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# The Jaffna Catholic Guardian.

## கத்தோலிக்குப் பாதுகாவலன்.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

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

VOL. XVI.

JAFFNA, SATURDAY DECEMBER 19TH 1891

NO 50

### Telegraphic Summary

**The royal betrothal.**—Dec. 7. Great gratification is expressed by the whole of the Press at the betrothal of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale to an English Princess, and as being a love match.

**The Gales on the English Coast.**—Dec. 8. R. w. gales have set in along the British coasts.

**serious state of affairs in Rio de Janeiro.**—Dec. 11. Telegrams received from Brazil state that a financial panic exists in Rio de Janeiro, and that the banks are being guarded by armed men. The Government has ordered the Governor of the State to resign, but the latter refuses to do so. It is expected that martial law will be proclaimed.

**Lord Duferin succeeds Lord Lytton.**—Dec. 12. It is officially announced that Lord Duferin succeeds the late Lord Lytton as British Ambassador at Paris.

**Obituary.**—Dec. 12. The deaths are announced of Lieutenant General George Prince, and Major-General John Robinson.

**The Governor of Rio Grande resigns at last.**—Dec. 12. The Governor of the State of Rio Grande has now quietly resigned.

**The Funeral of the Ex-Emperor of Brazil.**—Dec. 12. The funeral of Don Pedro, the ex-Emperor of Brazil took place here to-day, and was an imposing pageant. His Majesty the King, the members of his family, and numerous foreign delegates were present.

**Resolutions by the French Chamber of Deputies.**—Dec. 13. After a stormy debate the French Chamber of Deputies has rejected by a majority of 165 votes, the motion proposed by M. Hubbard for the separation of the Church and State. The Chamber also passed a vote of confidence in the Government.

### CHURCH NOTICE.

TO MORROW

AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Mass	8. 30. A. M.
"	7. A. M.
"	9. A. M.
Benediction	5. P. M.

### Local & C.

**His Lordship has returned in good health on the 14th inst.** from his pastoral visit to Valigama West. At Sillalai and Madhagal His Lordship administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 205 persons.

**Weather.** We had abundant showers of rain on the night of the 13th inst., accompanied by fearful thunderclaps.

**St. Patrick's College.** The distribution of prizes will take place on the 21st, at 5 p. m. "Old Boys" and Well-wishers of the Institution and in particular the parents of the pupils are invited to be present. There will be places reserved for native ladies.

**An Xmas Galety.** I am glad to be able to announce that a grand Cricket Match is to come off next Saturday the 26th inst. between 7 to 10 A. M. and 3 to 6 P. M. on the Esplanade Green in front of the Clock Tower. The contending parties being a European team captained by Mr. W. A. G. Hood and an Eleven of the Jaffna Cricket Club captained by Mr. S. Rajakariar. The thing is likely to be very grand and interesting.—Cor.

TRINCOMALIE 10th Dec. 1891

I cannot forbear speaking to you on the procession we had, the day before yesterday. It was a truly touching as well as imposing spectacle and no doubt Almighty God will have looked down with pity on his repentant people.

For the last three weeks, there were public prayers in the church every evening and they were very numerously attended. The confessional and the Holy table were literally besieged every day. Many have left off their sinful habits and returned to God after many years of neglect. On Tuesday morning, feast of the Immaculate Conception, High Mass was celebrated at seven o'clock, by Rev. Fr. Bourry. When it was over, the procession slowly moved on; the boys and men walked in long files after the cross, carrying the banner of the Sacred Heart and the images of St. Antony, St. Sebastian, Our Blessed Lady,

and the Sacred Heart; then came the females in a dense crowd headed by the banner of the Blessed Virgin. The faithful walked bare-headed, with a pious mien, reciting the Rosary and Litanies the whole way.

In this guise the procession wound its way all round the town, meeting every where with the sympathy and respect both of Hindus and Mahomedans. It was half-past ten when the ceremony ended. Nothing came in the way to mar its beauty.—Nothing, except the silly and bigoted clumsiness of two Protestants,—the civil Surgeon, Dr. Johnson and one Buttery, Inspector of the Local Board. They managed,—I know not by means of what tactics, to come in a carriage across the procession not less than three several times. The last time,—it was at Sinnakadai,—they nearly came to grief. They attempted to drive lengthways across the procession; but finding it impossible in the narrow street, and the horse becoming restive, they made up their mind, reluctantly it seemed, to come to a stand still and remained seated in the carriage with heads uncovered. Many young men felt their blood boiling within their breasts and would have stopped behind the procession to teach these two brags a much wanted lesson of civility, only for the presence of the priest.

