion, the essence of which is its universality; and further, that for some inscrutable reason

to which this singular contention gives us no clue, they would have been left upon our hands to our special hurt and detriment.

(To be continued.)

**POLITICAL SUMMARY.**

**The Rebellion in China.** Further particulars of the rebellion in China show that the situation is very critical. Two serious revolts have broken out in the north of the Great Wall. In one case the rebels have occupied the town north-east of Kichow, and in the other, the district of Takon, north of Kaiping, is entirely in their hands. The Madarius in the district of Takon have arranged with the rebel leaders to spare the native population, giving them license to attack Christian inhabitants; and the most fiendish atrocities have ensued. Children were gashed about and roasted; the Nuns were outraged and then brained; and Belgian priests had their hearts and tongues torn out. The Pekin Government is thoroughly alarmed at the dimensions the rebellion has assumed, whilst Europeans are furious.

**The Revolt in China.** Later advices from Pekin state that the revolt in China has been over-rated, and it is now declared that the rebels only number some fifteen hundred.

**The Marguis di Rudini.** Speaking in the Chamber of Deputies to-day declared that the temporal power of the Pope had long been dead and buried, and that the attitude of Austria with regard to the Papacy was sincerely friendly to Italy. The Premier, added that if Italian unity was threatened the Austrian troops should certainly come to the succour of Italy.

**Alleged Stipulation respecting the Conclave.** Yet another announcement is that Minister Rudini did not sign the Triple Alliance until he had succeeded in persuading Austria and Germany to sign a clause relating to the future Conclave. As I informed our readers some time ago, this rumour was spread when the Alliance was concluded. Prussia was then the publisher—it is now from an Austrian source that the story is repeated. No smoke without a fire, it is said.—*C. Times.*

**Changes in the Ministry.** Mr. Jackson expresses Mr. Balfour at the Irish Office. There is a general feeling that the appointment is a good one, quite apart from the fact that anyone would be better in the Irish Secretaryship than the hero of the years of coercion. Mr. Jackson has been uniformly courteous and considerate in his dealings with Irish members; he has had considerable experience of at least one department of Irish affairs; and he takes office pledged to carry out a great measure of reform in Irish Local Government. There is every disposition to welcome his appointment and to make his work much more easy and pleasant than his predecessor's once was. The appointment of Sir John Gorst to the post at the Treasury vacated by Mr. Jackson is also a good one, as it is a proof of the failure of the attempt made by the reactionary Tories to shove Sir John on account of his labour policy. The idea was to send him to some Indian or Colonial governorship, thus apparently promoting him, but really getting rid of his influence on labour legislation, a subject which he has made his own. The scheme has failed as it deserved to fail.

**The Times on the Independence of India Native.** The *Times* in a long leading article fully endorses the views of Lord Lansdowne with regard to abstaining from meddling with the independence of native states, and says that the Imperial Government merely asks native rulers to conform to Western ideas of humane government. The days of leaving the frontier of India unguarded are, it says, done, but it is not likely that Russia will be able to attack India soon.

**Financial State of Spain.**—The position of the Bank of Spain appears to be going from bad to worse. The issue of notes has increased by nearly 10,000,000 pesetas; whilst the metallic reserve has decreased by some 12,000,000 pesetas. According to this return, the note issue exceeds by 2½ millions of pounds sterling the legal limit. The floating debt the bugbear of Spanish finance, is now admitted to be over 12½ millions sterling, and it is probably more.

**The Unreadiness of England.** Under this title Mr. Reginald Brett sends to *The Times* a letter which would give food for thought and even some fear to all who care one jot for the welfare of the Empire. It is the fashion, he declares, to assume that for England dangerous European struggles are ended. We flatter ourselves that our country is without the circle of warlike complications. Politicians make a point against their opponents that the occupation of Egypt is a menace to peace, but not with an air of conviction. No one seems to regard the traditional Eastern policy of the country, maintained for good or for evil by both parties in the State, as a source of danger to our international relations. And although the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is looked upon as a possibility in the near future, and likely to produce conflicts to which the wars of the Spanish succession were child's play, Eng-

lishmen comfortably imagine that their interests will be safeguarded by other nations' sacrifices, and that England will be dully able to "keep out of it." That, as he proceeds to explain, is an altogether fictitious condition of things and he draws an elaborate parallel between England today and England when the Crimean War broke out. The parallel is perhaps a little wiredrawn, but his later remarks are our present game. He is most pessimist on the subject of the Army and Navy, and if his words have a tinge of truth, Mr. Stanhope should wince.—*Tablet.*

