

ment. On the whole, the Protestant press and the great mass of the religious public of all denominations are going with the movement. Some, cold or opposed at first, have been borne down by the almost irresistible tide of public sentiment and feeling. As an evidence of the state of the public mind, I may mention that the Rev. Grattan Guinness preached on the Lord's-day, about a fortnight ago, to an audience of at least 15,000 people in the open air.

The Roman Catholic priests are doing all they can to prevent their people going to the open-air services or any prayer-meetings, or even visiting those who have been affected. Some ascribe the prostration to the influence of chloroform (which they say is carried by ministers in their handkerchiefs), to mesmeric agency or epidemic disease, for which they provide restoratives or preventives in the form of holy water, wine and water, consecrated draughts, prayers read or incense waved over the sufferers to exorcise the devil, with apparently but little effect; for almost every day brings intelligence of fresh secessions from the Church of Rome.

There have been some cases of intense suffering, bodily or mental, or both combined, during the present religious awakening. A young man stated at our prayer-meeting that, previous to his conversion, he had been a most wicked sinner. "I was," said he, "in almost all wickedness—a curser, a blasphemer, a drunkard. I gloried in being drunk; I took a pride in it. I went to the theatre. I bought cards on Saturday night, and played them all day on Saturday in the public-houses. I have been out all night in houses of ill-fame. I was lying drunk on the roadside when the converts were passing by. They spoke to me. I felt ashamed to be seen in such a state." He was led, after this, to serious reflection, and at last was prostrated. He described his sufferings at this stage as most intense. "I felt," said he, "as if my heart was crushing between iron rollers, as if every bone in my body was bruising between the wheels of machinery, and hundreds of weights were pressing on my heart."

Another person told me her sufferings under conviction were as if her heart was literally on fire. "I felt," said she, (passing her hand over her chest), "as if all the fires in Belfast had been burning in here." Another described her sensations as if her "heart was melting within her, and running like oil."

A young man told me he felt "as if his heart had become three times the size of his body, and was bursting within him." Another person said she felt as if her heart was being "torn in two—as if the devil were pulling it one way and Christ another way." A very intelligent man (the second person, I believe, that was "stricken" in Belfast) told me his case. He said he had called at a house in town, and, during his stay, happened to open a Bible, and read the passage where the mountains are said to have been rent, and a still small voice to have come to the prophet Elijah. He was greatly affected immediately after reading this. A great weakness and an indescribable sensation came over him. When he rallied a little, he was scarcely able to reach his own house, till he was prostrated, crying aloud for God to have mercy on him. He said, the agony which he endured for some time after this was unspeakable. He felt as if he were suspended for about three hours over the fiery gulf, under the wrath of God—his soul hanging as if ready every moment to drop into the bottomless pit. "All the time," said he, "I never let go my hold of the everlasting covenant." He had professed to be a believer in Christ for many years previous to this change.

This period of suffering in the case of converts is generally succeeded by a joy that may be truly said to be unspeakable and full of glory. Their countenance seems radiant with an expression of calm triumphant joy. The plainest features appear to be beautified with a peculiar, almost angelic smile that lights up the whole countenance. "There is heaven in that face," was the immediate almost involuntary exclamation of a person who entered the room for the first time where a convert was lying. Like the seal of God upon the forehead, so remarkable is this expression of the countenance, that at certain times I could almost point out, in passing through the streets, those who had been recently affected. I put this to a practical test one day in a crowded thoroughfare. I met a young person whom I supposed at once, by her appearance, to have been brought under religious impressions. I spoke to her, and found on inquiry that my impression was correct. She mentioned some of the particulars of her case. I may add another illustration of the same matter. I was requested one day to visit a young woman who was in great distress of mind. I found her sobbing and crying, in the deepest trouble. After speaking to her for some time, directing her to look to Christ, reminding her of some promises suited to her state, and engaging in prayer with her, she became tranquil, a peaceful smile, like a ray of joy, began to steal over her face. Soon after, she assured me that she had placed her whole trust on Christ, and had found peace in believing. Having received a hasty summons to visit another person in great distress in a neighboring house, I left her for about half an hour; and when I returned, so remarkable was the change that had passed over her countenance, that I could not have recognised her as the same person I had so recently visited. Peace and joy seemed beaming from every feature.

The pressure of many engagements compels me abruptly to conclude this hurried communication.—Correspondent of London Freeman.