These two would-be-gentlemen were not so brave last week, when, trying to enforce their regulations among Hindus and Mahomedans, they met with open resistance. While Mr. Nevill, as a true gentleman, stood firm at the risk of his life, in spite of stones and clubs, and would not retire till all his policemen were safe, our two heroes took to their heels and escaped without a bruise.

It is a pity that the Medical officer was not able to appreciate better the generous assistance accorded him by our clergy. Our Priests have devoted themselves to the utmost of their power for the cessation of the epidemic; they have been condescending to the utmost limit towards the medical staff and the Government. We are happy to note that the Assistant Government Agent, Mr. Nevill, has recognised their good will and paid it back with equal generosity and kindness, but of course it is not enough to bear an English sounding name and to make a show of Protestantism in order to be a gentleman.

After the Procession, no new cases among Catholics. Cor.

### THE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SHOW

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Havelock, Miss. Havelock and Private Secretary and A. D. C., before opening the "Colombo Show," made the following address to the Committee:

Gentlemen:—"I have to thank the Committee for according to me the privilege of opening the Show this day, and to examine in common with the others, the results of the good work of the Committee upon which for some months past they have been engaged. I sincerely trust that those results will be as satisfactory to the Committee as they are to me. I am aware that the preliminary efforts in connection with the Exhibition were somewhat interfered with in consequence of the heavy rain which we experienced during the months of October and November, and all the more credit is due to the working members of the Committee, and to the native chiefs and headmen for having so successfully overcome those difficulties. One remarkable feature in the exhibition is, I learn, the display of Military Exhibits, and I am sure that both the articles exhibited and the military skill which we are about to witness, will be as interesting as they are novel. This is the first Exhibition held in Colombo of the arts and manufacture of Ceylon, and I hope that it will not be the last. I trust that from time to time similar exhibitions will be held at different centres and that the different provinces will vie with each other in displaying the best selection of their industry and skill. It gives me much pleasure to congratulate those who have won prizes and to express my sympathy with those who have been less fortunate. I declare this Exhibition open"

The various magnificent pavilions and other buildings were then thrown open for the inspection of the visitors. His Excellency and Lady Havelock seemed to have been much pleased with the decorations, as well as with the quality and quantity of the large collection of exhibits. On the 9th inst. Lady Havelock distributed the prizes and certificates to the Exhibitors.

**The Registration of Deaths.**—The report of the Sub-Committee of Council on the Ordinance for the Registration of Deaths recommends many sweeping alterations in that measure which, if adopted, will have the effect of entirely removing the objections to it urged by the Mahomedan and other sections of the native community. In fact, the Bill is thoroughly overhauled and the agitators against it are to be congratulated on their success. To our mind the chief objection to the Ordinance as originally drafted was the impossibility of carrying out its provisions, for it is plain that, even if the people had no objection to medical men viewing their dead and certifying the cause of death before interment, such a system could not possibly be carried out in Ceylon for the reason that there are not enough medical men to do it. It is now recommended that "a responsible person shall furnish information of death to a local registering officer who 'may' verify the information and shall proceed to inspection only in the exceptional cases of suspicion or concealment of information." The compromise is no doubt expedient in one sense, but the weak spot in it is of course the "responsible person" who is to supply the information. We presume that discretion is to be left entirely in the hands of the registering officer as to whether his informant is a responsible person or not, which is rather a loose way of carrying things out. Furthermore, we do not quite see how a registering officer can elicit any information of value by viewing the corpse in cases of suspicion unless he be in all cases a medical man. The sub-committee no doubt felt compelled to take heed of the bitter opposition offered to the measure, and the result is now before us. We think, however, it would have been well to give the registering officer power to despatch a medical officer to view the body in all suspicious cases.—The Times

**A Dracmic measure.** In order to prevent the spread of cholera from Hambantota to other localities, the Agent or Assistant Agent has hit upon the plan of removing the planks from the bridge at Ambalantota, about eight miles from Hambantota. All boats thus interrupted between the latter place and Matara, and the Rev. Father Harmant, who was called to Hambantota by some cholera patients, was obliged to retrace his steps after reaching Ambalantota. Cor C. Messenger.

### APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments consequent on the retirement of Mr. G. W. PARANSON from the Public Service, with effect from the 14th inst.:

Mr. P. W. CONOLLY to be District Judge and Additional Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Jaffna, and a Visitor of the Jaffna Prison.

Mr. H. W. BRODBURST to be Assistant at Kalutara to the Government Agent of the Western Province, Superintendent of the Kalutara Prison, and Visitor of Post Offices in the Kalutara District.

Mr. G. M. FOWLER to be Assistant at Nuwara Eliya to the Government Agent for the Central Province, Commissioner of Requests and Police Magistrate, Nuwara Eliya, Superintendent of the Nuwara Eliya Prison, Local Authority under the Petroleum Ordinance for the Nuwara Eliya District, and Visitor of Post Offices in that district.

Mr. E. F. HOPKINS to be Assistant at Vavuniya and Mullaitivu to the Government Agent of the Northern Province, District Judge, Commissioner of Requests, and Police Magistrate, Vavuniya. Mr. Mullaitivu, Superintendent of the Prison at Vavuniya, Assistant Collector of Customs, Mullaitivu, and Visitor of Post Offices in the Vavuniya and Mullaitivu Districts. Gazette

**Markets in the Northern Province.** The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, with reference to the question pending in my name, I move that the third reading of an Ordinance relating to Markets in the Northern Province, be postponed till the next meeting as I have received a communication from the Government Agent drawing my attention, to certain

amendments that have been made in connection with this Ordinance. I may mention that this subject will not be effected by the postponement of the Ordinance till the next meeting. Independent.

(Continued from 4th page.)

**The death of Cardinal Bernadou,** Archbishop of Sens, is announced. His Eminence was created and proclaimed Cardinal in 1889. He had reached his seventy-fifth year.

**Prince Aldobrandini,** of the well-known Roman family of that name, has joined the Jesuits. Our Roman correspondent says the news has created quite a sensation in Rome.

**The Confessional in the Church of England.** There is probably no doctrine or practice of the Catholic Church that is more reviled and hated by the opponents of the Church than the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins and the practice of Confession. It must be, therefore, gall and wormwood to the ultra-Protestants of the Church of England to be told, as they are told on the authority of clergyman writing in the *Newbury House Magazine*, that no less than twelve hundred clergymen of the Church of England bear confessions in private. By that means the old detestation of the confessional will be killed out, or confined to a few fanatics; and thus in a most important particular the Church of England, without knowing or intending it, will be "doing our work."

**Russia and Religious Persecution.** However great may be the expansion of ideas on religious and political subjects elsewhere, Russia remains stationary. The Czar, judging by his policy, clings to the notion that the arctic atrocities of Siberia are a sovereign remedy against anything approaching freedom of thought in the religious sphere or the body politic. Gourko, his governor-general in Poland, has, by virtue of a circular of the minister of the Interior, transferred to the Government of Smolensk, a Catholic priest, Father Chmielenski, who has been accused of making converts from the orthodox religion. Similar measures have been taken for the same reason against Canon Brzowski, of Bielsk, Canon Bareski, of Wigry, and several other. The non-Orthodox clergymen, whether Catholic or Protestant, who undertake to carry on the work of his denunciation in Russia, must be of the stuff of which martyrs are made. The Czar muzzles and persecutes the moral reformers, thus aiding the apostles of dynamite and dagger.

**The eloquent Dominican.** Father Monsabre, whose voice is as familiar to the vast temples of Notre Dame and the Madeleine at Paris as to the little French Church off Portman Square, has been adorning the pulpit at St. Michael's in Havre with an accustomed effect. In a sermon on behalf of the orphans of the Misericorde he drew a vivid sketch of the fascinating and sympathetic personality of Leo XIII. The Holy Father loses France, said the preacher, as the Patriarchs loved their eldest born. "France is safe," insisted the Pope with a voice as assured as that of the prophets. When Father Monsabre spoke of the extreme moral lapses and political divisions in the country, His Holiness replied, "My child, my child, don't refer to these. The Gospel has a sentence which guarantees the safety of France, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.' The noble French nation is at the head of all good works."