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**The Pope and the Cardinals.** Leo XIII. is the 262nd Pope. The dozen of the Cardinals is the octogenarian, Cardinal Mertel, who has been a member of the Sacred College for thirty-three years. During his thirteen years Pontificate, Leo XIII. has created 1 Patriarchate; 22 Metropolitan churches, 65 Bishops, 43 Apostolic-Vicariates, 1 delegation, and 16 other Episcopal dioceses; in all 148 new titles. The Sacred College when complete contains 70 Cardinals: it actually counts 60 members, 30 of whom are Italians. Of these Cardinals created by Pope Pius IX. only 13 are now living. Eight are octogenarian, 19 septuagenarian, 22 sexagenarian, 10 are 50 years of age, and only three are somewhat less than the last-named.—*C. Times.*

**The Temporal Power.** A deputation of Germans has presented an address to the Holy Father. It is signed by the members of the Catholic Congress of Mainz, and contains a declaration in favour of the re-establishment of the temporal power. This document belongs to the collection of verbal processes of the Catholic Congress, and is bound in a gilt-covered volume. The deputation was received in special audience by Leo XIII.—*C. Times.*

**Cardinal Lavigerie.** The grand Cardinal is happily yet once again out of danger, for the present at least. Any illness, and especially a serious one, of Cardinal Lavigerie, is always a source of great anxiety in the Church, wherein this great Prelate occupies such an eminent position. This time the alarm was both sudden and serious, the Cardinal being seized with a kind of rheumatic paralysis. Cardinal Lavigerie is subject to these attacks, and when surprised by one of his fits, act to telegraph to the Holy Father's Benediction, after which he receives the last Sacraments and prepares for death. Up to the present his robust constitution has triumphed, although, if I mistake not, this is the fifth time that his Eminence has received Extreme Unction. The telegram sent to the Holy Father was most touching. Cardinal Lavigerie protested that his whole life has been consecrated to the services of the Holy See. I once heard this distinguished Churchman say to his Pores Blancs: "We should always be devoted to the Pope: not to the Pontiff of yesterday or tomorrow, but to the reigning Sovereign Pontiff of to-day." It is no secret that Leo XIII. is very much attached to Cardinal Lavigerie. When informed of his recent alarming illness the Holy Father immediately went to his private chapel and prayed for hours before the Blessed Sacrament for his faithful friend and servant.—*C. Times.*

**The Church in Japan.**—His Holiness the Pope has, by his Encyclical letter dated the 15th of June 1891, established the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy in Japan. The Vicar Apostolic of Tokio, the Capital of the Empire, has been raised to the dignity of Metropolitan or Archbishop of Japan, with three Suffragan Sees at Nagasaki, Osaka, and Hakodate. Japan, the country where so many Priests, Nuns and Christians have sealed the profession of the true faith with their blood, is at last realizing the fact that missionaries who are ever prepared to lay down their lives for their flocks must be animated by something far higher than anything this world can give. It has been a hard and long struggle but as in the first days of the Church, *sanguis Martyrum*, has been even in Japan, *semen Christianorum*. This act of our Holy Father the Pope indicates one of the greatest moral victories of modern times. May God bless the new Hierarchy of Japan.—*C. Watchman.*

**Sister St. Philip.** The death is announced in the Carmelite Convent, Nottingham, of Sister St. Philip, in the world, Teresa Hope, youngest daughter of the late Mr. J. R. Hope Scott and Lady Victoria, eldest sister of the Duke of Norfolk.

**Freemason's Tactics.** The Freemasons of Italy and France have been openly expressing their sentiments towards the Church and the Sovereign Pontiff. A correspondence between the Grand Masters of both countries has been published. There is no pretence of their being otherwise than the most bitter enemies of the Sovereign Pontiff and the Catholic Church. These letters contain expressions of hate and Satan-like encouragement to continue the task of destroying what remains of the Holy Father's authority in Rome. Never before did the Freemasons disclose their designs with more absolute impudence. What a warning to Catholics to this irrepressible assault of this infamous character!

