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AND CONTAINS,

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From the Boston Mercantile Journal.

## THE CATHOLICS ARE COMING.

Mr. Editor.—The Temperance Reformation in Ireland has spoken in a voice of thunder, and reverberated across the ocean, and is already exciting to vigorous and efficient action the members of the Catholic communion in this country. The spirit of the philanthropic Matthew *is here, and will ere long* pervade the entire continent. It will breathe into the Irish population of our land a new and better life, and give elevation and dignity to their character. Already we hear of the discussion of the great principles of Temperance, and of the organization of societies among the Catholics at Cincinnati, at New York, and at Boston. The Irish in this country, as a body, in common with too many of our own countrymen, have been too much addicted to the vice of Intemperance; but under the benign influence of this glorious reformation, they will speedily wipe off this stain upon their character—and stand erect, in the words of one of their countrymen, morally "*redeemed regenerated* and *disenthralled.*" They have already entered the field of battle against the demon Intemperance, nor will they lay down their arms till the monster is slain, and buried, face downward, so deep as to be beyond all hope of a resurrection. God grant them success. May the motto inscribed on their banner be

"Truce with Intemperance?
*Never!*—Oh, NEVER!"

Here then let them take their stand. And we would call on all their countrymen to unite with them in their endeavors to crush the monster by whom our cities and towns have been invaded, and by whom our families and friends have been laid low. This is their bounden duty—a duty they owe their adopted country—a duty they owe themselves, their families, and their friends—a duty, in short, they owe their church and their God. Let them not linger—God and humanity demand the sacrifice at their hands. Let them gird themselves to this work, bring themselves and their children to the altar of Temperance—and calling heaven and earth to witness the sincerity of their faith and devotion, swear eternal hatred against the odious sin of drunkenness, and against every thing that will "make drunk come."

Permit me to express the great delight I experienced in witnessing the interesting performances at the Franklin Street Catholic Church, in this city yesterday (Sunday) afternoon. The house was densely crowded. I was happy to observe present on this occasion, our faithful and long-tried temperance friends, Dr. Walter Channing and Dea. Moses Grant. It was a proud day for that church, and will be held in long remembrance. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Fenwick delivered a forcible and interesting address on Temperance, in which he illustrated, in a clear and comprehensive manner, the disastrous consequences of intemperance on health, property, reputation, morals, life, and salvation. It was a good production, and cannot fail to have produced a salutary impression on the minds and hearts of the whole assembly. At the conclusion of the address the Bishop requested those present who desired to take the Pledge to come forward, when *eighty* intelligent looking young men, in the prime and vigor of life, accepted the invitation.

The Rev. Bishop addressed the young men for about fifteen minutes, in a most affectionate manner, expressed his congratulations, impressed on them the nature and solemnity of the act in which they were engaged, exhorted them to perseverance and implored on each the blessing of heaven. He closed his remarks by stating that he should commence by setting the example. The Society's pledge was then suspended from his neck, after which each of the young men approached the altar and received the pledge from the hands of the Bishop. The pledge was a long, white ribon suspended from the neck, with a beautifully executed card attached, containing some inscription, the purport of which I was not able to ascertain.

On the whole, I cannot but think that a very good impression was produced on the audience by the services of the afternoon, and that the society thus organised will be instrumental in effecting great good. The members deserve the thanks of every patriot, philanthropist, and Christian. May they abound in every good word and work, and be abundantly blessed and prospered. J. H. P.

Boston, May 11, 1840.

*From the Boston Courier.*

*Temperance in Ireland.*—We know of no event which has taken place within our recollection, more gratifying or astonishing (*astonishing* because *unexpected*) than the miracles said to be wrought by the Catholic Champion of Temperance, in Ireland. The extraordinary effect of Father Mathew's exertions in purging his native land of the devil intemperance, can hardly be imagined by any person, who has not had visible proof of it. A letter from a correspondent of the London Morning Chronicle, who has enjoyed the glorious sight, says:—