**The Oblate Fathers.** On the 2nd of Decr, half a century will have expired since the Oblate Fathers made their entry into Montreal. They established themselves in the populous and poor Quebec quarter of the city, where they soon achieved a notable reformation in the rather disorderly manners of the ignorant dwellers. They conquered apathy and put down vice. During visitations of epidemics they were everywhere ministering by the pallets of the afflicted. They introduced the Sisters of Providence, those angels of Christian charity, whose care of infants and the sick was attended with such profit. The Church of St. Peter, a model of architecture and one of the most beautiful temples in Montreal, was raised by them. The Univers.

**Bon Mot.** The *Hull Mail Gazette* recalls a story told of a certain well-known priest at Bray, near Dublin, the parent of many a *Hibernian bon mot*. It appears that a polemical Protestant talked him once in a railway carriage on the subject of Purgatory. After the controversy had gone on for some time, the Protestant asked the priest which he would rather had himself in, Hell or Purgatory. "The latter," said Father B.—"on account of the climate; but I'd sooner on account of the company; for" he added handsomely, "I delight in the society of Protestants."

**The Rebellion in China.** Forty-two rebels who were taken prisoners during the recent fighting have been beheaded at Pakon.—Independent

செய்யப்படுகிறது

இலம் க-க்கு முற்பணம்.....	4-00
சு-மாசத்துக்கு முற்பணம்.....	2-00
இலம் க-க்கு பிற்பணம்.....	6-00
சு-மாசத்துக்குப் பிற்பணம்.....	3-00
தபரல்பெலவு இலவ்கைக்கு.....	1-00
இந்தியாவுக்கு.....	1-00
விளம்பர விகிதம்	
12 வரிக்குள் வரி-க-க்கு.....	16
12-க்கு மேற்படல் வரி க-க்கு	10
கால் கொலத்துக்கு (28 வரி.)	3-00
அரைக்கொலத்துக்கு.....	5-00
முக்கால் கொலத்துக்கு.....	7-00
ஒரு கொலத்துக்கு.....	40











THE  
**Jaffna Catholic Guardian**  
 DECEMBER 19th

**CREMATION.**

(Continued.)

Let us see, now, what happens to a dead body, when in the words of the Ritual of the Catholic Church, it is "laid into the ground"—when it has been buried in such a way, that the earth may have access to it. The Editor of the "Hindu Organ" evidently, does not know that a body so buried does not remain even in the ground, but returns to the atmosphere, and that the earth as earth affects it in no way whatever; that the part played by the earth in its resolution is, in fact, that of a mere porous medium between it and the air which is above it; that, through this medium, the air with its dew and its rains filters, and when it reaches the body, in chemical language, oxidises it—that is to say, resolves it into new products, and then, that these new products, passing upwards again through the same sieve-like medium, re-enter the atmosphere and become the elements of its renewal and of the nourishment and growth of plants. In a word, that a body so buried it matters not whether deeply or superficially—literally as well as figuratively, ascends from the dead, and completes the cycle of its pilgrimage by becoming again the source and renewal of life. Does cremation do the same thing, or anything like same thing?..... Can the cremationists hope to emulate the silent continuity of this perfect sublimation by the roar of their furnace, or the stinking Indian funeral piles.

Not to appear to make light of the most important objections often raised by the cremationists, we will briefly refute the two following ones:—

(1) The buried body, when itself infected, is necessarily a propagator of infection. (2) Whether infected or not, it cannot fail to be a source of poison to the springs and watercourses in its neighbourhood. In regard to the first—that the buried body is capable of conveying infection to the living—instead of going back to the plague and the sufficiency of even the plague-pits to deal with their contents, We will give two facts, one recorded by Sir Bradford Leslie K. C. I. E. and the other by His Grace the Duke of Westminster. Speaking of "Patna, a densely populated and not overclean Musalman city of Bengal, where they bury without covering, and so near the surface that the jackals now and then root the bodies up," Sir Bradford Leslie says of it that it is one of the healthiest cities of the Bengal Presidency, while the Hindu city of Benares, where they burn, and where the stench from the burning piles is indescribably disgusting, is, he believes, the most unhealthy city in India, cholera and other epidemic diseases being never absent from it." The Duke of Westminster, speaking of Cheshire, where thousands of cattle infected with cattle plague have been buried, says there has yet been no re-appearance of the disease there, though the burial of infected carcasses, was "in most cases hasty and in all superficial.