**The Angloan Laity and the Bishops.** One of the principal questions discussed at the annual conference of the Church Association in the Birmingham was "The rights of the laity and their wrongs." The general result of the discussions was the determination to teach the Angloan Bishops that their flocks are their masters. Mr. K. Rankin read a paper on this subject in which he clearly laid down the law for the clerical section of the Church of England. He condemned the aggressive conduct of the Bishops and clergy, and urged enforced decentralization, local self-government of Churches, and "the assumption by the laity of their rights." He also suggested common action between the Evangelical Protestants and Nonconformists. The gathering strongly condemned the claim

of the Bishops to veto ecclesiastical proceedings in such cases as that of the St. Paul's process. Here we have downright honest Protestantism, recognising no Divine call on the part of the clergy, but looking on them merely as hirelings who are to do the bidding of their paymasters, exactly in the same way as the Nonconformist ministers.—*C. Times.*

**Bishop Ryle on the future of the Church of England.**—We imagine that in future days Dr. Ryle will be spoken of as "the last of the Evangelicals." He is almost the only clergyman of distinction still alive who adheres to the old-fashioned Protestantism, the last of a once numerous band. In his address delivered last week to his Diocesan Conference Bishop Ryle boldly faced the future of the Church of England, and acknowledged, in effect, that the outlook was extremely gloomy. He dared not believe, he said, that the tree of the Establishment would be allowed to stand very much longer. Things could not, he declared, go on much longer in their present state. "Three families in one house may get on well," he observed, "when all are asleep, but trouble comes when they awake." The only hope for the continued existence of the Church of England, lies, according to this Protestant Prelate, in "wise decisions which all will agree to obey." Otherwise the end will be that there will be two or three Churches of England." Each of these sections, by the way, will have precisely the same right to represent the "ancient British Church," "the Church of St. Bede," and all the rest of it, that the Established Church now possesses. It will be seen that the High Church party, who are never tired of talking about the increasing strength of the Church of England, refer to outward signs alone, and ignore the inherent and fatal weakness of her constitution. But, as Dr. Ryle very sensibly puts it, "The very increase of our life and activity increases our peril." The Church of England is, in fact, like a man of great muscular strength with an unsound heart. The faster he walks, and the harder he works, the greater the likelihood of his sudden dissolution.

**Converts to the Catholic Church.**—Father Luke Rivington in the course of a recent sermon, is reported to have said that prominent dignitary of the Established Church assured him in conversation that it was really remarkable to find what a change of attitude in regard to the Catholic Church had taken place in the minds of a large number of hitherto steadfast Anglicans within the past two or three years. This altered position was, the dignitary added, a favourable one, as far as Rome was concerned, and his opinion was that it would sooner or later eventuate in numerous successions. It will be seen, too, that it embraces people not only from the Church of England, but from other sects.

**The French People and the Clergy.**—The Conservative members of the Chamber of Deputies had it in their power the other day to show their displeasure at the prosecution of the Archbishop of Aix by joining hands, just for a quarter of an hour, with the radicals and thereby overthrowing the Ministry, or so nearly doing so as to bring about a serious crisis. The temptation was strong, but all things considered, it was wisely resisted. By general consent, it is better to be in the frying-pan than in the fire, although both positions are so disagreeable as to leave little scope for preference. It is very difficult for the Conservatives at the present time to be on pleasant terms with the Government, but much more unpleasant would their relations soon become with a Ministry led by M. Clemenceau. When he becomes Premier the war against religion will be fierce and uncompromising. Should his party get the power into their hands, one of their first acts would be to withdraw the French Ambassador from the Vatican. The renunciation of the Concordat, and with this the abolition of the Budget of Public Worship, would quickly follow, if these politicians had a strong majority in the Chamber. Now, although, the connection of Church and State in France places a power in the hands of Republican Ministers which they use against the Church, the present state of things, in the opinion of French ecclesiastics and Catholic politicians, is preferable to such a religious cataclysm as the renunciation of the Concordat would bring upon religion in France. Where would the offices of religion be celebrated? and how could the thousands of priests be paid? Fortunately the chance of such a revolution in the existing order of things is still very remote. The Government is well aware that public opinion in France is far from being prepared for it. The free-thinking socialist populations of large cities would be delighted at a war of outrage against the Church, but there are the small towns and the rural population to be reckoned with—ah! powerful when they choose to wake up and show their power. In some districts the French peasants have little or no zeal for religion, in others they have a great deal; everywhere they have the idea deeply fixed in their minds that a cure is necessary in every village if only for the Baptisms, First Communions, Marriages and Burials. These villagers often treat their priests very badly, but if they were made to understand that in future they would either have to do without one or to provide him with the means of living out of their own pockets, they would cry out loudly against the change and declare that they were quite satisfied that things should remain as they were. It is because the majority of the French people would rather do without mayors than without priests that Republican statesmen who are either indifferent or hostile to religion, like those who now rule the roost in France, feel the necessity of upholding the Concordat. With them this is no question of principle, but one of expediency, and there is no immediate likelihood of this policy being abandoned. If the Government felt that the Clergyman party were getting too strong for them they would appeal to the country.—

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