Mr. SPURGEON'S NEW TABERNACLE.—All the difficulties attendant on the purchase of a piece of freehold land for the erection of this long-talked-of Tabernacle have at length been overcome. 580l. was the contract for laying a foundation of concrete, which is completed.

The ceremony of commencing the work is fixed for the 16th of August. The work will cost at least 21,000l. by the time it is completed. The funds in hand at present do not exceed 7,000l., but the building committee are encouraged in their undertaking by some very liberal promises, which they confidently believe will be realised as the work progresses. It is in contemplation by Mr. Spurgeon's friends to have a public breakfast on the occasion, which will, if possible, be held at the Surrey Music Hall. A charge of 15l. for every service in that Hall has been made for now nearly three years, being at the rate of 780l. a year. The new building is to seat 5,000 persons, besides having a baptistry, school-rooms, lecture-room, &c. Mr. Spurgeon has for some time been engaged in various parts of the country endeavouring to raise contributions towards the funds.

United States.

NEW YORK.—There are now eight daily prayer meetings in the city of New York. Requests similar to the following are being daily presented at the Fulton st. Meeting:

"The prayers of the Fulton street prayer-meeting are earnestly requested—oh! how earnestly—by a daughter for the conversion of her father, and the other eleven members of her family.

For a town, that there may be a revival of religion, and that many who are leading ungodly lives may be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

For a young man in the last stages of the consumption, that God will give him the Comforter in the hour of death.

A young man, who was educated in the Roman Catholic religion, feeling anxious about his soul's salvation, solicits the prayers of God's people in his own behalf, that God would grant him more of the illuminating and sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, and that he may be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth.

A gentleman asked prayer for a grand-daughter—an orphan—who is very sick, and is without hope. He said he felt very anxious about her soul. Another gentleman arose immediately and said that a clergyman, now in the room, had requested him to present him to the meeting, as a special subject of prayer.

The Rev. Mr. Clarkson, in his "Tenth Anniversary Sermon," in St. James's church, Chicago, says:—"I have in these ten years myself preached here eight hundred and twelve sermons and lectures. Seven hundred and thirty-three of these have been written and prepared for the time and occasion of their delivery. Seventy-one of them I repeated the second time, and three of them the third time. And two hundred and ninety-two sermons have been preached to this congregation, in that time, by others than the rector of the parish."

The *Intelligencer* (Reformed Dutch) says:—"A gentleman of New York has given nine thousand dollars to the Board of Education, to be invested for the education of pious students for the ministry. The interest only of this amount is to be used, the principal to be reserved as an operative fund."

At the Old South prayer-meeting in Boston, a member of Harvard University stated that there were in that Institution seventy undergraduates who belonged to evangelical denominations. A college prayer-meeting and class prayer-meetings were held weekly. This statement elicited considerable feeling, and prayer was offered for the return of this seminary to the primitive faith of New-England.

The Jews, in the United States, now number about two hundred thousand. In New York city alone there are forty thousand. The attention of the Jews in Europe is turned towards America, on account of the persecution to which they are subjected in some countries on the Continent, and a rapid increase of their numbers here may be expected by immigration. Many Jews in this country are occupying prominent and influential positions in politics and business. Messrs. Yulee and Benjamin, of the United States Senate, and Messrs. Zollcoffer, Oliver, Philips and Hart, of the National House of Representatives, are numbered among the children of Abraham.

The friends of the Sabbath in Baltimore have organized themselves into an Association, similar in its character to the one in New York city, and like that society are endeavoring to gather statistics, by which it will be demonstrated that there is nearly, if not as much, iniquity perpetrated on that sacred day, as in all other days of the week put together, and that the pecuniary interests of the business community are sadly affected by the drunkenness, rowdiness, and crime committed on the Sabbath day to an aggravated extent; and almost all this grows out of the illegal traffic on that day in spirituous liquors.

Colonial & Foreign News.

Canada.

The new Cathedral of Christ Church, Montreal, now erecting at a cost of upwards of \$200,000, is rapidly approaching completion. Complete in all its architectural details, with a spire rising two hundred and thirty-four feet, presenting in its exterior the deep blue of the Canadian limestones, relieved by facings and tracery of Caen stone, it will stand, says the *Pilot*, a fitting memorial of the present Lord Bishop, through whose indefatigable exertions it has been thus far erected. At its consecration, appointed in the month of October, invitations have been extended to the Bishops of the English, the Colonial, and the American Church, to be present.