As to the alleged poisoning of the springs and watercourses in the neighbourhood of the buried body, we cannot do better than quote an interesting account from Sir John Simon, P. R. S. the distinguished medical officer of the Privy Council, of a certain pump in Aldgate, which stood and possibly stands still, near the old burial ground there. Of this pump Sir John speaks as follows:—"The water from this well is perfectly bright, clear, and even brilliant; it has an agreeable, soft taste, and is much esteemed by the inhabitants of the Parish, though, it will be seen by the subjoined analysis, it is an exceedingly hard water, and unfit for all culinary and most domestic purposes....yielding carbonates of lime and Magnesia, sulphate of lime, Chloride of Sodium, Nitrates of Potash, Soda, Magnesia and Ammonia, Silica and Phosphate of lime; but of organic matter none or scarcely any trace....."

The quantity of nitrates in this water is very remarkable. The salts are doubtless derived from the decomposition of animal matter in the adjacent churchyard. Their presence, conjoined with the inconsiderable quantity of organic matter which the water contains, illustrates in a very forcible manner the power that the earth possesses of depriving the water that percolates it of any animal matter it may hold in solution; and, moreover, shows in how complete and rapid a manner the process is effected. In this case the distance of the well from the churchyard is little more than the breadth of the foot path, and yet this short extent of intervening ground has, by virtue of oxidising power of the earth, been sufficient wholly to decompose and render inoffensive the liquid animal matter that has oozed from the putrefying corpses in the churchyard. ("Second annual Report of the Health of the City of London appendix pp. 170-172).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY.**

We have perused with much pleasure the "First Notions of Logic, Metaphysics and Ethics" written by the C. Pagnoni, O. S. B. the Lord Bishop of Kandy. The learned Author does not aim in his work at refuting all the philosophical errors, but simply at presenting students with a firm and sure foundation of the philosophical edifice, that they may have a clear idea of truth and good, and the means of avoiding the capital errors." This short and concise manual of philosophy written in very plain and intelligible English will be a powerful weapon in the hands of our educated Catholic young men. In the part that treats of "Logic" they will learn the science that directs the acts of reason towards an easier and surer acquisition of knowledge—or in other words, the science of reasoning they stand so much in need of to refute the cavils of our godless modern sophists, and argue out the enemies of our Holy Religion. They will find in "Cosmology" sound and clear arguments, that will enable them to prove to the Hindu Pantheists that the world is distinct from God; that everything is not God; that the world is created by God, and not produced by a casual concurrence of atoms, or the development of an eternal matter independent from God. The "Anthropology" will enlighten them and enable them to enlighten the ignorant Hindus on the nature of man, the origin, the faculties and properties of the human soul. "Natural Theology" will show them how man, by the light of his reason, can know that there is only one God, Eternal, Immutible, All-wise, preserving, governing all created beings and directing them towards their end. "Ethics" will give them some sound notions about the final destination of man, the nature of a moral act, conscience, virtue, vice, and men's duties towards themselves, their neighbour and their country.

We hope that this excellent work will have a large sale in Ceylon and that it will do much good; and our earnest wish is to see it used as a text-book in our English high schools and Colleges, where the study of philosophy and logic has been but too much neglected up to the present day.

**POLITICAL SUMMARY.**

**The Law of Guarantees.** The fictitious character of the so-called incident of the Pantheon becomes increasingly apparent with the further development of events. The principal culprit on that now historical occasion has denied having written the famous incriminating inscription, and declares that when he found himself in the hands of the police he had no idea of the motive of his arrest. The book, instantly sequestered by the authorities, has never been seen by any impartial witness, and the accused were arbitrarily sent across the frontier without any form of public trial or investigation such as would have substantiated the charge against them. The simultaneous rioting in remote quarters of the city, the announcement of an intended demonstration in the Radical press the day before the occurrence took place, instantaneous unanimity with which it was utilised to hound on the mob to a delirium of fury against the pignus, all prove it to have been part of a cunningly devised scheme for suppressing in future the free access to the Port of the faithful of other countries. Were any further argument required to enforce the truth of this view of the event, the

advantage that has been taken of it by the Italian Freemasons to agitate for the abrogation of the Law of Guarantees would abundantly supply it. This movement was initiated by a furious circular from the Grand Orient in Italy, signed ADRIANO LEMMI, inciting the adepts of the Society to an active champion against the obnoxious law.—*Tablet.*