Drunkenness has become as infamous and as abhorrent to the popular sense as theft or adultery. The "apostle," as he is styled by his more enthusiastic admirers, has been received in all parts of the county of Galway, which he has visited during this and the past week, like a deliverer from some great epidemic pestilence. The moral miracles of which he is the instrument have even possessed the ignorant and credulous among the lower class, with an idea that he is endued also with a control over physical infirmity; and multitudes of the halt, the maimed and the blind have, flocked to him in the hope of being relieved of their several ailments. Strange as it may be deemed, I have good reason to believe that there were protestants in the number carried away by a delusion, so grateful to the feelings of all whose sufferings cannot be reached by human aid, and that some of these applied to him to be healed. It is due to the reverend gentleman, and to the holy and righteous cause of which he is the honest and unpretending champion, to state that he has not, in any shape or in any instance, given the slightest encouragement to such extravagant imaginations. On the contrary, he is evidently much distressed and disconcerted by them, and it is the belief of all who have seen and conversed with him, that he has no sinister objects, either of politics or of proselytism in view, but is actuated and inspired by the dictates of a benevolent, a single, and a very superior mind. This I know to be the opinion of many respectable gentlemen of strong protestant feeling and high tory principles, who have had opportunities of closely observing him.

From this and similar representations in other papers, it seems impossible to doubt the entire success of the temperance reform in the Land of Erin. Father Mathew may be hailed as the patron Saint of the Irish and dispute with that distinguished evangelist, St. Patrick, the honors of an apotheosis. As a deliverer from moral evil he may take precedence. Patrick freed his favorite island from the pollution of venomous reptiles; Mathew is redeeming it from a moral and physical curse, a thousand times more loathsome than the toads and vipers, which were banished by his renowned exemplar.

*Humanity of the Chinese.* About a month prior to our last dates from Canton, an English ship called the Sunda, was wrecked on the coast of Hainan. When the news of the disaster first reached the foreign population at and below Canton, it was feared that in consequence of the unfriendly relations existing between England and China, the unfortunate crew might be subjected to harsh treatment. But very different was the fact. A letter from China, which we find in the London Herald, states, that the crew was conveyed to Canton, where they were at once admitted into the city, and introduced to the Commissioner and all the other public authorities. They were treated with great kindness; the sailors were regaled with a pork feast, and the whole party was sent on to the English fleet without detriment. Lin talked much with the captain, and was greatly delighted with Mr. Thelwall's book against opium, a copy of which appears to have been on board, and which was read to him, it is stated, by a cabin boy. He is also reported to have said that notwithstanding all that had passed, the English might return, if they would engage in the lawful trade: but this is inconsistent with the edict of eternal exclusion, to which he had obtained the emperor's sanction.—*N. Y. Jomr. Com.*

On Sunday last, after twelve o'clock mass had concluded, his Grace the most Rev. Doctor MacHale, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, delivered a most splendid, eloquent, and argumentive discourse on the all-important subject of National Education, in the chapel of this town. The Chapel was densely crowded, and during the time occupied (two hours) by his grace's delivery of his discourse, there was the most deathlike silence. His lordship commenced his discourse by stating that he had cut off all connexion between the schools in this town and the board. He then reviewed the system—pointed out what he conceived to be its defects, and dilated at length on the propositions or regulations which were submitted to the consideration of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with a view to have the education system so changed and modified that it might receive the unanimous co-operation of all the Roman Catholic prelates in Ireland. His lordship deprecated in strong terms what he designated the covert maœuvres, the intrigues, and the persecution made use of to pervert the Irish people, and concluded his discourse by calling on the inhabitants of Castlebar to subscribe liberally toward the support of schools, where Roman Catholic children would be morally and intellectually educated, under the immediate superintendence of the Catholic bishops and clergy.—Mayo Telegraph.

*Total Abstinence in Merchant Vessels.*—This season, the large and extensive shipping concern of Messrs. Pollock & Gilmour are sending the whole of their ships to sea on the tee-total principle. Instead of, as in former years, shipping rum for the use of the crew, they are supplying large quantities of tea, coffee and sugar, which are to be served out in lieu of grog. The plan has already been tried, and found to work well.—Glasgow Chronicle.

QUEBEC May, 21.

A Meeting of the Total Abstinence Society took place on Tuesday evening last, at the large School House outside St. John's Gate. Mr. William Booth took the chair in the absence of the President, and the assemblage was addressed by Capt. Rutland of the Bark 'Wm. Shand,' from Bristol, Capt. Thompson of the ship 'Harmony' and Mr. Palmer, mate of the Wm. Shand, three zealous advocates in the cause of Temperance. It is gratifying to see the progress of Temperance among those who "*occupy their business in great waters.*" The promotion of it among seafaring men will be attended with incalculable benefits to the hardy sons of Neptune.

The above meeting was numerously attended.