A pamphlet has been issued at Quebec addressed to Sir W. Fenwick Williams, on the formation of a British North American Legion.

THE TURK.—The Governor General has received a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, wherein it is stated, that Her Majesty the Queen, has been graciously pleased to grant a "Queen's Plate" of the value of fifty guineas, annually, to be run for under the direction of the Toronto Turf Club.

United States.

Some of the early rising citizens at Madison, N. Y., state that a slight frost was perceptible on the morning of Friday the 12th. If this is so, it is safe to predict that 1859 will be noted for a frost occurring in every month of the year.

The *Middleboro' (Mass.) Gazette* gives the particulars of the painful death of a boy in Plympton, in consequence of a bite on the finger from a turtle. The symptoms were the same as hydrophobia. Not long after the bite, the lad became feverish, and after the finger had been lanced, black spots appeared on the other hand, and paroxysms followed, in which the sufferer would snap and bite at whatever came in his way, after the manner of a turtle.

Upwards of three hundred and fifty thousand cords of wood, piled up alongside the Little Miami (Ohio) Railroad, were destroyed by fire a few days since, and the rails were so warped by the heat that the trains were delayed for several hours.

A terrible tragedy occurred in Cincinnati on the night of Aug. 16. A man named Marbais shot his wife, whom he found in an assignation house, and then attempted to kill himself.

A youth, while bathing in the river at Cincinnati, found a valuable hunting watch in the water.

AUSTRALIA.

Our gold-fields are yielding as handsomely as ever; the railway works—which involve some of the deepest cuttings and largest viaducts in the world—are being prosecuted with vigour; and, judging from the number and description of the buildings in course of erection in all the principal towns, there is evidently no lack of enterprise or money. Nor do the people—through their representatives in the Legislature—grudge a liberal expenditure in order to render our national edifices attractive as well as durable. As an instance, it may be mentioned that the Houses of Parliament in Melbourne—a magnificent pile of buildings—are to be faced with Carrara marble, at an immense cost; and the other public structures built or being built in this city are of a style and character that would add beauty to any European capital. We have, too, the advantage of being able to look at them without being under the necessity of peering through a dense atmosphere of fog and smoke—a desideratum not always enjoyed in the cities of the old country.—*Correspondent of London Freeman.*

JAMAICA.

We have been favoured, upon the whole, with propitious seasons, with more than average crops of staple produce, and, with the exception of pimento, the products, multiplied in quantity, have found a remunerating price in the market. Estates previously abandoned, such of them, at least, as have been capable, by situation and capacity of soil, of remunerative cultivation, are again gradually exhibiting signs of busy industry; and these proprietors, or lessees, who continued their operations through the recent vicissitudes are prospering to an extent that will satisfy reasonable expectation.

Contrary to the reports that are circulated both in England and America against the emancipated population, I venture to repeat the affirmation I have so often made as the result of a long and intimate knowledge of the character and habits of the people, that they are generally industrious, contented, and well-disposed. Some men, both with us and you, who are so deeply prejudiced against the coloured race as to appear prompt and eager to believe any and every report to their injury, and so determined to discredit everything to their advantage, may demur to this representation, but few men would venture to dispute it openly in Jamaica. Even the most unscrupulous of our local journals sometimes admit that, all things considered, a more industrious and docile population are nowhere to be found.

By a copy of *The New York Chronicle* I have received, I have read with astonishment and regret the following announcement:—"The island of Jamaica is in an unsettled state, and the greatest apprehensions of a Negro war are apprehended." You hardly need be told that this is altogether a fiction. Some disturbance occurred a few weeks since at Sav-la-mar, the principal town in the south-west parish of the island, as a consequence of the operation of some oppressive local laws; and the poor people of the district, having sought redress by petition to the Executive in vain, were instigated, as is believed, by some of what are termed the higher classes, who were equally loud in the denunciations of the evil, to remedy the nuisance themselves. The greatest grievance was the erection of toll-gates along the principal entrances to the town. When wrought up to a delirium of excitement, goaded as they felt themselves by the oppression, in addition to the incentives previously named, considerable numbers of the populace from the district (for to the district only was it confined) assembled in the vicinity of these toll-gates, determined to destroy them, and which they accomplished after the fashion of the Rebbeccaite some time

since in Wales. These proceedings, though highly reprehensible, as destructive of peace and the securities of property, but which would not have been thought a very serious affair in England, excited alarm among a certain class here, and the Governor was applied to for troops to restore tranquility and maintain the majesty of the law. This was soon accomplished, even, if am not mistaken, before the arrival of the military to the scene of action, and all has been since as calm and undisturbed as one of your tiniest boroughs in the absence of political excitement.