**The Pope and the French Bishops** The Pope's letter to Cardinal Langenieux which has been made public through the French papers, has been followed by another from his Holiness to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Toulouse. This letter, though addressed to the Cardinal, applies equally to the Bishops of the province. In it Leo XIII. admits to the condition of the working classes, says: "We knew beforehand what results were with the blessing of God, likely to follow the instructions contained in Our Encyclical Letter, especially if full liberty had been allowed the working classes of all countries to come to Rome when they pleased in order to listen to Us and to speak to Us familiarly. This, happily, a good number of French workmen were able to do last month. It is true We had hoped to see many more such from the different countries of Europe, and even from the distant lands of America, that were preparing to send pilgrims to Rome. We looked for them with pleasure. You know the rest, venerable brothers. Nevertheless whatever be the events which the future reserves for Us, we must remember that Our courage must be equal to the difficulties that encompass Us."

**The Future Conclave.** There can scarcely be a doubt that all the sovereigns and rulers of Europe are just now exercising themselves over the next Conclave. Even the Czar, we are assured, has been studying how his influence might be best employed in connection with an event so important. Yet, the petty rulers of "United Italy" persist in telling us that the question of the Papal power is to be regulated altogether in accordance with Italian ideas. The interest of the Conclave is international. Its result will not be determined by the intrigues of Italian or non-Italian rulers. The sole end which will be kept in view by the Cardinals will be the welfare and progress of the Church. When Dr. Dollinger in 1870 moved all the authority of the German Government to influence the Vatican Conclave, his action was a complete failure.

**The German Reichstag** has up to the present received 6,314 petitions with 1,004,000 signatures in favour of the return of the Jesuits, and 15,135 petitions, with 1,125,000 signatures, against the movement for recalling them. The Catholics form a third of the population of the Empire. *C. Times*

**Commercial Treaties and the Triple Alliance**—It is considered that the Commercial Treaties entered into by the Central European Powers will greatly strengthen the Triple Alliance. Servia is expected to shortly join the Union, and the adhesion of Holland, Spain, Bulgaria and Roumania is hoped for.

**Lord Cross on the British policy in India.**—Lord Cross speaking at Hanley said that justice was the great keystone of British policy in India. He declared that further aggression was not wished for, and that the Government desired to maintain the closest friendship with the native States. Regarding the Amer of Afghanistan, it was only desired that he should rule his subjects properly and remain a friend to England. Lord Cross expressed a hope that no pressure would be exercised affecting the independence of Persia, and he also hoped that the French would not encroach on Siam.—*Independent.*

**The English Government and its Navy.**—Lord George Hamilton, First Lord of the Admiralty speaking at Haling yesterday, said that the Government had decided to place the Navy in a condition to cope with any two combined powers.

**The Russians in Asia** The *Times* correspondent telegraphs an account of Captain Younghusband's recent adventures, which have been published in the Indian newspapers. It appears that, after crossing the Pamirs, the Captain met with 100 Russians, half Cossacks, half infantry, under Colonel Tanoff. He was at first well received, but on the second night, by orders of the Governor-General of Turkestan, he was given his choice of arrest or of giving a written undertaking to leave the little Panter at once, and not to travel by certain passes leading to what was called "newly-acquired Russian territory." Captain Younghusband chose the latter alternative and was allowed to proceed. On his return journey he found that the Russian expedition had trespassed on the territories belonging to China, and finding Lieutenant Davison staying with the Chinese troops, Captain Tanoff compelled the Chinese General to withdraw and arrested Lieutenant Davison. From this it appears that the Russian force was no more exploring party, but an organized military expedition, and that Captain Tanoff claims as Russian territory what undoubtedly belonged to Afghanistan and China, and within a short and easy march of the British frontier.