## DANIEL O'CONNELL.

The following tribute to this gentleman was paid by the distinguished George Byng, Member of Parliament, at the great Middlesex dinner.—We cut it from an Upper Canada Paper.

"I think that for this we owe a great obligation to a learned gentleman, who is unavoidably absent this day. Perhaps my alluding thus to that gentleman may with some people, make me unpopular; I may run the risk of unpopularity with some people by doing justice to that great man, (loud cheering mingled with a few hisses.) It is painful to me to meet the censure of my friends but I would rather suffer that censure, than harbour sentiments that I was afraid of speaking. You may remember that at the risk of his life that gentleman has done away with trade combination in Dublin. You must recollect that he has kept down Chartism in Ireland, and that too without the assistance of military.—He has kept down Chartism, and he has established peace and quiet in that country; and the only way to render it permanent is by doing justice to it. We must from what we have seen of the effects of a few years of justice and kindness, perceive how easy it is to pacify the Irish people. The example has been given to us by that great man to whom I have referred."

O'Connell—even O'Connell--may be proud of such a testimony to his worth. It comes from one who never fears to speak the truth, and whom no consideration of fear or profit could ever induce to utter a falsehood. In the name of Ireland, we thank the member for Middlesex for this most valuable declaration of opinion.

## THE BOOK OF JASHER.

THE BOOK OF JASHER: *referred to in Joshua and Second Samuel. Faithfully translated from the original Hebrew into English.*

This first English translation of the Book of Jasher, now just published in New York, is certified to be a correct version by Professors Nordheimer, Turner, Bush, and H. V. Nathan, Minister of the English and German Synagogue at Kingston, Jam. We publish below an article from the Evening Star on the subject, with the comments of the Commercial:

We shall shortly have a literary, or rather a biblical curiosity, to present to the American reader, which we feel confident in predicting will excite great interest among those who take pleasure in studying the scriptures. It is the Book of Jasher, referred to in the Bible in Joshua and in the second book of Samuel, and which has been in the progress of translation from the Hebrew for several years in England, and is now completed, and will be published in a few days in this city, in a very elegant stereotype edition.

There have been several simulated Books of Jasher, a notice of which we find in the Rev. Mr. Horn's commentaries on the Study of the Scriptures; but they bear no analogy to the present work, which is written in the purest Hebrew, and translated with an elegance and fidelity highly creditable to the eminent scholar who has been so long engaged in the work. The preface to the Hebrew edition speaks of it as having been bro't from Jerusalem with other sacred rolls and manuscripts, at the destruction of that city, and carried into Spain, where the Jews had their most celebrated colleges up to the eleventh century. On the discovery of printing the manuscript was copied and carried to Venice, where it was printed by order of the Jewish Consistory of Rabbins in 1623, and is now for the first time translated into the English language and published.

The Royal Asiatic Society had a copy in Calcutta, and gave orders to the Rev. Mr. Adams to translate it; but it was abandoned on hearing that a translation was already in progress. It is full of interest, and written with a warinth of piety and sacred devotion worthy of taking an equal rank with any of the missing books not strictly canonical. It does not differ with the Bible in a single instance, but amplifies the events recorded in scripture, with the single difference in chronology of some 50 years, by making Noah and Abraham contemporary—commencing with the creation of Adam and ending with the death of Joshua. Josephus refers to this book, and the great Mendelsohn extracts copiously from it. Recently the Book of Enoch has been discovered, translated from the Ethiopic, and published in England. Professor Stewart has lately reviewed it. The discovery of missing books referred to in Scripture; and the many yet to be discovered, joined to the singular signs of the times in relation to the chosen people, give great interest to these and similar works.

This book, which makes nearly three hundred pages, clears up some points somewhat obscure in the Bible, and is very full in detailing the events of the reign of Nimrod; the building of the tower of Babel and confusion of tongues; the causes preceding the destruction of the doomed cities; the sacrifice of Isaac, and the life of Joseph; and has some curious facts about the deluge. As we shall have occasion to refer frequently to this book hereafter, the present notice is deemed sufficient to call public attention to it.—*New York Evening Star.*

We have carefully read the book mentioned in the preceding article, and fully agree with the Star that it is a great literary curiosity. If its authenticity can be established, as an ancient work, it is also extremely valuable, for in addition to the minuter details it affords of events recorded in the Old Testament, and its greater precision in fixing the order of those events, it mentions also many occurrences recorded in profane history, and gives the times at which they took place, with reference to prominent events in the history of the Jewish nation. For example, it describes the rape of the Sabine women, and the wars of the Romans and Carthagenians.