Our island has been unusually healthy for several months past. Neither Yellow fever nor any other pestilential disease has exhibited itself in any of our seaboard or inland towns or villages. The heat, however, has been for some weeks past, and is at the present time, unusually oppressive—almost insupportable. We perspire profusely in doors, out of doors, everywhere.—*Id.*

FRANCE.

The news from France and Italy this week is not much, but that little is extremely interesting. The *Moniteur* announces that the Emperor of the French intends to reduce his army and navy to a peace footing with the least possible delay. This statement must, of course, be paralleled by deeds before it can inspire any great confidence either here or in France; but, should it turn out that the deeds correspond with the declared intention, it will do more to reassure the people of this country, and the mercantile and agricultural classes in France, whose interests cry aloud for continued peace, than any fallacious comparisons of the estimated yearly expenditure of the two countries upon their respective naval and military services. In Paris, the statement has evidently been received with considerable confidence. No official intimation of the Emperor's intention had been, however, received on Thursday evening, when Lord Russell made his statement to the House of Commons, from which it would appear that the act is a spontaneous one on the part of France, and not a reduction made in consequence of any agreement with this country. A visit of the Emperor of the French to Queen Victoria is much talked of in Paris, but though not, perhaps, a very unlikely event, the report seems at present to rest upon no very reliable foundation.

The French troops are now daily returning from Italy to France, over the Mont Cenis, and by way of Genoa and Marseilles. The squadron recently in the Adriatic has also reached Toulon. It is refreshing to hear that as these symptoms of the war having closed are everywhere showing themselves, a real disposition to reduce its warlike establishments is beginning to manifest itself in the French Government. At Toulon, as well as at the other naval ports, orders have been given to proceed immediately with the disarmament of all vessels, whether armed or in the course of being armed. Orders have also been given to disband all sailors who have served for five years.

The *Constitutionnel* gives a quiet hint, in an article upon the ingratitude of Italy, that Piedmont must do what France bids it, or else it will come worse off. After telling Italy that she must understand she is really free and advising her to ponder well upon the subject, it adds:—"If the powerful hand which for a moment was extended to her should be withdrawn, neither the fine speeches in the English Parliament, nor partial insurrections, nor sterile sympathies from the Liberal party in Europe, would prevent Austria from once more dominating over Italy, and then it would be from Turin to Messina." Rather an unsatisfactory kind of freedom this!

ITALY.

The marriage ceremony between Piedmont and Lombardy may be said to have been solemnised on Sunday. On that day Victor Emmanuel, accompanied by his Ministers, by members of the Sardinian Legislature, and by the municipal bodies of Turin and Genoa, made a public entry into Milan, the capital of his new province, and was received by its inhabitants with the enthusiasm due to a Sovereign who had dared and sacrificed so much for the liberation of Italy from Austrian domination, and who had successfully helped to break the yoke from off the necks of the Lombard people. A religious service was performed in the famous Cathedral, in the presence of the King and the representatives of both divisions of his enlarged kingdom, after which the Milanese authorities did homage, and a general illumination expressed the national joy. The rescue of Lombardy from Austria is undoubtedly a substantial benefit consequent on the Treaty of Villafranca, and its union with Piedmont begins a new era in the history of both—we believe even in the history of Italy, which must gain by the establishment of an enlightened, free State of considerable strength within its limits. We regret that Count Cavour could not attend the celebration of an event which his energy has done so much to bring about. Meanwhile Piedmont seems completely in French hands as far as the Duchies are concerned. At the request of France, she has recalled her Commissioners and officers from Parma and Piacenza, as she had before, at the request of France, withdrawn her authorities from Modena and Tuscany.

According to the *Bologna Gazette*, the people of the Romagna are signing a declaration against the Papal Government, and expressing their wish to be annexed to Sardinia. They declare they have left the yoke of the Pope, and will never return to it. What the Governments of France and Austria will do under such circumstances it is difficult to imagine, but each of them appears to wish they had washed their hands clean of all Italian difficulties.