**The German Budget.** The Budget of the German Empire for the financial year 1892-93 shows the total revenue and expenditure balancing at 1,222,416,597 marks. In order, however, to establish an equilibrium between the receipts and outlay a sum of 153,953,322 marks has to be raised from Extraordinary resources.—*Tablet.*

**The Shah and his People.** A writer in *The Pall Mall Gazette*, who is said to be

well-informed as regards Persian Politics, gives a curious and startling account of the present state of the country. "The Shah of Persia," he writes, "is nearly played out. He drinks a bottle of brandy a day. He consumes hashish and opium freely; and the mask is finally off. Europe has been fooled. The Shah's butler, the son of his cook, the grandson of a slave bought for £10 in the open market, is now sole and irresponsible Grand Vizier. In Persia there is no law and not a single court of justice. No enterprise is possible. No one dares own that he is rich. The rich bury their wealth. They are seized, tortured, imprisoned; in many cases they die without revealing their treasure. All that is respectable in Persia stands aloof, goes into exile, or hides away to escape this intolerable degradation and misery of the times. A Persian gentleman the other day, not so much smarting under personal injuries as rendered desperate by the hopeless misery of the times, forced himself before the Shah and committed suicide in his presence." The writer goes on to say that the real state of the country, which is on the eve of a revolution, is kept from the public by those interested in the tobacco monopolies. "The first nobles in Persia," however, "are affronted by the present degrading entourage of the Shah; and the masses cry out for the first time in Persian history with a clear and articulate voice." What they desire is, "the moral and diplomatic support of England to help them to law—to security of life and property." If they do not get it from us they will turn to Russia. *Tablet.*

**The situation in Brazil.**—Despatches from Brazil state that the situation in Rio Grande is very critical. The rebels have organised a provisional government and have selected Parahyba as their capital. Troops are being organised to attack the Government forces.

**Count Kalnok on foreign Affairs.** In the Hungarian Delegation, Count Kalnok, Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, made several interesting statements on foreign policy. There was he said no ground for apprehension for European peace in general, or for Austro-Hungarian peace in particular. He did not think profound European changes were to be expected from the visit of the French Fleet to Cronstadt, but it arose from the consciousness that the mutual interests of France and Russia demanded a closer rapprochement between them. As to Austria's Eastern policy, the speaker said its attitude towards Roumania was that of unchanged friendship, and regarding Servia its attitude was one of regard for a State whose government, owing to the confused state of Servian parties, was confronted with exceptional difficulties. With regard to Bulgaria, he said that the position regarding the recognition of Prince Ferdinand remained unchanged. Concerning the Dardanelles question, the Minister said the Powers more interested than Austria took the same attitude as she did. Russia must use the Straits for communication with her Eastern possessions, and the vessels of the so-called volunteer fleets were in time of peace transports sailing under a commercial flag. Certain inferences had been drawn from the fact that the settlement of the question regarding the passage of these vessels through the Straits had coincided with the French Fleet's visit to Cronstadt, but the coincidence was solely due to chance. Replying to a question, the Count said, in conclusion, he knew nothing of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Austrian frontier.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**The Oath of Obedience to Canterbury.** The ready obedience given by Catholic Bishops all over the world to the instructions of the Holy See is an unflinching source of astonishment to our non-Catholic friends. Every attempt among Protestants to bring about a like conformity, leads to disunion or to a union only in name. The Archbishop of Canterbury seeing the great advantage which would be secured if Episcopalians in the Colonies could be brought into real organic, as distinguished from mere verbal, union with the Church of England, has been endeavouring to make the appointment of an Australian Bishop dependent on his taking an oath of obedience to the See of Canterbury. The General Synod of the Australian Church have kicked against the obedience part of the programme, and think they should have a Primæ or their own who will acknowledge no superior. So they have appointed a committee to communicate with the Archbishop of Canterbury and no doubt remonstrate with him on the extravagance of his claim. There are more important issues involved in this question of obedience to Canterbury than mere ecclesiastical rank or patronage. The Australian Churches may adopt as their motto, underneath the jumping kangaroo—"Give to Cæsar what belongs to Cæsar, and to Canterbury only what belongs to Canterbury"—a kind of spiritualized Pickwickian attachment.