We do not imagine that it has any claim to the character of an inspired book, nor indeed that it is the book mentioned in Joshua x. 13,—2d Samuel i. 18. The opinions of the learned have been various, and widely different, in regard to the character of this said book of Jasher. Some have supposed it to be none other than the book of Genesis. Others, that it is the same spoken of as the "Book of the Wars of the Lord." Others, that it embraced the Book of Moses. The celebrated Biblical scholar, John Brown, speaks of it as some noted history of the Jewish nation, wherein things were recorded with great care and integrity, but not inspired. Grotius entertained the opinion that it was triumphant song made purposely to celebrate the success of Joshua at Gibeon, the storm of hail, and the miracle of arresting the progress of the sun. Matthew Henry supposes the book to have been a collection of state poems, in which the poem composed on this occasion was preserved, and from which the words—"Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou moon in the valley of Ajalon," being poetical, were quoted. M. Dupin inclines to the opinion of Grotius—fortifying his position from the fact that the second referencc to Jasher, in 2d Samuel i. 18, is also in connexion with a state poem—the song of David on the death of Saul and Jonathan. But all this is conjecture and nothing more; and whether the present be the veritable Book of Jasher or not, as a very ancient collection of genuine Hebrew tradtitions, existing and handed down from a very early period, we have no hesitation in giving it much confidence. That interpolations have been made, and somewhat extensively, we think highly probable; but there can be no very great difficulty in detecting these, and what remains is certainly an important addition to our knowledge of the remote past, chronologically, if in no other point of view. *Commercial Advertiser.*

From the Paris Commerce.

## THE SULPHUR QUESTION.

We have published divers extracts from Italian letters, announcing that a serious collision has just occurred between England and the Neapolitan Government, respecting the contract concluded in 1838 by the latter with a French company, for the purpose of regulating the produce and trade of sulphnr in Sicily, and of laying an export duty on that article. Our letters from Naples had always informed us that the King of the Two Sicilies, yielded with much ill-will to the demands of England, had consented to annul the contract in question. This being the case, it was natural to suppose that the only thing that remained to be done was to ascertain the imdemnity due to the French company for breaking off the contract, the principle of which indemnity was legally acknowledged by his Sicilian Majesty. But the English Government, without any consideration whatever for the negotiations pending between the Neapolitan cabinet and the company, came forward with the most exaggerated and unheard of demands, accompanied by the most brutal threats. As this has been already communicated to the public in a very incorrect manner, we hasten to publish the following extract of a letter which may be relied on as coming from a creditable source:—

"NAPLES, March 17,

"The council ministers was to meet yesterday for the purpose of examining the means of entering into an amicable transaction with the company, in order to annul the existing contract, but, at the very moment that the King of Naples was seeking a just mode of terminating this affair, Mr. Temple envoy, sent the King an insolent note, calling on him to annul the contract immediately, and to pay the English Government £1,000 daily, from the 1st of August, 1838, as a compensation for the injury done to the English, in default of which Sicily should be blockaded by the squadron off Malta, &c The tone of the note coincided perfectly with the extravagance of its demands.

"The King, as a reply, ordered all his coasts to be armed: two steamers laden with troops and artillery for the defence of Syracuse and Messina will leave this evening. Every thing is assuming a warlike aspect, and the King has loudly announced that he would ever be ready to enter into discussion with Governments invoking reason, justice and public rights, but that he knew no other means of replying to insolence but by cannon.

These facts are important, and claim the attention of France and of the French Government. The nature and object of the pretensions of England, the tyrannical form of her demands with respect to a secondary power, destined by historical antecedents and the nature of things to form a part of our federative system, should awaken the solicitude of our cabinet respecting the events now passing in the Mediterranean. The situation of a French company which in consequence of a contract concluced with the Neapolitan Government, has engaged 12 or 15 million francs in a commercial operation, is another important consideration, and one to which the Ministry cannot remain indifferent.

Let us examine the value of the imperious claims which England means to carry by threat and voilence, as if their legality was incontestable.

In 1838, the King of Naples placed an export duty on Sicilian sulphur—he had a right to do so. He formed a treaty with a financial company for raising this tax, and allowed it a part, on condition of its insuring to the Sicilian proprietors a constant sale of their sulpher at an improved price. The remainder of this revenue he devoted to reducing the tax on grinding corn, and for making roads, with which Sicily is badly provided. These internal arrangements may affect certain branches of foreign trade, but give no right to pretend that the rights of nations have been violated.

We can easily understand that a few English speculators, deprived by these arrangements, which are favorable to the general interest, of the monopoly of Sicilian sulphur which they possessed, should endeavor to interest British diplomacy in their behalf. We can easily conceive that the foreign office, always ready to assist English trade in every quarter of the globe, should come forward and solicit the breaking of a contract injurious to certain English interests. Far from blaming the solicitude of the English Government, we should like to see our own display the same zeal and intelligence in every case where the commercial regulations of other countries are prejudicial to our countrymen.

But the right of claiming a change in the tariffs or commercial legislation of another country by no means confers the privilege of exacting it by brutal force. England threatens the King of Naples with a violent aggression if he do not immediately break off a contract which she pretends is contrary to existing treaties, and if he do not pay an indemnity of fifteen million francs for the injury done to the English since the existence of the treaty. In the first place she brings forward a commercial treaty, concluded in 1816, by which the English obtained the privilege of being treated in Sicily on the footing of the most favored nations. But it is evident that the sulphur contract is no infraction to that treaty, for the English can purchase sulphur in Sicily at the same price as other traders; this is the opinion of the English jurisconsults, whose opinion bears official authority for the Government and Parliament; or when they were consulted whether the sulphur contract was an infraction of the treaty of 1816, they proved in the clearest manner that it was not.

In the second place, in order to be able to claim an indemnity for the past, the English must prove that they have been injured by the conclusion of the treaty; now the contrary has been the case. Hitherto the English have reaped the whole benefit of the sulphur contract, whereas all its charges have fallen on the French company, as can be seen by the following statement of facts: the treaty was concluded at the end of June, 1838, and was to be executed immediately. At the earnest entreaty of the English speculators, the King of Naples granted a month's delay, during which an immense quantity of sulphur, sufficient for two years of foreign consumption, was exported duty free. The export duty having doubled the price of sulphur, the English speculators have realized immense profits for the last twenty months, by selling sulphur at 12l. per ton, whereas they had paid for it but 6l. before the contract was concluded.

In the meantime what was the condition of the company? It received the whole produce of 1839, amounting to 56,000 tons, and employed in that operation 3,000,000 ducats, 500,000 of which were paid to the Government as its portion of the export duty. It has not yet been able to effect any sale of importance, in consequence of the immense stock laid out before the company came into play. It is, therefore, ridiculous to assert that the English have a right to an indemnity, when they have been reaping immense profits.

But the more urgent Lord Palmerston's demands may be, and the more violent his proceedings, the greater reason there is to suspect that his conduct is not solely occasioned by commercial considerations. Lord Palmerston could not for one instant suppose that such preteutions would be admitted, and he cannot have put them forward but as a cloak for some political end. Has he thought the moment propitious for siezing on Sicily, which has ever been coveted by England? Or is he merely seeking a pretext to allow him to have a large naval force in the Mediterranean, without exciting the solicitude of France and other maritime powers? We trust that M. Thiers will not allow himself to be blinded by his predilection for the English alliance, and that his firmness will justify the want of confidence he has just received from the opposition.

TORONTO, May 13, 1840.

*The Clergy Reserve Bill.*—From the reports of the debates in the Imperial Parliament on the Bill, given in this number of the *Guardian*, and in the last, it will be seen what the movements of a certain party in England are relative to it. It has been laid before the Twelve Judges that the *legality* of it may be ascertained.—We shall postpone almost altogether what remarks we might be disposed to make, until there is decisive legislative action on the part of the Imperial Parliament; but so marked are some indications in the proceedings of the enemies of the Bill, that we cannot, even now, withhold a few observations. 1. Little respect is paid to the wishes of his Excellency the Governor General, who in all he has done, has shown the deepest practical concern to advance the welfare of the Colonists. 2. The Colonists are treated as if their decisions were those of a people possessing neither judgment nor liberty. 3. The Bishops, as they have too often been, are among the foremost to wrest from the people their rights. 4. The reasonable expectations of many bodies of christians are ridiculed. 5. The past distractions of the Province, owing very much to the non-settlement of this question, are not believed, or if believed unheeded. 6. There is a reckless forgetfulness of the consequences associated with a rejection of the Bill. What is the future happiness of Upper Canada to our enemies!

It appears to us, that proper as it may be to weigh certain matters connected with this sub-